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Bispecific T Cell Engagers Targeting Tumor Antigens

Abstract

The present invention provides bispecific binding molecules targeting CD3 and tumor antigens having increased expression and stability, and nucleic acid molecules encoding the same, and methods for treating or preventing a disease or disorder using the same.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/328,872, filed Apr. 8, 2022 and to U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/328,882, filed Apr. 8, 2022, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Monoclonal antibody therapy has been a game-changer in cancers therapeutics, however, this treatment has several limitations including requirement for repeated administration, more limited stability and cost. A further advance on monoclonal technology is the development of bispecific T cell engagers (BiTE) which combine the specificity of monoclonal antibodies with the cytotoxic potential of T cells. BiTEs have shown promising results in leukemia clinical

trials (Viardot et al., 2016, Blood, 127 (11): 1410-6; Goebeler et al., 2016, J Clin Oncol, 34 (10): 1104-11), however, this therapy has a limited applicability because it requires continuous intravenous infusion for 4-8 weeks per cycle (Zhu et al., 2016, Clin Pharmacokinet, 55 (10): 1271-88) and can have limitations for its production. A longer-lived simpler production method for antibody-based products would likely be an important new tool for cancer immunotherapy.

[0003] Bispecific T cell engagers are bispecific antibodies comprised of two single chain variable fragments (scFvs) that can simultaneously bind to two different antigens and bring the cells displaying each individual antigen close to each other. Typically, one arm of the BTE binds to a Tumor Associated Antigen (TAA) and the other end binds to the CD3 epsilon chain on T cells. Engagement of both arms of BTE triggers T cell activation leading to cytolysis of tumor cells. One such BTE targeting CD19 has received FDA approval for treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2014 (Jen et al., 2019, Clinical Cancer Research; 25 (2): 473-7). CD3 based bispecific antibodies can lead to Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), which is a major clinical concern (Teachy et al., 2013, Blood, 121 (26): 5154-7). Additional challenges for treatment with bispecific antibodies include manufacturing limitations and short in vivo half-life resulting in the need for continuous infusions over several weeks and associated increased costs (Zhu et al., 2016, Clinical Pharmacokinetics, 55 (10): 1271-88). A delivery method resulting in longer in vivo expression could significantly improve the availability of this technology to larger populations.

[0004] Previously an approach of using synthetic DNA (synDNA) encoded monoclonal antibodies for immunotherapy with improved expression kinetics has been described (Teachy et al., 2013, Blood, 121 (26): 5154-7; Zhu et al., 2016, Clinical Pharmacokinetics, 55 (10): 1271-88; (Perales-Puchalt et al., 2019, Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight, 4 (8): e126086)). It is important to develop new T cell redirecting therapies because of their exceptional patient potential; a simplified production scheme which would improve the patient experience, while improving tumor control in vivo. In this regard, a DNA launched Her2 targeting bispecific antibody that was expressed in mice showed impactful tumor control in an animal model of ovarian cancer (Perales-Puchalt et al., 2019, Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight, 4 (8): e126086).

[0005] Glioblastoma Multiformes are high grade gliomas representing the most common and aggressive form of malignant brain tumors (Brown et al., 2018, Molecular Therapy, 26 (1): 31-44). Standard of care treatment for GBM involves surgery followed by radiation and chemotherapy (Stupp et al., 2005, The New England Journal of Medicine, 2005; 352:987-96). While these therapies provide short term benefits (Dolecek et al., 2012, Neuro-Oncology, 14 (5): v1-v49), GBM remains ultimately fatal. The median survival rate with current treatments is 15-16 months (Beroukhim et al., 2014, Neuro-oncology; 16 (9): 159-1160). This indicates a huge unmet and urgent need for improved therapeutic options for GBM patients.

[0006] The Interleukin 13 Receptor $\alpha 2$ (IL13R $\alpha 2$) is a high affinity receptor for IL13 which likely acts as a decoy receptor as it contains a truncation resulting in a very short intracellular portion lacking signaling capabilities (Tabata et al., 2007, Current Allergy and Asthma Reports, 7 (5); Hershey, 2003, The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology, 111 (4): 677-90). There is increasing evidence that IL13R $\alpha 2$ is associated with a mesenchymal gene expression signature, a more aggressive disease, and poor patient prognosis suggesting that targeting this TAA would be costly to the tumor (Brown et al., 2013, Plos One, 8 (10)). IL13R $\alpha 2$ is expressed on glioma initiating cells making it important for GBM tumors (Brown et al., 2012, Clinical Cancer Research, 18 (8): 2199-209). It is expressed on tumors of approximately 75% of GBM patients (Mintz et al., 2002, Neoplasia, 4 (5): 388-99; Thaci et al., 2014, Neuro-oncology, 16 (10): 1304-12) indicative of a high specificity for tumor tissues and minimal expression in other healthy tissues, making it an attractive target for GBM therapy (Debinski et al., 1999, International Journal of Oncology, 15 (3): 481-6). Radiolabeled peptides targeting IL13R $\alpha 2$ were shown to improve median survival in animal models of GBM (Sattiraju et al., 2017, oncotarget, 8 (26): 42997-3007). Vaccination against peptides derived from IL13R $\alpha 2$ has been clinically effective in adult and pediatric patients (Iwami et al., 2012, Cytotherapy, 14:733-42; Pollack et al., 2014, Journal of Clinical Oncology, 32 (19): 2050-8). Finally, CAR T cells redirected against IL13R $\alpha 2$ have been described to target GBM tumors in animal models, and are being studied in the clinic, so far with mixed results (Brown et al., 2018, Molecular Therapy, 26 (1): 31-44; Yin et al., 2018, Molecular Therapy Oncolytics, 11:20-38; Brown et al., 2016, The New England Journal of Medicine, 375:2561-9; Brown et al., 2015, Clinical Cancer Research, 21 (18): 4062-72; Pituch et al., 2018, Molecular Therapy, 26 (4): 986-95).

[0007] There remains a need in the art for longer-lived, simpler production, antibody-based products for immunotherapy. The current invention satisfies this need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] In one embodiment, the invention provides a bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof comprising a first binding domain that specifically binds to a cancer antigen and a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor. In one embodiment, the bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof comprises a first binding domain that specifically binds to human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) and a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor. In one embodiment, the bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof comprises a first binding domain that specifically binds to Interleukin 13 Receptor $\alpha 2$ (IL13R $\alpha 2$) and a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor.

[0009] T cell specific receptors include, but are not limited to, CD3, TCR, CD28, CD16, NKG2D, OX40, 4-1BB, CD2, CD5, CD40, Fc γ Rs, Fc ϵ Rs, Fc α Rs and CD95. In one embodiment, the T cell specific receptor is CD3.

[0010] In one embodiment, the invention provides a combination of nucleic acid molecules wherein the nucleic acid molecules together encode a bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a first binding domain that specifically binds to a cancer antigen and at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecules together encode a bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a first binding domain that specifically binds to HER2 and at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecules together encode a bispecific binding molecule, or antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a first binding domain that specifically binds to IL13R α 2 and at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a second binding domain that specifically binds to a T cell specific receptor.

[0011] In one embodiment, the T cell specific receptor is CD3, TCR, CD28, CD16, NKG2D, O \times 40, 4-1BB, CD2, CD5, CD40, Fc γ Rs, Fc ϵ Rs, Fc α Rs or CD95. In one embodiment, the T cell specific receptor is CD3.

[0012] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding at least one of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:6. In one embodiment, the first nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:2 and the second nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:4. In one embodiment, the first nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:2 and the second nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:6.

[0013] In one embodiment, at least one nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of an RNA molecule and a DNA molecule.

[0014] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least one of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:5. In one embodiment, the first nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the second nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3. In one embodiment, the first nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the second nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

[0015] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule of the invention to the subject.

[0016] In one embodiment, the disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of a disease or disorder associated with a bacterial infection, a disease or disorder associated with a viral infection, an autoimmune disease or disorder, a cancer, or a disease or disorder associated with cancer.

[0017] In one embodiment, the disease is a benign tumor, cancer and a cancer-associated disease. In one embodiment, the disease is a cancer associated with IL13R α 2 expression. In one embodiment, the disease is glioblastoma. In one embodiment, the disease is a cancer associated with Her2 expression. In one embodiment, the disease is breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial or ovarian cancer.

[0018] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of directing a T cell to a target cell or particle in a subject in need thereof comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule of the invention to the subject.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] FIG. 1 provides a diagram of the knob-in-hole (KIH) design.

[0020] FIG. 2 provides data demonstrating that PB01-forward (KIH) binds to CD3 on primary human T cells and IL13R α 2 on U87 cells.

[0021] FIG. 3 provides data demonstrating that PB01-fwd_KIH activates primary human T cells in presence of U87 cells.

[0022] FIG. 4 provides data demonstrating that PB01-forward in KIH format kills U87 cells.

[0023] FIG. 5 provides data demonstrating that in vivo produced bi-specific antibody is able to kill DaOY cells in an in vitro killing assay.

[0024] FIG. 6 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in dTAB format are not detected in serum of NSG mice.

[0025] FIG. 7 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to CD3 on T cells.

[0026] FIG. 8 provides data demonstrating that delivery of multiple bi-specific antibodies in KIH format does not negatively affect their function.

[0027] FIG. 9 provides data demonstrating the in vivo expression of bi-specific antibodies in KIH format when the knob and hole are injected together.

[0028] FIG. 10 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies delivered in KIH format are potent at picogram levels.

[0029] FIG. 11 provides data demonstrating that delivery of PB01-fwd in KIH format improves half-life in vivo.

[0030] FIG. 12 provides data demonstrating that CPI improve activity of IL13R α 2 targeting KIH BiTES.

[0031] FIG. **13** provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in dTAB format are not detected in serum of NSG mice.

[0032] FIG. **14** provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to CD3 on T cells.

[0033] FIG. **15** provides data demonstrating that Her2 bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to Her2 on Ovc3 cells.

[0034] FIG. **16** provides data demonstrating that delivery of bi-specific antibodies in KIH format improves in vivo expression.

[0035] FIG. **17** provides data demonstrating that delivery of multiple bi-specific antibodies in KIH format does not negatively affect their function.

[0036] FIG. **18** provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies delivered in KIH format are potent at picogram levels.

[0037] FIG. **19** provides data demonstrating that CPI improve activity of Her2 targeting KIH BITES.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0038] The present invention relates to the development of a bispecific binding molecule that simultaneously target both CD3 and a tumor antigen. In some embodiments, the tumor antigen is IL13R α 2 or HER2.

[0039] In one aspect, the present invention relates to a composition that can be used to increase or enhance an immune response, i.e., create a more effective immune response, by administering the bispecific binding molecules, fragments thereof, variants thereof, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. In one embodiment, the bispecific binding molecule targets CD3 and a tumor antigen. In some embodiments, the tumor antigen is IL13R α 2 or HER2.

[0040] In one aspect, the present invention relates to a bispecific binding molecule comprising a combination of a T cell receptor antibody, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and an antibody specific for binding to a tumor antigen, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof. In some embodiments, the invention relates to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a bispecific binding molecule comprising a combination of a T cell receptor antibody, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and an antibody specific for binding to a tumor antigen, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof.

[0041] In one aspect, the present invention relates to methods of treating a disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a bispecific binding molecule, fragment thereof, variant thereof, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. In one embodiment, the disease or disorder is cancer. In one embodiment, the disease or disorder is an infectious disease.

[0042] In one embodiment, the present invention relates to methods of treating cancer or a disease or disorder associated therewith in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a bispecific binding molecule comprising a combination of a T cell receptor antibody, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and an antibody specific for binding to a tumor antigen, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. In some embodiments, the tumor antigen is IL13R α 2 or HER2.

Definitions

[0043] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, exemplary methods and materials are described.

[0044] As used herein, each of the following terms has the meaning associated with it in this section.

[0045] The articles “a” and “an” are used herein to refer to one or to more than one (i.e., to at least one) of the grammatical object of the article. By way of example, “an element” means one element or more than one element.

[0046] “About” as used herein when referring to a measurable value such as an amount, a temporal duration, and the like, is meant to encompass variations of +20%, +10%, +5%, +1%, or +0.1% from the specified value, as such variations are appropriate to perform the disclosed methods.

[0047] “Antibody” may mean an antibody of classes IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD or IgE, or fragments, fragments or derivatives thereof, including Fab, F(ab')₂, Fd, and single chain antibodies, and derivatives thereof. The antibody may be an antibody isolated from the serum sample of mammal, a polyclonal antibody, affinity purified antibody, or mixtures thereof which exhibits sufficient binding specificity to a desired epitope, or a sequence derived therefrom.

[0048] “Antigen” refers to proteins that have the ability to generate an immune response in a host. An antigen may be recognized and bound by an antibody. An antigen may originate from within the body or from the external environment.

[0049] “CDRs” are defined as the complementarity determining region amino acid sequences of an antibody which are the hypervariable regions of immunoglobulin heavy and light chains. See, e.g., Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 4th Ed., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (1987). There are three heavy chain and three light chain CDRs (or CDR regions) in the variable portion of an immunoglobulin. Thus, “CDRs” as used herein refers to all three heavy chain CDRs, or all three light chain CDRs (or both all heavy and all light chain CDRs, if appropriate). The structure and protein folding of the antibody may mean that other residues are considered part of the antigen binding region and would be understood to be so by a skilled person. See for example Chothia et al., (1989) Conformations of immunoglobulin hypervariable regions; Nature 342, p 877-883.

[0050] “Fragment of an antibody” or “fragment of an antibody” as used interchangeably herein refers to a portion of an intact antibody comprising the antigen-binding site or variable region. The portion does not include the constant heavy chain domains (i.e. CH2, CH3, or CH4, depending on the antibody isotype) of the Fc region of the intact antibody. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, Fab fragments, Fab’ fragments, Fab’-SH fragments, F(ab’)2 fragments, Fd fragments, Fv fragments, diabodies, single-chain Fv (scFv) molecules, single-chain polypeptides containing only one light chain variable domain, single-chain polypeptides containing the three CDRs of the light-chain variable domain, single-chain polypeptides containing only one heavy chain variable region, and single-chain polypeptides containing the three CDRs of the heavy chain variable region.

[0051] “Adjuvant” as used herein means any molecule added to the vaccine described herein to enhance the immunogenicity of the antigen.

[0052] “Coding sequence” or “encoding nucleic acid” as used herein may refer to the nucleic acid (RNA or DNA molecule) that comprise a nucleotide sequence which encodes an antibody as set forth herein. The coding sequence may also comprise a DNA sequence which encodes an RNA sequence. The coding sequence may further include initiation and termination signals operably linked to regulatory elements including a promoter and polyadenylation signal capable of directing expression in the cells of an individual or mammal to whom the nucleic acid is administered. The coding sequence may further include sequences that encode signal peptides.

[0053] “Complement” or “complementary” as used herein may mean a nucleic acid may have Watson-Crick (e.g., A-T/U and C-G) or Hoogsteen base pairing between nucleotides or nucleotide analogs of nucleic acid molecules.

[0054] A “disease” is a state of health of an animal wherein the animal cannot maintain homeostasis, and wherein if the disease is not ameliorated then the animal's health continues to deteriorate.

[0055] In contrast, a “disorder” in an animal is a state of health in which the animal is able to maintain homeostasis, but in which the animal's state of health is less favorable than it would be in the absence of the disorder. Left untreated, a disorder does not necessarily cause a further decrease in the animal's state of health.

[0056] A disease or disorder is “alleviated” if the severity of a sign or symptom of the disease or disorder, the frequency with which such a sign or symptom is experienced by a patient, or both, is reduced.

[0057] “Encoding” refers to the inherent property of specific sequences of nucleotides in a polynucleotide, such as a gene, a cDNA, or an mRNA, to serve as templates for synthesis of other polymers and macromolecules in biological processes having either a defined sequence of nucleotides (i.e., rRNA, tRNA and mRNA) or a defined sequence of amino acids and the biological properties resulting therefrom. Thus, a gene encodes a protein if transcription and translation of mRNA corresponding to that gene produces the protein in a cell or other biological system. Both the coding strand, the nucleotide sequence of which is identical to the mRNA sequence and is usually provided in sequence listings, and the non-coding strand, used as the template for transcription of a gene or cDNA, can be referred to as encoding the protein or other product of that gene or cDNA.

[0058] An “effective amount” of a compound is that amount of compound which is sufficient to provide an effect to the subject or system to which the compound is administered.

[0059] “Expression vector” refers to a vector comprising a recombinant polynucleotide comprising expression control sequences operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence to be expressed. An expression vector comprises sufficient cis-acting elements for expression; other elements for expression can be supplied by the host cell or in an in vitro expression system. Expression vectors include all those known in the art, such as cosmids, plasmids (e.g., naked or contained in liposomes) and viruses (e.g., lentiviruses, retroviruses, adenoviruses, and adeno-associated viruses) that incorporate the recombinant polynucleotide.

[0060] “Feedback mechanism” as used herein may refer to a process performed by either software or hardware (or firmware), which process receives and compares the impedance of the desired tissue (before, during, and/or after the delivery of pulse of energy) with a present value, preferably current, and adjusts the pulse of energy delivered to achieve the preset value. A feedback mechanism may be performed by an analog closed loop circuit.

[0061] “Fragment” may mean a polypeptide fragment of an antibody that is function, i.e., can bind to desired target and have the same intended effect as a full length antibody. A fragment of an antibody may be 100% identical to the full length except missing at least one amino acid from the N and/or C terminal, in each case with or without signal peptides and/or a methionine at position 1. Fragments may comprise 20% or more, 25% or more, 30% or more, 35% or more, 40% or more, 45% or more, 50% or more, 55% or more, 60% or more, 65% or more, 70% or more, 75% or more, 80% or more, 85% or more, 90% or more, 91% or more, 92% or more, 93% or more, 94% or more, 95% or more, 96% or more, 97% or more, 98% or more, 99% or more percent of the length of the particular full length antibody, excluding any heterologous signal peptide added. The fragment may comprise a fragment of a polypeptide that is 95% or more, 96% or more, 97% or more, 98% or more or 99% or more identical to the antibody and additionally comprise an N terminal methionine or heterologous signal peptide which is not included when calculating percent identity. Fragments may further comprise an N terminal methionine and/or a signal peptide such as an immunoglobulin signal peptide, for example an IgE or IgG signal peptide. The N terminal methionine and/or signal peptide may be linked to a fragment of an antibody.

[0062] A fragment of a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an antibody may be 100% identical to the full length except missing at least one nucleotide from the 5’ and/or 3’ end, in each case with or without sequences encoding signal

peptides and/or a methionine at position 1. Fragments may comprise 20% or more, 25% or more, 30% or more, 35% or more, 40% or more, 45% or more, 50% or more, 55% or more, 60% or more, 65% or more, 70% or more, 75% or more, 80% or more, 85% or more, 90% or more, 91% or more, 92% or more, 93% or more, 94% or more, 95% or more, 96% or more, 97% or more, 98% or more, 99% or more percent of the length of the particular full length coding sequence, excluding any heterologous signal peptide added. The fragment may comprise a fragment that encode a polypeptide that is 95% or more, 96% or more, 97% or more, 98% or more or 99% or more identical to the antibody and additionally optionally comprise sequence encoding an N terminal methionine or heterologous signal peptide which is not included when calculating percent identity. Fragments may further comprise coding sequences for an N terminal methionine and/or a signal peptide such as an immunoglobulin signal peptide, for example an IgE or IgG signal peptide. The coding sequence encoding the N terminal methionine and/or signal peptide may be linked to a fragment of coding sequence.

[0063] “Genetic construct” as used herein refers to the DNA or RNA molecules that comprise a nucleotide sequence which encodes a protein, such as an antibody. The genetic construct may also refer to a DNA molecule which transcribes an RNA. The coding sequence includes initiation and termination signals operably linked to regulatory elements including a promoter and polyadenylation signal capable of directing expression in the cells of the individual to whom the nucleic acid molecule is administered. As used herein, the term “expressible form” refers to gene constructs that contain the necessary regulatory elements operable linked to a coding sequence that encodes a protein such that when present in the cell of the individual, the coding sequence will be expressed.

