CLAIMS

1. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds to FOLR1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises variable heavy chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 and variable light chain CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequences of

SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, and 3 and SEQ ID NOs: 13, 14, and 15, respectively.

2. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises amino acid sequences of:

SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:29.

3. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1 or 2, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is murine, humanized, chimeric, resurfaced, or human.

4. A nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3.

5. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof-of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a detection agent.

6. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 5, wherein the detection agent is a chromogenic detection agent, a fluorogenic detection agent, an immunofluorescent detection agent, an enzymatic detection agent, or an electrochemiluminescent detection agent.

7. A method of detecting FOLR1 protein in a sample comprising contacting said sample with the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof-of any one of claims 1-3.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the FOLR1 protein is detected by radioimmunoassay, Western blot assay, immunofluorescent assay, enzyme immunoassay, immunoprecipitation assay, chemiluminescent assay, cytometry, or immunohistochemical assay.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the cytometry is flow cytometry.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme immunoassay is enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the FOLR1 protein is detected by immunohistochemical assay.

12. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the sample is obtained from a patient who has been treated with an active agent comprising an FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the anti-FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binging fragment thereof in the active agent comprises a variable heavy chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 and a variable light chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:48.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the active agent comprises a FOLR1 antibody comprising a heavy chain comprising the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain encoded by the plasmid deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as PTA-10772 and a light chain comprising the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of the light chain encoded by the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as PTA-10774.

15. The method of any one of claims 12-14, wherein the active agent comprises the FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

16. The method of any one of claims 12-15, wherein the active agent comprises the FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof conjugated to the maytansinoid DM4 via the cleavable sulfo-SPDB linker.

17. The method of any one of claims 12-16, wherein the patient has a FOLR1-expressing cancer selected from the group consisting of ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, endometrial cancer, and cancer of the peritoneum.

18. A cell producing the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3.

19. A method of making the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3, comprising (a) culturing the cell of claim 19; and (b) isolating said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof from said cultured cell.

20. An immunoassay kit for detecting FOLR1 protein in a sample, the kit comprising: (a) a first reagent, wherein the first reagent is the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3, and (b) a second reagent, wherein the second reagent is a detection reagent.

21. Use of an active agent comprising a cytotoxic agent conjugated to either an FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a FOLR1-expressing cancer in a patient with an elevated FOLR1 protein level detected using the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3.

22. Use of an active agent comprising a cytotoxic agent conjugated to either an FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a FOLR1-expressing cancer in a patient with an elevated shed FOLR1 protein level that was detected using the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3.

23. Use of an active agent comprising an FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprising a variable heavy chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 and a variable light chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:48 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a FOLR1-expressing cancer in a patient with an elevated FOLR1 protein level detected using the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1-3.

24. The use of any one of claims 21-23, wherein the active agent comprises a FOLR1 antibody comprising a heavy chain comprising the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain encoded by the plasmid deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as PTA-10772 and a light chain comprising the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of the light chain encoded by the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as PTA-10774.

25. The use of any one of claims 23-24, wherein the active agent comprises the FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

26. The use of any one of claims 21-25, wherein the active agent comprises the FOLR1 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof conjugated to the maytansinoid DM4 via the cleavable sulfo-SPDB linker.

27. The use of any one of claims 21-26, wherein the FOLR1-expressing cancer is selected from the group consisting of ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, endometrial cancer, and cancer of the peritoneum.