

ANTI-IL-25 ANTIBODIES AND USES THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to antibodies, and antigen-binding fragments thereof, which specifically bind Interleukin-25 (IL-25), pharmaceutical compositions comprising the antibodies and methods of use thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Interleukin-25 (IL-25) is a cytokine that is structurally related to interleukin-17 (IL-17) and is sometimes referred to as IL-17E. It is a secreted, homodimeric glycoprotein that interacts with and signals through the heterodimeric IL-17RB/IL-17RA receptor (Iwakura, *et.al.*, (2010), *Immunity*, 34:149). IL-25 is produced by Th2 cells, epithelial cells, endothelial cells, alveolar macrophages, mast cells, eosinophils and basophils (Rouvier, E. *et.al.*, (1993), *J. Immunol.* 150:5445-5456; Pan, G. *et.al.*, (2001), *J. Immunol.* 167:6559-6567; Kim, M. *et.al.*, (2002), *Blood* 100:2330-2340). Signaling through IL-25 is associated with eosinophil recruitment, initiation of Th2 and Th9 responses and suppression of Th1 and Th17 cell responses. IL-25 induces the production of other cytokines, including IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13, in multiple tissues (Fort, MM *et.al.*, (2001), *Immunity* 15:985-995).

[0003] IL-25 has been implicated in chronic inflammation associated with the gastrointestinal tract and the IL-25 gene has been identified in a chromosomal region associated with autoimmune diseases of the gut, such as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) (Büning, C. *et.al.*, (2003), *Eur. J. Immunogenet.* Oct; 30(5): 329-333). IL-25 has also been shown to be upregulated in samples from patients with asthma (Sherkat, R. *et.al.*, (2014), *Asia Pac. Allergy* Oct; 4(4):212-221). Accordingly, blockade of IL-25 signaling may be useful for the treatment of various disorders associated with IL-25 activity or expression.

[0004] Anti-IL-25 antibodies are mentioned, *e.g.*, in US Patent Nos. 8,785,605; 8,658,169 and 8,206,717; and PCT publications WO2011/123507; WO2010/038155 and WO2008/129263. Nonetheless, there is a need in the art for novel IL-25 antagonists, such as the anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention, for the treatment of diseases or disorders associated with IL-25 expression and/or signaling, or other conditions associated with IL-25 expression and/or signaling.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention provides isolated antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind to human interleukin-25 (IL-25).

[0006] In a first aspect, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human interleukin-25 (IL-25), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof exhibits two or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) is a fully human monoclonal antibody;

- (b) binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 120 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C;
- (c) binds human IL-25 with a dissociative half life ($t_{1/2}$) of greater than about 105 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C;
- (d) blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 2.0 nM;
- (e) blocks human IL-25 signaling in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) with an IC_{50} of less than about 16 nM;
- (f) reduces circulating and/or lung IgE levels in a mammal that overexpresses IL-25;
- (g) reduces goblet cell metaplasia in a mammal that overexpresses IL-25;
- (h) comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDRs) contained within a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in Table 1; or
- (i) comprises three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDRs) contained within a light chain variable region (LCVR) comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in Table 1.

[0007] The isolated antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of the invention are useful, *inter alia*, for treating diseases and disorders associated with interleukin-25 (IL-25) activity or expression.

[0008] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 100 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.

[0009] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 60 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.

[0010] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 40 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.

[0011] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 20 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.

[0012] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 150 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

[0013] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 200 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

[0014] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 250 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

[0015] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 400 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

[0016] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 720 pM.

[0017] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 500 pM.

[0018] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 100 pM .

[0019] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC_{50} of less than about 2.0 nM.

[0020] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC_{50} of less than about 700 pM.

[0021] In one embodiment, the invention provides an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human IL-25 and blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC_{50} ranging from about 30 pM to about 150 pM.

[0022] The antibodies of the invention can be full-length (for example, an IgG1 or IgG4 antibody) or may comprise only an antigen-binding portion (for example, a Fab, $F(ab')_2$ or scFv fragment), and may be modified to affect functionality, e.g., to eliminate residual effector functions (Reddy et al., 2000, J. Immunol. 164:1925-1933).

[0023] Exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention are listed in Tables 1 and 2 herein. Table 1 sets forth the amino acid sequence identifiers of the heavy chain variable regions (HCVRs), light chain variable regions (LCVRs), heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3), and light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies. Table 2 sets forth the nucleic acid sequence identifiers of the HCVRs, LCVRs, HCDR1, HCDR2

HCDR3, LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies.

[0024] The present invention provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising an HCVR comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the HCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0025] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising an LCVR comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the LCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0026] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising an HCVR and an LCVR amino acid sequence pair (HCVR/LCVR) comprising any of the HCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 paired with any of the LCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1. According to certain embodiments, the present invention provides antibodies, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, comprising an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair contained within any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1.

[0027] An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human interleukin-25 (IL-25), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises: (a) the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in Table 1; and (b) the CDRs of a light chain variable region (LCVR) comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in Table 1.

[0028] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises: (a) the CDRs of an HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242 and 258; and (b) the CDRs of a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250 and 266.

[0029] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises: (a) the CDRs of an HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 98, 114, 130 and 178; and (b) the CDRs of a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 106, 122, 138 and 186.

[0030] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises an HCVR amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226,

242 and 258.

[0031] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises an LCVR amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250 and 266.

[0032] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises an HCVR amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242 and 258; and an LCVR amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250 and 266.

[0033] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises: the CDRs of a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2/10, 18/26, 34/42, 50/58, 66/74, 82/90, 98/106, 114/122, 130/138, 146/154, 162/170, 178/186, 194/202, 210/218, 226/234, 242/250 and 258/266.

[0034] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises: the CDRs of a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 98/106; 114/122; 130/138; and 178/186.

[0035] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2/10, 18/26, 34/42, 50/58, 66/74, 82/90, 98/106, 114/122, 130/138, 146/154, 162/170, 178/186, 194/202, 210/218, 226/234, 242/250 and 258/266.

[0036] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprises an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 98/106; 114/122; 130/138; and 178/186.

[0037] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a heavy chain CDR1 (HCDR1) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the HCDR1 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0038] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a heavy chain CDR2 (HCDR2) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the HCDR2 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0039] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a heavy chain CDR3 (HCDR3) comprising an amino acid

sequence selected from any of the HCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0040] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a light chain CDR1 (LCDR1) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the LCDR1 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0041] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a light chain CDR2 (LCDR2) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the LCDR2 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0042] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a light chain CDR3 (LCDR3) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the LCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0043] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising an HCDR3 and an LCDR3 amino acid sequence pair (HCDR3/LCDR3) comprising any of the HCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1 paired with any of the LCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1. According to certain embodiments, the present invention provides antibodies, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, comprising an HCDR3/LCDR3 amino acid sequence pair contained within any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1. In certain embodiments, the HCDR3/LCDR3 amino acid sequence pair is selected from the group consisting of: 104/112; 120/128; 136/144; and 184/192.

[0044] The present invention also provides antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a set of six CDRs (*i.e.*, HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3, LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3) contained within any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1. In certain embodiments, the HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3, LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3 amino acid sequence set is selected from the group consisting of: (a) SEQ ID NOs: 100, 102, 104, 108, 110, 112; (b) SEQ ID NOs: 116, 118, 120, 124, 126, 128; (c) SEQ ID NOs: 132, 134, 136, 140, 142, 144; and (d) SEQ ID NOs: 180, 182, 184, 188, 190, 192.

[0045] In a related embodiment, the present invention provides antibodies, or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising a set of six CDRs (*i.e.*, HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3, LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3) contained within an HCVR/LCVR amino acid

sequence pair as defined by any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1. For example, the present invention includes antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising the HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3, LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3 amino acid sequences set contained within an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of: 98/106; 114/122; 130/138; and 178/186. Methods and techniques for identifying CDRs within HCVR and LCVR amino acid sequences are well known in the art and can be used to identify CDRs within the specified HCVR and/or LCVR amino acid sequences disclosed herein. Exemplary conventions that can be used to identify the boundaries of CDRs include, *e.g.*, the Kabat definition, the Chothia definition, and the AbM definition. In general terms, the Kabat definition is based on sequence variability, the Chothia definition is based on the location of the structural loop regions, and the AbM definition is a compromise between the Kabat and Chothia approaches. See, *e.g.*, Kabat, "Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest," National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991); Al-Lazikani *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 273:927-948 (1997); and Martin *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:9268-9272 (1989). Public databases are also available for identifying CDR sequences within an antibody.

[0046] In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprising:

- (a) a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36, 52, 68, 84, 100, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180, 196, 212, 228, 244 and 260;
- (b) a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38, 54, 70, 86, 102, 118, 134, 150, 166, 182, 198, 214, 230, 246 and 262;
- (c) a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 152, 168, 184, 200, 216, 232, 248 and 264;
- (d) a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 12, 28, 44, 60, 76, 92, 108, 124, 140, 156, 172, 188, 204, 220, 236, 252 and 268;
- (e) a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 126, 142, 158, 174, 190, 206, 222, 238, 254 and 270; and
- (f) a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 240, 256 and 272.

[0047] In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding

fragment thereof that specifically binds IL-25 comprising:

- (a) a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 100, 116, 132, and 180;
- (b) a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 102, 118, 134, and 182;
- (c) a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 104, 120, 136, and 184;
- (d) a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 108, 124, 140, and 188;
- (e) a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 110, 126, 142, and 190; and
- (f) a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 112, 128, 144, and 192.

[0048] In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that comprises a set of six CDRs selected from the group consisting of: (a) SEQ ID NOs: 100, 102, 104, 108, 110, 112; (b) SEQ ID NOs: 116, 118, 120, 124, 126, 128; (c) SEQ ID NOs: 132, 134, 136, 140, 142, 144; and (d) SEQ ID NOs: 180, 182, 184, 188, 190, 192.

[0049] In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds human interleukin-25 (IL-25), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof competes for binding to human IL-25 with a reference antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region/light chain variable region (HCVR/LCVR) amino acid sequence pair as set forth in Table 1. The reference antibody may comprise an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2/10, 18/26, 34/42, 50/58, 66/74, 82/90, 98/106, 114/122, 130/138, 146/154, 162/170, 178/186, 194/202, 210/218, 226/234, 242/250 and 258/266.

[0050] In one embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds human interleukin-25 (IL-25), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds to the same epitope on human IL-25 as a reference antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region/light chain variable region (HCVR/LCVR) amino acid sequence pair as set forth in Table 1. The reference antibody may comprise an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2/10, 18/26, 34/42, 50/58, 66/74, 82/90, 98/106, 114/122, 130/138, 146/154, 162/170, 178/186, 194/202, 210/218, 226/234, 242/250 and 258/266.

[0051] In a second aspect, the present invention provides nucleic acid molecules encoding anti-IL-25 antibodies or portions thereof. For example, the present invention provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the HCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from

any of the HCVR nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0052] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the LCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the LCVR nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0053] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the HCDR1 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the HCDR1 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0054] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the HCDR2 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the HCDR2 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0055] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the HCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the HCDR3 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0056] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the LCDR1 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the LCDR1 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0057] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the LCDR2 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the LCDR2 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0058] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the LCDR3 amino acid sequences listed in Table 1; in certain embodiments the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the LCDR3 nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at

least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto.

[0059] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding an HCVR, wherein the HCVR comprises a set of three CDRs (*i.e.*, HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3), wherein the HCDR1, HCDR2, HCDR3 amino acid sequence set is as defined by any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1.

[0060] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding an LCVR, wherein the LCVR comprises a set of three CDRs (*i.e.*, LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3), wherein the LCDR1, LCDR2, LCDR3 amino acid sequence set is as defined by any of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies listed in Table 1.

[0061] The present invention also provides nucleic acid molecules encoding both an HCVR and an LCVR, wherein the HCVR comprises an amino acid sequence of any of the HCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1, and wherein the LCVR comprises an amino acid sequence of any of the LCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1. In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the HCVR nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto, and a polynucleotide sequence selected from any of the LCVR nucleic acid sequences listed in Table 2, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity thereto. In certain embodiments according to this aspect of the invention, the nucleic acid molecule encodes an HCVR and LCVR, wherein the HCVR and LCVR are both derived from the same anti-IL-25 antibody listed in Table 1.

[0062] In a third aspect, the present invention provides recombinant expression vectors capable of expressing a polypeptide comprising a heavy or light chain variable region of an anti-IL-25 antibody. For example, the present invention includes recombinant expression vectors comprising any of the nucleic acid molecules mentioned above, *i.e.*, nucleic acid molecules encoding any of the HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR sequences as set forth in Table 1. Also included within the scope of the present invention are host cells into which such vectors have been introduced, as well as methods of producing the antibodies or portions thereof by culturing the host cells under conditions permitting production of the antibodies or antibody fragments, and recovering the antibodies and antibody fragments so produced.

[0063] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies having a modified glycosylation pattern. In some embodiments, modification to remove undesirable glycosylation sites may be useful, or an antibody lacking a fucose moiety present on the oligosaccharide chain, for example, to increase antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) function (see Shield et al. (2002) JBC 277:26733). In other applications, modification of galactosylation can be made in order to modify complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC).

[0064] In a fourth aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising at

least one antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, which specifically binds IL-25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0065] In a related aspect, the invention features a composition, which is a combination of an anti-IL-25 antibody and a second therapeutic agent. In one embodiment, the second therapeutic agent is any agent that is advantageously combined with an anti-IL-25 antibody. The second therapeutic agent may be useful for alleviating the inflammatory disease or disorder, or at least one symptom of the inflammatory disease or disorder.

[0066] In certain embodiments, the second therapeutic agent may be selected from the group consisting of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID), a steroid, a corticosteroid (inhaled or topical), an immunosuppressant (e.g. cyclophosphamide), an anticholinergic agent (e.g. tiotropium), a muscarinic agent (e.g. glycopyrronium), a phosphodiesterase inhibitor (e.g. theophylline, roflumilast, cilomilast), a beta blocker, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, pimecrolimus, azathioprine, methotrexate, cromolyn sodium, a proteinase inhibitor, a bronchial dilator, a beta-2-agonist, an antihistamine, epinephrine, a decongestant, a leukotriene inhibitor, a mast cell inhibitor, a thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) antagonist, a TNF antagonist, an IgE antagonist, an IL-1 antagonist, an IL-4 or IL-4R antagonist, an IL-13 or IL-13R antagonist, an IL-4/IL-13 dual antagonist, an IL-5 antagonist, an IL-6 or IL-6R antagonist, an antagonist of IL-8, an IL-9 antagonist, an IL-12/23 antagonist, an IL-22 antagonist, an IL-17 antagonist, an IL-31 antagonist, an IL-33 antagonist, a Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin Protein (TSLP) antagonist, an oral PDE4 inhibitor, and a different antibody to IL-25.

[0067] In a fifth aspect, the invention provides therapeutic methods for treating a disease or disorder associated with IL-25 activity or expression, or at least one symptom associated with the disease or disorder, using an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding portion of an antibody of the invention. The therapeutic methods according to this aspect of the invention comprise administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the invention to a subject in need thereof. The disorder treated is any disease or condition which is improved, ameliorated, inhibited or prevented by targeting IL-25 and/or by inhibiting IL-25-mediated cell signaling.

[0068] In certain embodiments, the disease or disorder to be treated with an anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, may be selected from the group consisting of asthma, allergy, allergic rhinitis, allergic airway inflammation, autoimmune diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), eosinophilic pneumonia, eosinophilic esophagitis, hypereosinophilic syndrome, graft-versus-host disease, atopic dermatitis (AD), urticaria, including chronic idiopathic urticaria, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), arthritis, uveitis, cardiovascular disease, pain, multiple sclerosis, lupus, vasculitis, and Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis ((EGPA), also known as Churg-Strauss Syndrome).

[0069] In one embodiment, the asthma that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof may be selected from the group consisting of allergic asthma, non-allergic asthma, severe refractory asthma, asthma exacerbations, viral induced asthma, or viral induced asthma exacerbations, steroid resistant asthma, steroid sensitive asthma, eosinophilic asthma or non-eosinophilic asthma and other related disorders characterized by airway inflammation or airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR).

[0070] In one embodiment, the COPD that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof is associated in part with, or caused by, cigarette smoke, air pollution, occupational chemicals, allergy or airway hyperresponsiveness.

[0071] In one embodiment, the AD that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof is associated in part with, or caused by epidermal barrier dysfunction, allergy, or radiation exposure.

[0072] An allergy that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen binding fragment thereof may be due to certain foods, pollen, mold, dust mites, animals, or animal dander.

[0073] In one embodiment, the IBD that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof may be selected from the group consisting of ulcerative colitis, Crohn's Disease, collagenous colitis, lymphocytic colitis, ischemic colitis, diversion colitis, Behcet's syndrome, infective colitis, indeterminate colitis, and other disorders characterized by inflammation of the mucosal layer of the large intestine or colon.

[0074] In one embodiment, the arthritis that may be treated by an antibody of the invention, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof may be selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis (OA), rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis.

[0075] Other embodiments will become apparent from a review of the ensuing detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0076] **Figure 1.** Cross Competition between Anti-IL-25 Antibodies for Human IL-25

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0077] Before the present invention is described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to particular methods and experimental conditions described, as such methods and conditions may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting, since the scope of the present invention will be limited only by the appended claims.

