that destabilization would reduce the protein's activity greater than the effects predicted by standard rules such as Ql0, therefore the ability to evolve proteins that work efficiently at lower temperature, for example, while being inactivated under their normal operating condition, creates an unexpected new class of proteins we refer to as conditionally active biologic proteins.

[0005] Throughout this application, various publications are referenced by author and date. The disclosures of these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application in order to more fully describe the state of the art as known to those skilled therein as of the date of the disclosure described and claimed herein.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0006] The disclosure provides a method of preparing a conditionally active biologic protein, the method comprising: selecting a wild-type biologic protein; evolving the DNA which encodes the wild-type biologic protein using one or more evolutionary techniques to create a mutant DNA; expressing the mutant DNA to obtain a mutant protein; subjecting the mutant protein and the wild-type protein to an assay under a normal physiological condition and the assay under an aberrant condition; and selecting the conditionally active biologic protein from those mutant proteins which exhibit both (a) a decrease in activity in the assay at the normal physiological condition compared to the wild-type protein, and (b) an increase in activity in the assay under the aberrant condition compared to the wild-type protein. In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a method of preparing a conditionally active biologic protein, wherein the conditionally active biologic protein is a protein which exhibits a decrease in activity in an assay at a normal physiological pH of 7.2 to 7.6 compared to a same activity in the assay under an aberrant pH of 6.0 to 6.8, the method comprising steps of: i. selecting a template polypeptide from a wild-type biologic protein, a mutated protein and a fragment of a wild-type protein with a desired property selected from binding affinity, expression level and humanization; ii. evolving a DNA which encodes the template polypeptide using one or more evolutionary techniques to create mutant DNAs; iii. expressing the mutant DNAs to obtain mutant proteins at least one of which exhibits a decrease in activity in the assay at the normal physiological pH compared to the same activity in the assay under the aberrant pH; and iv. screening the mutant proteins to identify the conditionally active biologic protein that exhibits a decrease in activity in the assay at the normal physiological pH compared to the same activity in the assay under the aberrant pH by conducting assays to determine the activity at the normal physiological pH and at the aberrant pH, wherein the activity is binding activity to an antigen, the assay under the

normal physiological pH and the assay under the aberrant pH are performed in assay solutions containing at least one component at substantially the same concentration in the assay solutions for both the assay under the normal physiological pH and the assay under the aberrant pH, said at least one component being selected from 100 μM-100 mM hydrogen sulfide and 25-100 mM bicarbonate.

[0006a] In various examples, the normal physiological condition is selected from one or more of temperature, pH, osmotic pressure, osmolality, oxidative stress and electrolyte concentration. In a particular example, the normal physiological condition is temperature; wherein the conditionally active biologic protein is virtually inactive at the normal physiological temperature, but is active at an aberrant temperature less than the normal physiological temperature. In other examples, the conditionally active biologic protein is reversibly or irreversibly inactivated at the wild type normal physiological conditions. In one specific example, the protein is reversibly inactivated at the wild type normal physiological conditions. Alternatively, conditionally active biologic proteins are selected from those proteins which exhibit changes in activity, reversibly or irreversibly, in two or more different physiological conditions.

[0007] In one example, the wild-type biologic protein is an enzyme, in certain examples, the wild-type biologic protein is selected from the group consisting of tissue plasminogen activator, streptokinase, urokinase, renin, and hyaluronidase.

[0008] In another example, the wild-type biologic protein is selected from calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP), substance P (SP), neuropeptide Y (NPY), vasoactive intestinal peptide (VTP), vasopressin, and angiostatin.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preparing a conditionally active biologic protein, wherein the conditionally active biologic protein is a protein which exhibits a decrease in activity in an assay at a normal physiological pH of 7.2 to 7.6 compared to a same activity in the assay under an aberrant pH of 6.0 to 6.8, the method comprising steps of:

i. selecting a template polypeptide from a wild-type biologic protein, a mutated protein and a fragment of a wild-type protein with a desired property selected from binding affinity, expression level and humanization;

ii. evolving a DNA which encodes the template polypeptide using one or more evolutionary techniques to create mutant DNAs;

iii. expressing the mutant DNAs to obtain mutant proteins at least one of which exhibits a decrease in activity in the assay at the normal physiological pH compared to thesame activity in the assay under the aberrant pH; and

iv. screening the mutant proteins to identify the conditionally active biologic protein that exhibits a decrease in activity in the assay at the normal physiological pH compared tothe same activity in the assay under the aberrant pH by conducting assays to determine theactivity at the normal physiological pH and at the aberrant pH,

wherein the activity is binding activity to an antigen, the assay under the normal physiological pH and the assay under theaberrant pH are performed in assay solutions containing at least one component at substantially the same concentration in the assay solutions for both the assay under the normal physiological pH and the assay under the aberrant pH, said at least one component being selected from 100 μM-100 mM hydrogen sulfide and 25-100 mM bicarbonate.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the template polypeptide selected in step (i) is an antibody or an antibody fragment.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of evolving the conditionally active biologic protein selected in step (iv) to produce an improved conditionally active biologic protein with at least one improved property.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one improved property is an increased ratio of

the activity in the assay under the aberrant pH to the activity under the normal physiological pH, as compared to the conditionally active biologic protein selected in step(iv).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the conditionally active biologic protein is a conditionally active antibody, and said method further comprises a step of conjugating the conditionally active antibody to an agent selected from cytokines, interleukins, enzymes, hormones, growth factors, cytotoxic agents, chemotherapy drugs, radioactive particles and diagnostic agents.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the assay solutions for the assay under the normal physiological pH and the assay under the aberrant pH contain no serum.