[0064] “Homologous” refers to the sequence similarity or sequence identity between two polypeptides or between two nucleic acid molecules. When a position in both of the two compared sequences is occupied by the same base or amino acid monomer subunit, e.g., if a position in each of two DNA molecules is occupied by adenine, then the molecules are homologous at that position. The percent of homology between two sequences is a function of the number of matching or homologous positions shared by the two sequences divided by the number of positions compared $\times 100$. For example, if 6 of 10 of the positions in two sequences are matched or homologous then the two sequences are 60% homologous. By way of example, the DNA sequences ATTGCC and TATGGC share 50% homology. Generally, a comparison is made when two sequences are aligned to give maximum homology.

[0065] “Identical” or “identity” as used herein in the context of two or more nucleic acids or polypeptide sequences means that the sequences have a specified percentage of residues that are the same over a specified region. The percentage can be calculated by optimally aligning the two sequences, comparing the two sequences over the specified region, determining the number of positions at which the identical residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the specified region, and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity. In cases where the two sequences are of different lengths or the alignment produces one or more staggered ends and the specified region of comparison includes only a single sequence, the residues of the single sequence are included in the denominator but not the numerator of the calculation. When comparing DNA and RNA, thymine (T) and uracil (U) can be considered equivalent. Identity can be performed manually or by using a computer sequence algorithm such as BLAST or BLAST 2.0.

[0066] “Isolated” means altered or removed from the natural state. For example, a nucleic acid or a peptide naturally present in a living animal is not “isolated,” but the same nucleic acid or peptide partially or completely separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is “isolated.” An isolated nucleic acid or protein can exist in substantially purified form, or can exist in a non-native environment such as, for example, a host cell.

[0067] In the context of the present invention, the following abbreviations for the commonly occurring nucleic acid bases are used. “A” refers to adenosine, “C” refers to cytosine, “G” refers to guanosine, “T” refers to thymidine, and “U” refers to uridine. Unless otherwise specified, a “nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence” includes all nucleotide sequences that are degenerate versions of each other and that encode the same amino acid sequence. The phrase nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein or an RNA may also include introns to the extent that the nucleotide sequence encoding the protein may in some version contain an intron(s).

[0068] “Impedance” as used herein may be used when discussing the feedback mechanism and can be converted to a current value according to Ohm's law, thus enabling comparisons with the preset current.

[0069] “Immune response” as used herein may mean the activation of a host's immune system, e.g., that of a mammal, in response to the introduction of one or more nucleic acids and/or peptides. The immune response can be in the form of a cellular or humoral response, or both.

[0070] The terms “patient,” “subject,” “individual,” and the like are used interchangeably herein, and refer to any animal, or cells thereof whether in vitro or in situ, amenable to the methods described herein. In some embodiments, the patient, subject or individual is a human.

[0071] “Parenteral” administration of a composition includes, e.g., subcutaneous (s.c.), intravenous (i.v.), intramuscular (i.m.), or intradermal injection, or infusion techniques.

[0072] “Nucleic acid” or “oligonucleotide” or “polynucleotide” as used herein may mean at least two nucleotides covalently linked together. The depiction of a single strand also defines the sequence of the complementary strand. Thus, a nucleic acid also encompasses the complementary strand of a depicted single strand. Many variants of a nucleic

acid may be used for the same purpose as a given nucleic acid. Thus, a nucleic acid also encompasses substantially identical nucleic acids and complements thereof. A single strand provides a probe that may hybridize to a target sequence under stringent hybridization conditions. Thus, a nucleic acid also encompasses a probe that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions.

[0073] Nucleic acids may be single stranded or double stranded or may contain portions of both double stranded and single stranded sequence. The nucleic acid may be DNA, both genomic and cDNA, RNA, or a hybrid, where the nucleic acid may contain combinations of deoxyribo- and ribo-nucleotides, and combinations of bases including uracil, adenine, thymine, cytosine, guanine, inosine, xanthine hypoxanthine, isocytosine and isoguanine. Nucleic acids may be obtained by chemical synthesis methods or by recombinant methods.

[0074] "Operably linked" as used herein may mean that expression of a gene is under the control of a promoter with which it is spatially connected. A promoter may be positioned 5' (upstream) or 3' (downstream) of a gene under its control. The distance between the promoter and a gene may be approximately the same as the distance between that promoter and the gene it controls in the gene from which the promoter is derived. As is known in the art, variation in this distance may be accommodated without loss of promoter function.

[0075] A "peptide," "protein," or "polypeptide" as used herein can mean a linked sequence of amino acids and can be natural, synthetic, or a modification or combination of natural and synthetic.

[0076] "Promoter" as used herein may mean a synthetic or naturally-derived molecule which is capable of conferring, activating or enhancing expression of a nucleic acid in a cell. A promoter may comprise one or more specific transcriptional regulatory sequences to further enhance expression and/or to alter the spatial expression and/or temporal expression of same. A promoter may also comprise distal enhancer or repressor elements, which can be located as much as several thousand base pairs from the start site of transcription. A promoter may be derived from sources including viral, bacterial, fungal, plants, insects, and animals. A promoter may regulate the expression of a gene component constitutively or differentially with respect to cell, the tissue or organ in which expression occurs or, with respect to the developmental stage at which expression occurs, or in response to external stimuli such as physiological stresses, pathogens, metal ions, or inducing agents. Representative examples of promoters include the bacteriophage T7 promoter, bacteriophage T3 promoter, SP6 promoter, lac operator-promoter, tac promoter, SV40 late promoter, SV40 early promoter, RSV-LTR promoter, CMV IE promoter, SV40 early promoter or SV 40 late promoter and the CMV IE promoter.

[0077] As used herein, the term "promoter/regulatory sequence" means a nucleic acid sequence which is required for expression of a gene product operably linked to the promoter/regulatory sequence. In some instances, this sequence may be the core promoter sequence and in other instances, this sequence may also include an enhancer sequence and other regulatory elements which are required for expression of the gene product. The promoter/regulatory sequence may, for example, be one which expresses the gene product in a tissue specific manner.

[0078] A "constitutive" promoter is a nucleotide sequence which, when operably linked with a polynucleotide which encodes or specifies a gene product, causes the gene product to be produced in a cell under most or all physiological conditions of the cell.

[0079] An "inducible" promoter is a nucleotide sequence which, when operably linked with a polynucleotide which encodes or specifies a gene product, causes the gene product to be produced in a cell substantially only when an inducer which corresponds to the promoter is present in the cell.

[0080] A "tissue-specific" promoter is a nucleotide sequence which, when operably linked with a polynucleotide encodes or specified by a gene, causes the gene product to be produced in a cell substantially only if the cell is a cell of the tissue type corresponding to the promoter.

[0081] "Signal peptide" and "leader sequence" are used interchangeably herein and refer to an amino acid sequence that can be linked at the amino terminus of a protein set forth herein. Signal peptides/leader sequences typically direct localization of a protein. Signal peptides/leader sequences used herein may facilitate secretion of the protein from the cell in which it is produced. Signal peptides/leader sequences are often cleaved from the remainder of the protein, often referred to as the mature protein, upon secretion from the cell. Signal peptides/leader sequences are linked at the N terminus of the protein.

[0082] "Stringent hybridization conditions" as used herein may mean conditions under which a first nucleic acid sequence (e.g., probe) will hybridize to a second nucleic acid sequence (e.g., target), such as in a complex mixture of nucleic acids. Stringent conditions are sequence dependent and will be different in different circumstances. Stringent conditions may be selected to be about 5-10° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_{sub}.m) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength pH. The T_{sub}.m may be the temperature (under defined ionic strength, pH, and nucleic concentration) at which 50% of the probes complementary to the target hybridize to the target sequence at equilibrium (as the target sequences are present in excess, at T_{sub}.m, 50% of the probes are occupied at equilibrium). Stringent conditions may be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.0 M sodium ion, such as about 0.01-1.0 M sodium ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30° C. for short probes (e.g., about 10-50 nucleotides) and at least about 60° C. for long probes (e.g., greater than about 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. For selective or specific hybridization, a positive signal may be at least 2 to 10 times background hybridization.

Exemplary stringent hybridization conditions include the following: 50% formamide, 5×SSC, and 1% SDS, incubating at 42° C., or, 5×SSC, 1% SDS, incubating at 65° C., with wash in 0.2×SSC, and 0.1% SDS at 65° C.

[0083] “Subject” and “patient” as used herein interchangeably refers to any vertebrate, including, but not limited to, a mammal (e.g., cow, pig, camel, llama, horse, goat, rabbit, sheep, hamsters, guinea pig, cat, dog, rat, and mouse, a non-human primate (for example, a monkey, such as a cynomolgous or rhesus monkey, chimpanzee, etc) and a human). In some embodiments, the subject may be a human or a non-human. The subject or patient may be undergoing other forms of treatment.

[0084] “Substantially complementary” as used herein may mean that a first sequence is at least 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the complement of a second sequence over a region of 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 or more nucleotides or amino acids, or that the two sequences hybridize under stringent hybridization conditions.

[0085] “Substantially identical” as used herein may mean that a first and second sequence are at least 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical over a region of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100 or more nucleotides or amino acids, or with respect to nucleic acids, if the first sequence is substantially complementary to the complement of the second sequence.

[0086] “Synthetic antibody” as used herein refers to an antibody that is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid sequence described herein and is generated in a subject.

[0087] “Treatment” or “treating,” as used herein can mean protecting of a subject from a disease through means of preventing, suppressing, repressing, or completely eliminating the disease. Preventing the disease involves administering a vaccine of the present invention to a subject prior to onset of the disease. Suppressing the disease involves administering a vaccine of the present invention to a subject after induction of the disease but before its clinical appearance. Repressing the disease involves administering a vaccine of the present invention to a subject after clinical appearance of the disease.

[0088] A “therapeutic” treatment is a treatment administered to a subject who exhibits signs or symptoms of a disease or disorder, for the purpose of diminishing or eliminating the frequency or severity of those signs or symptoms.

[0089] As used herein, “treating a disease or disorder” means reducing the frequency or severity, or both, of at least one sign or symptom of the disease or disorder experienced by a patient.

[0090] The phrase “therapeutically effective amount,” as used herein, refers to an amount that is sufficient or effective to prevent or treat (delay or prevent the onset of, prevent the progression of, inhibit, decrease or reverse) a disease or disorder, including alleviating signs and/or symptoms of such diseases and disorders.

[0091] To “treat” a disease or disorder as the term is used herein, means to reduce the frequency or severity of at least one sign or symptom of a disease or disorder experienced by a subject.

[0092] “Variant” used herein with respect to a nucleic acid means (i) a portion or fragment of a referenced nucleotide sequence; (ii) the complement of a referenced nucleotide sequence or portion thereof; (iii) a nucleic acid that is substantially identical to a referenced nucleic acid or the complement thereof; or (iv) a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the referenced nucleic acid, complement thereof, or a sequences substantially identical thereto.

[0093] Variant can further be defined as a peptide or polypeptide that differs in amino acid sequence by the insertion, deletion, or conservative substitution of amino acids, but retain at least one biological activity. Representative examples of “biological activity” include the ability to be bound by a specific antibody or to promote an immune response.

Variant can also mean a protein with an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a referenced protein with an amino acid sequence that retains at least one biological activity. A conservative substitution of an amino acid, i.e., replacing an amino acid with a different amino acid of similar properties (e.g., hydrophilicity, degree and distribution of charged regions) is recognized in the art as typically involving a minor change. These minor changes can be identified, in part, by considering the hydropathic index of amino acids, as understood in the art. Kyte et al., J. Mol. Biol. 157:105-132 (1982). The hydropathic index of an amino acid is based on a consideration of its hydrophobicity and charge. It is known in the art that amino acids of similar hydropathic indexes can be substituted and still retain protein function. In one aspect, amino acids having hydropathic indexes of +2 are substituted. The hydrophilicity of amino acids can also be used to reveal substitutions that would result in proteins retaining biological function. A consideration of the hydrophilicity of amino acids in the context of a peptide permits calculation of the greatest local average hydrophilicity of that peptide, a useful measure that has been reported to correlate well with antigenicity and immunogenicity. Substitution of amino acids having similar hydrophilicity values can result in peptides retaining biological activity, for example immunogenicity, as is understood in the art. Substitutions can be performed with amino acids having hydrophilicity values within +2 of each other. Both the hydrophobicity index and the hydrophilicity value of amino acids are influenced by the particular side chain of that amino acid. Consistent with that observation, amino acid substitutions that are compatible with biological function are understood to depend on the relative similarity of the amino acids, and particularly the side chains of those amino acids, as revealed by the hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity,

charge, size, and other properties.

[0094] A variant may be a nucleic acid sequence that is substantially identical over the full length of the full gene sequence or a fragment thereof. The nucleic acid sequence may be 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or 100% identical over the full length of the gene sequence or a fragment thereof. A variant may be an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical over the full length of the amino acid sequence or fragment thereof. The amino acid sequence may be 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or 100% identical over the full length of the amino acid sequence or a fragment thereof.

[0095] A “vector” is a composition of matter which comprises an isolated nucleic acid and which can be used to deliver the isolated nucleic acid to the interior of a cell. Numerous vectors are known in the art including, but not limited to, linear polynucleotides, polynucleotides associated with ionic or amphiphilic compounds, plasmids, and viruses. Thus, the term “vector” includes an autonomously replicating plasmid or a virus. The term should also be construed to include non-plasmid and non-viral compounds which facilitate transfer of nucleic acid into cells, such as, for example, polylysine compounds, liposomes, and the like. Examples of viral vectors include, but are not limited to, adenoviral vectors, adeno-associated virus vectors, retroviral vectors, and the like.

[0096] Ranges: throughout this disclosure, various aspects of the invention can be presented in a range format. It should be understood that the description in range format is merely for convenience and brevity and should not be construed as an inflexible limitation on the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the description of a range should be considered to have specifically disclosed all the possible subranges as well as individual numerical values within that range. For example, description of a range such as from 1 to 6 should be considered to have specifically disclosed subranges such as from 1 to 3, from 1 to 4, from 1 to 5, from 2 to 4, from 2 to 6, from 3 to 6 etc., as well as individual numbers within that range, for example, 1, 2, 2.7, 3, 4, 5, 5.3, and 6. This applies regardless of the breadth of the range.

DESCRIPTION

[0097] Provided herein are bispecific binding molecules comprising a domain which specifically binds to a T cell receptor, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to an antigen expressed by a target cell of interest, and nucleic acid molecules encoding the same. In one embodiment the bispecific binding molecules are specific for binding to CD3 which directly engage T cells and can direct T cells to pathogenic cells.

[0098] In one embodiment, the invention provides immunogenic compositions comprising a bispecific binding molecule of the invention or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. The immunogenic compositions of the invention can be used to protect against diseases or disorders, including, but not limited to, cancers and infectious disease. In some embodiments, the immunogenic compositions of the invention can be used for cell specific targeting of glycoproteins on cancer cells, autoimmune cells or infected target cells.

[0099] Therefore, in some embodiments, the invention provides compositions comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding one or more bispecific binding molecule comprising a domain which specifically binds to a T cell receptor, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to an antigen expressed by a target cell of interest.

[0100] In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a disease or disorder comprising administering to a subject or a bispecific T cell receptor antibody of the invention or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same.

[0101] In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a bispecific binding molecule, a fragment thereof, or a variant thereof, comprising a domain which specifically binds to a T cell receptor, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to a cancer antigen, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same.

[0102] In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a bispecific binding molecule, a fragment thereof, or a variant thereof, comprising a domain which specifically binds to a CD3, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to IL13R α 2. In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a bispecific binding molecule, a fragment thereof, or a variant thereof, comprising a domain which specifically binds to a CD3, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to HER2.

[0103] In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a combination of nucleic acid molecules encoding a bispecific binding molecule, a fragment thereof, or a variant thereof, comprising a domain which specifically binds to a CD3, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to IL13R α 2.

[0104] In some embodiments, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a combination of nucleic acid molecules encoding a bispecific binding molecule, a fragment thereof, or a variant thereof, comprising a domain which specifically binds to a CD3, a fragment thereof, a variant thereof, and further comprising a domain which specifically binds to HER2.

[0105] In some embodiment, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising

administering to a subject a combination of a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a domain which specifically binds to CD3, and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a domain which specifically binds to IL13R α 2.

[0106] In some embodiment, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing a cancer comprising administering to a subject a combination of a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a domain which specifically binds to CD3, and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a domain which specifically binds to HER2.

[0107] In some embodiments, simultaneous administration of the first and second nucleic acid molecules results in in vivo expression of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention.

Antibody Compositions

[0108] In some embodiments, the invention relates to compositions comprising at least one bispecific binding molecule comprising a domain specific for binding to a T cell receptor and a domain specific for binding to IL13R α 2. In one embodiment, the T cell receptor is CD3. In some embodiments, the invention relates to compositions comprising at least one bispecific binding molecule comprising a domain specific for binding to a T cell receptor and a domain specific for binding to HER2. In one embodiment, the T cell receptor is CD3.

[0109] In one embodiment, the invention relates to compositions comprising a binding molecule comprising a first binding arm comprising a CD3 binding domain, or fragment thereof and a second binding arm comprising a IL13R α 2 binding domain. In one embodiment, the first binding arm comprising a CD3 binding domain comprises SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment or variant thereof, and the second binding arm comprising a IL13R α 2 binding domain comprises SEQ ID NO:4, or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0110] In one embodiment, the invention relates to compositions comprising a binding molecule comprising a first binding arm comprising a CD3 binding domain, or fragment thereof and a second binding arm comprising a HER2 binding domain. In one embodiment, the first binding arm comprising a CD3 binding domain comprises SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment or variant thereof, and the second binding arm comprising a HER2 binding domain comprises SEQ ID NO:6, or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0111] In some embodiments, a variant of an amino acid sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60% identity, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or higher identity over a specified region when compared to a defined amino acid sequence. In some embodiments, a variant of an amino acid sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60% identity, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or higher identity over the full length of an amino acid sequence of at least one of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4. In some embodiments, a variant of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6 comprises at least the CDR sequences of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6.

[0112] In some embodiments, a fragment of an amino acid sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60%, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of the full-length sequence of a defined amino acid sequence. In some embodiments, a fragment of an amino acid sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60%, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of the full length sequence of at least one of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6. In some embodiments, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6 comprises at least the CDR sequences of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6.

[0113] As used herein, the term “antibody” or “immunoglobulin” refers to proteins (including glycoproteins) of the immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily of proteins. An antibody or immunoglobulin (Ig) molecule may be tetrameric, comprising two identical light chain polypeptides and two identical heavy chain polypeptides. The two heavy chains are linked together by disulfide bonds, and each heavy chain is linked to a light chain by a disulfide bond. Each full-length Ig molecule contains at least two binding sites for a specific target or antigen.

[0114] A T cell receptor antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, includes, but is not limited to a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, chimerized or chimeric fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, humanized fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, deimmunized humfusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, fully humfusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, single chain antibody, single chain Fv fragment (scFv), Fv, Fd fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, F(ab').sub.2 fragment, diabody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, minibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, triabody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, domain fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, camelid fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, dromedary fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, phage-displayed fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, or antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, identified with a repetitive backbone array (e.g. repetitive antigen display).

[0115] The immune system produces several different classes of Ig molecules (isotypes), including IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, each distinguished by the particular class of heavy chain polypeptide present: alpha (α) found in IgA, delta (δ) found in IgD, epsilon (ϵ) found in IgE, gamma (γ) found in IgG, and mu (μ) found in IgM. There are at least five

different γ heavy chain polypeptides found in IgG. In contrast, there are only two light chain polypeptide isotypes, referred to as kappa (κ) and lambda (λ) chains. The distinctive characteristics of antibody isotypes are defined by sequences of the constant domains of the heavy chain.

[0116] An IgG molecule comprises two light chains (either κ or λ form) and two heavy chains (γ form) bound together by disulfide bonds. The K and A forms of IgG light chain each contain a domain of relatively variable amino acid sequences, called the variable region (variously referred to as a “V.sub.L-,” “V.sub. κ -,” or “V.sub. λ -region”) and a domain of relatively conserved amino acid sequences, called the constant region (CL-region). Similarly, each IgG heavy chain contains a variable region (V.sub.H-region) and one or more conserved regions: a complete IgG heavy chain contains three constant domains (“C.sub.H1-,” “C.sub.H2-,” and “C.sub.H3-regions”) and a hinge region. Within each V.sub.L- or V.sub.H-region, hypervariable regions, also known as complementarity-determining regions (“CDR”), are interspersed between relatively conserved framework regions (“FR”). Generally, the variable region of a light or heavy chain polypeptide contains four FRs and three CDRs arranged in the following order along the polypeptide: NH.sub.2-FR1-CDR1-FR2-CDR2-FR3-CDR3-FR4-COOH. Together the CDRs and FRs determine the three-dimensional structure of the IgG binding site and thus, the specific target protein or antigen to which that IgG molecule binds. Each IgG molecule is dimeric, able to bind two antigen molecules. Cleavage of a dimeric IgG with the protease papain produces two identical antigen-binding fragments (“Fab”) and an “Fc” fragment or Fc domain, so named because it is readily crystallized.