[0078] 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. As used herein, the term "about," when used in reference to a particular recited

numerical value, means that the value may vary from the recited value by no more than 1%. For example, as used herein, the expression "about 100" includes 99 and 101 and all values in between (e.g., 99.1, 99.2, 99.3, 99.4, etc.).

[0079] Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, the preferred methods and materials are now described. All patents, applications and non-patent publications mentioned in this specification are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Definitions

[0080] The expression "interleukin-25", "IL-25," and the like, also known as "IL-17E", refers to the human cytokine (unless designated as being from another species) comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in amino acid residues 33 through 177 of accession number NP_073626.1. Human IL-25 containing a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag is shown as SEQ ID NO: 273 (with amino acid residues 1-145 being human IL-25 without the signal sequence and amino acid residues 146-173 the myc-myc-hexahistidine tag). Additional IL-25 proteins are described herein, including monkey IL-25 (amino acids 33-176 of accession number XP_001107906.2) containing a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag, which is shown as SEQ ID NO: 274 (with amino acid residues 1-144 being *M. fascicularis* IL-25 and amino acid residues 145-172 the myc-myc-hexahistidine tag); mouse IL-25 (amino acids 17-169 of accession number NP_542767.1) containing a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag, which is shown as SEQ ID NO: 275 (with amino acid residues 1-153 being mouse IL-25 and amino acid residues 154-181 the myc-myc-hexahistidine tag); and rat IL-25 (amino acid residues 17-169 of accession number NP_001178936.1) containing a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag, which is shown as SEQ ID NO: 276 (with amino acid residues 1-153 being rat IL-25 and amino acid residues 154-181 the myc-myc-hexahistidine tag).

[0081] All references to proteins, polypeptides and protein fragments herein are intended to refer to the human version of the respective protein, polypeptide or protein fragment unless explicitly specified as being from a non-human species. Thus, the expression "IL-25" means human IL-25 unless specified as being from a non-human species, e.g., "monkey IL-25," "mouse IL-25," "rat IL-25," etc.

[0082] As used herein, the expression "anti-IL-25 antibody" includes both monovalent antibodies with a single specificity, as well as bispecific antibodies comprising a first arm that binds IL-25 and a second arm that binds a second (target) antigen, wherein the anti-IL-25 arm comprises any of the HCVR/LCVR or CDR sequences as set forth in Table 1 herein. The expression "anti-IL-25 antibody" also includes antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) comprising an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof conjugated to a drug or toxin (i.e., cytotoxic agent). The expression "anti-IL-25 antibody" also includes antibody-radionuclide

conjugates (ARCs) comprising an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof conjugated to a radionuclide.

[0083] The term "anti-IL-25 antibody", as used herein, means any antigen-binding molecule or molecular complex comprising at least one complementarity determining region (CDR) that specifically binds to or interacts with IL-25 or a portion of IL-25. The term "antibody" includes immunoglobulin molecules comprising four polypeptide chains, two heavy (H) chains and two light (L) chains inter-connected by disulfide bonds, as well as multimers thereof (e.g., IgM). Each heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region (abbreviated herein as HCVR or V_H) and a heavy chain constant region. The heavy chain constant region comprises three domains, C_{H1} , C_{H2} and C_{H3} . Each light chain comprises a light chain variable region (abbreviated herein as LCVR or V_L) and a light chain constant region. The light chain constant region comprises one domain (C_{L1}). The V_H and V_L regions can be further subdivided into regions of hypervariability, termed complementarity determining regions (CDRs), interspersed with regions that are more conserved, termed framework regions (FR). Each V_H and V_L is composed of three CDRs and four FRs, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus in the following order: FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3, FR4. In different embodiments of the invention, the FRs of the anti-IL-25 antibody (or antigen-binding portion thereof) may be identical to the human germline sequences, or may be naturally or artificially modified. An amino acid consensus sequence may be defined based on a side-by-side analysis of two or more CDRs.

[0084] The term "antibody", as used herein, also includes antigen-binding fragments of full length antibody molecules. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody, and the like, as used herein, include any enzymatically obtainable, synthetic, or genetically engineered polypeptide or glycoprotein that specifically binds an antigen to form a complex. Antigen-binding fragments of an antibody may be derived, e.g., from full antibody molecules using any suitable standard techniques such as proteolytic digestion or recombinant genetic engineering techniques involving the manipulation and expression of DNA encoding antibody variable and optionally constant domains. Such DNA is known and/or is readily available from, e.g., commercial sources, DNA libraries (including, e.g., phage-antibody libraries), or can be synthesized. The DNA may be sequenced and manipulated chemically or by using molecular biology techniques, for example, to arrange one or more variable and/or constant domains into a suitable configuration, or to introduce codons, create cysteine residues, modify, add or delete amino acids, etc.

[0085] Non-limiting examples of antigen-binding fragments include: (i) Fab fragments; (ii) $F(ab')_2$ fragments; (iii) Fd fragments; (iv) Fv fragments; (v) single-chain Fv (scFv) molecules; (vi) dAb fragments; and (vii) minimal recognition units consisting of the amino acid residues that mimic the hypervariable region of an antibody (e.g., an isolated complementarity determining region (CDR) such as a CDR3 peptide), or a constrained FR3-CDR3-FR4 peptide.

Other engineered molecules, such as domain-specific antibodies, single domain antibodies, domain-deleted antibodies, chimeric antibodies, CDR-grafted antibodies, diabodies, triabodies, tetrabodies, minibodies, nanobodies (e.g. monovalent nanobodies, bivalent nanobodies, etc.), small modular immunopharmaceuticals (SMIPs), and shark variable IgNAR domains, are also encompassed within the expression "antigen-binding fragment," as used herein.

[0086] An antigen-binding fragment of an antibody will typically comprise at least one variable domain. The variable domain may be of any size or amino acid composition and will generally comprise at least one CDR which is adjacent to or in frame with one or more framework sequences. In antigen-binding fragments having a V_H domain associated with a V_L domain, the V_H and V_L domains may be situated relative to one another in any suitable arrangement. For example, the variable region may be dimeric and contain V_H - V_H , V_H - V_L or V_L - V_L dimers. Alternatively, the antigen-binding fragment of an antibody may contain a monomeric V_H or V_L domain.

[0087] In certain embodiments, an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody may contain at least one variable domain covalently linked to at least one constant domain. Non-limiting, exemplary configurations of variable and constant domains that may be found within an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention include: (i) V_H - C_H1 ; (ii) V_H - C_H2 ; (iii) V_H - C_H3 ; (iv) V_H - C_H1 - C_H2 ; (v) V_H - C_H1 - C_H2 - C_H3 ; (vi) V_H - C_H2 - C_H3 ; (vii) V_H - C_L ; (viii) V_L - C_H1 ; (ix) V_L - C_H2 ; (x) V_L - C_H3 ; (xi) V_L - C_H1 - C_H2 ; (xii) V_L - C_H1 - C_H2 - C_H3 ; (xiii) V_L - C_H2 - C_H3 ; and (xiv) V_L - C_L . In any configuration of variable and constant domains, including any of the exemplary configurations listed above, the variable and constant domains may be either directly linked to one another or may be linked by a full or partial hinge or linker region. A hinge region may consist of at least 2 (e.g., 5, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60 or more) amino acids which result in a flexible or semi-flexible linkage between adjacent variable and/or constant domains in a single polypeptide molecule. Moreover, an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention may comprise a homo-dimer or hetero-dimer (or other multimer) of any of the variable and constant domain configurations listed above in non-covalent association with one another and/or with one or more monomeric V_H or V_L domain (e.g., by disulfide bond(s)).

[0088] As with full antibody molecules, antigen-binding fragments may be monospecific or multispecific (e.g., bispecific). A multispecific antigen-binding fragment of an antibody will typically comprise at least two different variable domains, wherein each variable domain is capable of specifically binding to a separate antigen or to a different epitope on the same antigen. Any multispecific antibody format, including the exemplary bispecific antibody formats disclosed herein, may be adapted for use in the context of an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention using routine techniques available in the art.

[0089] The antibodies of the present invention may function by blocking or otherwise interfering with the interaction between IL-25 and one or more of its receptor component(s).

Alternatively, the antibodies of the invention may inhibit IL-25-mediated signaling through a mechanism that does not involve blocking the IL-25 interaction with its receptor. In yet other embodiments, the antibodies of the present invention may function through complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) or antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC). "Complement-dependent cytotoxicity" (CDC) refers to lysis of antigen-expressing cells by an antibody of the invention in the presence of complement. "Antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity" (ADCC) refers to a cell-mediated reaction in which nonspecific cytotoxic cells that express Fc receptors (FcRs) (e.g., Natural Killer (NK) cells, neutrophils, and macrophages) recognize bound antibody on a target cell and thereby lead to lysis of the target cell. CDC and ADCC can be measured using assays that are well known and available in the art. (See, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos 5,500,362 and 5,821,337, and Clynes *et al.* (1998) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 95:652-656). The constant region of an antibody is important in the ability of an antibody to fix complement and mediate cell-dependent cytotoxicity. Thus, the isotype of an antibody may be selected on the basis of whether it is desirable for the antibody to mediate cytotoxicity.

[0090] The term "human antibody", as used herein, is intended to include non-naturally occurring human antibodies. The term includes antibodies that are recombinantly produced in a non-human mammal, or in cells of a non-human mammal. The term is not intended to include antibodies isolated from or generated in a human subject.

[0091] The antibodies of the invention may, in some embodiments, be recombinant and/or non-naturally occurring human antibodies. The term "recombinant human antibody", as used herein, is intended to include all human antibodies that are prepared, expressed, created or isolated by recombinant means, such as antibodies expressed using a recombinant expression vector transfected into a host cell (described further below), antibodies isolated from a recombinant, combinatorial human antibody library (described further below), antibodies isolated from an animal (e.g., a mouse) that is transgenic for human immunoglobulin genes (see e.g., Taylor et al. (1992) Nucl. Acids Res. 20:6287-6295) or antibodies prepared, expressed, created or isolated by any other means that involves splicing of human immunoglobulin gene sequences to other DNA sequences. In certain embodiments, such recombinant human antibodies are subjected to *in vitro* mutagenesis (or, when an animal transgenic for human Ig sequences is used, *in vivo* somatic mutagenesis) and thus the amino acid sequences of the V_H and V_L regions of the recombinant antibodies are sequences that, while related to human germline V_H and V_L sequences, may not naturally exist within the human antibody germline repertoire *in vivo*.

[0092] Human antibodies can exist in two forms that are associated with hinge heterogeneity. In one form, an immunoglobulin molecule comprises a stable four chain construct of approximately 150-160 kDa in which the dimers are held together by an interchain heavy chain disulfide bond. In a second form, the dimers are not linked via inter-chain disulfide bonds and a

molecule of about 75-80 kDa is formed composed of a covalently coupled light and heavy chain (half-antibody). These forms have been extremely difficult to separate, even after affinity purification.

[0093] The frequency of appearance of the second form in various intact IgG isotypes is due to, but not limited to, structural differences associated with the hinge region isotype of the antibody. A single amino acid substitution in the hinge region of the human IgG4 hinge can significantly reduce the appearance of the second form (Angal et al. (1993) Molecular Immunology 30:105) to levels typically observed using a human IgG1 hinge. The instant invention encompasses antibodies having one or more mutations in the hinge, C_H2 or C_H3 region, which may be desirable, for example, in production, to improve the yield of the desired antibody form.

[0094] The term "specifically binds", or "binds specifically to", or the like, means that an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof forms a complex with an antigen that is relatively stable under physiologic conditions. Specific binding can be characterized by an equilibrium dissociation constant of at least about 1×10^{-6} M or less (e.g., a smaller K_D denotes a tighter binding). Methods for determining whether two molecules specifically bind are well known in the art and include, for example, equilibrium dialysis, surface plasmon resonance, and the like. As described herein, antibodies have been identified by surface plasmon resonance, e.g., BIACORE™, which bind specifically to IL-25. Moreover, multi-specific antibodies that bind to IL-25 protein and one or more additional antigens or a bi-specific that binds to two different regions of IL-25 are nonetheless considered antibodies that "specifically bind", as used herein.

[0095] The antibodies of the invention may be isolated antibodies. An "isolated antibody," as used herein, means an antibody that has been identified and separated and/or recovered from at least one component of its natural environment. For example, an antibody that has been separated or removed from at least one component of an organism, or from a tissue or cell in which the antibody naturally exists or is naturally produced, is an "isolated antibody" for purposes of the present invention. An isolated antibody also includes an antibody *in situ* within a recombinant cell. Isolated antibodies are antibodies that have been subjected to at least one purification or isolation step. According to certain embodiments, an isolated antibody may be substantially free of other cellular material and/or chemicals.

[0096] The anti-IL-25 antibodies disclosed herein may comprise one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions and/or deletions in the framework and/or CDR regions of the heavy and light chain variable domains. Such mutations can be readily ascertained by comparing the amino acid sequences disclosed herein to sequences available from, for example, public antibody sequence databases. Once obtained, antibodies and antigen-binding fragments that contain one or more mutations can be easily tested for one or more desired property such as, improved binding specificity, increased binding affinity, improved or enhanced antagonistic or

agonistic biological properties (as the case may be), reduced immunogenicity, etc. Antibodies and antigen-binding fragments obtained in this general manner are encompassed within the present invention.

[0097] The present invention also includes anti-IL-25 antibodies comprising variants of any of the HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences disclosed herein having one or more conservative substitutions. For example, the present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies having HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences with, e.g., 10 or fewer, 8 or fewer, 6 or fewer, 4 or fewer, etc. conservative amino acid substitutions relative to any of the HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences set forth in Table 1 herein.

[0098] The term "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant that interacts with a specific antigen binding site in the variable region of an antibody molecule known as a paratope. A single antigen may have more than one epitope. Thus, different antibodies may bind to different areas on an antigen and may have different biological effects. Epitopes may be either conformational or linear. A conformational epitope is produced by spatially juxtaposed amino acids from different segments of the linear polypeptide chain. A linear epitope is one produced by adjacent amino acid residues in a polypeptide chain. In certain circumstance, an epitope may include moieties of saccharides, phosphoryl groups, or sulfonyl groups on the antigen.

[0099] The term "substantial identity" or "substantially identical," when referring to a nucleic acid or fragment thereof, indicates that, when optimally aligned with appropriate nucleotide insertions or deletions with another nucleic acid (or its complementary strand), there is nucleotide sequence identity in at least about 95%, and more preferably at least about 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% of the nucleotide bases, as measured by any well-known algorithm of sequence identity, such as FASTA, BLAST or Gap, as discussed below. A nucleic acid molecule having substantial identity to a reference nucleic acid molecule may, in certain instances, encode a polypeptide having the same or substantially similar amino acid sequence as the polypeptide encoded by the reference nucleic acid molecule.

[0100] As applied to polypeptides, the term "substantial similarity" or "substantially similar" means that two peptide sequences, when optimally aligned, such as by the programs GAP or BESTFIT using default gap weights, share at least 95% sequence identity, even more preferably at least 98% or 99% sequence identity. Preferably, residue positions which are not identical differ by conservative amino acid substitutions. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which an amino acid residue is substituted by another amino acid residue having a side chain (R group) with similar chemical properties (e.g., charge or hydrophobicity). In general, a conservative amino acid substitution will not substantially change the functional properties of a protein. In cases where two or more amino acid sequences differ from each other by conservative substitutions, the percent sequence identity or degree of similarity may be adjusted upwards to correct for the conservative nature of the substitution. Means for making

this adjustment are well-known to those of skill in the art. See, e.g., Pearson (1994) *Methods Mol. Biol.* 24: 307-331, herein incorporated by reference. Examples of groups of amino acids that have side chains with similar chemical properties include (1) aliphatic side chains: glycine, alanine, valine, leucine and isoleucine; (2) aliphatic-hydroxyl side chains: serine and threonine; (3) amide-containing side chains: asparagine and glutamine; (4) aromatic side chains: phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan; (5) basic side chains: lysine, arginine, and histidine; (6) acidic side chains: aspartate and glutamate, and (7) sulfur-containing side chains are cysteine and methionine. Preferred conservative amino acids substitution groups are: valine-leucine-isoleucine, phenylalanine-tyrosine, lysine-arginine, alanine-valine, glutamate-aspartate, and asparagine-glutamine. Alternatively, a conservative replacement is any change having a positive value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix disclosed in Gonnet *et al.* (1992) *Science* 256: 1443-1445, herein incorporated by reference. A "moderately conservative" replacement is any change having a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix.

[0101] Sequence similarity for polypeptides, which is also referred to as sequence identity, is typically measured using sequence analysis software. Protein analysis software matches similar sequences using measures of similarity assigned to various substitutions, deletions and other modifications, including conservative amino acid substitutions. For instance, GCG software contains programs such as Gap and Bestfit which can be used with default parameters to determine sequence homology or sequence identity between closely related polypeptides, such as homologous polypeptides from different species of organisms or between a wild type protein and a mutein thereof. See, e.g., GCG Version 6.1. Polypeptide sequences also can be compared using FASTA using default or recommended parameters, a program in GCG Version 6.1. FASTA (e.g., FASTA2 and FASTA3) provides alignments and percent sequence identity of the regions of the best overlap between the query and search sequences (Pearson (2000) *supra*). Another preferred algorithm when comparing a sequence of the invention to a database containing a large number of sequences from different organisms is the computer program BLAST, especially BLASTP or TBLASTN, using default parameters. See, e.g., Altschul *et al.* (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 and Altschul *et al.* (1997) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 25:3389-402, each herein incorporated by reference.

pH-Dependent Binding

[0102] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies with pH-dependent binding characteristics. For example, an anti-IL-25 antibody of the present invention may exhibit reduced binding to IL-25 at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH. Alternatively, anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention may exhibit enhanced binding to IL-25 at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH. The expression "acidic pH" includes pH values less than about 6.2, e.g., about 6.0, 5.95, 5.9, 5.85, 5.8, 5.75, 5.7, 5.65, 5.6, 5.55, 5.5, 5.45, 5.4, 5.35, 5.3, 5.25, 5.2, 5.15, 5.1, 5.05,

5.0, or less. As used herein, the expression "neutral pH" means a pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4. The expression "neutral pH" includes pH values of about 7.0, 7.05, 7.1, 7.15, 7.2, 7.25, 7.3, 7.35, and 7.4.

