

CLAIMS

1. An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof with binding specificity for domain 2 of human CD137 in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment is a CD137 agonist and is capable of inhibiting the binding of reference antibody '1630/1631' to human CD137; in
 - 5 which the antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising the following CDRs:
 - (a) a heavy chain CDR1 sequence with the consensus sequence G, F, T/N, F, G, Y, S, Y;
 - (b) a heavy chain CDR2 sequence with the consensus sequence I, G, S, G/T, S, S, Y/H, T; and
 - 10 (c) a heavy chain CDR3 sequence with the sequence ARVYSSPGIDY;
 and comprises a light chain variable region comprising the following CDRs:
 - (a) a light chain CDR1 sequence with the consensus sequence Q, S, I, S/G, S, Y/T;
 - (b) a light chain CDR2 sequence with the consensus sequence A/G, A, S; and
 - 15 (c) a light chain CDR3 sequence with the sequence QQYYTWVPFT.
2. An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof according to Claim 1, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment is capable of inhibiting the binding of reference antibody '2674/2675' to human CD137.
3. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the
 - 20 antibody or antigen-binding fragment exhibits one or more of the following properties:
 - (a) the ability to stimulate CD137 and activate T cells and other immune cells via a cross-linking dependent mechanism; and/or
 - (b) cross-reactivity with cyno-CD137 antibodies; and/or
 - (c) is capable of binding an Fc receptor; optionally, in which the ability of the antibody to activate T cells is dependent upon binding to both CD137 and Fc receptors; and/or
 - 25 (d) is capable of inducing tumour immunity.

4. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1, 2 or 3, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment is incapable of inducing the following upon binding to cells expressing CD137:

(a) antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC);

5 (b) antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP); and/or

(c) complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC).

5. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment is capable of binding to an epitope on the extracellular domain of CD137 which overlaps, at least in part, with the epitope on CD137 to which reference antibody 1630/1631 is capable of binding; optionally, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment is capable of binding to an epitope on the extracellular domain of CD137 which overlaps, at least in part, with the epitope on CD137 to which reference antibody 2674/2675 is capable of binding; further optionally, in which the epitope is located at or within amino acids 66 to 107 of human CD137.

6. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim, comprising or consisting of:

(a) an intact antibody, for example an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 antibody; or

(b) an antigen-binding fragment selected from the group consisting of Fv fragments (*e.g.* single chain Fv and disulphide-bonded Fv), Fab-like fragments (*e.g.* Fab fragments, Fab' fragments and F(ab)₂ fragments) and domain antibodies (*e.g.* single V_H variable domains or V_L variable domains).

7. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment according to any preceding claim, in which:

(a) the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is a recombinant polypeptide; and/or

(b) the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is monoclonal; and/or

(c) the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is human or humanised.

8. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim, comprising:

(a) a heavy chain variable region comprising the CDRs of SEQ ID NOs 3, 4 and 5; optionally, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an amino acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity therewith, for example at least 70%, 80%, or 90% sequence identity; and

(b) a light chain variable region comprising the CDRs of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 7 and 8; optionally, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity therewith, for example at least 70%, 80%, or 90% sequence identity.

9. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 7, comprising:

(a) a heavy chain variable region comprising the CDRs of SEQ ID NOs 21, 22 and 23; optionally, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 19: or an amino acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity therewith, for example at least 70%, 80%, or 90% sequence identity; and

(b) a light chain variable region comprising the CDRs of SEQ ID NOs: 24, 25 and 26; optionally, in which the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or an amino acid sequence having at least 60% sequence identity therewith, for example at least 70%, 80%, or 90% sequence identity.

10. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim, comprising:

(a) a heavy chain constant region; optionally, in which the heavy chain constant region is of an immunoglobulin subtype selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4, further optionally in which the heavy chain constant region comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12, 13, 14 and 15; and/or

(b) a light chain constant region; optionally, in which the light chain constant region is of a kappa or lambda light chain; further optionally, in which the light chain constant region comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16.

11. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim,
5 comprising an Fc region; optionally, in which

(a) the Fc region is naturally occurring; or

(b) the Fc region is non-naturally occurring; further optionally, in which the Fc region comprises mutations to shorten the half-life of the antibody or antigen binding fragment.

12. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 8,
10 comprising:

(a) a heavy chain comprising a variable region of SEQ ID NO: 1 together with a constant region of SEQ ID NO: 13; and

(b) a light chain comprising a variable region of SEQ ID NO: 2 together with a constant region of SEQ ID NO: 16.

13. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 7 or 9,
15 comprising:

(a) a heavy chain comprising a variable region of SEQ ID NO: 19 together with a constant region of SEQ ID NO: 13; and

(b) a light chain comprising a variable region of SEQ ID NO: 20 together with a
20 constant region of SEQ ID NO: 16.

14. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to Claim 12, in which the antibody is an intact IgG4 molecule comprising or consisting of two heavy chains having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17 and two light chains having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18.

15. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to Claim 13, in which the
25 antibody is an intact IgG4 molecule comprising or consisting of two heavy chains having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and two light chains having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

16. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim, further comprising:

(i) a cytotoxic moiety;

optionally, in which the cytotoxic moiety comprises or consists of:

5 (a) a radioisotope; or

(b) a cytotoxic drug; and/or

(ii) a detectable moiety;

optionally, in which the detectable moiety comprises or consists of a radioisotope, and in which optionally the cytotoxic moiety and/or detectable moiety is joined to the
10 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof indirectly, via a linking moiety; optionally in which the linking moiety is a chelator; further optionally, in which the chelator is selected from the group consisting of derivatives of 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), deferoxamine (DFO), derivatives of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), derivatives of S-2-(4-
15 Isothiocyanatobenzyl)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane-1,4,7-triacetic acid (NOTA) and derivatives of 1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,8,11-tetraacetic acid (TETA).

17. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any preceding claim.

18. A nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 17, encoding an antibody heavy chain or
20 variable region thereof comprising or consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27.

19. A nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 17, encoding an antibody light chain or variable region thereof comprising or consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

25 20. A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to any of Claims 17 to 19, optionally in which the vector is an expression vector.

21. A recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to any of Claims 17 to 19 or a vector according to Claim 20, optionally in which the host cell is a bacterial cell or a mammalian cell; optionally, in which the mammalian cell is a human cell.

22. A method for producing an antibody or antigen-binding fragment according to any of Claims 1 to 16, the method comprising culturing a host cell as defined in Claim 21 under conditions which permit expression of the encoded antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.
- 5 23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 16 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent, carrier or excipient.
24. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 16 for use in the treatment of cancer, in which the cancer is preferably selected from the group
 10 consisting of: prostate cancer, breast cancer; colorectal cancer; kidney cancer; pancreatic cancer; ovarian cancer; lung cancer; cervical cancer; rhabdomyosarcoma; neuroblastoma; bone cancer; multiple myeloma; leukemia (such as acute lymphoblastic leukemia [ALL] and acute myeloid leukemia [AML]), skin cancer (e.g. melanoma), bladder cancer and glioblastoma.
- 15 25. Use of an antibody or antigen-binding fragment according to any of Claims 1 to 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.
26. Use according to Claim 25 in which the cancer is selected from the group consisting of: prostate cancer; breast cancer; colorectal cancer; kidney cancer; pancreatic cancer; ovarian cancer; lung cancer; cervical cancer; rhabdomyosarcoma; neuroblastoma; bone cancer;
 20 multiple myeloma; leukemia (such as acute lymphoblastic leukemia [ALL] and acute myeloid leukemia [AML]), skin cancer (e.g. melanoma), bladder cancer and glioblastoma; optionally in which the medicament is for treating a patient who has been pre-screened and identified as having a tumour with cells expressing CD137 and FcγR.
27. A combination therapy comprising an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof
 25 according to any of Claims 1 to 16 and one or more further therapeutic agents; optionally in which the one or more further therapeutic agents are cancer therapies.