[0117] As used throughout the present disclosure, the term “antibody” further refers to a whole or intact antibody (e.g., IgM, IgG, IgA, IgD, or IgE) molecule that is generated by any one of a variety of methods that are known in the art and described herein. The term “antibody” includes a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a chimerized or chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, a deimmunized human antibody, and a fully human antibody. The antibody can be made in or derived from any of a variety of species, e.g., mammals such as humans, non-human primates (e.g., monkeys, baboons, or chimpanzees), horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, rats, and mice. The antibody can be a purified or a recombinant antibody.

[0118] As used herein, the term “epitope” refers to the site on a protein that is bound by an antibody. “Overlapping epitopes” include at least one (e.g., two, three, four, five, or six) common amino acid residue(s).

[0119] As used herein, the terms “specific binding” or “specifically binds” refer to two molecules forming a complex that is relatively stable under physiologic conditions. Typically, binding is considered specific when the association constant ($K_{\text{sub.a}}$) is higher than 10^6 M^{-1} . Thus, an antibody can specifically bind to a target with a K_a of at least (or greater than) 10^6 (e.g., at least or greater than 10^7 , 10^8 , 10^9 , 10^{10} , 10^{11} , 10^{12} , 10^{13} , 10^{14} , or 10^{15} or higher) M^{-1} .

[0120] In one embodiment, the bispecific binding molecule of the invention comprises a domain that specifically binds to CD3.

[0121] Methods for determining whether an antibody binds to a protein antigen and/or the affinity for an antibody to a protein antigen are known in the art. For example, the binding of an antibody to a protein antigen can be detected and/or quantified using a variety of techniques such as, but not limited to, Western blot, dot blot, surface plasmon resonance method (e.g., BIAcore system; Pharmacia Biosensor AB, Uppsala, Sweden and Piscataway, N.J.), or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA). See, e.g., Harlow and Lane (1988) “Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual” Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.; Benny K. C. Lo (2004) “Antibody Engineering: Methods and Protocols,” Humana Press (ISBN: 1588290921); Borrebaek (1992) “Antibody Engineering, A Practical Guide,” W.H. Freeman and Co., NY; Borrebaek (1995) “Antibody Engineering,” 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, NY, Oxford; Johne et al. (1993) J. Immunol. Meth. 160:191-198; Jonsson et al. (1993) Ann. Biol. Clin. 51:19-26; and Jonsson et al. (1991) Biotechniques 11:620-627. See also, U.S. Pat. No. 6,355,245.

[0122] Immunoassays which can be used to analyze immunospecific binding and cross-reactivity of the antibodies include, but are not limited to, competitive and non-competitive assay systems using techniques such as Western blots, RIA, ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay), “sandwich” immunoassays, immunoprecipitation assays, immunodiffusion assays, agglutination assays, complement-fixation assays, immunoradiometric assays, fluorescent immunoassays, and protein A immunoassays. Such assays are routine and well known in the art.

[0123] Antibodies can also be assayed using any surface plasmon resonance (SPR)-based assays known in the art for characterizing the kinetic parameters of the interaction of the antibody with its target or epitope. Any SPR instrument commercially available including, but not limited to, BIAcore Instruments (Biacore AB; Uppsala, Sweden); 1Asys instruments (Affinity Sensors; Franklin, Massachusetts); IBIS system (Windsor Scientific Limited; Berks, UK), SPR-CELLIA systems (Nippon Laser and Electronics Lab; Hokkaido, Japan), and SPR Detector Spreeta (Texas Instruments; Dallas, Texas) can be used in the methods described herein. See, e.g., Mullett et al. (2000) Methods 22:77-91; Dong et al. (2002) Reviews in Mol Biotech 82:303-323; Fivash et al. (1998) Curr Opin Biotechnol 9:97-101; and Rich et al. (2000) Curr Opin Biotechnol 11:54-61.

[0124] The antibodies and fragments thereof can be, in some embodiments, “chimeric.” Chimeric antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof comprise portions from two or more different species (e.g., mouse and human). Chimeric antibodies can be produced with mouse variable regions of desired specificity spliced onto human constant domain gene segments (see, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,816,567). In this manner, non-human antibodies can be

modified to make them more suitable for human clinical application (e.g., methods for treating or preventing a complement associated disorder in a human subject).

[0125] The monoclonal antibodies of the present disclosure include “humanized” forms of the non-human (e.g., mouse) antibodies. Humanized or CDR-grafted mAbs are particularly useful as therapeutic agents for humans because they are not cleared from the circulation as rapidly as mouse antibodies and do not typically provoke an adverse immune reaction. Methods of preparing humanized antibodies are generally well known in the art. For example, humanization can be essentially performed following the method of Winter and co-workers (see, e.g., Jones et al. (1986) *Nature* 321:522-525; Riechmann et al. (1988) *Nature* 332:323-327; and Verhoeyen et al. (1988) *Science* 239:1534-1536), by substituting rodent CDRs or CDR sequences for the corresponding sequences of a human antibody. Also see, e.g., Staelens et al. (2006) *Mol Immunol* 43:1243-1257. In some embodiments, humanized forms of non-human (e.g., mouse) antibodies are human antibodies (recipient antibody) in which hypervariable (CDR) region residues of the recipient antibody are replaced by hypervariable region residues from a non-human species (donor antibody) such as a mouse, rat, rabbit, or non-human primate having the desired specificity, affinity, and binding capacity. In some instances, framework region residues of the human immunoglobulin are also replaced by corresponding non-human residues (so called “back mutations”). In addition, phage display libraries can be used to vary amino acids at chosen positions within the antibody sequence. The properties of a humanized antibody are also affected by the choice of the human framework. Furthermore, humanized and chimerized antibodies can be modified to comprise residues that are not found in the recipient antibody or in the donor antibody in order to further improve antibody properties, such as, for example, affinity or effector function.

[0126] Fully human antibodies are also provided in the disclosure. The term “human antibody” includes antibodies having variable and constant regions (if present) derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. Human antibodies can include amino acid residues not encoded by human germline immunoglobulin sequences (e.g., mutations introduced by random or site-specific mutagenesis in vitro or by somatic mutation in vivo). However, the term “human antibody” does not include antibodies in which CDR sequences derived from the germline of another mammalian species, such as a mouse, have been grafted onto human framework sequences (i.e., humanized antibodies). Fully human or human antibodies may be derived from transgenic mice carrying human antibody genes (carrying the variable (V), diversity (D), joining (J), and constant (C) exons) or from human cells. For example, it is now possible to produce transgenic animals (e.g., mice) that are capable, upon immunization, of producing a full repertoire of human antibodies in the absence of endogenous immunoglobulin production. (See, e.g., Jakobovits et al. (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:2551; Jakobovits et al. (1993) *Nature* 362:255-258; Bruggemann et al. (1993) *Year in Immunol.* 7:33; and Duchosal et al. (1992) *Nature* 355:258.) Transgenic mice strains can be engineered to contain gene sequences from unrearranged human immunoglobulin genes. The human sequences may code for both the heavy and light chains of human antibodies and would function correctly in the mice, undergoing rearrangement to provide a wide antibody repertoire similar to that in humans. The transgenic mice can be immunized with the target protein (to create a diverse array of specific antibodies and their encoding RNA. Nucleic acids encoding the antibody chain components of such antibodies may then be cloned from the animal into a display vector. Typically, separate populations of nucleic acids encoding heavy and light chain sequences are cloned, and the separate populations then recombined on insertion into the vector, such that any given copy of the vector receives a random combination of a heavy and a light chain. The vector is designed to express antibody chains so that they can be assembled and displayed on the outer surface of a display package containing the vector. For example, antibody chains can be expressed as fusion proteins with a phage coat protein from the outer surface of the phage. Thereafter, display packages can be screened for display of antibodies binding to a target.

[0127] Thus, in some embodiments, the disclosure provides, e.g., humanized, deimmunized or primatized antibodies comprising one or more of the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the mouse monoclonal antibodies described herein, which retain the ability (e.g., at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, or 100%, or even greater than 100%) of the mouse monoclonal antibody counterpart to bind to its antigen.

[0128] In addition, human antibodies can be derived from phage-display libraries (Hoogenboom et al. (1991) *J. Mol. Biol.* 227:381; Marks et al. (1991) *J. Mol. Biol.* 222:581-597; and Vaughan et al. (1996) *Nature Biotech* 14:309 (1996)). Synthetic phage libraries can be created which use randomized combinations of synthetic human antibody V-regions. By selection on antigen fully human antibodies can be made in which the V-regions are very human-like in nature. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,794,132, 6,680,209, 4,634,666, and Ostberg et al. (1983), *Hybridoma* 2:361-367, the contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

[0129] For the generation of human antibodies, also see Mendez et al. (1998) *Nature Genetics* 15:146-156 and Green and Jakobovits (1998) *J. Exp. Med.* 188:483-495, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. Human antibodies are further discussed and delineated in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,939,598; 6,673,986; 6,114,598; 6,075,181; 6,162,963; 6,150,584; 6,713,610; and 6,657,103 as well as U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2003-0229905 A1, 2004-0010810 A1, US 2004-0093622 A1, 2006-0040363 A1, 2005-0054055 A1, 2005-0076395 A1, and 2005-0287630 A1. See also International Publication Nos. WO 94/02602, WO 96/34096, and WO 98/24893, and European Patent No. EP 0 463 151 B1. The disclosures of each of the above-cited patents, applications, and references are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0130] In an alternative approach, others, including GenPharm International, Inc., have utilized a “minilocus” approach. In the minilocus approach, an exogenous Ig locus is mimicked through the inclusion of pieces (individual genes) from the Ig locus. Thus, one or more VH genes, one or more DH genes, one or more JH genes, a mu constant region, and a second constant region (preferably a gamma constant region) are formed into a construct for insertion into an animal. This approach is described in, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,545,807; 5,545,806; 5,625,825; 5,625,126; 5,633,425; 5,661,016; 5,770,429; 5,789,650; and U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,814,318; 5,591,669; 5,612,205; 5,721,367; 5,789,215; 5,643,763; 5,569,825; 5,877,397; 6,300,129; 5,874,299; 6,255,458; and 7,041,871, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference. See also European Patent No. 0 546 073 Bl, International Patent Publication Nos. WO 92/03918, WO 92/22645, WO 92/22647, WO 92/22670, WO 93/12227, WO 94/00569, WO 94/25585, WO 96/14436, WO 97/13852, and WO 98/24884, the disclosures of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. See further Taylor et al. (1992) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 20:6287; Chen et al. (1993) *Int. Immunol.* 5:647; Tuaillon et al. (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:3720-4; Choi et al. (1993) *Nature Genetics* 4:117; Lonberg et al. (1994) *Nature* 368:856-859; Taylor et al. (1994) *International Immunology* 6:579-591; Tuaillon et al. (1995) *J. Immunol.* 154:6453-65; Fishwild et al. (1996) *Nature Biotechnology* 14:845; and Tuaillon et al. (2000) *Eur. J. Immunol.* 10:2998-3005, the disclosures of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0131] In some embodiments, de-immunized antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof are provided. De-immunized antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof are antibodies that have been modified so as to render the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof non-immunogenic, or less immunogenic, to a given species (e.g., to a human). De-immunization can be achieved by modifying the fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof utilizing any of a variety of techniques known to those skilled in the art (see, e.g., PCT Publication Nos. WO 04/108158 and WO 00/34317). For example, fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof may be de-immunized by identifying potential T cell epitopes and/or B cell epitopes within the amino acid sequence of the fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof and removing one or more of the potential T cell epitopes and/or B cell epitopes from the fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, for example, using recombinant techniques. The modified antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof may then optionally be produced and tested to identify antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that have retained one or more desired biological activities, such as, for example, binding affinity, but have reduced immunogenicity. Methods for identifying potential T cell epitopes and/or B cell epitopes may be carried out using techniques known in the art, such as, for example, computational methods (see e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 02/069232), in vitro or in silico techniques, and biological assays or physical methods (such as, for example, determination of the binding of peptides to MHC molecules, determination of the binding of peptide:MHC complexes to the T cell receptors from the species to receive the fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, testing of the protein or peptide parts thereof using transgenic animals with the MHC molecules of the species to receive the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, or testing with transgenic animals reconstituted with immune system cells from the species to receive the fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof, etc.). In various embodiments, the de-immunized antibodies described herein include de-immunized antigen-binding fragments, Fab, Fv, scFv, Fab' and F(ab')₂, monoclonal antibodies, murine antibodies, engineered antibodies (such as, for example, chimeric, single chain, CDR-grafted, humanized, fully human antibodies, and artificially selected antibodies), synthetic antibodies and semi-synthetic antibodies.

[0132] In some embodiments, the present disclosure also provides bispecific antibodies. Bispecific antibodies are monoclonal, preferably human or humanized, antibodies that have binding specificities for at least two different antigens. For example, in one embodiment, a bispecific binding molecule of the invention comprises one domain with a binding specificity for CD3, and one domain with a binding specificity for IL13R α 2. In one embodiment, a bispecific binding molecule of the invention comprises one domain with a binding specificity for CD3, and one domain with a binding specificity for HER2.

[0133] Methods for making bispecific antibodies are within the purview of those skilled in the art. Traditionally, the recombinant production of the bispecific antibodies of the invention is based on the co-expression of two or more scFv antibody fragments linked to Fc domains for formation of heterodimers between two different scFv antibody fragments. In some embodiments, the Fc domains of two or more scFv antibody fragments comprise mutations to promote heterodimerization of the bispecific antibodies. For example, in some embodiments, the Fc domain of a first scFv antibody comprises a “hole” mutation whereas the Fc domain of a second scFv comprises a “Key” mutation and alignment of the “Key” and “hole” promotes heterodimerization of the two to form a bispecific binding molecule.

[0134] Various techniques for making and isolating bispecific antibody fragments directly from recombinant cell culture have also been described. For example, bispecific antibodies have been produced using leucine zippers. See, e.g., Kostelny et al. (1992) *J Immunol* 148 (5): 1547-1553. The leucine zipper peptides from the Fos and Jun proteins may be linked to the Fab' portions of two different antibodies by gene fusion. The antibody homodimers may be reduced at the hinge region to form monomers and then re-oxidized to form the antibody heterodimers. This method can also be utilized for the production of antibody homodimers. The “diabody” technology described by Hollinger et al. (1993) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 90:6444-6448 has provided an alternative mechanism for making bispecific antibody fragments. The fragments comprise a heavy-chain variable domain (VH) connected to a light-chain variable domain (VL) by a linker which is too short to allow pairing between the two domains on the same chain. Accordingly,

the VL and VL domains of one fragment are forced to pair with the complementary VL and VH domains of another fragment, thereby forming two antigen-binding sites. Another strategy for making bispecific antibody fragments by the use of single-chain Fv (scFv) dimers has also been reported. See, e.g., Gruber et al. (1994) J Immunol 152:5368. Alternatively, the antibodies can be “linear antibodies” as described in, e.g., Zapata et al. (1995) Protein Eng. 8 (10): 1057-1062. Briefly, these antibodies comprise a pair of tandem Fd segments (VH-CH1-VH-CH1) which form a pair of antigen binding regions. Linear antibodies can be bispecific or monospecific.

[0135] Antibodies with more than two valencies (e.g., trispecific antibodies) are also contemplated and described in, e.g., Tutt et al. (1991) J Immunol 147:60.

[0136] The disclosure also embraces variant forms of multi-specific antibodies such as the dual variable domain immunoglobulin (DVD-Ig) molecules described in Wu et al. (2007) Nat Biotechnol 25 (11): 1290-1297. The DVD-Ig molecules are designed such that two different light chain variable domains (VL) from two different parent antibodies are linked in tandem directly or via a short linker by recombinant DNA techniques, followed by the light chain constant domain. Similarly, the heavy chain comprises two different heavy chain variable domains (VH) linked in tandem, followed by the constant domain CH1 and Fc region. Methods for making DVD-Ig molecules from two parent antibodies are further described in, e.g., PCT Publication Nos. WO 08/024188 and WO 07/024715.

[0137] The disclosure also provides camelid or dromedary antibodies (e.g., antibodies derived from *Camelus bactrianus*, *Camelus dromaderius*, or *Lama paccos*). Such antibodies, unlike the typical two-chain (fragment) or four-chain (whole antibody) antibodies from most mammals, generally lack light chains. See U.S. Pat. No. 5,759,808; Stijlemans et al. (2004) J Biol Chem 279:1256-1261; Dumoulin et al. (2003) Nature 424:783-788; and Pleschberger et al. (2003) Bioconjugate Chem 14:440-448.

[0138] Engineered libraries of camelid antibodies and antibody fragments are commercially available, for example, from Ablynx (Ghent, Belgium). As with other antibodies of non-human origin, an amino acid sequence of a camelid antibody can be altered recombinantly to obtain a sequence that more closely resembles a human sequence, i.e., the nanobody can be “humanized” to thereby further reduce the potential immunogenicity of the antibody.

[0139] In some embodiments, the present disclosure also provides antibodies, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, which are variants of a peptide, protein or antibody described herein. In some embodiments, such a variant peptide, protein or antibody maintains the binding or inhibitory ability of the parent peptide, protein or antibody. Methods to prepare variants of known proteins, peptides or antibodies are known in the art. In some embodiments, such a variant comprises at least a single amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, or other modification. In some embodiments, fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof described herein comprises two or more (e.g. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more) amino acid modifications (e.g., amino acid substitutions, deletions, or additions). In some embodiments, fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof described herein does not contain an amino acid modification in a CDR. In some embodiments, fusion proteins, antibodies or fragments thereof described herein does contain one or more (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20) amino acid modifications in a CDR.

[0140] As used herein, the term “antibody fragment”, “antigen-binding fragment”, “antigen binding fragment”, or similar terms refer to fragment of an antibody that retains the ability to bind to an antigen wherein the antigen binding fragment may optionally include additional compositions not part of the original antibody (e.g. different framework regions or mutations) as well as the fragment(s) from the original antibody. Examples include, but are not limited to, a single chain antibody, a single chain Fv fragment (scFv), an Fd fragment, an Fab fragment, an Fab' fragment, or an F(ab').sub.2 fragment. An scFv fragment is a single polypeptide chain that includes both the heavy and light chain variable regions of the antibody from which the scFv is derived. In addition, diabodies (Poljak (1994) Structure 2 (12): 1121-1123; Hudson et al. (1999) J. Immunol. Methods 23 (1-2): 177-189, the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety), minibodies, triabodies (Schoonooghe et al. (2009) BMC Biotechnol 9:70), and domain antibodies (also known as “heavy chain immunoglobulins” or camelids; Holt et al. (2003) Trends Biotechnol 21 (11): 484-490), (the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety) that bind to a complement component protein can be incorporated into the compositions, and used in the methods, described herein. In some embodiments, any of the antigen binding fragments described herein may be included under “antigen binding fragment thereof or equivalent terms, when referring to fragments related to an antibody, whether such fragments were actually derived from the antibody or are antigen binding fragments that bind the same epitope or an overlapping epitope or an epitope contained in the antibody's epitope. An antigen binding fragment thereof may include antigen-binding fragments that bind the same, or overlapping, antigen as the original antibody and wherein the antigen binding fragment includes a portion (e.g. one or more CDRs, one or more variable regions, etc.) that is a fragment of the original antibody.

[0141] In some embodiments, the antibodies described herein comprise an altered or mutated sequence that leads to altered stability or half-life compared to parent antibodies. This includes, for example, an increased stability or half-life for higher affinity or longer clearance time in vitro or in vivo, or a decreased stability or half-life for lower affinity or quicker removal. Additionally, the antibodies described herein may contain one or more (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20) amino acid substitutions, deletions, or insertions that result in altered post-translational modifications, including, for example, an altered glycosylation pattern (e.g., the addition of one or more

sugar components, the loss of one or more sugar components, or a change in composition of one or more sugar components.