[0103] In certain instances, "reduced binding to IL-25 at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH" is expressed in terms of a ratio of the K_D value of the antibody binding to IL-25 at acidic pH to the K_D value of the antibody binding to IL-25 at neutral pH (or vice versa). For example, an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof may be regarded as exhibiting "reduced binding to IL-25 at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH" for purposes of the present invention if the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof exhibits an acidic/neutral K_D ratio of about 3.0 or greater. In certain exemplary embodiments, the acidic/neutral K_D ratio for an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the present invention can be about 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0, 10.5, 11.0, 11.5, 12.0, 12.5, 13.0, 13.5, 14.0, 14.5, 15.0, 20.0, 25.0, 30.0, 40.0, 50.0, 60.0, 70.0, 100.0 or greater.

[0104] Antibodies with pH-dependent binding characteristics may be obtained, *e.g.*, by screening a population of antibodies for reduced (or enhanced) binding to a particular antigen at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH. Additionally, modifications of the antigen-binding domain at the amino acid level may yield antibodies with pH-dependent characteristics. For example, by substituting one or more amino acids of an antigen-binding domain (*e.g.*, within a CDR) with a histidine residue, an antibody with reduced antigen-binding at acidic pH relative to neutral pH may be obtained.

Anti-IL-25 Antibodies Comprising Fc Variants

[0105] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, anti-IL-25 antibodies are provided comprising an Fc domain comprising one or more mutations which enhance or diminish antibody binding to the FcRn receptor, *e.g.*, at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH. For example, the present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies comprising a mutation in the C_H2 or a C_H3 region of the Fc domain, wherein the mutation(s) increases the affinity of the Fc domain to FcRn in an acidic environment (*e.g.*, in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0). Such mutations may result in an increase in serum half-life of the antibody when administered to an animal. Non-limiting examples of such Fc modifications include, *e.g.*, a modification at position 250 (*e.g.*, E or Q); 250 and 428 (*e.g.*, L or F); 252 (*e.g.*, L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (*e.g.*, S or T), and 256 (*e.g.*, S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (*e.g.*, H/L/R/S/P/Q or K) and/or 434 (*e.g.*, H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (*e.g.*, 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (*e.g.*, M428L) and 434S (*e.g.*, N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (*e.g.*, V259I), and 308F (*e.g.*, V308F) modification; a 433K (*e.g.*, H433K) and a 434 (*e.g.*, 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (*e.g.*, 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and

428L modification (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P).

[0106] For example, the present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies comprising an Fc domain comprising one or more pairs or groups of mutations selected from the group consisting of: 250Q and 248L (e.g., T250Q and M248L); 252Y, 254T and 256E (e.g., M252Y, S254T and T256E); 428L and 434S (e.g., M428L and N434S); and 433K and 434F (e.g., H433K and N434F). All possible combinations of the foregoing Fc domain mutations, and other mutations within the antibody variable domains disclosed herein, are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

Biological Characteristics of the Antibodies

[0107] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 120 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C. According to certain embodiments, the invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 100 pM, less than about 90 pM, less than about 80 pM, less than about 70 pM, less than about 60 pM, less than about 50 pM, less than about 40 pM, less than about 30 pM, less than about 20 pM, less than about 18 pM, less than about 16 pM, less than about 14 pM, or less than about 12 pM.

[0108] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind human IL-25 with a dissociative half life ($t_{1/2}$) of greater than about 105 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C. According to certain embodiments, the invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 105 minutes, greater than about 150 minutes, greater than about 175 minutes, greater than about 200 minutes, greater than about 250 minutes, greater than about 300 minutes, greater than about 350 minutes, greater than about 400 minutes, greater than about 450 minutes, greater than about 500 minutes, greater than about 550 minutes, greater than about 600 minutes, greater than about 700 minutes, greater than about 800 minutes, greater than about 900 minutes, greater than about 1000 minutes, greater than about 1100 minutes, or greater than about 1200 minutes.

[0109] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that may or may not bind monkey IL-25, or mouse or rat IL-25. As used herein, an antibody "does not bind" a particular antigen (e.g., monkey, mouse or rat IL-25) if the antibody, when tested in an antigen binding assay such as surface plasmon resonance exhibits a K_D of greater than about 1000 nM, or does not exhibit any antigen binding, in such an assay. Another assay format that can be used to determine whether an antibody binds or does not bind a particular antigen, according to this aspect of the invention, is ELISA.

[0110] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that block human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about

2.0 nM. For example, as shown in Example 6 herein, HEK293 cells were engineered to stably express human IL-17RA (amino acids 1 through 866 of accession number NP_055154.3) and IL-17RB (amino acids 1 through 502 of accession number NP_061195.2). The cell line can also include a reporter element that allows for the detection of IL-25-mediated signaling through the IL-17RA/IL-17RB receptor (e.g., a luciferase reporter or other detectable reporter that is induced by IL-25 binding to its receptor). Using an assay format described in Example 6, or a substantially similar assay format, an IC₅₀ value can be calculated as the concentration of antibody required to reduce IL-25-mediated signaling to 50% of the maximal signal observed in the absence of antibody. Thus, according to certain embodiments, the invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that block human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC₅₀ of less than about 720 pM, less than about 500 pM, less than about 400 pM, less than about 300 pM, less than about 200 pM, less than about 100 pM, less than about 90 pM, less than about 80 pM, less than about 70 pM, less than about 60 pM, less than about 50 pM, less than about 40 pM, less than about 30 pM, less than about 20 pM, less than about 10 pM, or less than about 5 pM, as measured using the assay format described in Example 6 herein or a substantially similar assay.

[0111] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that block human IL-25 signaling in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) with an IC₅₀ of less than about 16 nM. For example, as shown in Example 7 herein, isolated PBMCs were incubated with IL-25 and various amounts of anti-IL-25 antibodies, and the level of IL-5 produced by the cells was detected to indicate the extent of IL-25-mediated signaling. Using the assay format described in Example 7, or a substantially similar assay format, an IC₅₀ value can be calculated as the concentration of antibody required to reduce IL-25-mediated signaling to 50% of the maximal signal observed in the absence of antibody. Thus, according to certain embodiments, the invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that block human IL-25 signaling in PBMCs with an IC₅₀ of less than about 5 nM, less than about 4 nM, less than about 3 nM, less than about 1 nM, less than about 900 pM, less than about 800 pM, less than about 700 pM, less than about 600 pM, less than about 500 pM, less than about 400 pM, less than about 300 pM, less than about 200 pM, less than about 100 pM, less than about 90 pM, less than about 80 pM, less than about 70 pM, less than about 60 pM, less than about 50 pM, less than about 40 pM, less than about 30 pM, or less than about 20 pM, as measured using the assay format described in Example 7 herein or a substantially similar assay. In one embodiment, the IL-25 antibodies of the invention block human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC₅₀ ranging from about 30 pM to about 150 pM.

[0112] A binding characteristic of an antibody of the invention (e.g., any of the binding characteristics mentioned herein above), when disclosed in term of being "measured by surface plasmon resonance" means that the relevant binding characteristic pertaining to the interaction

between the antibody and the antigen are measured using a surface plasmon resonance instrument (e.g., a Biacore® instrument, GE Healthcare) using standard Biacore assay conditions as illustrated in Example 2 herein, or substantially similar assay format. In certain embodiments, the binding parameters are measured at 25°C, while in other embodiments, the binding parameters are measured at 37°C.

[0113] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that reduce circulating IgE levels and/or IgE levels found in the lungs of a mammal that overexpresses IL-25, as shown in the model described in Example 8. Also described herein in Example 8 are anti-IL-25 antibodies that reduce goblet cell metaplasia in a mammal that overexpresses IL-25.

[0114] The present invention includes antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind IL-25, comprising an HCVR and/or an LCVR comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of the HCVR and/or LCVR amino acid sequences listed in Table 1.

[0115] The antibodies of the present invention may possess one or more of the aforementioned biological characteristics, or any combination thereof. The foregoing list of biological characteristics of the antibodies of the invention is not intended to be exhaustive. Other biological characteristics of the antibodies of the present invention will be evident to a person of ordinary skill in the art from a review of the present disclosure including the working Examples herein.

Epitope Mapping and Related Technologies

[0116] The epitope to which the antibodies of the present invention bind may consist of a single contiguous sequence of 3 or more (e.g., 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more) amino acids of an IL-25 protein. Alternatively, the epitope may consist of a plurality of non-contiguous amino acids (or amino acid sequences) of IL-25. In some embodiments, the epitope is located on or near a surface of IL-25 that interacts with an IL-25 receptor. In other embodiments, the epitope is located on or near a surface of IL-25 that does not interact with an IL-25 receptor, e.g., at a location on the surface of IL-25 at which an antibody, when bound to such an epitope, does not interfere with the interaction between IL-25 and its receptor.

[0117] Various techniques known to persons of ordinary skill in the art can be used to determine whether an antibody "interacts with one or more amino acids" within a polypeptide or protein. Exemplary techniques include, e.g., routine cross-blocking assay such as that described Antibodies, Harlow and Lane (Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harb., NY), alanine scanning mutational analysis, peptide blots analysis (Reineke, 2004, *Methods Mol Biol* 248:443-463), and peptide cleavage analysis. In addition, methods such as epitope excision, epitope extraction and chemical modification of antigens can be employed (Tomer, 2000, *Protein Science* 9:487-496). Another method that can be used to identify the amino acids

within a polypeptide with which an antibody interacts is hydrogen/deuterium exchange detected by mass spectrometry. In general terms, the hydrogen/deuterium exchange method involves deuterium-labeling the protein of interest, followed by binding the antibody to the deuterium-labeled protein. Next, the protein/antibody complex is transferred to water to allow hydrogen-deuterium exchange to occur at all residues except for the residues protected by the antibody (which remain deuterium-labeled). After dissociation of the antibody, the target protein is subjected to protease cleavage and mass spectrometry analysis, thereby revealing the deuterium-labeled residues which correspond to the specific amino acids with which the antibody interacts. See, e.g., Ehring (1999) *Analytical Biochemistry* 267(2):252-259; Engen and Smith (2001) *Anal. Chem.* 73:256A-265A.

[0118] The present invention includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind to the same epitope as any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein (e.g. antibodies comprising any of the amino acid sequences as set forth in Table 1 herein). Likewise, the present invention also includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that compete for binding to IL-25 with any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein (e.g. antibodies comprising any of the amino acid sequences as set forth in Table 1 herein).

[0119] One can easily determine whether an antibody binds to the same epitope as, or competes for binding with, a reference anti-IL-25 antibody by using routine methods known in the art and exemplified herein. For example, to determine if a test antibody binds to the same epitope as a reference anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to an IL-25 protein. Next, the ability of a test antibody to bind to the IL-25 molecule is assessed. If the test antibody is able to bind to IL-25 following saturation binding with the reference anti-IL-25 antibody, it can be concluded that the test antibody binds to a different epitope than the reference anti-IL-25 antibody. On the other hand, if the test antibody is not able to bind to the IL-25 molecule following saturation binding with the reference anti-IL-25 antibody, then the test antibody may bind to the same epitope as the epitope bound by the reference anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention. Additional routine experimentation (e.g., peptide mutation and binding analyses) can then be carried out to confirm whether the observed lack of binding of the test antibody is in fact due to binding to the same epitope as the reference antibody or if steric blocking (or another phenomenon) is responsible for the lack of observed binding. Experiments of this sort can be performed using ELISA, RIA, Biacore, flow cytometry or any other quantitative or qualitative antibody-binding assay available in the art. In accordance with certain embodiments of the present invention, two antibodies bind to the same (or overlapping) epitope if, e.g., a 1-, 5-, 10-, 20- or 100-fold excess of one antibody inhibits binding of the other by at least 50% but preferably 75%, 90% or even 99% as measured in a competitive binding assay (see, e.g., Junghans et al., *Cancer Res.* 1990:50:1495-1502). Alternatively, two antibodies are deemed to bind to the same epitope if essentially all amino

acid mutations in the antigen that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other. Two antibodies are deemed to have "overlapping epitopes" if only a subset of the amino acid mutations that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other.

[0120] To determine if an antibody competes for binding (or cross-competes for binding) with a reference anti-IL-25 antibody, the above-described binding methodology is performed in two orientations: In a first orientation, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to an IL-25 protein under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the test antibody to the IL-25 molecule. In a second orientation, the test antibody is allowed to bind to an IL-25 molecule under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the reference antibody to the IL-25 molecule. If, in both orientations, only the first (saturating) antibody is capable of binding to the IL-25 molecule, then it is concluded that the test antibody and the reference antibody compete for binding to IL-25 (see, e.g., the assay format described in Example 4 herein, in which IL-25 protein is captured onto sensor tips and the IL-25-coated sensor tips are treated with a reference antibody [mAb-1] and a test anti-IL-25 antibody [mAb-2] sequentially and in both binding orders). As will be appreciated by a person of ordinary skill in the art, an antibody that competes for binding with a reference antibody may not necessarily bind to the same epitope as the reference antibody, but may sterically block binding of the reference antibody by binding an overlapping or adjacent epitope.

Preparation of Human Antibodies

[0121] The anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention can be fully human but non-naturally occurring, antibodies. Methods for generating monoclonal antibodies, including fully human monoclonal antibodies are known in the art. Any such known methods can be used in the context of the present invention to make human antibodies that specifically bind to human IL-25.

[0122] Using VELOCIMMUNE® technology (see, for example, US 6,596,541, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, VELOCIMMUNE®) or any other known method for generating monoclonal antibodies, high affinity chimeric antibodies to an allergen are initially isolated having a human variable region and a mouse constant region. The VELOCIMMUNE® technology involves generation of a transgenic mouse having a genome comprising human heavy and light chain variable regions operably linked to endogenous mouse constant region loci such that the mouse produces an antibody comprising a human variable region and a mouse constant region in response to antigenic stimulation. The DNA encoding the variable regions of the heavy and light chains of the antibody are isolated and operably linked to DNA encoding the human heavy and light chain constant regions. The DNA is then expressed in a cell capable of expressing the fully human antibody.

[0123] Generally, a VELOCIMMUNE® mouse is challenged with the antigen of interest, and lymphatic cells (such as B-cells) are recovered from the mice that express antibodies. The lymphatic cells may be fused with a myeloma cell line to prepare immortal hybridoma cell lines, and such hybridoma cell lines are screened and selected to identify hybridoma cell lines that produce antibodies specific to the antigen of interest. DNA encoding the variable regions of the heavy chain and light chain may be isolated and linked to desirable isotypic constant regions of the heavy chain and light chain. Such an antibody protein may be produced in a cell, such as a CHO cell. Alternatively, DNA encoding the antigen-specific chimeric antibodies or the variable domains of the light and heavy chains may be isolated directly from antigen-specific lymphocytes.

[0124] As described in the experimental section below, the high affinity chimeric antibodies, which are isolated having a human variable region and a mouse constant region, are characterized and selected for desirable characteristics, including affinity, selectivity, epitope, etc. The mouse constant regions are then replaced with a desired human constant region to generate the fully human antibody of the invention, for example wild-type or modified IgG1 or IgG4. While the constant region selected may vary according to specific use, high affinity antigen-binding and target specificity characteristics reside in the variable region.

[0125] In general, the antibodies of the instant invention possess very high affinities, typically possessing K_D of from about 10^{-12} through about 10^{-9} M, when measured by binding to antigen either immobilized on solid phase or in solution phase.

Bioequivalents

[0126] The anti-IL-25 antibodies and antibody fragments of the present invention encompass proteins having amino acid sequences that vary from those of the described antibodies but that retain the ability to bind human IL-25. Such variant antibodies and antibody fragments comprise one or more additions, deletions, or substitutions of amino acids when compared to parent sequence, but exhibit biological activity that is essentially equivalent to that of the described antibodies. Likewise, the anti-IL-25 antibody-encoding DNA sequences of the present invention encompass sequences that comprise one or more additions, deletions, or substitutions of nucleotides when compared to the disclosed sequence, but that encode an anti-IL-25 antibody or antibody fragment that is essentially bioequivalent to an anti-IL-25 antibody or antibody fragment of the invention. Examples of such variant amino acid and DNA sequences are discussed above.

[0127] Two antigen-binding proteins, or antibodies, are considered bioequivalent if, for example, they are pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives whose rate and extent of absorption do not show a significant difference when administered at the same molar dose under similar experimental conditions, either single dose or multiple dose. Some

antibodies will be considered equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives if they are equivalent in the extent of their absorption but not in their rate of absorption and yet may be considered bioequivalent because such differences in the rate of absorption are intentional and are reflected in the labeling, are not essential to the attainment of effective body drug concentrations on, e.g., chronic use, and are considered medically insignificant for the particular drug product studied.