[0142] In some embodiments, the antibodies described herein comprise reduced (e.g. or no) effector function. Altered effector functions include, for example, a modulation in one or more of the following activities: antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC), apoptosis, binding to one or more Fc-receptors, and pro-inflammatory responses. Modulation refers to an increase, decrease, or elimination of an effector function activity exhibited by a subject antibody containing an altered constant region as compared to the activity of the unaltered form of the constant region. In particular embodiments, modulation includes situations in which an activity is abolished or completely absent.

[0143] Antibodies with altered or no effector functions may be generated by engineering or producing antibodies with variant constant, Fc, or heavy chain regions; recombinant DNA technology and/or cell culture and expression conditions may be used to produce antibodies with altered function and/or activity. For example, recombinant DNA technology may be used to engineer one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions, or insertions in regions (such as, for example, Fc or constant regions) that affect antibody function including effector functions. Alternatively, changes in post-translational modifications, such as, e.g., glycosylation patterns, may be achieved by manipulating the cell culture and expression conditions by which the antibody is produced. Suitable methods for introducing one or more substitutions, additions, or deletions into an Fc region of an antibody are well known in the art and include, e.g., standard DNA mutagenesis techniques as described in, e.g., Sambrook et al. (1989) "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition," Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.; Harlow and Lane (1988), supra; Borrebaek (1992), supra; John et al. (1993), supra; PCT publication no. WO 06/53301; and U.S. Pat. No. 7,704,497.

Nucleic Acid Molecules

[0144] Provided herein are polynucleotides that encode the bispecific binding molecules, or fragments thereof, of the invention. In some embodiments, the polynucleotide also comprises a sequence encoding a signal peptide operably linked at the 5' end of the encoding sequence. In some embodiments, the polynucleotide also comprises a sequence encoding a linker sequence.

[0145] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes at least one binding arm of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, or SEQ ID NO:6 or a fragment or variant thereof. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5 or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0146] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule comprises an RNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5, or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0147] In some embodiments, a variant of a nucleotide sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60% identity, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or higher identity over a specified region when compared to a defined nucleotide sequence. In some embodiments, a variant of a nucleotide sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60% identity, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or higher identity over the full length of a nucleotide sequence of at least one of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5.

[0148] In some embodiments, a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60%, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of the full length sequence of a defined nucleotide sequence. In some embodiments, a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as described herein comprises at least about 60%, 61%, 62%, 63%, 64%, 65%, 66%, 67%, 68%, 69%, 70%, 71%, 72%, 73%, 74%, 75%, 76%, 77%, 78%, 79%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:5.

[0149] The isolated nucleic acid may comprise any type of nucleic acid, including, but not limited to DNA, cDNA, and RNA. In one embodiment, the composition comprises at least one isolated RNA molecule encoding a bispecific binding molecule or a functional fragment thereof (e.g., a binding arm thereof.)

[0150] In one embodiment, the invention provides compositions comprising two or more nucleic acid molecules, wherein the combination of nucleic acid molecules encodes a bispecific binding molecule of the invention.

[0151] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a CD3 binding arm and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a IL13R α 2 binding arm.

[0152] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a CD3 binding domain, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment or variant thereof, and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a IL13R α 2 binding domain, wherein the second nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0153] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first isolated RNA molecule encoding a CD3 binding domain and a second isolated RNA molecule encoding a IL13R α 2 binding domain.

[0154] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a CD3 binding arm and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a Her2 binding arm.

[0155] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first nucleic acid molecule encoding a CD3 binding domain, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment or variant thereof, and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a Her2 binding domain, wherein the second nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:5 or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0156] In one embodiment, the combination of nucleic acid molecules comprises a first isolated RNA molecule encoding a CD3 binding domain and a second isolated RNA molecule encoding a Her2 binding domain.

[0157] The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention can be modified to improve stability. Modifications can be added to enhance stability, functionality, and/or specificity and to minimize immunostimulatory properties of the nucleic acid molecule of the invention. For example, in order to enhance the stability, the 3'-residues may be stabilized against degradation, e.g., they may be selected such that they consist of purine nucleotides, particularly adenosine or guanosine nucleotides. Alternatively, substitution of pyrimidine nucleotides by modified analogues, e.g., substitution of uridine by 2'-deoxythymidine is tolerated and does not affect function of the molecule.

[0158] In one embodiment of the present invention the nucleic acid molecule may contain at least one modified nucleotide analogue. For example, the ends may be stabilized by incorporating modified nucleotide analogues.

[0159] Non-limiting examples of nucleotide analogues include sugar- and/or backbone-modified ribonucleotides (i.e., include modifications to the phosphate-sugar backbone). For example, the phosphodiester linkages of natural RNA may be modified to include at least one of a nitrogen or sulfur heteroatom. In exemplary backbone-modified ribonucleotides the phosphoester group connecting to adjacent ribonucleotides is replaced by a modified group, e.g., of phosphothioate group.

[0160] Other examples of modifications are nucleobase-modified ribonucleotides, i.e., ribonucleotides, containing at least one non-naturally occurring nucleobase instead of a naturally occurring nucleobase. Bases may be modified to block the activity of adenosine deaminase. Exemplary modified nucleobases include, but are not limited to, uridine and/or cytidine modified at the 5-position, e.g., 5-(2-amino) propyl uridine, 5-bromo uridine; adenosine and/or guanosines modified at the 8 position, e.g., 8-bromo guanosine; deaza nucleotides, e.g., 7-deaza-adenosine; O- and N-alkylated nucleotides, e.g., N6-methyl adenosine are suitable. The above modifications may be combined.

[0161] In some instances, the nucleic acid molecule comprises at least one of the following chemical modifications: 2'-H, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-OH modification of one or more nucleotides. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid molecule of the invention can have enhanced resistance to nucleases. For increased nuclease resistance, a nucleic acid molecule, can include, for example, 2'-modified ribose units and/or phosphorothioate linkages. For example, the 2' hydroxyl group (OH) can be modified or replaced with a number of different "oxy" or "deoxy" substituents. For increased nuclease resistance the nucleic acid molecules of the invention can include 2'-O-methyl, 2'-fluorine, 2'-O-methoxyethyl, 2'-O-aminopropyl, 2'-amino, and/or phosphorothioate linkages. Inclusion of locked nucleic acids (LNA), ethylene nucleic acids (ENA), e.g., 2'-4'-ethylene-bridged nucleic acids, and certain nucleobase modifications such as 2-amino-A, 2-thio (e.g., 2-thio-U), G-clamp modifications, can also increase binding affinity to a target.

[0162] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule includes a 2'-modified nucleotide, e.g., a 2'-deoxy, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-O-methyl, 2'-O-methoxyethyl (2'-O-MOE), 2'-O-aminopropyl (2'-O-AP), 2'-O-dimethylaminoethyl (2'-O-DMAOE), 2'-O-dimethylaminopropyl (2'-O-DMAP), 2'-O-dimethylaminoethoxyethyl (2'-O-DMAEOE), or 2'-O—N-methylacetamido (2'-O-NMA). In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule includes at least one 2'-O-methyl-modified nucleotide, and in some embodiments, all of the nucleotides of the nucleic acid molecule include a 2'-O-methyl modification.

[0163] Nucleic acid agents discussed herein include otherwise unmodified RNA and DNA as well as RNA and DNA that have been modified, e.g., to improve efficacy, and polymers of nucleoside surrogates. Unmodified RNA refers to a molecule in which the components of the nucleic acid, namely sugars, bases, and phosphate moieties, are the same or essentially the same as that which occur in nature, for example as occur naturally in the human body. The art has referred to rare or unusual, but naturally occurring, RNAs as modified RNAs, see, e.g., Limbach et al. (Nucleic Acids Res., 1994, 22:2183-2196). Such rare or unusual RNAs, often termed modified RNAs, are typically the result of a post-transcriptional modification and are within the term unmodified RNA as used herein. Modified RNA, as used herein, refers to a molecule in which one or more of the components of the nucleic acid, namely sugars, bases, and phosphate moieties, are different from that which occur in nature, for example different from that which occurs in the human body. While they are referred to as "modified RNAs" they will of course, because of the modification, include molecules that are not, strictly speaking, RNAs. Nucleoside surrogates are molecules in which the ribophosphate backbone is replaced with a non-ribophosphate construct that allows the bases to be presented in the correct spatial relationship such that hybridization is substantially similar to what is seen with a ribophosphate backbone, e.g., non-charged mimics of the ribophosphate backbone.

[0164] Modifications of the nucleic acid of the invention may be present at one or more of, a phosphate group, a sugar group, backbone, N-terminus, C-terminus, or nucleobase.

[0165] The present invention also includes a vector in which the isolated nucleic acid of the present invention is inserted. The art is replete with suitable vectors that are useful in the present invention.

[0166] Therefore, in another aspect, the invention relates to a vector, comprising the nucleotide sequence of the invention or the construct of the invention. The choice of the vector will depend on the host cell in which it is to be subsequently introduced. In some embodiments, the vector of the invention is an expression vector. Suitable host cells include a wide variety of prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells. In specific embodiments, the expression vector is selected from the group consisting of a viral vector, a bacterial vector and a mammalian cell vector. Prokaryote- and/or eukaryote-vector based systems can be employed for use with the present invention to produce polynucleotides, or their cognate polypeptides. Many such systems are commercially and widely available.

[0167] In some embodiments, the expression of synthetic nucleic acids encoding a protein is typically achieved by operably linking a nucleic acid encoding the protein or portions thereof to a promoter and incorporating the construct into an expression vector. The vectors to be used are suitable for replication and, optionally, integration in eukaryotic cells. Typical vectors contain transcription and translation terminators, initiation sequences, and promoters useful for regulation of the expression of the desired nucleic acid sequence.

[0168] The recombinant nucleic acid sequence construct can include one or more transcription termination regions. The transcription termination region can be downstream of the coding sequence to provide for efficient termination. The transcription termination region can be obtained from the same gene as the promoter described above or can be obtained from one or more different genes.

[0169] The recombinant nucleic acid sequence construct can include one or more initiation codons. The initiation codon can be located upstream of the coding sequence. The initiation codon can be in frame with the coding sequence. The initiation codon can be associated with one or more signals required for efficient translation initiation, for example, but not limited to, a ribosome binding site.

[0170] The recombinant nucleic acid sequence construct can include one or more termination or stop codons. The termination codon can be downstream of the coding sequence. The termination codon can be in frame with the coding sequence. The termination codon can be associated with one or more signals required for efficient translation termination.

[0171] The recombinant nucleic acid sequence construct can include one or more polyadenylation signals. The polyadenylation signal can include one or more signals required for efficient polyadenylation of the transcript. The polyadenylation signal can be positioned downstream of the coding sequence. The polyadenylation signal may be a SV40 polyadenylation signal, LTR polyadenylation signal, bovine growth hormone (bGH) polyadenylation signal, human growth hormone (hGH) polyadenylation signal, or human β -globin polyadenylation signal. The SV40 polyadenylation signal may be a polyadenylation signal from a pCEP4 plasmid (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA).

[0172] The recombinant nucleic acid sequence construct can include one or more leader sequences. The leader sequence can encode a signal peptide. The signal peptide can be an immunoglobulin (Ig) signal peptide, for example, but not limited to, an IgG signal peptide and an IgE signal peptide.

[0173] The vectors of the present invention may also be used for nucleic acid immunization, using standard gene delivery protocols. Methods for gene delivery are known in the art. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,399,346, 5,580,859, 5,589,466, incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

[0174] The isolated nucleic acid of the invention can be cloned into a number of types of vectors. For example, the nucleic acid can be cloned into a vector including, but not limited to a plasmid, a phagemid, a phage derivative, an animal virus, and a cosmid. Vectors of particular interest include expression vectors, replication vectors, probe generation vectors, and sequencing vectors.

[0175] Further, the vector may be provided to a cell in the form of a viral vector. Viral vector technology is well known in the art and is described, for example, in Sambrook et al. (2012, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York), and in other virology and molecular biology manuals. Viruses, which are useful as vectors include, but are not limited to, retroviruses, adenoviruses, adeno-associated viruses, herpes viruses, and lentiviruses. In general, a suitable vector contains an origin of replication functional in at least one organism, a promoter sequence, convenient restriction endonuclease sites, and one or more selectable markers, (e.g., WO 01/96584; WO 01/29058; and U.S. Pat. No. 6,326,193).

[0176] Further, the expression vector may be provided to a cell in the form of a viral vector. Viral vector technology is well known in the art and is described, for example, in Sambrook et al. (2012), and in Ausubel et al. (1997), and in other virology and molecular biology manuals. Viruses, which are useful as vectors include, but are not limited to, retroviruses, adenoviruses, adeno-associated viruses, herpes viruses, and lentiviruses. In general, a suitable vector contains an origin of replication functional in at least one organism, a promoter sequence, convenient restriction endonuclease sites, and one or more selectable markers. (See, e.g., WO 01/96584; WO 01/29058; and U.S. Pat. No. 6,326,193).

[0177] By way of illustration, the vector in which the nucleic acid sequence is introduced can be a plasmid, which is or is not integrated in the genome of a host cell when it is introduced in the cell. Illustrative, non-limiting examples of vectors in which the nucleotide sequence of the invention or the gene construct of the invention can be inserted include a tet-on inducible vector for expression in eukaryote cells.

[0178] The vector may be obtained by conventional methods known by persons skilled in the art (Sambrook et al., 2012). In a particular embodiment, the vector is a vector useful for transforming animal cells.

[0179] In one embodiment, the recombinant expression vectors may also contain nucleic acid molecules, which encode a peptide or protein of invention, described elsewhere herein.

[0180] A number of viral based systems have been developed for gene transfer into mammalian cells. For example, retroviruses provide a convenient platform for gene delivery systems. A selected gene can be inserted into a vector and packaged in retroviral particles using techniques known in the art. The recombinant virus can then be isolated and delivered to cells of the subject either in vivo or ex vivo. A number of retroviral systems are known in the art. In some embodiments, adenovirus vectors are used. A number of adenovirus vectors are known in the art. In one embodiment, lentivirus vectors are used.

[0181] For example, vectors derived from retroviruses such as the lentivirus are suitable tools to achieve long-term gene transfer since they allow long-term, stable integration of a transgene and its propagation in daughter cells. Lentiviral vectors have the added advantage over vectors derived from onco-retroviruses such as murine leukemia viruses in that they can transduce non-proliferating cells, such as hepatocytes. They also have the added advantage of low immunogenicity. In one embodiment, the composition includes a vector derived from an adeno-associated virus (AAV). Adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors have become powerful gene delivery tools for the treatment of various disorders. AAV vectors possess a number of features that render them ideally suited for gene therapy, including a lack of pathogenicity, minimal immunogenicity, and the ability to transduce postmitotic cells in a stable and efficient manner. Expression of a particular gene contained within an AAV vector can be specifically targeted to one or more types of cells by choosing the appropriate combination of AAV serotype, promoter, and delivery method.

[0182] In some embodiments, the vector also includes conventional control elements which are operably linked to the transgene in a manner which permits its transcription, translation and/or expression in a cell transfected with the plasmid vector or infected with the virus produced by the invention. As used herein, "operably linked" sequences include both expression control sequences that are contiguous with the gene of interest and expression control sequences that act in trans or at a distance to control the gene of interest. Expression control sequences include appropriate transcription initiation, termination, promoter and enhancer sequences; efficient RNA processing signals such as splicing and polyadenylation (polyA) signals; sequences that stabilize cytoplasmic mRNA; sequences that enhance translation efficiency (i.e., Kozak consensus sequence); sequences that enhance protein stability; and when desired, sequences that enhance secretion of the encoded product. A great number of expression control sequences, including promoters which are native, constitutive, inducible and/or tissue-specific, are known in the art and may be utilized.

[0183] A promoter may be one naturally associated with a gene or polynucleotide sequence, as may be obtained by isolating the 5' non-coding sequences located upstream of the coding segment and/or exon. Such a promoter can be referred to as "endogenous." Similarly, an enhancer may be one naturally associated with a polynucleotide sequence, located either downstream or upstream of that sequence. Alternatively, certain advantages will be gained by positioning the coding polynucleotide segment under the control of a recombinant or heterologous promoter, which refers to a promoter that is not normally associated with a polynucleotide sequence in its natural environment. A recombinant or heterologous enhancer refers also to an enhancer not normally associated with a polynucleotide sequence in its natural environment. Such promoters or enhancers may include promoters or enhancers of other genes, and promoters or enhancers isolated from any other prokaryotic, viral, or eukaryotic cell, and promoters or enhancers not "naturally occurring," i.e., containing different elements of different transcriptional regulatory regions, and/or mutations that alter expression. In addition to producing nucleic acid sequences of promoters and enhancers synthetically, sequences may be produced using recombinant cloning and/or nucleic acid amplification technology, including PCR, in connection with the compositions disclosed herein (U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,202, 5,928,906). Furthermore, it is contemplated the control sequences that direct transcription and/or expression of sequences within non-nuclear organelles such as mitochondria, chloroplasts, and the like, can be employed as well.

[0184] Naturally, it will be important to employ a promoter and/or enhancer that effectively directs the expression of the DNA segment in the cell type, organelle, and organism chosen for expression. Those of skill in the art of molecular biology generally know how to use promoters, enhancers, and cell type combinations for protein expression, for example, see Sambrook et al. (2012). The promoters employed may be constitutive, tissue-specific, inducible, and/or useful under the appropriate conditions to direct high-level expression of the introduced DNA segment, such as is advantageous in the large-scale production of recombinant proteins and/or peptides. The promoter may be heterologous or endogenous.

[0185] The recombinant expression vectors may also contain a selectable marker gene, which facilitates the selection of transformed or transfected host cells. Suitable selectable marker genes are genes encoding proteins such as G418 and hygromycin, which confer resistance to certain drugs, β -galactosidase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, firefly luciferase, or an immunoglobulin or portion thereof such as the Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, such as IgG. The selectable markers may be introduced on a separate vector from the nucleic acid of interest.

[0186] Additional promoter elements, e.g., enhancers, regulate the frequency of transcriptional initiation. Typically, these are located in the region 30-110 bp upstream of the start site, although a number of promoters have recently been

shown to contain functional elements downstream of the start site as well. The spacing between promoter elements frequently is flexible, so that promoter function is preserved when elements are inverted or moved relative to one another. In the thymidine kinase (tk) promoter, the spacing between promoter elements can be increased to 50 bp apart before activity begins to decline. Depending on the promoter, it appears that individual elements can function either cooperatively or independently to activate transcription.

[0187] One example of a suitable promoter is the immediate early cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter sequence. This promoter sequence is a strong constitutive promoter sequence capable of driving high levels of expression of any polynucleotide sequence operatively linked thereto. Another example of a suitable promoter is Elongation Growth Factor-1 α (EF-1 α). However, other constitutive promoter sequences may also be used, including, but not limited to the simian virus 40 (SV40) early promoter, mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) long terminal repeat (LTR) promoter, MoMuLV promoter, an avian leukemia virus promoter, an Epstein-Barr virus immediate early promoter, a Rous sarcoma virus promoter, as well as human gene promoters such as, but not limited to, the actin promoter, the myosin promoter, the hemoglobin promoter, and the creatine kinase promoter. Further, the invention should not be limited to the use of constitutive promoters. Inducible promoters are also contemplated as part of the invention. The use of an inducible promoter provides a molecular switch capable of turning on expression of the polynucleotide sequence which it is operatively linked when such expression is desired or turning off the expression when expression is not desired. Examples of inducible promoters include, but are not limited to a metallothionein promoter, a glucocorticoid promoter, a progesterone promoter, and a tetracycline promoter.

[0188] Enhancer sequences found on a vector also regulates expression of the gene contained therein. Typically, enhancers are bound with protein factors to enhance the transcription of a gene. Enhancers may be located upstream or downstream of the gene it regulates. Enhancers may also be tissue-specific to enhance transcription in a specific cell or tissue type. In one embodiment, the vector of the present invention comprises one or more enhancers to boost transcription of the gene present within the vector.

[0189] In order to assess the expression of a protein inhibitor, the expression vector to be introduced into a cell can also contain either a selectable marker gene or a reporter gene or both to facilitate identification and selection of expressing cells from the population of cells sought to be transfected or infected through viral vectors. In other aspects, the selectable marker may be carried on a separate piece of DNA and used in a co-transfection procedure. Both selectable markers and reporter genes may be flanked with appropriate regulatory sequences to enable expression in the host cells. Useful selectable markers include, for example, antibiotic-resistance genes, such as neo and the like.

[0190] Reporter genes are used for identifying potentially transfected cells and for evaluating the functionality of regulatory sequences. In general, a reporter gene is a gene that is not present in or expressed by the recipient organism or tissue and that encodes a polypeptide whose expression is manifested by some easily detectable property, e.g., enzymatic activity. Expression of the reporter gene is assayed at a suitable time after the DNA has been introduced into the recipient cells. Suitable reporter genes may include genes encoding luciferase, beta-galactosidase, chloramphenicol acetyl transferase, secreted alkaline phosphatase, or the green fluorescent protein gene (e.g., Ui-Tei et al., 2000 FEBS Letters 479:79-82). Suitable expression systems are well known and may be prepared using known techniques or obtained commercially. In general, the construct with the minimal 5' flanking region showing the highest level of expression of reporter gene is identified as the promoter. Such promoter regions may be linked to a reporter gene and used to evaluate agents for the ability to modulate promoter-driven transcription.

[0191] Methods of introducing and expressing genes into a cell are known in the art. In the context of an expression vector, the vector can be readily introduced into a host cell, e.g., mammalian, bacterial, yeast, or insect cell by any method in the art. For example, the expression vector can be transferred into a host cell by physical, chemical, or biological means.

[0192] Physical methods for introducing a peptide or protein into a host cell include calcium phosphate precipitation, lipofection, particle bombardment, microinjection, and the like. Methods for producing cells comprising vectors and/or exogenous nucleic acids are well-known in the art. See, for example, Sambrook et al. (2012, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York).

[0193] Biological methods for introducing a peptide or protein of interest into a host cell include the use of DNA and RNA vectors. Viral vectors, and especially retroviral vectors, have become the most widely used method for inserting genes into mammalian, e.g., human cells. Other viral vectors can be derived from lentivirus, poxviruses, herpes simplex virus I, adenoviruses and adeno-associated viruses, and the like. See, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,350,674 and 5,585,362.

[0194] Chemical means for introducing a peptide or protein into a host cell include colloidal dispersion systems, such as macromolecule complexes, nanocapsules, microspheres, beads, and lipid-based systems including oil-in-water emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes. An exemplary colloidal system for use as a delivery vehicle in vitro and in vivo is a liposome (e.g., an artificial membrane vesicle).

[0195] In the case where a non-viral delivery system is utilized, an exemplary delivery vehicle is a liposome. The use of lipid formulations is contemplated for the introduction of the nucleic acids into a host cell (in vitro, ex vivo or in vivo). In another aspect, the nucleic acid may be associated with a lipid. The nucleic acid associated with a lipid may be encapsulated in the aqueous interior of a liposome, interspersed within the lipid bilayer of a liposome, attached to a

liposome via a linking molecule that is associated with both the liposome and the oligonucleotide, entrapped in a liposome, complexed with a liposome, dispersed in a solution containing a lipid, mixed with a lipid, combined with a lipid, contained as a suspension in a lipid, contained or complexed with a micelle or lipid nanoparticle, or otherwise associated with a lipid. Lipid, lipid/DNA or lipid/expression vector associated compositions are not limited to any particular structure in solution. For example, they may be present in a bilayer structure, as micelles, or with a “collapsed” structure. They may also simply be interspersed in a solution, possibly forming aggregates that are not uniform in size or shape. Lipids are fatty substances which may be naturally occurring or synthetic lipids. For example, lipids include the fatty droplets that naturally occur in the cytoplasm as well as the class of compounds which contain long-chain aliphatic hydrocarbons and their derivatives, such as fatty acids, alcohols, amines, amino alcohols, and aldehydes.

[0196] Lipids suitable for use can be obtained from commercial sources. For example, dimyristyl phosphatidylcholine (“DMPC”) can be obtained from Sigma, St. Louis, MO; dicetyl phosphate (“DCP”) can be obtained from K & K Laboratories (Plainview, NY); cholesterol (“Choi”) can be obtained from Calbiochem-Behring; dimyristyl phosphatidylglycerol (“DMPG”) and other lipids may be obtained from Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc. (Birmingham, AL). Stock solutions of lipids in chloroform or chloroform/methanol can be stored at about -20°C . Chloroform is used as the only solvent since it is more readily evaporated than methanol. “Liposome” is a generic term encompassing a variety of single and multilamellar lipid vehicles formed by the generation of enclosed lipid bilayers or aggregates. Liposomes can be characterized as having vesicular structures with a phospholipid bilayer membrane and an inner aqueous medium. Multilamellar liposomes have multiple lipid layers separated by aqueous medium. They form spontaneously when phospholipids are suspended in an excess of aqueous solution. The lipid components undergo self-rearrangement before the formation of closed structures and entrap water and dissolved solutes between the lipid bilayers (Ghosh et al., 1991 *Glycobiology* 5:505-10). However, compositions that have different structures in solution than the normal vesicular structure are also encompassed. For example, the lipids may assume a micellar structure or merely exist as nonuniform aggregates of lipid molecules. Also contemplated are lipofectamine-nucleic acid complexes.

ScFv Antibody

[0197] In one embodiment, the antibody fragment comprises an scFv fragment. In one embodiment, the ScFv antibody fragment relates to a Fab fragment without the CH1 and CL regions. Thus, in one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment relates to a Fab fragment comprising the VH and VL. In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment comprises a linker between VH and VL. In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment comprises the VH, VL and the CH2 and CH3 regions. In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has modified expression, stability, half-life, antigen binding, heavy chain-light chain pairing, tissue penetration or a combination thereof as compared to a parental MAb.

[0198] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than 50 fold higher expression than the parental MAb.

[0199] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than 50 fold higher antigen binding than the parental MAb.

[0200] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than 50 fold longer half-life than the parental MAb.

[0201] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than

50 fold higher stability than the parental MAb.

[0202] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than 50 fold greater tissue penetration than the parental MAb.

[0203] In one embodiment, the scFv antibody fragment of the invention has at least 1.1 fold, at least 1.2 fold, fold, at least 1.3 fold, at least 1.4 fold, at least 1.5 fold, at least 1.6 fold, at least 1.7 fold, at least 1.8 fold, at least 1.9 fold, at least 2 fold, at least 2.1 fold, at least 2.2 fold, at least 2.3 fold, at least 2.4 fold, at least 2.5 fold, at least 2.6 fold, at least 2.7 fold, at least 2.8 fold, at least 2.9 fold, at least 3 fold, at least 3.5 fold, at least 4 fold, at least 4.5 fold, at least 5 fold, at least 5.5 fold, at least 6 fold, at least 6.5 fold, at least 7 fold, at least 7.5 fold, at least 8 fold, at least 8.5 fold, at least 9 fold, at least 9.5 fold, at least 10 fold, at least 20 fold, at least 30 fold, at least 40 fold, at least 50 fold or greater than 50 fold greater heavy chain-light chain pairing than the parental MAb.

Delivery Vehicles

[0204] In one embodiment, the present invention provides a composition comprising a delivery vehicle comprising a bispecific binding molecule, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same, as described herein. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the bispecific binding molecule comprises an mRNA molecule.

[0205] Exemplary delivery vehicles include, but are not limited to, microspheres, microparticles, nanoparticles, polymerosomes, liposomes, and micelles. For example, in some embodiments, the delivery vehicle is a lipid nanoparticle loaded with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a bispecific binding molecule of the invention or a fragment thereof. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the bispecific binding molecule comprises an mRNA molecule.

[0206] In some embodiments, the delivery vehicle provides for controlled release, delayed release, or continual release of its loaded cargo. In some embodiments, the delivery vehicle comprises a targeting moiety that targets the delivery vehicle to a treatment site.

[0207] In certain instances, expressing a protein by delivering the encoding mRNA has many benefits over methods that use protein, plasmid DNA or viral vectors. During mRNA transfection, the coding sequence of the desired protein is the only substance delivered to cells, thus avoiding all the side effects associated with plasmid backbones, viral genes, and viral proteins. More importantly, unlike DNA- and viral-based vectors, the mRNA does not carry the risk of being incorporated into the genome and protein production starts immediately after mRNA delivery. For example, high levels of circulating proteins have been measured within 15 to 30 min of in vivo injection of the encoding mRNA. In certain embodiments, using mRNA rather than the protein also has many advantages. Half-lives of proteins in the circulation are often short, thus protein treatment would need frequent dosing, while mRNA provides a template for continuous protein production for several days. Purification of proteins is problematic and they can contain aggregates and other impurities that cause adverse effects (Kromminga and Schellekens, 2005, *Ann NY Acad Sci* 1050:257-265).

[0208] In order to confirm the presence of the mRNA sequence in the host cell, a variety of assays may be performed. Such assays include, for example, “molecular biological” assays well known to those of skill in the art, such as Northern blotting and RT-PCR; “biochemical” assays, such as detecting the presence or absence of a particular peptide, e.g., by immunogenic means (ELISAs and Western blots) or by assays described herein to identify agents falling within the scope of the invention.

CAR Molecules

[0209] In one embodiment, the invention provides a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising a binding domain comprising a bispecific binding molecule of the invention. In one embodiment, the CAR comprises an antigen binding domain. In one embodiment, the antigen binding domain is a targeting domain, wherein the targeting domain directs the cell expressing the CAR to a cell or particle expressing IL13R α 2. In one embodiment, the antigen binding domain is a targeting domain, wherein the targeting domain directs the cell expressing the CAR to a cell or particle expressing HER2.

[0210] In various embodiments, the CAR can be a “first generation,” “second generation,” “third generation,” “fourth generation” or “fifth generation” CAR (see, for example, Sadelain et al., *Cancer Discov.* 3 (4): 388-398 (2013); Jensen et al., *Immunol. Rev.* 257:127-133 (2014); Sharpe et al., *Dis. Model Mech.* 8 (4): 337-350 (2015); Brentjens et al., *Clin. Cancer Res.* 13:5426-5435 (2007); Gade et al., *Cancer Res.* 65:9080-9088 (2005); Maher et al., *Nat. Biotechnol.* 20:70-75 (2002); Kershaw et al., *J. Immunol.* 173:2143-2150 (2004); Sadelain et al., *Curr. Opin. Immunol.* (2009); Hollyman et al., *J. Immunother.* 32:169-180 (2009)).

[0211] “First generation” CARs for use in the invention comprise an antigen binding domain, for example, a single-chain variable fragment (scFv), fused to a transmembrane domain, which is fused to a cytoplasmic/intracellular domain of the T cell receptor chain. “First generation” CARs typically have the intracellular domain from the CD32-chain, which is the primary transmitter of signals from endogenous T cell receptors (TCRs). “First generation” CARs can provide de novo antigen recognition and cause activation of both CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells through their CD3 ζ chain

signaling domain in a single fusion molecule, independent of HLA-mediated antigen presentation.

[0212] “Second-generation” CARs for use in the invention comprise an antigen binding domain, for example, a single-chain variable fragment (scFv), fused to an intracellular signaling domain capable of activating T cells and a co-stimulatory domain designed to augment T cell potency and persistence (Sadelain et al., *Cancer Discov.* 3:388-398 (2013)). CAR design can therefore combine antigen recognition with signal transduction, two functions that are physiologically borne by two separate complexes, the TCR heterodimer and the CD3 complex. “Second generation” CARs include an intracellular domain from various co-stimulatory molecules, for example, CD28, 4-1BB, ICOS, OX40, and the like, in the cytoplasmic tail of the CAR to provide additional signals to the cell.

[0213] “Second generation” CARs provide both co-stimulation, for example, by CD28 or 4-1BB domains, and activation, for example, by a CD35 signaling domain. Preclinical studies have indicated that “Second Generation” CARs can improve the anti-tumor activity of T cells. For example, robust efficacy of “Second Generation” CAR modified T cells was demonstrated in clinical trials targeting the CD19 molecule in patients with chronic lymphoblastic leukemia (CLL) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) (Davila et al., *Oncoimmunol.* 1 (9): 1577-1583 (2012)).

[0214] “Third generation” CARs provide multiple co-stimulation, for example, by comprising both CD28 and 4-1BB domains, and activation, for example, by comprising a CD35 activation domain.

[0215] “Fourth generation” CARs provide co-stimulation, for example, by CD28 or 4-1BB domains, and activation, for example, by a CD32 signaling domain in addition to a constitutive or inducible chemokine component.

[0216] “Fifth generation” CARs provide co-stimulation, for example, by CD28 or 4-1BB domains, and activation, for example, by a CD35 signaling domain, a constitutive or inducible chemokine component, and an intracellular domain of a cytokine receptor, for example, IL-2R β .

[0217] In various embodiments, the CAR can be included in a multivalent CAR system, for example, a DualCAR or “TandemCAR” system. Multivalent CAR systems include systems or cells comprising multiple CARs and systems or cells comprising bivalent/bispecific CARs targeting more than one antigen.

[0218] In the embodiments disclosed herein, the CARs generally comprise an antigen binding domain, a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain, as described above. In a particular non-limiting embodiment, the antigen-binding domain is a bispecific binding molecule, or a variant thereof, specific for binding to CD3 and IL13R α 2. In another non-limiting embodiment, the antigen-binding domain is a bispecific binding molecule, or a variant thereof, specific for binding to CD3 and HER2.

Substrates

[0219] In one embodiment, the present invention provides a scaffold, substrate, or device comprising a bispecific immune cell engager, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. For example, in some embodiments, the present invention provides a tissue engineering scaffold, including but not limited to, a hydrogel, electrospun scaffold, polymeric matrix, or the like, comprising the modulator. In certain embodiments, a bispecific immune cell engager, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same, may be coated along the surface of the scaffold, substrate, or device. In certain embodiments, the bispecific immune cell engager, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same is encapsulated within the scaffold, substrate, or device.

Substrates

[0220] In one embodiment, the present invention provides a scaffold, substrate, or device comprising a bispecific binding molecule, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. For example, in some embodiments, the present invention provides a tissue engineering scaffold, including but not limited to, a hydrogel, electrospun scaffold, polymeric matrix, or the like, comprising the modulator. In certain embodiments, a bispecific binding molecule, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same, may be coated along the surface of the scaffold, substrate, or device. In certain embodiments, the bispecific binding molecule, fragment thereof, or nucleic acid molecule encoding the same is encapsulated within the scaffold, substrate, or device.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

[0221] The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more of the compositions described herein. Formulations may be employed in admixtures with conventional excipients, i.e., pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic carrier substances suitable for administration to a treatment site. The pharmaceutical compositions may be sterilized and if desired mixed with auxiliary agents, e.g., lubricants, preservatives, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers, salts for influencing osmotic pressure buffers, coloring, and/or aromatic substances and the like. They may also be combined where desired with other active agents, e.g., other analgesic agents.

[0222] Administration of the compositions of this invention may be carried out, for example, by parenteral, by intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intraperitoneal injection, or by infusion or by any other acceptable systemic method.

[0223] As used herein, “additional ingredients” include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: excipients; surface active agents; dispersing agents; inert diluents; granulating and disintegrating agents; binding agents; lubricating agents; coloring agents; preservatives; physiologically degradable compositions such as gelatin; aqueous vehicles and solvents; oily vehicles and solvents; suspending agents; dispersing or wetting agents; emulsifying agents, demulcents; buffers; salts; thickening agents; fillers; emulsifying agents; antioxidants; antibiotics; antifungal agents; stabilizing agents; and pharmaceutically acceptable polymeric or hydrophobic materials. Other “additional ingredients”

that may be included in the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are known in the art and described, for example in Genaro, ed. (1985, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA), which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0224] The composition of the invention may comprise a preservative from about 0.005% to 2.0% by total weight of the composition. The preservative is used to prevent spoilage in the case of exposure to contaminants in the environment. Examples of preservatives useful in accordance with the invention included but are not limited to those selected from the group: benzyl alcohol, sorbic acid, parabens, imidurea and combinations thereof.

[0225] In one embodiment, the composition includes an anti-oxidant and a chelating agent that inhibits the degradation of one or more components of the composition. Exemplary antioxidants for some compounds are BHT, BHA, alpha-tocopherol and ascorbic acid. Exemplary chelating agents include edetate salts (e.g. disodium edetate) and citric acid. The chelating agent is useful for chelating metal ions in the composition that may be detrimental to the shelf life of the formulation. While BHT and disodium edetate may be the antioxidant and chelating agent respectively for some compounds, other suitable and equivalent antioxidants and chelating agents may be substituted therefore as would be known to those skilled in the art.

[0226] Liquid suspensions may be prepared using conventional methods to achieve suspension of the compounds or other compositions of the invention in an aqueous or oily vehicle. Aqueous vehicles include, for example, water, and isotonic saline. Oily vehicles include, for example, almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol, vegetable oils such as arachis, olive, sesame, or coconut oil, fractionated vegetable oils, and mineral oils such as liquid paraffin. Liquid suspensions may further comprise one or more additional ingredients including, but not limited to, suspending agents, dispersing or wetting agents, emulsifying agents, demulcents, preservatives, buffers, salts, flavorings, coloring agents, and sweetening agents. Oily suspensions may further comprise a thickening agent. Known suspending agents include, but are not limited to, sorbitol syrup, hydrogenated edible fats, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, gum tragacanth, gum acacia, and cellulose derivatives such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose. Known dispersing or wetting agents include, but are not limited to, naturally occurring phosphatides such as lecithin, condensation products of an alkylene oxide with a fatty acid, with a long chain aliphatic alcohol, with a partial ester derived from a fatty acid and a hexitol, or with a partial ester derived from a fatty acid and a hexitol anhydride (e.g., polyoxyethylene stearate, heptadecaethyleneoxycetanol, polyoxyethylene sorbitol monooleate, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, respectively). Known emulsifying agents include, but are not limited to, lecithin, and acacia. Known preservatives include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, or n-propyl para hydroxybenzoates, ascorbic acid, and sorbic acid.

[0227] For oral application, particularly suitable are tablets, dragees, liquids, drops, suppositories, or capsules, caplets and gelcaps. Other formulations suitable for oral administration include, but are not limited to, a powdered or granular formulation, an aqueous or oily suspension, an aqueous or oily solution, a paste, a gel, toothpaste, a mouthwash, a coating, an oral rinse, chewing gum, varnishes, sealants, oral and teeth "dissolving strips", or an emulsion. The compositions intended for oral use may be prepared according to any method known in the art and such compositions may contain one or more agents selected from the group consisting of inert, non-toxic pharmaceutically excipients that are suitable for the manufacture of tablets. Such excipients include, for example an inert diluent such as lactose; granulating and disintegrating agents such as cornstarch; binding agents such as starch; and lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate.

[0228] Tablets may be non-coated or they may be coated using known methods to achieve delayed disintegration in the gastrointestinal tract of a subject, thereby providing sustained release and absorption of the active ingredient. By way of example, a material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate may be used to coat tablets. Further by way of example, tablets may be coated using methods described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,256,108; 4,160,452; and 4,265,874 to form osmotically controlled release tablets. Tablets may further comprise a sweetening agent, a flavoring agent, a coloring agent, a preservative, or some combination of these in order to provide for pharmaceutically elegant and palatable preparation.

[0229] Hard capsules comprising the active ingredient may be made using a physiologically degradable composition, such as gelatin. Such hard capsules comprise the active ingredient, and may further comprise additional ingredients including, for example, an inert solid diluent such as calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, or kaolin.

[0230] Soft gelatin capsules comprising the active ingredient may be made using a physiologically degradable composition, such as gelatin. Such soft capsules comprise the active ingredient, which may be mixed with water or an oil medium such as peanut oil, liquid paraffin, or olive oil.

[0231] For oral administration, the compositions of the invention may be in the form of tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents; fillers; lubricants; disintegrates; or wetting agents. If desired, the tablets may be coated using suitable methods and coating materials such as OPADRY™ film coating systems available from Colorcon, West Point, Pa. (e.g., OPADRY™ OY Type, OYC Type, Organic Enteric OY-P Type, Aqueous Enteric OY-A Type, OY-PM Type and OPADRY™ White, 32K18400).

[0232] Liquid preparation for oral administration may be in the form of solutions, syrups or suspensions. The liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g., sorbitol syrup, methyl cellulose or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agent (e.g., lecithin or acacia);

non-aqueous vehicles (e.g., almond oil, oily esters or ethyl alcohol); and preservatives (e.g., methyl or propyl p-hydroxy benzoates or sorbic acid). Liquid formulations of a pharmaceutical composition of the invention which are suitable for oral administration may be prepared, packaged, and sold either in liquid form or in the form of a dry product intended for reconstitution with water or another suitable vehicle prior to use.