[0128] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if there are no clinically meaningful differences in their safety, purity, and potency.

[0129] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if a patient can be switched one or more times between the reference product and the biological product without an expected increase in the risk of adverse effects, including a clinically significant change in immunogenicity, or diminished effectiveness, as compared to continued therapy without such switching.

[0130] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if they both act by a common mechanism or mechanisms of action for the condition or conditions of use, to the extent that such mechanisms are known.

[0131] Bioequivalence may be demonstrated by in vivo and in vitro methods. Bioequivalence measures include, e.g., (a) an in vivo test in humans or other mammals, in which the concentration of the antibody or its metabolites is measured in blood, plasma, serum, or other biological fluid as a function of time; (b) an in vitro test that has been correlated with and is reasonably predictive of human in vivo bioavailability data; (c) an in vivo test in humans or other mammals in which the appropriate acute pharmacological effect of the antibody (or its target) is measured as a function of time; and (d) in a well-controlled clinical trial that establishes safety, efficacy, or bioavailability or bioequivalence of an antibody.

[0132] Bioequivalent variants of anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention may be constructed by, for example, making various substitutions of residues or sequences or deleting terminal or internal residues or sequences not needed for biological activity. For example, cysteine residues not essential for biological activity can be deleted or replaced with other amino acids to prevent formation of unnecessary or incorrect intramolecular disulfide bridges upon renaturation. In other contexts, bioequivalent antibodies may include anti-IL-25 antibody variants comprising amino acid changes which modify the glycosylation characteristics of the antibodies, e.g., mutations which eliminate or remove glycosylation.

Species Selectivity and Species Cross-Reactivity

[0133] The present invention, according to certain embodiments, provides anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind to human IL-25 but not to IL-25 from other species. The present invention also includes anti-IL-25 antibodies that bind to human IL-25 and to IL-25 from one or more non-

human species. For example, the anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention may bind to human IL-25 and may bind or not bind, as the case may be, to one or more of mouse, rat, guinea pig, hamster, gerbil, pig, cat, dog, rabbit, goat, sheep, cow, horse, camel, cynomologous, marmoset, rhesus or chimpanzee IL-25. According to certain exemplary embodiments of the present invention, anti-IL-25 antibodies are provided which specifically bind human IL-25 and cynomolgus monkey (e.g., *Macaca fascicularis*) IL-25. Other anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bind human IL-25 but do not bind, or bind only weakly, to cynomolgus monkey IL-25.

Multispecific Antibodies

[0134] The antibodies of the present invention may be monospecific or multispecific (e.g., bispecific). Multispecific antibodies may be specific for different epitopes of one target polypeptide or may contain antigen-binding domains specific for more than one target polypeptide. See, e.g., Tutt et al., 1991, J. Immunol. 147:60-69; Kufer *et al.*, 2004, Trends Biotechnol. 22:238-244. The anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention can be linked to or co-expressed with another functional molecule, e.g., another peptide or protein. For example, an antibody or fragment thereof can be functionally linked (e.g., by chemical coupling, genetic fusion, noncovalent association or otherwise) to one or more other molecular entities, such as another antibody or antibody fragment to produce a bi-specific or a multispecific antibody with a second binding specificity.

[0135] The present invention includes bispecific antibodies wherein one arm of an immunoglobulin binds human IL-25, and the other arm of the immunoglobulin is specific for a second antigen. The IL-25-binding arm can comprise any of the HCVR/LCVR or CDR amino acid sequences as set forth in Table 1 herein.

[0136] An exemplary bispecific antibody format that can be used in the context of the present invention involves the use of a first immunoglobulin (Ig) C_H3 domain and a second Ig C_H3 domain, wherein the first and second Ig C_H3 domains differ from one another by at least one amino acid, and wherein at least one amino acid difference reduces binding of the bispecific antibody to Protein A as compared to a bi-specific antibody lacking the amino acid difference. In one embodiment, the first Ig C_H3 domain binds Protein A and the second Ig C_H3 domain contains a mutation that reduces or abolishes Protein A binding such as an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). The second C_H3 may further comprise a Y96F modification (by IMGT; Y436F by EU). Further modifications that may be found within the second C_H3 include: D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (by IMGT; D356E, L358M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG1 antibodies; N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT; N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG2 antibodies; and Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (by IMGT; Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG4 antibodies. Variations on the bispecific

antibody format described above are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

[0137] Other exemplary bispecific formats that can be used in the context of the present invention include, without limitation, *e.g.*, scFv-based or diabody bispecific formats, IgG-scFv fusions, dual variable domain (DVD)-Ig, Quadroma, knobs-into-holes, common light chain (*e.g.*, common light chain with knobs-into-holes, etc.), CrossMab, CrossFab, (SEED)body, leucine zipper, Duobody, IgG1/IgG2, dual acting Fab (DAF)-IgG, and Mab² bispecific formats (*see, e.g.*, Klein *et al.* 2012, mAbs 4:6, 1-11, and references cited therein, for a review of the foregoing formats). Bispecific antibodies can also be constructed using peptide/nucleic acid conjugation, *e.g.*, wherein unnatural amino acids with orthogonal chemical reactivity are used to generate site-specific antibody-oligonucleotide conjugates which then self-assemble into multimeric complexes with defined composition, valency and geometry. (*See, e.g.*, Kazane *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* [Epub: Dec. 4, 2012]).

Therapeutic Formulation and Administration

[0138] The invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the anti-IL-25 antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof of the present invention. The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are formulated with suitable carriers, excipients, and other agents that provide improved transfer, delivery, tolerance, and the like. A multitude of appropriate formulations can be found in the formulary known to all pharmaceutical chemists: Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, PA. These formulations include, for example, powders, pastes, ointments, jellies, waxes, oils, lipids, lipid (cationic or anionic) containing vesicles (such as LIPOFECTIN™, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA), DNA conjugates, anhydrous absorption pastes, oil-in-water and water-in-oil emulsions, emulsions carbowax (polyethylene glycols of various molecular weights), semi-solid gels, and semi-solid mixtures containing carbowax. *See also* Powell *et al.* "Compendium of excipients for parenteral formulations" PDA (1998) J Pharm Sci Technol 52:238-311.

[0139] The dose of antibody administered to a patient may vary depending upon the age and the size of the patient, target disease, conditions, route of administration, and the like. The preferred dose is typically calculated according to body weight or body surface area. In an adult patient, it may be advantageous to intravenously administer the antibody of the present invention normally at a single dose of about 0.01 to about 20 mg/kg body weight, more preferably about 0.02 to about 7, about 0.03 to about 5, or about 0.05 to about 3 mg/kg body weight. Depending on the severity of the condition, the frequency and the duration of the treatment can be adjusted. Effective dosages and schedules for administering anti-IL-25 antibodies may be determined empirically; for example, patient progress can be monitored by periodic assessment, and the dose adjusted accordingly. Moreover, interspecies scaling of dosages can be performed using well-known methods in the art (*e.g.*, Mordenti *et al.*, 1991,

Pharmaceut. Res. 8:1351).

[0140] Various delivery systems are known and can be used to administer the pharmaceutical composition of the invention, e.g., encapsulation in liposomes, microparticles, microcapsules, recombinant cells capable of expressing the mutant viruses, receptor mediated endocytosis (see, e.g., Wu et al., 1987, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:4429-4432). Methods of introduction include, but are not limited to, intradermal, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravenous, subcutaneous, intranasal, epidural, and oral routes. The composition may be administered by any convenient route, for example by infusion or bolus injection, by absorption through epithelial or mucocutaneous linings (e.g., oral mucosa, rectal and intestinal mucosa, etc.) and may be administered together with other biologically active agents. Administration can be systemic or local.

[0141] A pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can be delivered subcutaneously or intravenously with a standard needle and syringe. In addition, with respect to subcutaneous delivery, a pen delivery device readily has applications in delivering a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. Such a pen delivery device can be reusable or disposable. A reusable pen delivery device generally utilizes a replaceable cartridge that contains a pharmaceutical composition. Once all of the pharmaceutical composition within the cartridge has been administered and the cartridge is empty, the empty cartridge can readily be discarded and replaced with a new cartridge that contains the pharmaceutical composition. The pen delivery device can then be reused. In a disposable pen delivery device, there is no replaceable cartridge. Rather, the disposable pen delivery device comes prefilled with the pharmaceutical composition held in a reservoir within the device. Once the reservoir is emptied of the pharmaceutical composition, the entire device is discarded.

[0142] Numerous reusable pen and autoinjector delivery devices have applications in the subcutaneous delivery of a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. Examples include, but are not limited to AUTOPEN™ (Owen Mumford, Inc., Woodstock, UK), DISETRONIC™ pen (Disetronic Medical Systems, Bergdorf, Switzerland), HUMALOG MIX 75/25™ pen, HUMALOG™ pen, HUMALIN 70/30™ pen (Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, IN), NOVOPEN™ I, II and III (Novo Nordisk, Copenhagen, Denmark), NOVOPEN JUNIOR™ (Novo Nordisk, Copenhagen, Denmark), BD™ pen (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ), OPTIPEN™, OPTIPEN PRO™, OPTIPEN STARLET™, and OPTICLIK™ (sanofi-aventis, Frankfurt, Germany), to name only a few. Examples of disposable pen delivery devices having applications in subcutaneous delivery of a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention include, but are not limited to the SOLOSTAR™ pen (sanofi-aventis), the FLEXPEN™ (Novo Nordisk), and the KWIKPEN™ (Eli Lilly), the SURECLICK™ Autoinjector (Amgen, Thousand Oaks, CA), the PENLET™ (Haselmeier, Stuttgart, Germany), the EPIPEN (Dey, L.P.), and the HUMIRA™ Pen (Abbott Labs, Abbott Park IL), to name only a few.

[0143] In certain situations, the pharmaceutical composition can be delivered in a controlled release system. In one embodiment, a pump may be used (see Langer, *supra*; Sefton, 1987, CRC Crit. Ref. Biomed. Eng. 14:201). In another embodiment, polymeric materials can be used; see, Medical Applications of Controlled Release, Langer and Wise (eds.), 1974, CRC Pres., Boca Raton, Florida. In yet another embodiment, a controlled release system can be placed in proximity of the composition's target, thus requiring only a fraction of the systemic dose (see, *e.g.*, Goodson, 1984, in Medical Applications of Controlled Release, *supra*, vol. 2, pp. 115-138). Other controlled release systems are discussed in the review by Langer, 1990, Science 249:1527-1533.

[0144] The injectable preparations may include dosage forms for intravenous, subcutaneous, intracutaneous and intramuscular injections, drip infusions, etc. These injectable preparations may be prepared by methods publicly known. For example, the injectable preparations may be prepared, *e.g.*, by dissolving, suspending or emulsifying the antibody or its salt described above in a sterile aqueous medium or an oily medium conventionally used for injections. As the aqueous medium for injections, there are, for example, physiological saline, an isotonic solution containing glucose and other auxiliary agents, etc., which may be used in combination with an appropriate solubilizing agent such as an alcohol (*e.g.*, ethanol), a polyalcohol (*e.g.*, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol), a nonionic surfactant [*e.g.*, polysorbate 80, HCO-50 (polyoxyethylene (50 mol) adduct of hydrogenated castor oil)], etc. As the oily medium, there are employed, *e.g.*, sesame oil, soybean oil, etc., which may be used in combination with a solubilizing agent such as benzyl benzoate, benzyl alcohol, etc. The injection thus prepared is preferably filled in an appropriate ampoule.

[0145] Advantageously, the pharmaceutical compositions for oral or parenteral use described above are prepared into dosage forms in a unit dose suited to fit a dose of the active ingredients. Such dosage forms in a unit dose include, for example, tablets, pills, capsules, injections (ampoules), suppositories, etc. The amount of the aforesaid antibody contained is generally about 5 to about 500 mg per dosage form in a unit dose; especially in the form of injection, it is preferred that the aforesaid antibody is contained in about 5 to about 100 mg and in about 10 to about 250 mg for the other dosage forms.

Therapeutic Uses of the Antibodies

[0146] The present invention includes methods comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutic composition comprising an anti-IL-25 antibody. The therapeutic composition can comprise any of the anti-IL-25 antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof disclosed herein, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

[0147] The antibodies of the invention are useful, *inter alia*, for the treatment, prevention and/or amelioration of any disease or disorder associated with or mediated by IL-25 expression

or activity, or treatable by blocking the interaction between IL-25 and an IL-25 receptor, or otherwise inhibiting IL-25 activity and/or signaling.

[0148] The present invention includes methods of treating or preventing asthma by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof as disclosed elsewhere herein. As used herein, the term "asthma" includes, but is not limited to, allergic asthma, non-allergic asthma, severe refractory asthma, asthma exacerbations, viral induced asthma, or viral induced asthma exacerbations, steroid resistant asthma, steroid sensitive asthma, eosinophilic asthma or non-eosinophilic asthma, etc, and other related disorders characterized by airway inflammation or airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR). The term is also meant to include viral induced asthma exacerbation.

[0149] The present invention includes methods of treating or preventing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof as disclosed elsewhere herein. As used herein, the term "COPD" includes, but is not limited to, diseases and disorders characterized by a reduction in expiratory flow and slow forced emptying of the lungs that does not change markedly over several months. The methods according to this aspect of the present invention can be used to treat, *e.g.*, COPD associated with or caused by cigarette smoking (*e.g.*, long-term cigarette smoking), air pollution (*e.g.*, sulfur dioxide, second-hand smoke, etc.), occupational chemicals (*e.g.*, cadmium), allergy or AHR.

[0150] The present invention also includes methods of treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof as disclosed elsewhere herein. As used herein, the term "IBD" includes, but is not limited to, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, collagenous colitis, lymphocytic colitis, ischemic colitis, diversion colitis, Behcet's syndrome, infective colitis, indeterminate colitis, and other related disorders characterized by inflammation of the mucosal layer of the large intestine or colon.

[0151] The present invention also includes methods of treating or preventing atopic dermatitis (AD) by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof as disclosed elsewhere herein. As used herein, the term "AD" includes, but is not limited to, inflammatory skin diseases characterized by intense pruritus (*e.g.*, severe itch) and by scaly and dry eczematous lesions. The term "AD" includes AD caused by or associated with epidermal barrier dysfunction, allergy (*e.g.*, allergy to certain foods, pollen, mold, dust mite, animals, etc.), radiation exposure, and/or asthma. The methods according to this aspect of the present invention can be used to treat, *e.g.*, mild, moderate, moderate-to-severe, and severe forms of AD.

[0152] The present invention also includes methods of treating or preventing diseases and disorders such as Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis or EGPA (also known as

Churg-Strauss Syndrome), allergy, allergic rhinitis, allergic airway inflammation, food hypersensitivity, urticaria (including chronic idiopathic urticaria) eosinophilic pneumonia, eosinophilic esophagitis, hypereosinophilic syndrome, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, uveitis, cancer, and graft-versus-host-disease, by administering to a patient in need of such treatment an anti-IL-25 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof as disclosed elsewhere herein.

[0153] The present invention also provides methods for treating other inflammatory disorders, cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disease, pain, arthritis (*e.g.*, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, etc.), giant cell arteritis, vasculitis, general vascular disorders, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, multiple sclerosis, lupus, and sjogren's syndrome.

[0154] In the context of the methods of treatment described herein, the anti-IL-25 antibody may be administered as a monotherapy (*i.e.*, as the only therapeutic agent) or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents (examples of which are described elsewhere herein).

Combination Therapies and Formulations

[0155] The present invention includes compositions and therapeutic formulations comprising any of the anti-IL-25 antibodies described herein in combination with one or more additional therapeutically active components, and methods of treatment comprising administering such combinations to subjects in need thereof.

[0156] The anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention may be co-formulated with and/or administered in combination with one or more additional therapeutically active component(s) selected from the group consisting of, *e.g.*, an IL-4 or IL-4R antagonist, for example, an anti-IL-4, or an anti-IL-4R antibody, an IL-13 antagonist, such as, for example, an anti-IL-13 or an anti-IL-13R antibody, an IL-6 or an IL-6R antagonist, such as, for example, an anti-IL-6 or anti-IL-6R antibody (See for example US7,582,298), an anti-IL-1 antagonist, *e.g.* riloncept, a TNF antagonist, *e.g.* etanercept (ENBREL™), an IgE antagonist, and an IL-5, IL-8, IL-9, IL-17, IL-17Ra, IL-22, TSLP and IL-33 antagonist.

[0157] In the context of treating asthma and related conditions, the additional therapeutically active component may be selected from the group consisting of: long-acting beta2-agonists (LABA, *e.g.*, salmeterol or formoterol), inhaled corticosteroids (ICS, *e.g.*, fluticasone or budesonide), a combination comprising a LABA + an ICS (*e.g.*, fluticasone + salmeterol [*e.g.*, ADVAIR® (GlaxoSmithKline)]; or budesonide + formoterol [*e.g.*, SYMBICORT® (AstraZeneca)]), a systemic corticosteroid (*e.g.*, oral or intravenous), methylxanthine, nedocromil sodium, cromolyn sodium, an antagonist (*e.g.* an antibody) to any one or more of the following cytokines and/or their receptors: IL-4, IL-5, IL-8, IL-9, IL-13, IL-17, IL-33, TSLP and combinations thereof.

[0158] In the context of treating atopic dermatitis and related conditions, the additional therapeutically active component may be selected from the group consisting of: topical corticosteroids (TCS, e.g., hydrocortisone, betamethasone valerate, betamethasone dipropionate, diflucortolone valerate, hydrocortisone-17-butyrate, mometasone furoate, methylprednisolone aceponate, clobetasol propionate, halcinonide, clobetasone butyrate, and triamcinolone acetonide), tacrolimus, pimecrolimus, cyclosporine, azathioprine, methotrexate, cromolyn sodium, proteinase inhibitors, an antagonist (e.g. an antibody) to any one or more of the following cytokines and/or their receptors: IL-4, IL-5, IL-13, IL-17, IL-33, TSLP and combinations thereof. According to certain embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the anti-IL-25 antibody is administered to a subject in conjunction with a non-pharmaceutical therapy such as ultraviolet (UV) light therapy.

[0159] In the context of treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the additional therapeutically active component may be selected from a beta2 agonist, an anticholinergic agent, an IL-5 antibody (e.g. mepolizumab), or an IL-13 antibody (e.g. lebrukuzimab). For example, agents that may be used in combination with the antibodies of the invention to treat COPD may include any one or more of the following: indacaterol (a beta2 agonist), glycopyrronium (a muscarinic agent), tiotropium (an anticholinergic), aclidinium (an antimuscarinic agent), umeclidinium bromide (an anticholinergic), or vilanterol (a long acting beta2 agonist). Other agents that may be used in combination with an antibody of the invention to treat COPD include a phosphodiesterase inhibitor (e.g. theophylline, roflumilast, cilomilast), an endogenous opioid, or a beta-adrenergic antagonist (beta blockers).

[0160] In the context of treating vasculitis, in particular, Churg-Strauss Syndrome (CSS), the additional therapeutically active component may be selected from a steroid, corticosteroid and an immunosuppressant (e.g. cyclophosphamide).

[0161] In the context of treating allergies, the anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention may be used in conjunction with any palliative therapy used to treat an allergic response, or may be used with standard immunotherapy (SIT) to treat the allergic condition, or may be used to ameliorate at least one symptom associated with the allergic response. For example, the additional therapeutically active component may be selected from an antihistamine, a steroid, a corticosteroid, a decongestant, a leukotriene inhibitor, and a mast cell inhibitor. Other agents that may be used in conjunction with an anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention to treat an allergy may be an antagonist to any one or more of the following cytokines and/or their receptors: IL-1, IL-4, IL-5, IL-8, IL-9, IL-13, IL-17, TSLP, IL-33, or a TNF antagonist.

[0162] The anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention may also be administered and/or co-formulated in combination with antivirals, antibiotics, analgesics, oxygen, antioxidants, COX inhibitors, cardioprotectants, metal chelators, IFN-gamma, and/or NSAIDs.

[0163] The additional therapeutically active component(s), e.g., any of the agents listed above

or derivatives thereof, may be administered just prior to, concurrent with, or shortly after the administration of an anti-IL-25 antibody of the present invention; (for purposes of the present disclosure, such administration regimens are considered the administration of an anti-IL-25 antibody "in combination with" an additional therapeutically active component). The present invention includes pharmaceutical compositions in which an anti-IL-25 antibody of the present invention is co-formulated with one or more of the additional therapeutically active component(s) as described elsewhere herein.

Administration Regimens

[0164] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, multiple doses of an anti-IL-25 antibody (or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of an anti-IL-25 antibody and any of the additional therapeutically active agents mentioned herein) may be administered to a subject over a defined time course. The methods according to this aspect of the invention comprise sequentially administering to a subject multiple doses of an anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention. As used herein, "sequentially administering" means that each dose of anti-IL-25 antibody is administered to the subject at a different point in time, *e.g.*, on different days separated by a predetermined interval (*e.g.*, hours, days, weeks or months). The present invention includes methods which comprise sequentially administering to the patient a single initial dose of an anti-IL-25 antibody, followed by one or more secondary doses of the anti-IL-25 antibody, and optionally followed by one or more tertiary doses of the anti-IL-25 antibody.

[0165] The terms "initial dose," "secondary doses," and "tertiary doses," refer to the temporal sequence of administration of the anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention. Thus, the "initial dose" is the dose which is administered at the beginning of the treatment regimen (also referred to as the "baseline dose"); the "secondary doses" are the doses which are administered after the initial dose; and the "tertiary doses" are the doses which are administered after the secondary doses. The initial, secondary, and tertiary doses may all contain the same amount of anti-IL-25 antibody, but generally may differ from one another in terms of frequency of administration. In certain embodiments, however, the amount of anti-IL-25 antibody contained in the initial, secondary and/or tertiary doses varies from one another (*e.g.*, adjusted up or down as appropriate) during the course of treatment. In certain embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, or 5) doses are administered at the beginning of the treatment regimen as "loading doses" followed by subsequent doses that are administered on a less frequent basis (*e.g.*, "maintenance doses").

[0166] In certain exemplary embodiments of the present invention, each secondary and/or tertiary dose is administered 1 to 26 (*e.g.*, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 4, 4½, 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, 11½, 12, 12½, 13, 13½, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, 16½, 17, 17½, 18, 18½, 19, 19½, 20, 20½, 21, 21½, 22, 22½, 23, 23½, 24, 24½, 25, 25½, 26, 26½, or more) weeks

after the immediately preceding dose. The phrase "the immediately preceding dose," as used herein, means, in a sequence of multiple administrations, the dose of anti-IL-25 antibody, which is administered to a patient prior to the administration of the very next dose in the sequence with no intervening doses.

[0167] The methods according to this aspect of the invention may comprise administering to a patient any number of secondary and/or tertiary doses of an anti-IL-25 antibody. For example, in certain embodiments, only a single secondary dose is administered to the patient. In other embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or more) secondary doses are administered to the patient. Likewise, in certain embodiments, only a single tertiary dose is administered to the patient. In other embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or more) tertiary doses are administered to the patient. The administration regimen may be carried out indefinitely over the lifetime of a particular subject, or until such treatment is no longer therapeutically needed or advantageous.

[0168] In embodiments involving multiple secondary doses, each secondary dose may be administered at the same frequency as the other secondary doses. For example, each secondary dose may be administered to the patient 1 to 2 weeks or 1 to 2 months after the immediately preceding dose. Similarly, in embodiments involving multiple tertiary doses, each tertiary dose may be administered at the same frequency as the other tertiary doses. For example, each tertiary dose may be administered to the patient 2 to 12 weeks after the immediately preceding dose. In certain embodiments of the invention, the frequency at which the secondary and/or tertiary doses are administered to a patient can vary over the course of the treatment regimen. The frequency of administration may also be adjusted during the course of treatment by a physician depending on the needs of the individual patient following clinical examination.

[0169] The present invention includes administration regimens in which 2 to 6 loading doses are administered to a patient at a first frequency (*e.g.*, once a week, once every two weeks, once every three weeks, once a month, once every two months, etc.), followed by administration of two or more maintenance doses to the patient on a less frequent basis. For example, according to this aspect of the invention, if the loading doses are administered at a frequency of once a month, then the maintenance doses may be administered to the patient once every six weeks, once every two months, once every three months, etc.

Diagnostic Uses of the Antibodies

[0170] The anti-IL-25 antibodies of the present invention may also be used to detect and/or measure IL-25, or IL-25-expressing cells in a sample, *e.g.*, for diagnostic purposes. For example, an anti-IL-25 antibody, or fragment thereof, may be used to diagnose a condition or disease characterized by aberrant expression (*e.g.*, over-expression, under-expression, lack of

expression, etc.) of IL-25. Exemplary diagnostic assays for IL-25 may comprise, *e.g.*, contacting a sample, obtained from a patient, with an anti-IL-25 antibody of the invention, wherein the anti-IL-25 antibody is labeled with a detectable label or reporter molecule. Alternatively, an unlabeled anti-IL-25 antibody can be used in diagnostic applications in combination with a secondary antibody which is itself detectably labeled. The detectable label or reporter molecule can be a radioisotope, such as ^3H , ^{14}C , ^{32}P , ^{35}S , or ^{125}I ; a fluorescent or chemiluminescent moiety such as fluorescein isothiocyanate, or rhodamine; or an enzyme such as alkaline phosphatase, beta-galactosidase, horseradish peroxidase, or luciferase. Specific exemplary assays that can be used to detect or measure IL-25 in a sample include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS).

[0171] Samples that can be used in IL-25 diagnostic assays according to the present invention include any tissue or fluid sample obtainable from a patient which contains detectable quantities of IL-25 protein, or fragments thereof, under normal or pathological conditions. Generally, levels of IL-25 in a particular sample obtained from a healthy patient (*e.g.*, a patient not afflicted with a disease or condition associated with abnormal IL-25 levels or activity) will be measured to initially establish a baseline, or standard, level of IL-25. This baseline level of IL-25 can then be compared against the levels of IL-25 measured in samples obtained from individuals suspected of having a IL-25 related disease or condition.

EXAMPLES

[0172] The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure and description of how to make and use the methods and compositions of the invention, and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (*e.g.*, amounts, temperature, etc.) but some experimental errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, molecular weight is average molecular weight, temperature is in degrees Centigrade, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1. Generation of Anti-IL-25 Antibodies

[0173] Anti-IL-25 antibodies were obtained by immunizing a VELOCIMMUNE[®] mouse (*i.e.*, an engineered mouse comprising DNA encoding human immunoglobulin heavy and kappa light chain variable regions) with recombinant human IL-25 (R & D Systems, Catalog No. 1258). The antibody immune response was monitored by an IL-25-specific immunoassay. When a desired immune response was achieved splenocytes were harvested and fused with mouse myeloma cells to preserve their viability and form hybridoma cell lines. The hybridoma cell lines were

screened and selected to identify cell lines that produce IL-25-specific antibodies. Using this technique several anti-IL-25 chimeric antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies possessing human variable domains and mouse constant domains) were obtained. In addition, several fully human anti-IL-25 antibodies were isolated directly from antigen-positive B cells without fusion to myeloma cells, as described in US 2007/0280945A1.

[0174] Certain biological properties of the exemplary anti-IL-25 antibodies generated in accordance with the methods of this Example are described in detail in the Examples set forth below.

Example 2. Heavy and Light Chain Variable Region Amino Acid and Nucleic Acid Sequences

[0175] Table 1 sets forth the amino acid sequence identifiers of the heavy and light chain variable regions and CDRs of selected anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention. The corresponding nucleic acid sequence identifiers are set forth in Table 2.

Table 1: Amino Acid Sequence Identifiers

Antibody Designation	SEQ ID NOs:							
	HCVR	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3	LCVR	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3
H1M11009N	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
H2M10690N	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
H2M11008N	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
H4H10861P	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64
H4H10862P	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
H4H10863P	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96
H4H10864P	98	100	102	104	106	108	110	112
H4H10871P	114	116	118	120	122	124	126	128
H4H10876P	130	132	134	136	138	140	142	144
H4H10883P	146	148	150	152	154	156	158	160
H4H10897P	162	164	166	168	170	172	174	176
H4H10900P	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192
H4H10901P	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208
H4H10903P	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224
H4H10905P	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240
H4H10906P	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256
H4H10907P	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272

Table 2: Nucleic Acid Sequence Identifiers

Antibody Designation	SEQ ID NOs:							
	HCVR	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3	LCVR	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3
H1M11009N	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15
H2M10690N	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31
H2M11008N	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47
H4H10861P	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63
H4H10862P	65	67	69	71	73	75	77	79
H4H10863P	81	83	85	87	89	91	93	95
H4H10864P	97	99	101	103	105	107	109	111
H4H10871P	113	115	117	119	121	123	125	127
H4H10876P	129	131	133	135	137	139	141	143
H4H10883P	145	147	149	151	153	155	157	159
H4H10897P	161	163	165	167	169	171	173	175
H4H10900P	177	179	181	183	185	187	189	191
H4H10901P	193	195	197	199	201	203	205	207
H4H10903P	209	211	213	215	217	219	221	223
H4H10905P	225	227	229	231	233	235	237	239
H4H10906P	241	243	245	247	249	251	253	255
H4H10907P	257	259	261	263	265	267	269	271

[0176] Antibodies are typically referred to herein according to the following nomenclature: Fc prefix (e.g. "H1M," "H2M," "H4H," etc.), followed by a numerical identifier (e.g. "11009," "10690," "10861," etc.), followed by a "P" or "N" suffix, as shown in Tables 1 and 2. Thus, according to this nomenclature, an antibody may be referred to herein as, e.g., "H1M11009N," "H2M10690N," "H4H10861P," etc. The H1M, H2M and H4H prefixes on the antibody designations used herein indicate the particular Fc region isotype of the antibody. For example, an "H1M" antibody has a mouse IgG1 Fc, an "H2M" antibody has a mouse IgG2 Fc, and an "H4H" antibody has a human IgG4 Fc, (all variable regions are fully human as denoted by the first 'H' in the antibody designation). As will be appreciated by a person of ordinary skill in the art, an antibody having a particular Fc isotype can be converted to an antibody with a different Fc isotype (e.g., an antibody with a mouse IgG1 Fc can be converted to an antibody with a human IgG4, etc.), but in any event, the variable domains (including the CDRs) – which are indicated by the numerical identifiers shown in Tables 1 and 2 – will remain the same, and the binding properties are expected to be identical or substantially similar regardless of the nature

of the Fc domain.

Comparator Antibody Used in the Following Examples

[0177] A comparator anti-IL25 antibody was included in the following experiments for comparative purposes. In particular, "Comparator I" is an anti-IL-25 antibody with heavy and light chain variable domains having the amino acid sequences of the corresponding domains of "RH2.5_R71V," as set forth in US8,658,169.

Example 3. Surface Plasmon Resonance Derived Binding Affinities and Kinetic Constants of Human Monoclonal Anti-IL-25 Antibodies

[0178] Equilibrium dissociation constants (K_D values) for IL-25 binding to purified anti-IL-25 antibodies were determined using a real-time surface plasmon resonance biosensor assay on a Biacore 4000 instrument (GE Healthcare). The Biacore sensor surface was derivatized by amine coupling with either a polyclonal rabbit anti-mouse antibody (GE Healthcare, # BR-1008-38) or with a monoclonal mouse anti-human Fc antibody (GE Healthcare, # BR-1008-39) to capture anti-IL-25 antibodies expressed with different constant regions. All Biacore binding studies were performed in HBST running buffer (0.01M HEPES pH 7.4, 0.15M NaCl, 3mM EDTA, 0.05% v/v Surfactant P20). All the IL-25 reagents were expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (referred to herein as "IL-25-MMH"). Different concentrations of human IL-25-MMH (SEQ ID NO:273), monkey IL-25-MMH (SEQ ID NO:274), mouse IL-25-MMH (SEQ ID NO:275) and rat IL-25-MMH (SEQ ID NO:276), prepared in HBST running buffer (ranging from 100nM to 3.7nM, 3-fold dilutions), were injected over the anti-IL-25 antibody captured surface at a flow rate of 30 μ L/min. Association of all the IL-25-MMH reagents to each of the captured monoclonal antibodies was monitored for 4 minutes and their dissociation in HBST running buffer was monitored for 10 minutes. All the binding kinetics experiments were performed at either 25°C or 37°C as indicated in the Tables below. Kinetic association (k_a) and dissociation (k_d) rate constants were determined by fitting the real-time sensorgrams to a 1:1 binding model using Scrubber 2.0c curve fitting software. Binding dissociation equilibrium constants (K_D) and dissociative half-lives ($t_{1/2}$) were calculated from the kinetic rate constants as: K_D (M) = k_d / k_a and $t_{1/2}$ (min) = $(\ln 2) / (60 * k_d)$. Binding kinetic parameters for human, monkey, mouse and rat IL-25-MMH binding to anti-IL-25 antibodies at 25°C and 37°C are shown in Tables 3 through 10. ("NB" denotes no binding observed under the experimental conditions tested; "IC" denotes inconclusive binding due to non-specific background binding to anti-mFc surface).