[0233] A tablet comprising the active ingredient may, for example, be made by compressing or molding the active ingredient, optionally with one or more additional ingredients. Compressed tablets may be prepared by compressing, in a suitable device, the active ingredient in a free-flowing form such as a powder or granular preparation, optionally mixed with one or more of a binder, a lubricant, an excipient, a surface active agent, and a dispersing agent. Molded tablets may be made by molding, in a suitable device, a mixture of the active ingredient, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and at least sufficient liquid to moisten the mixture. Pharmaceutically acceptable excipients used in the manufacture of tablets include, but are not limited to, inert diluents, granulating and disintegrating agents, binding agents, and lubricating agents. Known dispersing agents include, but are not limited to, potato starch and sodium starch glycollate. Known surface-active agents include, but are not limited to, sodium lauryl sulphate. Known diluents include, but are not limited to, calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, calcium phosphate, calcium hydrogen phosphate, and sodium phosphate. Known granulating and disintegrating agents include, but are not limited to, corn starch and alginic acid. Known binding agents include, but are not limited to, gelatin, acacia, pre-gelatinized maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose. Known lubricating agents include, but are not limited to, magnesium stearate, stearic acid, silica, and talc.

[0234] Formulations of a pharmaceutical composition suitable for parenteral administration comprise the active ingredient combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such as sterile water or sterile isotonic saline. Such formulations may be prepared, packaged, or sold in a form suitable for bolus administration or for continuous administration. Injectable formulations may be prepared, packaged, or sold in unit dosage form, such as in ampules or in multi-dose containers containing a preservative. Formulations for parenteral administration include, but are not limited to, suspensions, solutions, emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, pastes, and implantable sustained-release or biodegradable formulations. Such formulations may further comprise one or more additional ingredients including, but not limited to, suspending, stabilizing, or dispersing agents. In one embodiment of a formulation for parenteral administration, the active ingredient is provided in dry (i.e., powder or granular) form for reconstitution with a suitable vehicle (e.g., sterile pyrogen-free water) prior to parenteral administration of the reconstituted composition.

[0235] The pharmaceutical compositions may be prepared, packaged, or sold in the form of a sterile injectable aqueous or oily suspension or solution. This suspension or solution may be formulated according to the known art, and may comprise, in addition to the active ingredient, additional ingredients such as the dispersing agents, wetting agents, or suspending agents described herein. Such sterile injectable formulations may be prepared using a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, such as water or 1,3-butane diol, for example. Other acceptable diluents and solvents include, but are not limited to, Ringer's solution, isotonic sodium chloride solution, and fixed oils such as synthetic mono- or di-glycerides. Other parentally-administrable formulations that are useful include those that comprise the active ingredient in microcrystalline form, in a liposomal preparation, or as a component of a biodegradable polymer system. Compositions for sustained release or implantation may comprise pharmaceutically acceptable polymeric or hydrophobic materials such as an emulsion, an ion exchange resin, a sparingly soluble polymer, or a sparingly soluble salt.

Excipients and Other Components of the Composition

[0236] The composition may further comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. The pharmaceutically acceptable excipient can be functional molecules such as vehicles, adjuvants, carriers, or diluents. The pharmaceutically acceptable excipient can be a transfection facilitating agent, which can include surface active agents, such as immune-stimulating complexes (ISCOMS), Freund's incomplete adjuvant, LPS analog including monophosphoryl lipid A, muramyl peptides, quinone analogs, vesicles such as squalene and squalene, hyaluronic acid, lipids, liposomes, calcium ions, viral proteins, polyanions, polycations, or nanoparticles, or other known transfection facilitating agents.

[0237] The transfection facilitating agent is a polyanion, polycation, including poly-L-glutamate (LGS), or lipid. The transfection facilitating agent is poly-L-glutamate, and the poly-L-glutamate may be present in the composition at a concentration less than 6 mg/ml. The transfection facilitating agent may also include surface active agents such as immune-stimulating complexes (ISCOMS), Freund's incomplete adjuvant, LPS analog including monophosphoryl lipid A, muramyl peptides, quinone analogs and vesicles such as squalene and squalene, and hyaluronic acid may also be used administered in conjunction with the composition. The composition may also include transfection facilitating agents such as lipids, liposomes, including lecithin liposomes or other liposomes known in the art, as a DNA-liposome mixture (see for example WO9324640), calcium ions, viral proteins, polyanions, polycations, or nanoparticles, or other known transfection facilitating agents. The transfection facilitating agent is a polyanion, polycation, including poly-L-glutamate (LGS), or lipid. Concentration of the transfection agent in the composition is less than 4 mg/ml, less than 2 mg/ml, less than 1 mg/ml, less than 0.750 mg/ml, less than 0.500 mg/ml, less than 0.250 mg/ml, less than 0.100 mg/ml, less than 0.050 mg/ml, or less than 0.010 mg/ml.

[0238] The pharmaceutically acceptable excipient can be an adjuvant in addition to the checkpoint inhibitor antibodies

of the invention. The additional adjuvant can be other genes that are expressed in an alternative plasmid or are delivered as proteins in combination with the plasmid above in the composition. The adjuvant may be selected from the group consisting of: α -interferon (IFN- α), β -interferon (IFN- β), γ -interferon, platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), TNF α , TNF β , GM-CSF, epidermal growth factor (EGF), cutaneous T cell-attracting chemokine (CTACK), epithelial thymus-expressed chemokine (TECK), mucosae-associated epithelial chemokine (MEC), IL-12, IL-15, MHC, CD80, CD86 including IL-15 having the signal sequence deleted and optionally including the signal peptide from IgE. The adjuvant can be IL-12, IL-15, IL-28, CTACK, TECK, platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), TNF α , TNF β , GM-CSF, epidermal growth factor (EGF), IL-1, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, PD-1, IL-10, IL-12, IL-18, or a combination thereof.

[0239] Other genes that can be useful as adjuvants in addition to the antibodies of the invention include those encoding: MCP-1, MIP-1a, MIP-1p, IL-8, RANTES, L-selectin, P-selectin, E-selectin, CD34, GlyCAM-1, MadCAM-1, LFA-1, VLA-1, Mac-1, p150.95, PECAM, ICAM-1, ICAM-2, ICAM-3, CD2, LFA-3, M-CSF, G-CSF, IL-4, mutant forms of IL-18, CD40, CD40L, vascular growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, IL-7, IL-22, nerve growth factor, vascular endothelial growth factor, Fas, TNF receptor, Flt, Apo-1, p55, WSL-1, DR3, TRAMP, Apo-3, AIR, LARD, NGRF, DR4, DR5, KILLER, TRAIL-R2, TRICK2, DR6, Caspase ICE, Fos, c-jun, Sp-1, Ap-1, Ap-2, p38, p65Rel, MyD88, IRAK, TRAF6, I κ B, Inactive NIK, SAP K, SAP-1, JNK, interferon response genes, NF κ B, Bax, TRAIL, TRAILrec, TRAILrecDRC5, TRAIL-R3, TRAIL-R4, RANK, RANK LIGAND, Ox40, Ox40 LIGAND, NKG2D, MICA, MICB, NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, NKG2F, TAP1, TAP2 and functional fragments thereof.

[0240] The composition may further comprise a genetic facilitator agent as described in U.S. Ser. No. 021,579 filed Apr. 1, 1994, which is fully incorporated by reference.

[0241] The composition may comprise DNA at quantities of from about 1 nanogram to 100 milligrams; about 1 microgram to about 10 milligrams; or preferably about 0.1 microgram to about 10 milligrams; or more preferably about 1 milligram to about 2 milligrams. In some preferred embodiments, composition according to the present invention comprises about 5 nanogram to about 1000 micrograms of DNA. In some preferred embodiments, composition can contain about 10 nanograms to about 800 micrograms of DNA. In some preferred embodiments, the composition can contain about 0.1 to about 500 micrograms of DNA. In some preferred embodiments, the composition can contain about 1 to about 350 micrograms of DNA. In some preferred embodiments, the composition can contain about 25 to about 250 micrograms, from about 100 to about 200 microgram, from about 1 nanogram to 100 milligrams; from about 1 microgram to about 10 milligrams; from about 0.1 microgram to about 10 milligrams; from about 1 milligram to about 2 milligram, from about 5 nanogram to about 1000 micrograms, from about 10 nanograms to about 800 micrograms, from about 0.1 to about 500 micrograms, from about 1 to about 350 micrograms, from about 25 to about 250 micrograms, from about 100 to about 200 microgram of DNA.

[0242] The composition can be formulated according to the mode of administration to be used. An injectable pharmaceutical composition can be sterile, pyrogen free and particulate free. An isotonic formulation or solution can be used. Additives for isotonicity can include sodium chloride, dextrose, mannitol, sorbitol, and lactose. The composition can comprise a vasoconstriction agent. The isotonic solutions can include phosphate buffered saline. The composition can further comprise stabilizers including gelatin and albumin. The stabilizers can allow the formulation to be stable at room or ambient temperature for extended periods of time, including LGS or polycations or polyanions.

Combination with Checkpoint Inhibitors (CPI)

[0243] In some embodiments, the bispecific binding molecule of the invention is administered in combination with one or more cell cycle checkpoint inhibitor (CPI). Exemplary CPI include, but are not limited to, antibodies, siRNAs, miRNAs, shRNAs, small molecules and chemical compounds that inhibit one or more proteins or gene expression of one or more genes required for the cell cycle checkpoint.

[0244] Cell cycle checkpoint proteins that can be inhibited in combination with the bispecific binding molecule of the invention include, but are not limited to, CTLA-4 inhibitors, PD-1 inhibitors and PD-L1 inhibitors.

[0245] Exemplary CPI include, but are not limited to, nivolumab, pembrolizumab, Ipilimumab, atezolizumab, avelumab, and durvalumab.

Methods of Delivery Using Engineered Immune Cells

[0246] In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method for delivery of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention to a target cell providing an engineered cell expressing the bispecific binding molecule. In one embodiment, the engineered cell is engineered for endogenous secretion of the bispecific binding molecule of the invention.

[0247] In various embodiments, the invention relates to a composition comprising an immune cell engineered for expression or endogenous secretion of a bispecific binding molecule targeting a tumor cell. Examples of immune cells that can be engineered for expression or secretion of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention include, but are not limited to, T cells, B cells, natural killer (NK) cells, or macrophages. In some embodiments, the immune cell further comprises a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR). Therefore, in some embodiments, the invention relates to the use of CAR T-cells for expression or delivery of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention.

Methods of Administration

[0248] The present invention provides a method for increasing a function or activity of T cells. This can be measured for example using a standard T-cell based assay.

[0249] The present invention is also directed to a method of increasing an immune response in a subject. Increasing the

immune response can be used to treat and/or prevent disease in the subject. The method can include administering the herein disclosed vaccine to the subject. The subject administered the vaccine can have an increased or boosted immune response as compared to a subject administered the antigen alone. In some embodiments, the immune response can be increased by about 0.5-fold to about 15-fold, about 0.5-fold to about 10-fold, or about 0.5-fold to about 8-fold.

Alternatively, the immune response in the subject administered the vaccine can be increased by at least about 0.5-fold, at least about 1.0-fold, at least about 1.5-fold, at least about 2.0-fold, at least about 2.5-fold, at least about 3.0-fold, at least about 3.5-fold, at least about 4.0-fold, at least about 4.5-fold, at least about 5.0-fold, at least about 5.5-fold, at least about 6.0-fold, at least about 6.5-fold, at least about 7.0-fold, at least about 7.5-fold, at least about 8.0-fold, at least about 8.5-fold, at least about 9.0-fold, at least about 9.5-fold, at least about 10.0-fold, at least about 10.5-fold, at least about 11.0-fold, at least about 11.5-fold, at least about 12.0-fold, at least about 12.5-fold, at least about 13.0-fold, at least about 13.5-fold, at least about 14.0-fold, at least about 14.5-fold, or at least about 15.0-fold.

[0250] In still other alternative embodiments, the immune response in the subject administered the vaccine can be increased about 50% to about 1500%, about 50% to about 1000%, or about 50% to about 800%. In other embodiments, the immune response in the subject administered the vaccine can be increased by at least about 50%, at least about 100%, at least about 150%, at least about 200%, at least about 250%, at least about 300%, at least about 350%, at least about 400%, at least about 450%, at least about 500%, at least about 550%, at least about 600%, at least about 650%, at least about 700%, at least about 750%, at least about 800%, at least about 850%, at least about 900%, at least about 950%, at least about 1000%, at least about 1050%, at least about 1100%, at least about 1150%, at least about 1200%, at least about 1250%, at least about 1300%, at least about 1350%, at least about 1450%, or at least about 1500%.

[0251] The vaccine dose can be between 1 μ g to 10 mg active component/kg body weight/time, and can be 20 μ g to 10 mg component/kg body weight/time. The vaccine can be administered every 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31 days. The number of vaccine doses for effective treatment can be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

Vaccine

[0252] In one embodiment, the invention relates to the administration of a bispecific antibody comprising a combination of a CD3 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and an IL13R α 2 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, or one or more nucleic acid molecule encoding a bispecific antibody comprising a combination of a CD3 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and an IL13R α 2 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof. The immunogenic composition can be used to recruit T cells to an IL13R α 2 expressing target cell.

[0253] In one embodiment, the invention relates to the administration of a bispecific antibody comprising a combination of a CD3 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and a HER2 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, or one or more nucleic acid molecule encoding a bispecific antibody comprising a combination of a CD3 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof, and a HER2 targeting domain, or a fragment thereof, or variant thereof. The immunogenic composition can be used to recruit T cells to a HER2 expressing target cell.

[0254] The immunogenic composition can be a DNA vaccine, a peptide vaccine, or a combination DNA and peptide vaccine. The DNA vaccine can include a nucleic acid sequence encoding the tumor antigen. The nucleic acid sequence can be DNA, RNA, cDNA, a variant thereof, a fragment thereof, or a combination thereof. The nucleic acid sequence can also include additional sequences that encode linker, leader, or tag sequences that are linked to the sequence encoding the bispecific antibody of the invention by a peptide bond.

[0255] The tumor cell killing induced by the vaccine can include an increased level of killing of cells expressing the targeted tumor antigen in the subject administered the vaccine as compared to a subject not administered the vaccine. The level of tumor cell killing in a subject administered the vaccine can be increased by about 1.5-fold to about 16-fold, about 2-fold to about 12-fold, or about 3-fold to about 10-fold as compared to the subject not administered the vaccine. The level of tumor cell killing in a subject administered the vaccine can be increased by at least about 1.5-fold, at least about 2.0-fold, at least about 2.5-fold, at least about 3.0-fold, at least about 3.5-fold, at least about 4.0-fold, at least about 4.5-fold, at least about 5.0-fold, at least about 5.5-fold, at least about 6.0-fold, at least about 6.5-fold, at least about 7.0-fold, at least about 7.5-fold, at least about 8.0-fold, at least about 8.5-fold, at least about 9.0-fold, at least about 9.5-fold, at least about 10.0-fold, at least about 10.5-fold, at least about 11.0-fold, at least about 11.5-fold, at least about 12.0-fold, at least about 12.5-fold, at least about 13.0-fold, at least about 13.5-fold, at least about 14.0-fold, at least about 14.5-fold, at least about 15.0-fold, at least about 15.5-fold, or at least about 16.0-fold as compared to the subject not administered the vaccine.

[0256] The vaccine of the present invention can have features required of effective vaccines such as being safe so the vaccine itself does not cause illness or death; is protective against illness resulting from the presence of cells expressing the target antigen; and provides ease of administration, few side effects, biological stability, and low cost per dose.

[0257] In some embodiments, the bispecific binding molecule is directed to a pathogen associated or viral antigen, which can be used to direct T cells to a pathogen or virus infected cell. In some embodiments, the antigen comprises a viral antigen, including but not limited to, an antigen of a coronavirus (e.g., SARS-COV-2), Influenza virus, Zika virus, Ebola virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, mumps virus, measles virus, rabies virus, varicella-zoster, Epstein-Barr virus

(HHV-4), cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) and herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV-2), human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1), JC virus, arboviruses, enteroviruses, West Nile virus, dengue virus, poliovirus, and varicella zoster virus. In some embodiments, the antigen comprises a bacterial antigen, including, but not limited to, an antigen of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitides*, *Streptococcus agalactia*, and *Escherichia coli*. In some embodiments, the antigen comprises a fungal or protozoan antigen, including, but not limited to, an antigen of Candidiasis, Aspergillosis, Cryptococcosis, and *Toxoplasma gondii*.

Self Antigen

[0258] The bispecific binding molecule of the invention can be specific for binding to a self-antigen. In some embodiments, the self-antigen is an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease or disorder. In some embodiments, the self-antigen is a tumor antigen.

[0259] Therefore, in some embodiments, the present invention includes compositions for directing natural killer cells to a tumor cell. In some embodiments, the tumor cell expresses an antigen targeted by the bispecific binding molecule of the invention. As a non-limiting example, in one embodiment, the invention provides a bi-specific IL13R α 2-CD3 bispecific binding molecule which directs T cells to a tumor cell expressing IL13R α 2. In one embodiment, the tumor cell is a glioblastoma cell. In another embodiment, the invention provides a bi-specific HER2-CD3 bispecific binding molecule which directs T cells to a tumor cell expressing HER2. Exemplary tumor cells expressing HER2 may include, but are not limited to, tumor cells from breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial or ovarian cancer.

[0260] In one embodiment, the antigen targeted by the bispecific binding molecule of the invention is a tumor associated surface antigen. Illustrative examples of a tumor associated surface antigen are CD10, CD19, CD20, CD22, CD33, Fms-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT-3, CD135), chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan 4 (CSPG4, melanoma-associated chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan), Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), Her2neu, Her3, IGFR, CD133, IL3R, fibroblast activating protein (FAP), CDCP1, Derlin1, Tenascin, frizzled 1-10, the vascular antigens VEGFR2 (KDR/FLK1), VEGFR3 (FLT4, CD309), PDGFR-. alpha. (CD140a), PDGFR-. beta. (CD140b) Endoglin, CLEC14, Tem1-8, and Tie2. Further examples may include A33, CAMPATH-1 (CDw52), Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), Carboanhydrase IX (MN/CA IX), CD21, CD25, CD30, CD34, CD37, CD44v6, CD45, CD133, de2-7 EGFR, EGFRvIII, EpCAM, Ep-CAM, Folate-binding protein, G250, Fms-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT-3, CD135), c-Kit (CD117), CSFIR (CD115), HLA-DR, IGFR, IL-2 receptor, IL3R, MCSP (Melanoma-associated cell surface chondroitin sulphate proteoglycane), Muc-1, Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), Prostate stem cell antigen (PSCA), Prostate specific antigen (PSA), and TAG-72.

[0261] In the context of the present invention, “tumor antigen” or “hyperproliferative disorder antigen” or “antigen associated with a hyperproliferative disorder,” refers to antigens that are common to specific hyperproliferative disorders such as cancer. The antigens discussed herein are merely included by way of example. The list is not intended to be exclusive and further examples will be readily apparent to those of skill in the art.

[0262] Tumor antigens are proteins that are produced by tumor cells that can be targeted by a bispecific binding molecule of the invention. The selection of the antigen binding moiety of the bispecific binding molecule of the invention will depend on the particular type of cancer to be treated. Tumor antigens are well known in the art and include, for example, a glioma-associated antigen, carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), β -human chorionic gonadotropin, alphafetoprotein (AFP), lectin-reactive AFP, thyroglobulin, RAGE-1, MN-CA IX, human telomerase reverse transcriptase, RU1, RU2 (AS), intestinal carboxyl esterase, mut hsp70-2, M-CSF, prostase, prostate-specific antigen (PSA), PAP, NY-ESO-1, LAGE-1a, p53, prostein, PSMA, Her2/neu, survivin and telomerase, prostate-carcinoma tumor antigen-1 (PCTA-1), MAGE, ELF2M, neutrophil elastase, ephrinB2, CD22, insulin growth factor (IGF)-I, IGF-II, IGF-I receptor and mesothelin.

[0263] In one embodiment, the tumor antigen comprises one or more antigenic cancer epitopes associated with a malignant tumor. Malignant tumors express a number of proteins that can serve as target antigens for an immune attack. These molecules include but are not limited to tissue-specific antigens such as MART-1, tyrosinase and GP 100 in melanoma and prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in prostate cancer. Other target molecules belong to the group of transformation-related molecules such as the oncogene HER-2/Neu/ErbB-2. Yet another group of target antigen are onco-fetal antigens such as carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA). In B-cell lymphoma the tumor-specific idiotype immunoglobulin constitutes a truly tumor-specific immunoglobulin antigen that is unique to the individual tumor. B-cell differentiation antigens such as CD19, CD20 and CD37 are other candidates for target antigens in B-cell lymphoma. Some of these antigens (CEA, HER-2, CD19, CD20, idiotype) have been used as targets for passive immunotherapy with monoclonal antibodies with limited success.