Table 3: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Human IL-25 at 25°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Human IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	79 ± 0.44	43	1.74E+06	2.75E-05	1.58E-11	421
H4H10864P	136 ± 0.55	75	2.68E+06	4.51E-05	1.68E-11	256
H4H10901P	109 ± 0.61	62	2.28E+06	5.79E-05	2.54E-11	199
H4H10861P	83 ± 0.33	47	2.01E+06	2.34E-05	1.16E-11	493
H4H10862P	104 ± 0.61	56	1.88E+06	6.49E-05	3.44E-11	178
H4H10883P	99 ± 0.37	56	7.06E+05	1.00E-05	1.42E-11	1155
H4H10903P	96 ± 0.45	54	8.97E+05	1.73E-05	1.92E-11	670
H4H10907P	104 ± 0.26	40	7.36E+05	6.50E-05	8.83E-11	178
H4H10871P	94 ± 0.37	38	7.49E+05	6.38E-05	8.51E-11	181
H4H10897P	100 ± 2.61	39	6.23E+05	7.87E-05	1.26E-10	147
H4H10876P	127 ± 0.47	45	3.86E+05	4.78E-05	1.24E-10	242
H4H10905P	136 ± 0.48	49	4.78E+05	1.09E-04	2.28E-10	106
H4H10863P	96 ± 0.81	34	2.60E+05	7.25E-05	2.79E-10	159
H2aM11008N	111 ± 0.75	48	4.82E+05	2.10E-04	4.35E-10	55
H4H10906P	106 ± 0.30	61	1.64E+06	4.32E-05	2.64E-11	268
H1M11009N	96 ± 2.13	30	2.42E+05	3.04E-03	1.25E-08	4
H2aM10690N	159 ± 1.43	32	8.02E+04	2.90E-03	3.62E-08	4
Comparator 1	241 ± 0.62	79	9.27E+05	1.12E-04	1.20E-10	103

Table 4: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Human IL-25 at 37°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Human IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	92 ± 2.04	51	2.83E+06	9.91E-05	3.50E-11	117
H4H10864P	166 ± 2.68	94	3.73E+06	1.96E-04	5.26E-11	59
H4H10901P	121 ± 2.5	65	3.19E+06	2.08E-04	6.51E-11	56
H4H10861P	110 ± 2.49	63	2.91E+06	7.80E-05	2.68E-11	148
H4H10862P	134 ± 2.03	72	2.39E+06	2.10E-04	8.79E-11	55
H4H10883P	131 ± 3.8	74	1.58E+06	4.80E-05	3.04E-11	241

H4H10903P	111 ± 1.81	65	1.53E+06	7.75E-05	5.08E-11	149
H4H10907P	119 ± 1.72	47	1.19E+06	4.45E-05	3.75E-11	259
H4H10871P	126 ± 2.41	49	1.15E+06	3.18E-05	2.76E-11	363
H4H10897P	132 ± 2.4	48	1.04E+06	2.26E-04	2.18E-10	51
H4H10876P	170 ± 3.02	60	6.28E+05	5.93E-05	9.44E-11	195
H4H10905P	161 ± 2.46	55	8.09E+05	1.20E-04	1.49E-10	96
H4H10863P	130 ± 2.14	46	6.06E+05	7.78E-05	1.28E-10	149
H2aM11008N	130 ± 1.16	60	7.34E+05	7.93E-04	1.08E-09	15
H4H10906P	124 ± 2.05	72	2.90E+06	1.54E-04	5.29E-11	75
H1M11009N	103 ± 0.84	30	3.93E+05	8.29E-03	2.11E-08	1.4
H2aM10690N	196 ± 1.28	39	1.37E+05	8.44E-03	6.14E-08	1.4
Comparator 1	301 ± 8.01	99	1.36E+06	1.82E-04	1.34E-10	64

Table 5: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Monkey IL-25 at 25°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Monkey IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	78 ± 0.23	45	2.94E+06	1.18E-05	4.02E-12	980
H4H10864P	135 ± 0.85	78	3.68E+06	4.70E-05	1.28E-11	246
H4H10901P	108 ± 0.21	64	2.63E+06	3.06E-05	1.16E-11	377
H4H10861P	83 ± 0.18	48	3.26E+06	1.48E-05	4.54E-12	779
H4H10862P	104 ± 0.69	58	2.00E+06	5.10E-05	2.55E-11	226
H4H10883P	99 ± 0.30	58	1.04E+06	1.00E-05	9.65E-12	1155
H4H10903P	96 ± 0.27	57	1.15E+06	1.00E-05	8.71E-12	1155
H4H10907P	104 ± 0.34	43	1.39E+06	6.74E-05	4.85E-11	171
H4H10871P	94 ± 0.28	42	6.28E+05	6.06E-05	9.65E-11	191
H4H10897P	101 ± 0.47	42	1.13E+06	8.43E-05	7.49E-11	137
H4H10876P	126 ± 0.38	51	3.29E+05	7.18E-05	2.18E-10	161
H4H10905P	136 ± 0.45	54	4.17E+05	7.77E-05	1.86E-10	149
H4H10863P	96 ± 0.36	39	3.43E+05	6.83E-05	1.99E-10	169
H2aM11008N	109 ± 1.04	64	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
H4H10906P	106 ± 0.42	61	2.09E+06	2.95E-05	1.41E-11	391
H1M11009N	93 ± 0.38	17	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
H2aM10690N	156 ± 0.64	46	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
Comparator 1	267 ± 0.76	100	8.60E+05	7.52E-05	8.80E-11	154

*IC= denotes inconclusive binding due to non-specific background binding to anti-mFc surface

Table 6: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Monkey IL-25 at 37°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Monkey IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	86 ± 1.48	50	3.07E+06	7.49E-05	2.44E-11	154
H4H10864P	157 ± 2.66	94	4.35E+06	1.90E-04	4.36E-11	61
H4H10901P	114 ± 1.68	64	3.55E+06	1.65E-04	4.64E-11	70
H4H10861P	103 ± 1.86	61	3.03E+06	7.14E-05	2.36E-11	162
H4H10862P	127 ± 2.3	70	2.93E+06	1.72E-04	5.89E-11	67
H4H10883P	122 ± 2.21	72	1.75E+06	4.18E-05	2.39E-11	276
H4H10903P	105 ± 1.52	66	1.76E+06	6.59E-05	3.74E-11	175
H4H10907P	112 ± 1.68	50	1.51E+06	1.01E-04	6.71E-11	114
H4H10871P	118 ± 2.28	54	1.35E+06	7.40E-05	5.46E-11	156
H4H10897P	124 ± 1.98	49	1.22E+06	2.31E-04	1.89E-10	50
H4H10876P	162 ± 2.24	64	5.24E+05	5.45E-05	1.04E-10	212
H4H10905P	154 ± 1.5	59	6.68E+05	9.01E-05	1.35E-10	128
H4H10863P	122 ± 2.26	51	1.18E+06	8.07E-05	6.85E-11	143
H2aM11008N	127 ± 1	80	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
H4H10906P	118 ± 1.41	73	3.01E+06	1.30E-04	4.31E-11	89
H1M11009N	101 ± 0.94	23	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
H2aM10690N	193 ± 0.78	49	IC*	IC*	IC*	IC*
Comparator 1	335 ± 7.64	124	1.32E+06	6.24E-05	4.73E-11	185

*IC= denotes inconclusive binding due to non-specific background binding to anti-mFc surface

Table 7: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Mouse IL-25 at 25°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Mouse IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	78 ± 0.48	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10864P	135 ± 0.14	-1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10901P	108 ± 0.33	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10861P	82 ± 0.08	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*

H4H10862P	104 ± 0.08	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10883P	99 ± 0.17	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10903P	95 ± 0.16	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10907P	104 ± 0.15	10	1.96E+05	1.15E-02	5.87E-08	1.0
H4H10871P	94 ± 0.04	30	1.21E+05	1.11E-04	9.18E-10	104
H4H10897P	101 ± 0.06	20	1.48E+05	1.04E-03	7.05E-09	11
H4H10876P	125 ± 0.10	40	1.74E+05	9.89E-05	5.70E-10	117
H4H10905P	135 ± 0.23	43	1.24E+05	1.45E-04	1.17E-09	80
H4H10863P	95 ± 0.10	22	5.57E+04	1.49E-04	2.67E-09	78
H2aM11008N	108 ± 0.33	-1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10906P	106 ± 0.50	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H1M11009N	92 ± 0.25	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H2aM10690N	156 ± 0.23	17	3.88E+04	3.19E-03	8.23E-08	4
Comparator 1	271 ± 0.69	88	5.71E+05	1.17E-04	2.05E-10	99

*NB= denotes no binding observed under the experimental conditions tested

Table 8: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Mouse IL-25 at 37°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Mouse IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	84 ± 0.49	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10864P	154 ± 0.42	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10901P	111 ± 0.4	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10861P	99 ± 0.69	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10862P	123 ± 0.13	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10883P	117 ± 0.47	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10903P	102 ± 0.47	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10907P	109 ± 0.02	8	2.75E+05	3.76E-02	1.37E-07	0.3
H4H10871P	114 ± 0.88	41	3.22E+05	8.29E-05	2.58E-10	139
H4H10897P	121 ± 0.47	17	1.77E+05	6.41E-03	3.62E-08	1.8
H4H10876P	157 ± 0.58	51	3.69E+05	8.97E-05	2.43E-10	129
H4H10905P	151 ± 0.14	47	4.03E+05	1.78E-04	4.41E-10	65
H4H10863P	118 ± 1.04	37	1.34E+05	1.53E-04	1.14E-09	76
H2aM11008N	126 ± 0.89	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10906P	114 ± 1.18	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*

H1M11009N	100 ± 0.2	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H2aM10690N	192 ± 0.85	27	9.53E+04	7.78E-03	8.17E-08	1.5
Comparator 1	332 ± 8.16	111	1.01E+06	8.16E-05	8.08E-11	142

*NB= denotes no binding observed under the experimental conditions tested

Table 9: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Rat IL-25 at 25°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Rat IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	78 ± 0.06	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10864P	135 ± 0.50	-1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10901P	108 ± 0.15	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10861P	82 ± 0.34	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10862P	103 ± 0.46	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10883P	99 ± 0.30	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10903P	95 ± 0.43	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10907P	103 ± 0.4	10	2.20E+05	1.47E-02	6.69E-08	0.8
H4H10871P	94 ± 0.18	37	5.48E+05	7.23E-05	1.32E-10	160
H4H10897P	100 ± 0.24	23	3.33E+05	8.07E-04	2.42E-09	14
H4H10876P	125 ± 0.32	45	2.59E+05	8.81E-05	3.41E-10	131
H4H10905P	135 ± 0.24	45	1.67E+05	1.35E-04	8.10E-10	85
H4H10863P	95 ± 0.40	34	1.53E+05	1.64E-04	1.07E-09	70
H2aM11008N	107 ± 0.23	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10906P	106 ± 0.38	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H1M11009N	92 ± 0.26	-1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H2aM10690N	155 ± 0.26	18	9.18E+04	9.50E-03	1.03E-07	1.2
Comparator 1	266 ± 0.53	91	9.27E+05	9.55E-05	1.03E-10	121

*NB= denotes no binding observed under the experimental conditions tested

Table 10: Binding Kinetics Parameters of Anti-IL-25 Monoclonal Antibodies Binding to Rat IL-25 at 37°C

Antibody	Amount of Antibody Captured (RU)	100nM Rat IL-25-MMH Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H10900P	82 ± 0.55	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10864P	153 ± 0.52	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10901P	110 ± 0.53	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*

H4H10861P	97 ± 0.71	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10862P	121 ± 1.02	1	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10883P	116 ± 0.77	0	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10903P	100 ± 0.77	2	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10907P	107 ± 0.78	8	2.38E+05	2.04E-02	8.54E-08	0.6
H4H10871P	112 ± 0.54	45	9.37E+05	5.64E-05	6.02E-11	205
H4H10897P	118 ± 0.75	22	2.45E+05	6.01E-03	2.46E-08	1.9
H4H10876P	156 ± 1.22	53	4.50E+05	1.07E-04	2.38E-10	108
H4H10905P	148 ± 1.25	49	4.81E+05	1.81E-04	3.77E-10	64
H4H10863P	116 ± 0.75	41	4.74E+05	3.41E-04	7.20E-10	34
H2aM11008N	125 ± 0.2	3	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H4H10906P	113 ± 0.73	3	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H1M11009N	99 ± 0.5	3	NB*	NB*	NB*	NB*
H2aM10690N	191 ± 0.58	20	1.68E+05	1.93E-02	1.15E-07	0.6
Comparator 1	325 ± 8.52	109	1.59E+06	1.02E-04	6.42E-11	113

*NB= denotes no binding observed under the experimental conditions tested

[0179] At 25°C, the anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to human IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 11.6 pM to 36.2 nM, while Comparator 1 bound human IL-25 with a K_D value of 120pM (Table 3). At 37°C, the anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to human IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 26.8 pM to 61.4 nM, while Comparator 1 bound human IL-25 with a K_D value of 134pM (Table 4). At 25°C, 14 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to monkey IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 4.02 pM to 218 pM, while Comparator 1 bound monkey IL-25 with a K_D value of 88.0pM (Table 5). At 37°C, 14 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to monkey IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 23.6 pM to 189 pM, while Comparator 1 bound monkey IL-25 with a K_D value of 47.3pM (Table 6). Three antibodies of the invention did not demonstrate conclusive binding to monkey IL-25 at either 25°C or 37°C. At 25°C, 7 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to mouse IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 570 pM to 82.3 nM, while Comparator 1 bound mouse IL-25-MMH with a K_D value of 205 pM (Table 7). At 37°C, 7 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to mouse IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 243 pM to 137 nM, while Comparator 1 bound mouse IL-25-MMH with a K_D value of 80.8pM (Table 8). Ten antibodies of the invention did not demonstrate binding to mouse IL-25 at either 25°C or 37°C. At 25°C, 7 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to rat IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 132 pM to 103 nM, while Comparator 1 bound rat IL-25 with a K_D value of 103pM (Table 9). At 37°C, 7 out of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention bound to rat IL-25 with K_D values ranging from 60.2 pM to 115 nM, while Comparator 1 bound rat IL-25 with a K_D value of 64.2

pM (Table 10). Ten antibodies of the invention did not demonstrate binding to rat IL-25 at either 25°C or 37°C.

Example 4. Anti-IL-25 Antibody Cross-Competition

[0180] Binding competition between anti-IL-25 monoclonal antibodies was determined using a real time, label-free bio-layer interferometry assay on an Octet QK384 biosensor (Pall ForteBio Corp.).

[0181] The entire experiment was performed at 25°C in HBST kinetics buffer (0.01M HEPES pH7.4, 0.15M NaCl, 3mM EDTA, 0.05% v/v Surfactant P20, 0.1mg/ml BSA) with the plate shaking at the speed of 1000 rpm. To assess whether 2 antibodies were able to compete with one another for binding to their respective epitopes on the recombinant human IL-25 expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (hIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID NO:273), about ~0.5 to 0.7 nm of hIL-25-MMH was first captured onto anti-Penta-His antibody coated Octet biosensors (ForteBio Inc, # 18-5079) by submerging the biosensors for 5 minutes into wells containing a 4µg/mL solution of hIL-25-MMH. The antigen-captured biosensors were then saturated with the first anti-IL-25 monoclonal antibody (referred to herein as mAb-1) by dipping into wells containing 50 µg/mL solution of mAb-1 for 5 minutes. The biosensors were then subsequently dipped into wells containing a 50 µg/mL solution of a second anti-IL-25 monoclonal antibody (referred to herein as mAb-2). The biosensors were washed in HBST kinetics buffer in between every step of the experiment. The real-time binding response was monitored during the course of the experiment and the binding response at the end of every step was recorded. The response of mAb-2 binding to hIL-25-MMH pre-complexed with mAb-1 was compared and competitive/non-competitive behavior of different anti-IL-25 monoclonal antibodies was determined. In several instances, anti-IL-25 antibodies were unable to completely saturate the captured hIL-25-MMH surface, causing a certain amount of binding signal to be observed during self-competition. Therefore, the cross-competition matrix was generated by subtracting the self-competition signal from the specific mAb-2 binding and any binding signal less than 0 nm was recorded as 0 nm. Results are summarized in Figure 1. The key to the mAb identifiers and the antibodies to which they correspond and the binding responses that were observed for hIL-25-MMH binding to the anti-Penta-His sensor and for mAb-1 binding to the captured hIL-25-mmh are shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Antibody Identifiers Corresponding to the Antibodies Tested in the Cross-Competition Assay Depicted in Figure 1

mAb Identifier shown in Fig.1	Corresponding Antibody	hIL-25-MMH Captured (nm)	50ug/mL mAb-1 Binding (nm)
1	H4H10883P	0.58 ± 0.02	0.7 ± 0.04

2	H4H10900P	0.55 ± 0.03	0.68 ± 0.04
3	H4H10901P	0.53 ± 0.03	0.67 ± 0.04
4	H4H10903P	0.8 ± 0.03	1.03 ± 0.03
5	H4H10861P	0.67 ± 0.02	0.88 ± 0.03
6	H4H10862P	0.66 ± 0.02	0.83 ± 0.03
7	H2aM11008N	0.71 ± 0.02	0.81 ± 0.03
8	H4H10864P	0.67 ± 0.02	0.84 ± 0.04
9	H4H10906P	0.71 ± 0.03	0.88 ± 0.03
10	H4H10897P	0.57 ± 0.02	1.12 ± 0.06
11	H4H10907P	0.73 ± 0.03	1.74 ± 0.06
12	H1M11009N	0.69 ± 0.02	1.42 ± 0.05
13	H2aM10690N	0.79 ± 0.02	1.38 ± 0.04
14	H4H10863P	0.71 ± 0.03	1.13 ± 0.04
15	H4H10871P	0.65 ± 0.02	1.12 ± 0.04
16	H4H10876P	0.62 ± 0.02	1.07 ± 0.05
17	H4H10905P	0.77 ± 0.03	1.59 ± 0.05
18	Comparator 1	0.69 ± 0.02	1.49 ± 0.07

[0182] In Figure 1, light grey boxes with black font represent self-competition. Antibodies competing in both directions, independent of the order of binding are represented with black boxes and white font. No competition between antibodies suggestive of distinct binding epitopes is represented as white boxes with black font. Dark grey boxes with white font represent binding responses of isotype control antibodies and buffer alone.

[0183] This example shows that several of the antibodies of the invention cross-compete with one or more other antibodies of the invention for binding to IL-25; while certain antibodies of the invention (e.g., H1M11009N [12]) show little or no cross-competition with other antibodies tested).

Example 5. Anti-IL-25 Antibodies Block IL-25 Binding to IL-17RB

[0184] The ability of anti-IL-25 antibodies to block human IL-25 binding to one of its natural receptors, human IL-17RB, was measured in a competition sandwich ELISA.

[0185] The extracellular domain of human IL-17RB protein, expressed with a C-terminal human Fc tag (hIL17RB-hFc; R&D Systems, #1207-BR), was coated at 2 µg/mL on a 96-well microtiter plate in a PBS buffer overnight at 4°C. Nonspecific binding sites were subsequently blocked using a 0.5% (w/v) solution of BSA in PBS. A constant concentration of 2 nM of human IL-25 expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (hIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID NO:273) was added to serial dilutions of antibodies so that the final concentrations of antibodies ranged

from 0 to 200 nM. The antibody/hIL-25-MMH mixtures were incubated for 1 hour at room temperature (RT) before they were transferred to microtiter plates coated with hIL-17RB-hFc. After incubating for 1 hour at RT, the wells were then washed, and plate-bound hIL-25-MMH was detected with a horse-radish peroxidase conjugated anti-myc polyclonal antibody (Novus Biologicals, #NB600-341). Samples were developed with a TMB solution to produce a colorimetric reaction and then quenched with 1M sulfuric acid before measuring absorbance at 450nm on a Victor X5 plate reader. Data analysis was performed using a sigmoidal dose-response model within Prism™ software (GraphPad). The calculated IC₅₀ value, defined as the concentration of antibody required to block 50% of hIL-25-MMH binding to hIL-17RB-hFc, was used as an indicator of a blocking potency. The absorbance measured for the constant concentration of hIL-25-MMH alone is defined as 0% blocking and the absorbance measured for no added hIL-25-MMH is defined as 100% blocking. Percent blockade was calculated as the ratio of the reduction in signal observed in the presence of antibody relative to the difference between the signal with hIL-25-MMH alone and background (signal from HRP-conjugated secondary antibody alone) subtracted from 100% blocking as defined previously. The absorbance values of the wells containing the highest concentration for each antibody were used to determine the percent maximum blockade. IC₅₀ values and maximum percent blockade for each antibody tested are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Antibody Blockade of IL-25 Binding to IL-17RB

Antibody	Blocking 2 nM hIL-25-MMH binding to hIL-17RB-hFc, IC₅₀, (M)	% Maximum blocking of 200 nM antibody blocking 2 nM of hIL-25-MMH binding to hIL-17RB-hFc
H4H10900P	2.0E-10(*)	90
H4H10864P	2.6E-10(*)	88
H4H10901P	2.3E-10(*)	91
H4H10861P	2.0E-10(*)	92
H4H10862P	2.4E-10(*)	89
H4H10883P	2.0E-10(*)	93
H4H10903P	2.4E-10(*)	91
H4H10907P	5.5E-10(*)	87
H4H10871P	7.1E-10(*)	92
H4H10897P	3.2E-10(*)	94
H4H10876P	6.5E-10(*)	89
H4H10905P	5.3E-10(*)	86
H4H10863P	9.2E-10(*)	87
H2aM11008N	4.3E-10(*)	98

H1M11009N	Non-blocker	20
H4H10906P	1.4E-10(*)	89
H2aM10690N	3.1E-08	70
Comparator 1	2.5E-10(*)	90
hlgG4 isotype control	Non-blocker	-31
mlgG2a isotype control	Non-blocker	-45

(*) - Below theoretical bottom of the assay calculated as 1.0nM for this assay, where dimeric hIL-25MMH in solution was fixed at a concentration of 2nM.

[0186] Antibodies that had no effect on the signal of the hIL-25-MMH constant or showed a decrease in binding signal of 25% or less were defined as non-blockers. The theoretical assay bottom is 0.5 nM indicating that lower calculated IC₅₀ values may not represent quantitative protein-antibody site binding. For this reason, antibodies with calculated IC₅₀ values lower than 0.5 nM are reported as <5.0E-10 M in Table 12.

[0187] As shown in Table 12, sixteen of the 17 anti-IL-25 antibodies tested blocked 2 nM of hIL-25-MMH from binding to hIL-17RB-hFc with IC₅₀ values ranging from less than 0.5 nM to 31 nM and percent maximum blockade ranging from 70% to 98%. Comparator 1 blocked 90% of the binding of 2 nM hIL-25-MMH from binding to hIL-17RB-hFc with an IC₅₀ value of less than 0.5 nM. One antibody, H1M11009N, was identified as a non-blocker under these assay conditions.

Example 6. Anti-IL-25 Antibodies Block IL-25-Mediated Signaling in Cell Lines Engineered to Express IL-17RA and IL-17RB

[0188] A bioassay was developed to detect IL-25-mediated cell signaling and to measure the extent to which anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention block IL-25 signaling *in vitro*.

[0189] For this assay HEK293 cell lines were generated to stably express human IL-17RA (amino acids 1 through 866 of accession number NP_055154.3), IL-17RB (amino acids 1 through 502 of accession number NP_061195.2), and Act1 (amino acids 1 through 564 of accession number NP_001157753.1), along with a luciferase reporter [NFκB response element (5x)-luciferase-IRES-GFP]. The resulting stable cell line, referred to as HEK293/NFκB-luc/hIL17RA/hIL17RB/hAct1, was isolated and maintained in 10% DMEM containing 10% FBS, NEAA, penicillin/streptomycin, 500 µg/mL G418, 100 µg/mL hygromycin B, and 1 µg/mL puromycin.

[0190] Cells were seeded into 96-well assay plates at 10,000 cells/well in OPTIMEM supplemented with 0.1% FBS and then incubated at 37°C in 5% CO₂ overnight. The next day, to determine the dose response of IL-25, either human IL-25 expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc hexahistidine tag (hIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID NO:273), cynomolgus monkey IL-25 expressed

with a C-terminal myc-myc hexahistidine tag (MfIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID NO:274) or mouse IL-25 expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc hexahistidine tag (mIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID NO:275) were serially diluted at 1:3 (from 3nM to 0.0001nM) and added to cells. A control containing dilution buffer but no IL-25 was also added to one sample of cells. To measure inhibition, antibodies were serially diluted and added to the cells followed by addition of constant concentrations of IL-25 (5pM for both hIL-25-MMH, 12pM for MfIL-25-MMH and 10pM for mIL-25-MMH). The dilution series of the antibodies before adding to cells was at 1:3 starting at 100nM and ranging down to 0.002nM plus a control sample containing buffer alone without antibody. Luciferase activity was measured after 5.5 hours of incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂ followed by the addition of ONE-GLO® reagent (Promega, # E6051) using a Victor X (Perkin Elmer) plate reader. The results were analyzed using nonlinear regression (4-parameter logistics) with Prism 5 software (GraphPad) to obtain EC₅₀ and IC₅₀ values. Results are shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Inhibition of IL-25-Mediated Signaling

IL25 Species	Human		Monkey	Mouse
EC₅₀ [M]	2.9E-12	1.6E-11	1.9E-11	8.4E-12
Constant IL25 used in assay	5pM		12pM	10pM
Antibodies	IC₅₀ [M]	IC₅₀ [M]	IC₅₀ [M]	IC₅₀ [M]
H2aM10690N	Blocks at high concentration			
H4H10861P	6.3E-11		3.7E-11	
H4H10862P	8.4E-11		3.3E-11	
H4H10863P	6.9E-10		3.5E-10	4.3E-09
H4H10864P	3.6E-11		2.6E-11	
H4H10871P	3.2E-10		8.8E-11	6.7E-10
H4H10876P	4.6E-10		2.1E-10	8.8E-10
H4H10883P	1.4E-10		3.9E-11	
H4H10897P	4.6E-10		4.0E-10	1.5E-08
H4H10900P	3.1E-11		2.2E-11	
H4H10901P	5.6E-11		3.8E-11	
H4H10903P	1.4E-10		6.0E-11	
H4H10905P	5.1E-10		2.1E-10	6.8E-10
H4H10906P		2.7E-11	4.7E-11	
H4H10907P	2.2E-10		1.4E-10	NB
H2aM11008N	1.8E-09			
H1M11009N	Blocks at high concentration			

Comparator 1	7.2E-10	2.2E-10	3.8E-10	6.1E-10
Isotype control 1	NB			
Isotype control 2	NB	NB	NB	NB

NB= non-blocker

[0191] As shown in Table 13, hIL-25-MMH activated with EC₅₀ values of 2.9 pM and 16 pM in two separate assay days; mIL-25-MMH activated with an EC₅₀ value of 19 pM; and mL-25-MMH activated with an EC₅₀ value of 8.4 pM.

[0192] With regard to blocking, 15 of the 17 antibodies of the invention completely blocked the stimulation of the HEK293/NFκB-luc/hIL17RA/hIL17RB/hAct1 cells by 5 pM hIL-25-MMH with IC₅₀ values ranging from 27 pM to 1.8 nM, while Comparator 1 completely blocked with IC₅₀ values of 720 pM and 220 pM in two separate assay days. Two antibodies tested, H2aM10690N and H1M11009N, partially inhibited 5 pM hIL-25-MMH at high antibody concentrations. All 14 antibodies of the invention tested completely blocked the stimulation of the HEK293/NFκB-luc/hIL17RA/hIL17RB/hAct1 cells by 12 pM mIL-25-MMH with IC₅₀ values ranging from 22 pM to 400 pM, while Comparator 1 completely blocked with an IC₅₀ value of 380pM. Five of 6 antibodies of the invention tested completely blocked the stimulation of the HEK293/NFκB-luc/hIL17RA/hIL17RB/hAct1 cells by 10 pM mL-25-MMH with IC₅₀ values ranging from 670 pM to 15 nM, while Comparator 1 completely blocked with an IC₅₀ value of 610 pM. Isotype control antibodies were also tested and displayed no inhibition in any of the assays.

Example 7. Anti-IL-25 Antibodies Block IL-25-Mediated Signaling in a Primary Cell-Based Assay

[0193] The blocking ability of anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention was further assessed using a primary cell based assay using peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) (see Rickel *et al.*, *The Journal of Immunology*, 2008, vol. 181 (6) pp. 4299-4310).

[0194] PBMCs were purified from fresh whole blood from two different donors by density gradient centrifugation. Briefly, K2 EDTA whole blood was diluted two-fold in RPMI 1640, carefully layered over Ficoll-Paque (GE Healthcare, #17-1440-03) and centrifuged for 20 minutes. The interphase layer containing the PBMCs was aspirated, transferred to a new tube and washed twice with PBS. The isolated PBMCs were plated in 75cm² flasks at a final concentration of 2 x10⁶ cells/mL in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% FBS, 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100ng/mL of recombinant thymic stromal lymphoprotein (TSLP; R&D Systems, #1398-TS/CF). After 24 hours, cells were harvested, washed in RPMI 1640, and plated in round-bottom 96-wells plates at a final concentration of 3 x10⁵ cells/mL in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% FBS, 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100μg/mL streptomycin. Cells were then incubated with 50ng/mL of TSLP, 10ng/mL of human IL-2 (IL-2;

R&D Systems, #202-IL/CF), 1nM of human IL-25 expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (hIL-25-MMH; SEQ ID:273) and serial dilutions of antibodies from 200nM to 48.8pM at a final volume was 200μL per well. Each sample was tested in triplicate. When antibodies were present, they were added to the cells after 30 minutes of pre-incubation with IL-25.

[0195] The cells were then incubated for 72 hours at 37°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO₂. IL-5 levels in the culture supernatant were subsequently measured using a commercially available ELISA (R&D Systems, #DY205). For the ELISA, 96-well flat-bottom plates were coated with the capture antibody, according to the manufacturer's instructions. After washing and blocking, 100μL of undiluted culture supernatant was added to the plates and incubated for 2 hour. Subsequent washes and detection were done following the manufacturer's instructions. Results are summarized in Tables 14 and 15.

Table 14: hIL-25-MMH induction of IL-5 release from human PBMC.

[hIL-25-MMH]	IL-5 released from Donor 727058-059 (ng/mL)		IL-5 released from Donor 727060 (ng/mL)	
	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean	Standard deviation
(M)				
1E-09	0.071	0.021	0.599	0.088
0	0.014	0.007	0.083	0.022

Table 15: Blockade of hIL-25-MMH induced IL-5 release from human PBMC by anti-IL-25 antibodies

Antibody	IC ₅₀ values of antibodies for blocking IL-5 release from Donor #727058-059 (M)	IC ₅₀ values of antibodies for blocking IL-5 release from Donor #727060 (M)
H4H10900P	3.921E-11	5.781e-010
H4H10864P	1.149E-09	6.771e-010
H4H10871P	1.178E-10	6.363e-010
H4H10876P	1.720E-10	1.296e-010
Comparator 1	5.685E-09	1.590e-008

[0196] As shown in Table 14, human IL-25-MMH at 1nM, in the presence of TSLP and IL-2, induced the release of 0.071ng/mL of IL-5 from human total PBMC obtained from donor #727058-059 and 0.599ng/mL of IL-5 from human total PBMC obtained from donor #727060.

[0197] As shown in Table 15, all 4 anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention tested blocked the release of IL-5 from human PBMC induced by 1nM of hIL-25-MMH, with IC₅₀ values ranging from 39.2pM to 1.149nM for donor #727058-059, and with IC₅₀ values ranging from 129.6pM to

677.1pM for donor #727060. Comparator 1 blocked release of IL-5 with an IC₅₀ value of 5.685nM for donor #727058-059 and an IC₅₀ value of 15.9nM for donor #727060.

[0198] This Example confirms that anti-IL-25 antibodies of the invention are able to potently block IL-25 signaling in cells to a greater extent than a comparator anti-IL-25 antibody.

Example 8. IL-25 Hydrodynamic Delivery of DNA (HDD)-induced lung eosinophilia, goblet cells metaplasia and elevated serum IgE to study *in vivo* efficacy of candidate mAbs.

[0199] Human IL-25 was overexpressed in wild type (WT) mice by hydrodynamic delivery of DNA (HDD). For the HDD experiment, WT mice were injected with either 25 µg of a plasmid expressing full length human IL-25 (See NM_022789.3; hIL-25 and also SEQ ID NO: 277 (DNA) and SEQ ID NO: 278 (Protein)) or with 25 µg of the same plasmid devoid of coding sequence (empty vector). A subset of the mice injected with hIL-25 plasmid were injected subcutaneously with either an IL-25 antibody, or a matching dose of an isotype control antibody three days prior to the HDD injection, on the day of the HDD injection and then on day 2 and 4 post-HDD injection. Mice were sacrificed 7 days after the HDD injection, and blood and lungs were collected. Serum IgE levels were quantified by ELISA; lung eosinophilia was assessed by isolation of cells infiltrating the lungs after collagenase treatment and flow cytometry; and goblet cells metaplasia was assessed by quantification of periodic acid Schiff (PAS) stained lung sections.

[0200] Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for groups of mice are shown in Tables 16A and 16B.

Table 16A: Study 1

Group	Mice	n	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose
1	WT	3	Empty vector	None	
2	WT	5	hIL-25	Isotype control	25 mg/kg
3	WT	5	hIL-25	Anti-IL-25 H4H10871P	25 mg/kg
4	WT	5	hIL-25	Anti-IL-25 H4H10900P	25 mg/kg

Table 16B: Study 2

Group	Mice	n	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose
1	WT	5	Empty vector	None	
2	WT	4	hIL-25	None	
3	WT	5	hIL-25	Anti-IL-25 H4H10871P	5 mg/kg

4	WT	5	hIL-25	Anti-IL-25 H4H10871P	25 mg/kg
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Measurement of circulating IgE levels

[0201] Blood samples were collected from each mouse via terminal cardiac puncture using a 27G^{1/2} 1ml TB syringe (BD, #309306) and the collected blood was placed into a BD Microtainer® serum separator tube (BD, #365956). After centrifugation, the serum was collected and was subsequently transferred to new tubes.

[0202] To determine the total IgE concentration in the serum samples, a sandwich ELISA OPTEIA kit (BD, #555248) was used according to the manufacturer's instructions along with BD OPTEIA Reagent set B (BD, #550534). Briefly, serum samples were diluted in reagent diluent and plated onto 96-well plates coated with an anti-IgE capture antibody. Purified mouse IgE, supplied by the manufacturer, was used as a reference standard. After washing, plate-bound total IgE was detected using a biotinylated anti-mouse IgE antibody followed by addition of a streptavidin- Horse radish peroxidase conjugate. The chromagen 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine was subsequently added to produce a colorimetric reaction and then neutralized with 1M sulfuric acid before measuring absorbance at 450nm on a Molecular Devices SpectraMax M5 plate reader. Data analysis was performed using Prism™ software (GraphPad). The mean amounts of circulating IgE for each experimental group are expressed in ng/mL ±standard deviation (SD), as shown in Table 18 and 19.