[0264] The type of tumor antigen referred to in the invention may also be a tumor-specific antigen (TSA) or a tumor-associated antigen (TAA). A TSA is unique to tumor cells and does not occur on other cells in the body. A TAA associated antigen is not unique to a tumor cell and instead is also expressed on a normal cell under conditions that fail to induce a state of immunologic tolerance to the antigen. The expression of the antigen on the tumor may occur under conditions that enable the immune system to respond to the antigen. TAAs may be antigens that are expressed on normal cells during fetal development when the immune system is immature and unable to respond or they may be antigens that are normally present at extremely low levels on normal cells but which are expressed at much higher levels on tumor cells.

[0265] Non-limiting examples of TSA or TAA antigens include the following: Differentiation antigens such as MART-1/MelanA (MART-I), gp100 (Pmel 17), tyrosinase, TRP-1, TRP-2 and tumor-specific multilineage antigens such as MAGE-1, MAGE-3, BAGE, GAGE-1, GAGE-2, p15; overexpressed embryonic antigens such as CEA; overexpressed oncogenes and mutated tumor-suppressor genes such as p53, Ras, HER-2/neu; unique tumor antigens resulting from chromosomal translocations; such as BCR-ABL, E2A-PRL, H4-RET, IGH-IGK, MYL-RAR; and viral antigens, such as the Epstein Barr virus antigens EBVA and the human papillomavirus (HPV) antigens E6 and E7. Other large, protein-based antigens include TSP-180, MAGE-4, MAGE-5, MAGE-6, RAGE, NY-ESO, p185erbB2, p180erbB-3, c-met, nm-23H1, PSA, TAG-72, CA 19-9, CA 72-4, CAM 17.1, NuMa, K-ras, beta-Catenin, CDK4, Mum-1, p 15, p 16, 43-9F, 5T4, 791Tgp72, alpha-fetoprotein, beta-HCG, BCA225, BTAA, CA 125, CA 15-3/CA 27.29/BCAA, CA 195, CA 242, CA-50, CAM43, CD68/P1, CO-029, FGF-5, G250, Ga733/EpCAM, HTgp-175, M344, MA-50, MG7-Ag, MOV18, NB/70K, NY-CO-1, RCAS1, SDCCAG16, TA-90/Mac-2 binding protein/cyclophilin C-associated protein, TAAL6, TAG72, TLP, and TPS.

[0266] In one embodiment, the TAA is IL13R α 2. In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-CD3 anti-IL13R α 2 bispecific binding molecule. In one embodiment, the TAA is HER2. In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-CD3 anti-HER2 bispecific binding molecule.

Methods of Delivery of the Composition

[0267] The present invention also relates to a method of delivering the composition to the subject in need thereof. The method of delivery can include, administering the composition to the subject. In some embodiments, the present invention relates to administration of a bispecific binding molecule of the invention, or a fragment thereof, or a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is an mRNA molecule.

[0268] Administration can include, but is not limited to, intravenous delivery of an antibody, DNA injection, liposome mediated delivery, and nanoparticle facilitated delivery.

[0269] The mammal receiving delivery of the composition may be human, primate, non-human primate, cow, cattle, sheep, goat, antelope, bison, water buffalo, bison, bovids, deer, hedgehogs, elephants, llama, alpaca, mice, rats, and chicken.

[0270] The composition may be administered by different routes including orally, parenterally, sublingually, transdermally, rectally, transmucosally, topically, via inhalation, via buccal administration, intrapleurally, intravenous, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intranasal, intranasal, intrathecal, and intraarticular or combinations thereof. For veterinary use, the composition may be administered as a suitably acceptable formulation in accordance with normal veterinary practice. The veterinarian can readily determine the dosing regimen and route of administration that is most appropriate for a particular animal.

Treatment Methods

[0271] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method for treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder which would benefit from an increase in T cell function or activity. Exemplary diseases and disorders that can be treated using the compositions and methods of the invention include, but are not limited to cancer and infectious diseases.

[0272] The following are non-limiting examples of cancers that can be diagnosed or treated by the disclosed methods and compositions: acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, adrenocortical carcinoma, appendix cancer, basal cell carcinoma, bile duct cancer, bladder cancer, bone cancer, brain and spinal cord tumors, brain stem glioma, brain tumor, breast cancer, bronchial tumors, burkitt lymphoma, carcinoid tumor, central nervous system atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor, central nervous system embryonal tumors, central nervous system lymphoma, cerebellar astrocytoma, cerebral astrocytoma/malignant glioma, cerebral astrocytoma/malignant glioma, cervical cancer, childhood visual pathway tumor, chordoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, chronic myeloproliferative disorders, colon cancer, colorectal cancer, craniopharyngioma, cutaneous cancer, cutaneous t-cell lymphoma, endometrial cancer, ependyoblastoma, ependymoma, esophageal cancer, ewing family of tumors, extracranial cancer, extragonadal germ cell tumor, extrahepatic bile duct cancer, extrahepatic cancer, eye cancer, fungoides, gallbladder cancer, gastric (stomach) cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, gastrointestinal carcinoid tumor, gastrointestinal stromal tumor (gist), germ cell tumor, gestational cancer, gestational trophoblastic tumor, glioblastoma, glioma, hairy cell leukemia, head and neck cancer, hepatocellular (liver) cancer, histiocytosis, hodgkin lymphoma, hypopharyngeal cancer, hypothalamic and visual pathway glioma, hypothalamic tumor, intraocular (eye) cancer, intraocular melanoma, islet cell tumors, kaposi sarcoma, kidney (renal cell) cancer, langerhans cell cancer, langerhans cell histiocytosis, laryngeal cancer, leukemia, lip and oral cavity cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, lymphoma, macroglobulinemia, malignant fibrous histiocytoma of bone and osteosarcoma, medulloblastoma, medulloepithelioma, melanoma, merkel cell carcinoma, mesothelioma, metastatic squamous neck cancer with occult primary, mouth cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome, multiple myeloma, mycosis, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative diseases, myelogenous leukemia, myeloid leukemia, myeloma, myeloproliferative disorders, nasal cavity and paranasal sinus cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, neuroblastoma, non-hodgkin lymphoma, non-small cell lung cancer, oral cancer, oral cavity cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, osteosarcoma and malignant fibrous histiocytoma, osteosarcoma and malignant fibrous histiocytoma of bone, ovarian, ovarian cancer, ovarian epithelial

cancer, ovarian germ cell tumor, ovarian low malignant potential tumor, pancreatic cancer, papillomatosis, paraganglioma, parathyroid cancer, penile cancer, pharyngeal cancer, pheochromocytoma, pineal parenchymal tumors of intermediate differentiation, pineoblastoma and supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumors, pituitary tumor, plasma cell neoplasm, plasma cell neoplasm/multiple myeloma, pleuropulmonary blastoma, primary central nervous system cancer, primary central nervous system lymphoma, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, renal cell (kidney) cancer, renal pelvis and ureter cancer, respiratory tract carcinoma involving the nut gene on chromosome 15, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, salivary gland cancer, sarcoma, sezary syndrome, skin cancer (melanoma), skin cancer (nonmelanoma), skin carcinoma, small cell lung cancer, small intestine cancer, soft tissue cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma, squamous neck cancer, stomach (gastric) cancer, supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumors, supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumors and pineoblastoma, T-cell lymphoma, testicular cancer, throat cancer, thymoma and thymic carcinoma, thyroid cancer, transitional cell cancer, transitional cell cancer of the renal pelvis and ureter, trophoblastic tumor, urethral cancer, uterine cancer, uterine sarcoma, vaginal cancer, visual pathway and hypothalamic glioma, vulvar cancer, waldenstrom macroglobulinemia, and wilms tumor.

[0273] In one embodiment, the compositions are used to treat cancers associated with expression of IL13R α 2. Cancers associated with expression of IL13R α 2 include, but are not limited to, glioblastomas.

[0274] In one embodiment, the compositions are used to treat cancers associated with expression of HER2. Cancers associated with expression of HER2 include, but are not limited to, breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial or ovarian cancer.

Cancer Therapy

[0275] In one embodiment, the invention provides methods of treating or preventing cancer, or of treating and preventing growth or metastasis of tumors. Related aspects, illustrated of the invention provide methods of preventing, aiding in the prevention, and/or reducing metastasis of hyperplastic or tumor cells in an individual.

[0276] In one embodiment, the compositions are used to treat cancers associated with IL13R α 2 expression, including, but not limited to, glioblastomas.

[0277] In one embodiment, the compositions are used to treat cancers associated with HER2 expression, including, but not limited to, breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial or ovarian cancer.

[0278] One aspect of the invention provides a method of inhibiting metastasis in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a multivalent antibody of the invention, wherein the multivalent antibody is specific for the cancer to be treated. The invention further provides a method of inhibiting metastasis in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the individual an effective metastasis-inhibiting amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a multivalent antibody of the invention, wherein the multivalent antibody is specific for the cancer to be treated.

[0279] In some embodiments of treating or preventing cancer, or of treating and preventing metastasis of tumors in an individual in need thereof, a second agent is administered to the individual, such as an antineoplastic agent. In some embodiments, the second agent comprises a second metastasis-inhibiting agent, such as a plasminogen antagonist, or an adenosine deaminase antagonist. In other embodiments, the second agent is an angiogenesis inhibiting agent.

[0280] The compositions of the invention can be used to prevent, abate, minimize, control, and/or lessen cancer in humans and animals. The compositions of the invention can also be used to slow the rate of primary tumor growth. The compositions of the invention when administered to a subject in need of treatment can be used to stop the spread of cancer cells. As such, an effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a multivalent antibody of the invention, wherein the multivalent antibody is specific for the cancer to be treated can be administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more drugs or other pharmaceutical agents. When used as part of the combination therapy, the decrease in metastasis and reduction in primary tumor growth afforded by the compositions of the invention allows for a more effective and efficient use of any pharmaceutical or drug therapy being used to treat the patient. In addition, control of metastasis by the compositions of the invention affords the subject a greater ability to concentrate the disease in one location.

[0281] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to treat cancer metastasis comprising treating the subject prior to, concurrently with, or subsequently to the treatment with a composition of the invention, with a complementary therapy for the cancer, such as surgery, chemotherapy, chemotherapeutic agent, radiation therapy, or hormonal therapy or a combination thereof.

[0282] Chemotherapeutic agents include cytotoxic agents (e.g., 5-fluorouracil, cisplatin, carboplatin, methotrexate, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, vincristine, vinblastine, oxorubicin, carmustine (BCNU), lomustine (CCNU), cytarabine USP, cyclophosphamide, estramucine phosphate sodium, altretamine, hydroxyurea, ifosfamide, procarbazine, mitomycin, busulfan, cyclophosphamide, mitoxantrone, carboplatin, cisplatin, interferon alfa-2a recombinant, paclitaxel, teniposide, and streptozocin), cytotoxic alkylating agents (e.g., busulfan, chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide, melphalan, or ethylesulfonic acid), alkylating agents (e.g., asaley, AZQ, BCNU, busulfan, bisulphan, carboxyphthalatoplatinum, CBDCA, CCNU, CHIP, chlorambucil, chlorozotocin, cis-platinum, clomesone, cyanomorpholinodoxorubicin, cyclodisone, cyclophosphamide, dianhydrogalactitol, fluorodopan, hepsulfam, hycanthone, iphosphamide, melphalan, methyl CCNU, mitomycin C, mitozolamide, nitrogen mustard, PCNU, piperazine, piperazinedione, pipobroman, porfiromycin, spirohydantoin mustard, streptozotocin, teroxirone, tetraplatin,

thiopa, triethylenemelamine, uracil nitrogen mustard, and Yoshi-864), antimetabolic agents (e.g., allicolchicine, Halichondrin M, colchicine, colchicine derivatives, dolastatin 10, maytansine, rhizoxin, paclitaxel derivatives, paclitaxel, thiocolchicine, trityl cysteine, vinblastine sulfate, and vincristine sulfate), plant alkaloids (e.g., actinomycin D, bleomycin, L-asparaginase, idarubicin, vinblastine sulfate, vincristine sulfate, mitramycin, mitomycin, daunorubicin, VP-16-213, VM-26, navelbine and taxotere), biologicals (e.g., alpha interferon, BCG, G-CSF, GM-CSF, and interleukin-2), topoisomerase I inhibitors (e.g., camptothecin, camptothecin derivatives, and morpholinodoxorubicin), topoisomerase II inhibitors (e.g., mitoxantron, amonafide, m-AMSA, anthrapyrazole derivatives, pyrazoloacridine, bisantrene HCL, daunorubicin, deoxydoxorubicin, menogaril, N,N-dibenzyl daunomycin, oxanthrazole, rubidazole, VM-26 and VP-16), and synthetics (e.g., hydroxyurea, procarbazine, o,p'-DDD, dacarbazine, CCNU, BCNU, cis-diamminedichloroplatinum, mitoxantrone, CBDCA, levamisole, hexamethylmelamine, all-trans retinoic acid, gliadel and porfimer sodium).

[0283] Antiproliferative agents are compounds that decrease the proliferation of cells. Antiproliferative agents include alkylating agents, antimetabolites, enzymes, biological response modifiers, miscellaneous agents, hormones and antagonists, androgen inhibitors (e.g., flutamide and leuprolide acetate), antiestrogens (e.g., tamoxifen citrate and analogs thereof, toremifene, droloxifene and roloxifene). Additional examples of specific antiproliferative agents include, but are not limited to levamisole, gallium nitrate, granisetron, sargramostim strontium-89 chloride, filgrastim, pilocarpine, dexrazoxane, and ondansetron.

[0284] The compounds of the invention can be administered alone or in combination with other anti-tumor agents, including cytotoxic/antineoplastic agents and anti-angiogenic agents. Cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents are defined as agents which attack and kill cancer cells. Some cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents are alkylating agents, which alkylate the genetic material in tumor cells, e.g., cis-platin, cyclophosphamide, nitrogen mustard, trimethylene thiophosphoramidate, carmustine, busulfan, chlorambucil, belustine, uracil mustard, chlomaphazin, and dacabazine. Other cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents are antimetabolites for tumor cells, e.g., cytosine arabinoside, fluorouracil, methotrexate, mercaptopurine, azathioprine, and procarbazine. Other cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents are antibiotics, e.g., doxorubicin, bleomycin, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, mithramycin, mitomycin, mytomycin C, and daunomycin. There are numerous liposomal formulations commercially available for these compounds. Still other cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents are mitotic inhibitors (*vinca* alkaloids). These include vincristine, vinblastine and etoposide. Miscellaneous cytotoxic/anti-neoplastic agents include taxol and its derivatives, L-asparaginase, anti-tumor antibodies, dacarbazine, azacytidine, amsacrine, melphalan, VM-26, ifosfamide, mitoxantrone, and vindesine.

[0285] Anti-angiogenic agents are well known to those of skill in the art. Suitable anti-angiogenic agents for use in the methods and compositions of the invention include anti-VEGF antibodies, including humanized and chimeric antibodies, anti-VEGF aptamers and antisense oligonucleotides. Other known inhibitors of angiogenesis include angiostatin, endostatin, interferons, interleukin 1 (including alpha and beta) interleukin 12, retinoic acid, and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinase-1 and -2. (TIMP-1 and -2). Small molecules, including topoisomerases such as razoxane, a topoisomerase II inhibitor with anti-angiogenic activity, can also be used.

[0286] Other anti-cancer agents that can be used in combination with the compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to: acivicin; aclarubicin; acodazole hydrochloride; acronine; adozelesin; aldesleukin; altretamine; ambomycin; ametantrone acetate; aminoglutethimide; amsacrine; anastrozole; anthramycin; asparaginase; asperlin; azacitidine; azetepa; azotomycin; batimastat; benzodepa; bicalutamide; bisantrene hydrochloride; bisnafide dimesylate; bizelesin; bleomycin sulfate; brequinar sodium; broprimine; busulfan; cactinomycin; calusterone; caracemide; carbetimer; carboplatin; carmustine; carubicin hydrochloride; carzelesin; cedefingol; chlorambucil; cirolemycin; cisplatin; cladribine; crisnatol mesylate; cyclophosphamide; cytarabine; dacarbazine; dactinomycin; daunorubicin hydrochloride; decitabine; dexormaplatin; dezaguanine; dezaguanine mesylate; diaziquone; docetaxel; doxorubicin; doxorubicin hydrochloride; droloxifene; droloxifene citrate; dromostanolone propionate; duazomycin; edatrexate; eflornithine hydrochloride; elsamitrucin; enloplatin; enpromate; epipropidine; epirubicin hydrochloride; erbulozole; esorubicin hydrochloride; estramustine; estramustine phosphate sodium; etanidazole; etoposide; etoposide phosphate; etoprine; fadrozole hydrochloride; fazarabine; fenretinide; floxuridine; fludarabine phosphate; fluorouracil; fluorocitabine; fosquidone; fostriecin sodium; gemcitabine; gemcitabine hydrochloride; hydroxyurea; idarubicin hydrochloride; ifosfamide; ilmofofosine; interleukin II (including recombinant interleukin II, or rIL2), interferon alfa-2a; interferon alfa-2b; interferon alfa-n1; interferon alfa-n3; interferon beta-I a; interferon gamma-I b; iproplatin; irinotecan hydrochloride; lanreotide acetate; letrozole; leuprolide acetate; liarozole hydrochloride; lometrexol sodium; lomustine; losoxantrone hydrochloride; masoprocol; maytansine; mechlorethamine hydrochloride; megestrol acetate; melengestrol acetate; melphalan; menogaril; mercaptopurine; methotrexate; methotrexate sodium; metoprine; meturedopa; mitindomide; mitocarcin; mitocromin; mitogillin; mitomalcin; mitomycin; mitosper; mitotane; mitoxantrone hydrochloride; mycophenolic acid; nocodazole; nogalamycin; ormaplatin; oxisuran; paclitaxel; pegaspargase; peliomycin; pentamustine; peplomycin sulfate; perfosfamide; pipobroman; pipo sulfan; piroxantrone hydrochloride; plicamycin; plomestane; porfimer sodium; porfiromycin; prednimustine; procarbazine hydrochloride; puromycin; puromycin hydrochloride; pyrazofurin; riboprime; rogletimide; safingol; safingol hydrochloride; semustine; simtrazene; sparfosate sodium; sparsomycin; spirogermanium hydrochloride; spiromustine; spiroplatin; streptonigrin; streptozocin; sulofenur; talisomycin; tecogalan sodium; tegafur; teloxantrone hydrochloride; temoporfin; teniposide; teroxirone;

testolactone; thiamiprine; thioguanine; thiotepa; tiabafur; tirapazamine; toremifene citrate; trestolone acetate; triciribine phosphate; trimetrexate; trimetrexate glucuronate; triptorelin; tubulozole hydrochloride; uracil mustard; uredepa; vapreotide; verteporfin; vinblastine sulfate; vincristine sulfate; vindesine; vindesine sulfate; vinepidine sulfate; vinglycinate sulfate; vinleurosine sulfate; vinorelbine tartrate; vinrosidine sulfate; vinzolidine sulfate; vorozole; zeniplatin; zinostatin; zorubicin hydrochloride. Other anti-cancer drugs include, but are not limited to: 20-epi-1,25 dihydroxyvitamin D3; 5-ethynyluracil; abiraterone; aclarubicin; acylfulvene; adecypenol; adozelesin; aldesleukin; ALL-TK antagonists; altretamine; ambamustine; amidox; amifostine; aminolevulinic acid; amrubicin; amsacrine; anagrelide; anastrozole; andrographolide; angiogenesis inhibitors; antagonist D; antagonist G; antarelix; anti-dorsalizing morphogenetic protein-1; antiandrogen, prostatic carcinoma; antiestrogen; antineoplaston; antisense oligonucleotides; aphidicolin glycinate; apoptosis gene modulators; apoptosis regulators; apurinic acid; ara-CDP-DL-PTBA; arginine deaminase; asulacrine; atamestane; atrimustine; axinastatin 1; axinastatin 2; axinastatin 3; azasetron; azatoxin; azatyrosine; baccatin III derivatives; balanol; batimastat; BCR/ABL antagonists; benzochlorins; benzoylstauroporine; beta lactam derivatives; beta-alethine; betaclamycin B; betulinic acid; bFGF inhibitor; bicalutamide; bisantrene; bisaziridinylspermine; bisnafide; bistratene A; bizelesin; breflate; broprimine; budotitane; buthionine sulfoximine; calcipotriol; calphostin C; camptothecin derivatives; canarypox IL-2; capecitabine; carboxamide-amino-triazole; carboxyamidotriazole; CaRest M3; CARN 700; cartilage derived inhibitor; carzelesin; casein kinase inhibitors (ICOS); castanospermine; cecropin B; cetorelix; chlorins; chloroquinoxaline sulfonamide; cicaprost; cis-porphyrin; cladribine; clomifene analogues; clotrimazole; collismycin A; collismycin B; combretastatin A4; combretastatin analogue; conagenin; crambescidin 816; crisnatol; cryptophycin 8; cryptophycin A derivatives; curacin A; cyclopentantraquinones; cycloplatam; cypemycin; cytarabine ocfosfate; cytolytic factor; cytostatin; dacliximab; decitabine; dehydrodidemnin B; deslorelin; dexamethasone; dexifosfamide; dexrazoxane; dexverapamil; diaziquone; didemnin B; didox; diethylnorspermine; dihydro-5-azacytidine; dihydrotaxol, 9-; dioxamycin; diphenyl spiromustine; docetaxel; docosanol; dolasetron; doxifluridine; droloxifene; dronabinol; duocarmycin SA; ebselen; ecomustine; edelfosine; edrecolomab; eflornithine; elemene; emitefur; epirubicin; epristeride; estramustine analogue; estrogen agonists; estrogen antagonists; etanidazole; etoposide phosphate; exemestane; fadrozole; fazarabine; fenretinide; filgrastim; finasteride; flavopiridol; flezelastine; fluasterone; fludarabine; fluorodaunorubicin hydrochloride; forfenimex; formestane; fostriecin; fotemustine; gadolinium texaphyrin; gallium nitrate; galocitabine; ganirelix; gelatinase inhibitors; gemcitabine; glutathione inhibitors; hepsulfam; heregulin; hexamethylene bisacetamide; hypericin; ibandronic acid; idarubicin; idoxifene; idramantone; ilmofosine; ilomastat; imidazoacridones; imiquimod; immunostimulant peptides; insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor inhibitor; interferon agonists; interferons; interleukins; iobenguane; iododoxorubicin; ipomeanol, 4-; iroplact; irsogladine; isobengazole; isohomohalicondrin B; itasetron; jasplakinolide; kahalalide F; lamellarin-N triacetate; lanreotide; leinamycin; lenograstim; lentinan sulfate; leptolstatin; letrozole; leukemia inhibiting factor; leukocyte alpha interferon; leuprolide+estrogen+progesterone; leuprorelin; levamisole; liarozole; linear polyamine analogue; lipophilic disaccharide peptide; lipophilic platinum compounds; lissoclinamide 7; lobaplatin; lombricine; lometrexol; lonidamine; losoxantrone; lovastatin; loxoribine; lurtotecan; lutetium texaphyrin; lysofylline; lytic peptides; maitansine; mannostatin A; marimastat; masoprocold; maspin; matrilysin inhibitors; matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors; menogaril; merbarone; meterelin; methioninase; metoclopramide; MIF inhibitor; mifepristone; miltefosine; mirimostim; mismatched double stranded RNA; mitoguazone; mitolactol; mitomycin analogues; mitonafide; mitotoxin fibroblast growth factor-saporin; mitoxantrone; mofarotene; molgramostim; monoclonal antibody, human chorionic gonadotrophin; monophosphoryl lipid A+myobacterium cell wall sk; mopidamol; multiple drug resistance gene inhibitor; multiple tumor suppressor 1-based therapy; mustard anticancer agent; mycaperoxide B; mycobacterial cell wall extract; myriaporone; N-acetyldinaline; N-substituted benzamides; nafarelin; nagrestip; naloxone+pentazocine; napavin; naphterpin; nartograstim; nedaplatin; nemorubicin; neridronic acid; neutral endopeptidase; nilutamide; nisamycin; nitric oxide modulators; nitroxide antioxidant; nitrullyn; 06-benzylguanine; octreotide; okicenone; oligonucleotides; onapristone; ondansetron; ondansetron; oracin; oral cytokine inducer; ormaplatin; osaterone; oxaliplatin; oxaunomycin; paclitaxel; paclitaxel analogues; paclitaxel derivatives; palauamine; palmitoylrhizoxin; pamidronic acid; panaxytriol; panomifene; parabactin; pazelliptine; pegaspargase; peldesine; pentosan polysulfate sodium; pentostatin; pentozole; perflubron; perfosfamide; perillyl alcohol; phenazinomycin; phenylacetate; phosphatase inhibitors; picibanil; pilocarpine hydrochloride; pirarubicin; piritrexim; placetin A; placetin B; plasminogen activator inhibitor; platinum complex; platinum compounds; platinum-triamine complex; porfimer sodium; porfiromycin; prednisone; propyl bis-acridone; prostaglandin J2; proteasome inhibitors; protein A-based immune modulator; protein kinase C inhibitor; protein kinase C inhibitors, microalgal; protein tyrosine phosphatase inhibitors; purine nucleoside phosphorylase inhibitors; purpurins; pyrazoloacridine; pyridoxylated hemoglobin polyoxyethylene conjugate; raf antagonists; raltitrexed; ramosetron; ras farnesyl protein transferase inhibitors; ras inhibitors; ras-GAP inhibitor; retelliptine demethylated; rhenium Re 186 etidronate; rhizoxin; ribozymes; RII retinamide; rogletimide; rohitukine; romurtide; roquinimex; rubiginone B1; ruboxyl; safingol; saintopin; SarCNU; sarcophytol A; sargramostim; Sdi 1 mimetics; semustine; senescence derived inhibitor 1; sense oligonucleotides; signal transduction inhibitors; signal transduction modulators; single chain antigen binding protein; sizofuran; sobuzoxane; sodium borocaptate; sodium phenylacetate; solverol; somatomedin binding protein; sonermin; sparfosic acid; spicamycin D; spiromustine; splenopentin; spongistatin 1;

squlamine; stem cell inhibitor; stem-cell division inhibitors; stipiamide; stromelysin inhibitors; sulfinosine; superactive vasoactive intestinal peptide antagonist; suradista; suramin; swainsonine; synthetic glycosaminoglycans; tallimustine; tamoxifen methiodide; tauromustine; tazarotene; tecogalan sodium; tegafur; tellurapyrylium; telomerase inhibitors; temoporfin; temozolomide; teniposide; tetrachlorodecaoxide; tetrazomine; thaliblastine; thiocoraline; thrombopoietin; thrombopoietin mimetic; thymalfasin; thymopoietin receptor agonist; thymotrinan; thyroid stimulating hormone; tin ethyl etiopurpurin; tirapazamine; titanocene bichloride; topsentin; toremifene; totipotent stem cell factor; translation inhibitors; tretinoin; triacetyluridine; tricitabine; trimetrexate; triptorelin; tropisetron; turosteride; tyrosine kinase inhibitors; tyrphostins; UBC inhibitors; ubenimex; urogenital sinus-derived growth inhibitory factor; urokinase receptor antagonists; vapreotide; variolin B; vector system, erythrocyte gene therapy; velaresol; veramine; verdins; verteporfin; vinorelbine; vinoxaltine; vitaxin; vorozole; zanoterone; zeniplatein; zilascorb; and zinostatin stimalamer. In one embodiment, the anti-cancer drug is 5-fluorouracil, taxol, or leucovorin.

[0287] The present invention is further illustrated in the following Examples. It should be understood that these Examples, while indicating exemplary embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and these Examples, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions. Thus, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

EXPERIMENTAL EXAMPLES

[0288] The invention is further described in detail by reference to the following experimental examples. These examples are provided for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting unless otherwise specified. Thus, the invention should in no way be construed as being limited to the following examples, but rather, should be construed to encompass any and all variations which become evident as a result of the teaching provided herein.

[0289] Without further description, it is believed that one of ordinary skill in the art can, using the preceding description and the following illustrative examples, make and utilize the present invention and practice the claimed methods. The following working examples therefore are not to be construed as limiting in any way the remainder of the disclosure.

Example 1: Modified Bispecific Antibodies with Increased Expression and Serum Half Life

[0290] Modified bispecific antibodies were designed with variations to increase expression and serum half-life. A knob variation was created with the scfv derived from an antibody targeting IL13R α 2. A hole was created with a scfv derived from UCHT1 targeting CD3e. All constructs were individually cloned into pVax vector. Further mutations were made to remove complement activity and prevent glycosylation and minimize risk of Cytokine release syndrome.

[0291] FIG. 1 provides a diagram of the knob-in-hole (KIH) design.

[0292] FIG. 2 provides data demonstrating that PB01-forward (KIH) binds to CD3 on primary human T cells and IL13R α 2 on U87 cells.

[0293] FIG. 3 provides data demonstrating that PB01-fwd_KIH activates primary human T cells in presence of U87 cells.

[0294] FIG. 4 provides data demonstrating that PB01-forward in KIH format kills U87 cells.

[0295] FIG. 5 provides data demonstrating that in vivo produced bi-specific antibody is able to kill DaOY cells in an in vitro killing assay.

[0296] FIG. 6 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in dTAB format are not detected in serum of NSG mice.

[0297] FIG. 7 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to CD3 on T cells.

[0298] FIG. 8 provides data demonstrating that delivery of multiple bi-specific antibodies in KIH format does not negatively affect their function.

[0299] FIG. 9 provides data demonstrating the in vivo expression of bi-specific antibodies in KIH format when the knob and hole are injected together.

[0300] FIG. 10 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies delivered in KIH format are potent at picogram levels.

[0301] FIG. 11 provides data demonstrating that delivery of PB01-fwd in KIH format improves half-life in vivo.

[0302] FIG. 12 provides data demonstrating that CPI improves the activity of IL13R α 2 targeting KIH BITES.

Example 2: Modified Bispecific Antibodies with Increased Expression and Serum Half Life

[0303] Modified bispecific antibodies were designed with variations to increase expression and serum half-life. A knob variation was created with the scfv derived from an antibody targeting HER2. A hole was created with a scfv derived from UCHT1 targeting CD3e. All constructs were individually cloned into pVax vector. Further mutations were made to remove complement activity and prevent glycosylation and minimize risk of Cytokine release syndrome.

[0304] FIG. 1 provides a diagram of the knob-in-hole (KIH) design.

[0305] FIG. 9 provides data demonstrating the in vivo expression of Bi-specific antibodies in KIH format when the knob and hole are injected together.

[0306] FIG. 13 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in dTAB format are not detected in serum of

NSG mice.

[0307] FIG. 14 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to CD3 on T cells.

[0308] FIG. 15 provides data demonstrating that Her2 bi-specific antibodies in KIH format bind to Her2 on Ovar3 cells.

[0309] FIG. 16 provides data demonstrating that delivery of bi-specific antibodies in KIH format improves in vivo expression.

[0310] FIG. 17 provides data demonstrating that delivery of multiple bi-specific antibodies in KIH format does not negatively affect their function.

[0311] FIG. 18 provides data demonstrating that bi-specific antibodies delivered in KIH format are potent at picogram levels.

[0312] FIG. 19 provides data demonstrating that CPI improves the activity of Her2 targeting KIH BITES.

Sequences:

TABLE-US-00001 CD3 hole (UCHT1 clone targeting CD3 SEQ ID NO: 1

ATGGACTGGACCTGGATCCTGTTCTGCTGGTGGCTGCCGCCACAAGAGTGCACAGCGAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGA
GCGGCGGCGGCCTGGTGCAGCCTGGCGGCTCCCTGAGGCTGTCTTGCGCAGCAAGCGGATACTCCTTTACCGG
CTATACAATGAACTGGGTGAGGCAGGCACCAAGGCAAGGGACTGGAGTGGGTGGCCCTGATCAACCCTTACAAG
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ACCTGCAGATGAACAGCCTGCGCGCCGAGGACACAGCCGTGTACTATTGCGCCAGGTCTGGCTACTATGGCGA
CAGCGATTGGTATTTCGACGTGTGGGGACAGGGCACCCCTGGTGACAGTGAGCAGCGGCGGCGGCGGCAGCGGC
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GCGACAGGGTGACCATCACATGTAGAGCCTCTCAGGATATCCGGAACCTACCTGAATTGGTATCAGCAGAAGCC
AGGCAAGGCCCCCAAGCTGCTGATCTACTATACCTCTAGGCTGGAGAGCGGAGTGCCATCCAGGTTTTCTGGA
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AGCAGGGCAATACCCTGCCTTGACATTTGGCCAGGGCACCAAGGTGGAGATCAAGAGCGACAAGACCCACAC
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AACTGATGATCAGCCGCACCCCTGAGGTGACATGCGTGGTGGTGGACGTGTCCCACGAGGATCCAGAGGTGA
AGTTCAACTGGTACGTGGACGGCGTGGAGGTGCACAATGCCAAGACCAAGCCTAGAGAGGAGCAGTACGCCTC
CACCTATCGGGTGGTGTCTGTGCTGACAGTGCTGCACCAGGATTGGCTGAACGGCAAGGAGTATAAGTGTAAG
GTGTCTAATAAGGCCCTGCCTGCCCAATCGAGAAGACCATCAGCAAGGCCAAGGGCCAGCCCAGAGAGCCTC
AGGTGTGCACCCTGCCTCCAAGCCGGGAGGAGATGACAAAGAACCAGGTGTCTCTGAGCTGTGCCGTGAAGGG
CTTCTACCCATCCGACATCGCCGTGGAGTGGGAGTCTAATGGCCAGCCCGAGAACCAATTATAAGACCACACCC
CCTGTGCTGGACTCTGATGGCAGCTTCTTTCTGGTGTCTAAGCTGACCGTGGATAAGAGCAGATGGCAGCAGG
GCAACGTGTTTTCTGCTCTGTGATGCACGAGGCCCTGCACAATCACTACACACAGAAGAGCCTGTCCCTGTC
TCCAGGCAAG CD3 hole (UCHT1 clone targeting CD3 SEQ ID NO: 2

MDWTWILFLVAAATRVHSEVOLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYSTGYTMNWVRQAPGKGLEWVALINPYK
GVSTYNQKFKDRFTISVDKSKNTAYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARSGYYGDSWDYFDVWGQGLTVTVSSGGGGSG
GGSGGGGSDIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRTITCRASQDIRNYLNWYQQKPGKAPKLLIYYTSRLESGVPSRFSG
SGSGTDYTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQGNTLPWTFGQGTKVEIKSDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKD
TLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYASTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCK
VSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVCTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLSCAVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTP
PVLDSGDSFFLVSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK PB01-fwd_Knob (For
targeting IL13ra2) SEQ ID NO: 3

ATGGACTGGACCTGGATCCTGTTCTGCTGGTGGCTGCCGCCACAAGGGTGCACAGCGATATCCAGATGACCCAGT
CCCCAAGCTCCCTGTCCGCCTCTGTGGGCGACAGGGTGACCATCACATGCACCGCCAGCCTGTCCGTGTCTAG
CACATACCTGCACTGGTATCAGCAGAAGCCAGGCTCCTCTCCCAAGCTGTGGATCTACTCTACCAGCAACCTG
GCCTCCGGCGTGCCCTCTAGGTTTTCCGGCTCTGGCAGCGGCACAAGCTACACACTGACCATCAGCTCCCTGC
AGCCTGAGGATTCGCCACCTACTATTGCCACCAGTATCACAGGAGCCCCCTGACCTTCGGCGGCGGCACCAA
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CAAAGTACGGAGTGCACTGGGTGCGCCAGGCACCTGGCAAGGGCCTGGAGTGGGTGGGAGTGAAGTGGGCGCG
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ACACCAGAGGTGACCTGCGTGGTGGTGGACGTGAGCCACGAGGACCCCGAGGTGAAGTTCAACTGGTACGTGG
ACGGCGTGGAGGTGCACAATGCCAAGACCAAGCCTCGGGAGGAGCAGTACGCCTCCACATATCGCGTGGTGTG
TGTGCTGACCGTGTGTCACCAGGATTGGCTGAACGGCAAGGAGTATAAGTGTAAGGTGTCTAATAAGGCCCTG
CCTGCCCAATCGAGAAGACCATCTCCAAGGCAAAGGGACAGCCAAGGGAGCCTCAGGTGTACACACTGCCTC
CATGCAGAGAGGAGATGACCAAGAACCAGGTGAGCCTGTGGTGTCTGGTGAAGGGCTTCTATCCCTCCGACAT
CGCCGTGGAGTGGGAGTCTAATGGCCAGCCTGAGAACAATTACAAGACCACACCCCTGTGCTGGACTCTGAT

4. The bispecific binding molecule of claim 1, wherein the binding arm specific for binding to CD3 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the binding arm specific for binding to IL13R α 2 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
5. The bispecific binding molecule of claim 1, wherein the binding arm specific for binding to CD3 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the binding arm specific for binding to Her2 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.
6. A composition comprising at least one bispecific binding molecule of any one of claims 1-5.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the composition comprises a delivery vehicle operably linked to the bispecific binding molecule.
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the delivery vehicle is a lipid nanoparticle.
9. The composition of claim 6, further comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an adjuvant.
10. A composition comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding a bispecific binding molecule or fragment thereof comprising: a) a first antigen-binding arm comprising a binding domain that specifically binds to CD3 operably linked to a Fragment crystallizable (Fc) domain comprising at least one mutation that promotes heterodimerization, increases serum half-life or increases expression of the binding molecule, and b) a second antigen-binding arm comprising a binding domain that specifically binds a target tumor antigen selected from the group consisting of Interleukin 13 Receptor α 2 (IL13R α 2) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), operably linked to a second Fc domain comprising at least one mutation that promotes heterodimerization, increases serum half-life or increases expression of the binding molecule.
11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the first or second antigen-binding arm comprises a single-chain variable fragment (scFv), an antigen-binding fragment (Fab), a Fab', a F(ab').sub.2, a Fd, or a Fv.
12. The composition of claim 10, wherein the first Fc domain comprises at least one mutation that serves as a hole, and further wherein the second Fc domain comprises at least one mutation that serves as a knob, such that the knob aligns with the hole upon linkage of the first and second binding arms thereby promoting heterodimerization and promoting stability of the binding molecule.
13. The composition of claim 10, wherein the binding arm specific for binding to CD3 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and wherein the binding arm specific for binding to IL13R α 2 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
14. The composition of claim 10, wherein the binding arm specific for binding to CD3 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and wherein the binding arm specific for binding to Her2 comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.
15. The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition comprises a combination of: a) a first nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the first antigen-binding arm comprising a binding domain that specifically binds to CD3 operably linked to a Fragment crystallizable (Fc) domain comprising at least one mutation that promotes heterodimerization, increases serum half-life or increases expression of the binding molecule, and b) a second nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the second antigen-binding arm comprising a binding domain that specifically binds the target tumor antigen, operably linked to a second Fc domain comprising at least one mutation that promotes heterodimerization, increases serum half-life or increases expression of the binding molecule.
16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and wherein the second nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
17. The composition of claim 15, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and wherein the second nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
18. The composition of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first and second nucleic acid molecule comprises an RNA molecule.
19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the composition comprises at least one lipid nanoparticle.
20. The composition of claim 10, further comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an adjuvant.
21. A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering a binding molecule of any one of claims 1-5 or a composition of any one of claims 6-20.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of a disease or disorder associated with a bacterial infection, a disease or disorder associated with a viral infection, an autoimmune disease or disorder, a cancer, or a disease or disorder associated with cancer.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of a glioblastoma, breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial and ovarian cancer.
24. A method of directing a T cell to an IL13R α 2 expressing cell or particle in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering a binding molecule of any one of claims 1-5 or a composition of any one of claims 6-20.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the IL13R α 2 expressing cell is from a glioblastoma.
26. A method of directing a T cell to a HER2 expressing cell or particle in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering a binding molecule of any one of claims 1-5 or a composition of any one of claims 6-20.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the HER2 expressing cell is from a cancer selected from the group consisting of breast, esophageal, lung, cervical, endometrial and ovarian cancer.

28. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:1, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:3, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:5, a variant comprising at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, a variant comprising at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:3, and a variant comprising at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 5.