Lung harvest for pulmonary cell infiltrate analysis

[0203] After exsanguination, the caudal lobe of the right lung from each mouse was removed, chopped into cubes that were approximately 2 to 3 mm in size, and placed into a tube containing a solution of 20 µg/mL DNase (Roche, #10104159001) and 0.7 U/mL Liberase TH (Roche, #05401151001) diluted in Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) (Gibco, #14025), which was incubated in a 37°C water bath for 20 minutes and vortexed every 5 minutes. The reaction was stopped by adding ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (Gibco, #15575) at a final concentration of 10mM. Each lung was subsequently dissociated using a gentle MACS dissociator® (Miltenyi Biotec, #130-095-937) and then filtered through a 70 µm filter and centrifuged. The resulting lung pellet was resuspended in 1 mL of 1X red blood cell lysing buffer (Sigma, #R7757) to remove red blood cells. After incubation for 3 minutes at room temperature, 3 mL of 1X DMEM was added to deactivate the red blood cell lysing buffer. The cell suspensions were then centrifuged, and the resulting cell pellets were resuspended in 5 mL of MACS buffer (autoMACS Running Buffer; Miltenyi Biotec, #130-091-221). The resuspended samples were filtered through a 70 µm filter and 1x10⁶ cells per well were plated in a 96-well V-bottom plate. Cells were then centrifuged and the pellets were washed in 1X PBS. After a second centrifugation, the cell pellets were resuspended in 100µL of LIVE/DEAD® Fixable Aqua

Dead Cell Stain (Life Technologies, #L34957) diluted at 1:1000 in 1X PBS to determine cell viability and incubated for 20 minutes at room temperature while protected from light. After one wash in 1X PBS, cells were incubated in a solution of MACS buffer containing 10µg/mL of purified rat anti-mouse CD16/CD32 Fc Block, (Clone: 2.4G2; BD Biosciences, #553142) for 10 minutes at 4°C. The cells were washed once and then incubated in the appropriate antibody mixture (described in Table 17) diluted in MACS buffer for 30 minutes at 4°C while protected from light. After antibody incubation, the cells were washed twice in MACS buffer, resuspended in BD cytofix (BD Biosciences, #554655) and then incubated for 15 minutes at 4°C while protected from light. The cells were subsequently washed, resuspended in MACS buffer, and then transferred to BD FACS tubes (BD Biosciences, #352235) for analysis of eosinophils by flow cytometry.

[0204] Eosinophils were defined as Live, CD45⁺, GR1⁻, CD11c^{lo}, SiglecF^{hi}. Data are expressed as frequency of eosinophils within the immune cells population (% of CD45⁺ cells ± SD) as shown in Table 20 and 21.

Table 17: Antibodies Used for Flow Cytometry Analysis

Antibody	Fluorochrome	Manufacturer	Catalog Number	Final dilution
CD11c	APC	BD Biosciences	550261	1/100
CD45	PerCP Cy5.5	eBiosciences	45-0454-82	1/800
F4/80	Pacific Blue	eBiosciences	48-4801-82	1/200
Siglec-F	PE	BD Biosciences	552126	1/100
Ly6G (Gr-1)	APC-eFluor780	eBiosciences	47-5931-82	1/200

Lung harvest for goblet cells metaplasia analysis

[0205] After exsanguination, the left lung from each mouse was removed and placed into tubes containing 5 mL of a solution of 4% (w/v) paraformaldehyde (Boston Bioproducts, #BM-155) in 1X phosphate buffered saline and stored at room temperature for at least 24 hours. Lung samples were then blotted dry and transferred to tubes containing 70% Ethanol. The samples were sent to Histoserv, Inc (Germantown, MD) for paraffin embedding, sectioning and periodic acid Schiff (PAS) staining.

[0206] Pictures of the PAS stained lung sections were taken using a Zeiss Axio Imager A2 microscope (40X objective). Cells positively staining for PAS were identified as goblet cells and counted within a 1 to 2 mm long section of the epithelium of the main bronchi. Goblet cell counts were expressed relative to the total number of cells within the analyzed section of the epithelium. Data expressed as frequency of goblet cells ±SD are shown in Table 22.

Table 18: Circulating levels of total mouse IgE from Study 1

Group	Mice	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose	Mean circulating IgE levels (ng/mL $\pm$ SD)
1	WT	Empty vector	None		311 $\pm$ 200
2	WT	hIL-25	Isotype control	25 mg/kg	3417 $\pm$ 1627
3	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	25 mg/kg	333 $\pm$ 125
4	WT	hIL-25	H4H10900P	25 mg/kg	1240 $\pm$ 2233

Table 19: Circulating levels of total mouse IgE from Study 2

Group	Mice	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose	Mean circulating IgE levels (ng/mL $\pm$ SD)
1	WT	Empty vector	None		93 $\pm$ 71
2	WT	hIL-25	None		1186 $\pm$ 1370 **
3	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	5 mg/kg	190 $\pm$ 99
4	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	25 mg/kg	118 $\pm$ 26

Statistical significance compared to Empty vector group determined by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (** $p < 0.001$).

Table 20: Frequency of lung eosinophils from Study 1

Group	Mice	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose	Mean frequency of eosinophils (% of CD45+ cells $\pm$ SD)
1	WT	Empty vector	None		1.47 $\pm$ 0.16
2	WT	hIL-25	Isotype control	25 mg/kg	17.20 $\pm$ 2.39
3	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	25 mg/kg	1.03 $\pm$ 0.16 **
4	WT	hIL-25	H4H10900P	25 mg/kg	1.36 $\pm$ 0.19

Statistical significance compared to Isotype control determined by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (** $p < 0.001$).

Table 21: Frequency of lung eosinophils from Study 2

Group	Mice	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose	Mean frequency of eosinophils (% of CD45+ cells $\pm$ SD)
1	WT	Empty vector	None		6.35 $\pm$ 1.46

2	WT	hIL-25	None		32.29 ±18.35
3	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	5 mg/kg	4.46 ±1.66 *
4	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	25 mg/kg	5.23 ±2.13

Statistical significance compared to hIL-25 determined by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (* p<0.01).

Table 22: Goblet cells metaplasia from Study 2

Group	Mice	Construct	Antibody	mAb dose	Mean frequency of goblet cells (% total cells in epithelium ±SD)
1	WT	Empty vector	None		1.15 ±1.67
2	WT	hIL-25	None		59.63 ±39.74
3	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	5 mg/kg	1.71 ±1.93
4	WT	hIL-25	H4H10871P	25 mg/kg	6.90 ±11.55

[0207] Wild type mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD demonstrated increased levels of circulating IgE (3417±1627 ng/mL for study 1 and 1186 ±1370 ng/mL for study 2) as compared to wild type mice given empty vector by HDD (311 ±200 ng/mL for study 1 and 1186 ±1370 ng/mL for study 2). The levels of circulating IgE were reduced in each study when mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD were treated with IL-25 antibodies, as shown in Table 18 and 19. Wild type mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD demonstrated a trend towards increased frequency of lung eosinophils (17.20 ±2.39% for study 1 and 32.29 ±18.35% for study 2) as compare to wild type mice given empty vector by HDD (1.47 ±0.16% for study 1 and 6.35 ±1.46% for study 2). The frequency of lung eosinophils was reduced in each study when mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD were treated with IL-25 antibodies, as shown in Table 20 and 21. Wild type mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD demonstrated a trend towards increased goblet cell metaplasia (59.63 ±39.74 for study 2) as compare to wild type mice given empty vector by HDD (1.15 ±1.67 for study 2). The frequency of goblet cell metaplasia was reduced in study 2 when mice overexpressing human IL-25 by HDD were treated with IL-25 antibodies, as shown in Table 22.

Example 9: Chronic house dust mite allergen (HDM)-induced lung inflammation in WT and IL-25 KO mice.

[0208] To determine the role of IL-25 in a relevant *in vivo* model, a chronic house dust mite allergen (HDM)-induced lung inflammation study was conducted in both wild type mice (WT) and in mice that were homozygous for the deletion of mouse IL-25 (IL-25 KO mice).

[0209] IL-25 KO and WT mice were intranasally administered either 50µg of house dust mite extract (HDM; Greer, #XPB70D3A2.5) diluted in 20µL of 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS) or 20µL of 1X PBS for 5 days per week for 12 weeks. All mice were sacrificed on the first day of the thirteenth week of the study and their lungs were harvested. Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for groups of mice are shown in Table 23.

Table 23: Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for groups of mice

Group	Mice	n	Intranasal challenge	Length of intranasal challenge
1	WT	3	1X PBS (Saline)	12 weeks
2	WT	4	50µg HDM in 20µL 1X PBS	12 weeks
3	IL-25 KO	4	1X PBS (Saline)	12 weeks
4	IL-25 KO	5	50µg HDM in 20µL 1X PBS	12 weeks

Lung harvest for pulmonary cell infiltrate analysis

[0210] After exsanguination, the caudal lobe of the right lung from each mouse was removed, chopped into cubes that were approximately 2 to 3 mm in size, and placed into a tube containing a solution of 20 µg/mL DNase (Roche, #10104159001) and 0.7 U/mL Liberase TH (Roche, #05401151001) diluted in Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) (Gibco, #14025), which was incubated in a 37°C water bath for 20 minutes and inverted every 5 minutes. The reaction was stopped by adding ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (Gibco, #15575) at a final concentration of 10mM. Each lung was subsequently dissociated using a gentleMACS dissociator® (Miltenyi Biotec, #130-095-937) and then filtered through a 70 µm filter and centrifuged. The resulting lung pellet was resuspended in 1 mL of 1X red blood cell lysing buffer (Sigma, #R7757) to remove red blood cells. After incubation for 3 minutes at room temperature, 3 mL of MACS buffer (autoMACS Running Buffer; Miltenyi Biotec, #130-091-221) was added to deactivate the red blood cell lysing buffer. The cell suspensions were then centrifuged, and the resulting cell pellets were resuspended in 5 mL of MACS buffer. The resuspended samples were filtered through a 70 µm filter and 1x10⁶ cells per well were plated in a 96-well V-bottom plate. Cells were then centrifuged and the pellets were washed in 1X PBS. After a second centrifugation, the cell pellets were resuspended in 100µL of LIVE/DEAD® Fixable Aqua Dead Cell Stain (Life Technologies, #L34957) diluted at 1:1000 in 1X PBS to determine cell viability and incubated for 20 minutes at room temperature while protected from light. After one wash in 1X PBS, cells were incubated in a solution of MACS buffer containing 10µg/mL of purified rat anti-mouse CD16/CD32 Fc Block, (Clone: 2.4G2; BD Biosciences, #553142) for 10 minutes at 4°C. The cells were washed once and then incubated in the appropriate antibody mixture (described in Table 24) diluted in MACS buffer for 30 minutes at 4°C while protected from light.

After antibody incubation, the cells were washed twice in MACS buffer, resuspended in BD cytofix (BD Biosciences, #554655) and then incubated for 15 minutes at 4°C while protected from light. The cells were subsequently washed, resuspended in MACS buffer, and then transferred to BD FACS tubes (BD Biosciences, #352235) for analysis of neutrophils and lymphocytes by flow cytometry.

[0211] Neutrophils were defined as live, CD45⁺, F4/80⁻, Ly6G⁺, Ly6C^{Int}. Data for neutrophils are expressed as a frequency of live cells analyzed (frequency of live, $\pm$ SD) as shown in Table 25. CD4 and CD8 T cells were defined as live, SSC^{Lo}, FSC^{Lo}, CD45⁺, CD19⁻, CD3⁺, CD8⁻, CD4⁺ and Live, SSC^{Lo}, FSC^{Lo}, CD45⁺, CD19⁻, CD3⁺, CD8⁺, CD4⁻ respectively. Data for CD4 and CD8 T cells are expressed as the frequency of CD4 T cells relative to the frequency of CD8 T cells (CD4/CD8 ratio, $\pm$ SD) as shown in Table 25. Activated CD4 T cells were defined as cells that were live, CD45⁺, SSC^{Lo}, FSC^{Lo}, CD3⁺, CD19⁻, CD4⁺, CD8⁻, and CD69⁺. Activated CD8 T cells were defined as cells that were live, CD45⁺, SSC^{Lo}, FSC^{Lo}, CD3⁺, CD19⁻, CD4⁺, CD8⁻, and CD69⁺. Data for activated cells were expressed as frequency of activated cells (CD69⁺) within the parent population (frequency of CD4 or CD8 T cells, $\pm$ SD) as shown in Table 25.

Table 24: Antibodies Used for Flow Cytometry Analysis

Antibody	Fluorochrome	Manufacturer	Catalog Number	Final dilution
CD11c	APC	BD Biosciences	550261	1/100
CD45	PerCP Cy5.5	eBiosciences	45-0454-82	1/800
F4/80	Pacific Blue	eBiosciences	48-4801-82	1/200
Siglec-F	PE	BD Biosciences	552126	1/100
Ly6G (Gr-1)	APC-eFluor780	eBiosciences	47-5931-82	1/200
CD3	PE-Cy7	BD Biosciences	552774	1/200
CD19	eFluor 450	eBiosciences	48-0193-82	1/200
CD4	APC-H7	BD Biosciences	560181	1/200
CD8	APC	eBiosciences	17-0081-82	1/200
CD69	PE	eBiosciences	12-0691-82	1/200

Lung harvest for cytokine analysis:

[0212] After exsanguination, the cranial and middle lobes of the right lung from each mouse were removed and placed into tubes containing a solution of tissue protein extraction reagent (1X T-PER reagent; Pierce, #78510) supplemented with 1X Halt Protease inhibitor cocktail (Pierce, #78430). All further steps were performed on ice. The volume of T-PER Reagent (containing the protease inhibitor cocktail) was adjusted for each sample to match a 1:7.5 (w/v)

tissue to T-PER ratio. Lung samples were manually homogenized in the tubes, using disposable pestles (Argos Technologies, cat P9950-901). The resulting lysates were centrifuged to pellet debris. The supernatants containing the soluble protein extracts were transferred to fresh tubes and stored at 4°C until further analysis.

[0213] Total protein content in the lung protein extracts was measured using a Bradford assay. For the assay, 10µL of diluted extract samples were plated into 96 well plates in duplicates and mixed with 200µL of 1X Dye Reagent (Biorad, #500-0006). Serial dilutions of bovine serum albumin (Sigma, #A7979), starting at 700µg/mL in 1X T-Per reagent were used as a standard to determine the exact protein concentration of the extracts. After a 5-minute incubation at room temperature, absorbance at 595nm was measured on a Molecular Devices SpectraMax M5 plate reader. Data analysis to determine total protein content was performed using GraphPad Prism™ software.

[0214] Cytokine concentrations in the lung protein extracts were measured using a Proinflammatory Panel 1 (mouse) multiplex immunoassay kit (MesoScale Discovery, # K15048D), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 50 µL/well of calibrators and samples (diluted in Diluent 41) were added to plates pre-coated with capture antibodies and incubated at room temperature while shaking at 700 rpm for 2 hours. The plates were then washed 3 times with 1X PBS containing 0.05% (w/v) Tween-20, followed by the addition of 25µL of Detection Antibody Solution diluted in Diluent 45. After another 2-hour incubation at room temperature while shaking, the plate was washed 3 times, and 150 µL of 2X Read Buffer was added to each well. Electrochemiluminescence was immediately read on a MSD Sceptor® instrument. Data analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism™ software.

[0215] Each cytokine concentration in lung total protein extracts measured was normalized to the total protein content of the extracts measured by the Bradford assay, and expressed as pg of cytokine per mg of total lung proteins (pg/mg lung protein, ± SD) as shown in Table 26.

Table 25: Frequency of pulmonary cell infiltrate as determined by flow cytometry

Experimental Group	Mean Frequency of Neutrophils (% of Live cells, ±SD)	Mean CD4/CD8 ratio (±SD)	Mean Frequency of activated CD4+ T cells (% of CD4 T cells, ±SD)	Mean Frequency of activated CD8+ T cells (% of CD8 T cells, ±SD)
WT Saline	6.57 ±1.27 **	1.00 ±0.07 **	10.74 ±0.75 ***	3.01 ±1.24 **
WT HDM	13.53 ±2.63	3.89 ±1.63	57.10 ±4.03	26.18 ±13.16
IL-25 KO Saline	5.98 ±0.26 **	1.33 ±0.21 **	10.16 ±2.14 ***	5.51 ±6.00 **
IL-25 KO HDM	6.89 ±2.68 **	2.02 ±0.48 *	38.65 ±11.06 **	6.37 ±3.10 **

Statistical significance compared to WT HDM group determined by 2 Way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (** p<0.001; *** p<0.0001).

Table 26: Cytokines concentration in lung protein extracts.

Experimental Group	Mean [IL-1β] in lung protein extracts (pg/mg lung protein) $\pm$SD	Mean [TNFα] in lung protein extracts (pg/mg lung protein) $\pm$SD
WT Saline	0.24 $\pm$ 0.11 **	0.76 $\pm$ 0.22 ***
WT HDM	138.70 $\pm$ 70.17	11.42 $\pm$ 2.60
IL-25 KO Saline	0.49 $\pm$ 0.42 ***	0.78 $\pm$ 0.14 ***
IL-25 KO HDM	21.69 $\pm$ 17.90 **	5.01 $\pm$ 2.94 **

Statistical significance compared to WT HDM group determined by 2 Way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (** p<0.001; *** p<0.0001).

[0216] As shown in Table 25, long-term or chronic exposure to HDM in WT mice induced a significant increase in lung neutrophilia as compared to WT mice exposed to PBS alone.

Chronic HDM challenge in WT mice also induced a shift in the balance of CD4 and CD8 T cells in the lungs, as well as an increase in the frequency of activated CD4 and CD8 T cells. The increase in lung neutrophilia and these other features of lung cellular inflammation induced by chronic HDM challenge, were significantly reduced in IL-25 KO mice as compared to WT mice.

[0217] Long-term exposure to HDM induced a significant increase in the levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1 β and TNF α in the lungs of WT mice as compare to WT mice exposed to PBS alone. In contrast, chronic exposure of IL-25 KO mice to HDM did not significantly increase the lung levels of these two cytokines as shown in Table 26.

[0218] In summary, chronic exposure to HDM induces features of lung inflammation in WT mice that are absent in the lungs of IL-25 KO mice receiving the same challenge.

[0219] The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and the accompanying figures. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human interleukin-25 (IL-25), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDRs) contained within a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 114 and three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDRs) contained within a light chain variable region (LCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 122.
2. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 100 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.
3. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 2, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 60 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.
4. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 3, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 40 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.
5. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 4, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 20 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C or 37°C.
6. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 150 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.
7. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 6, wherein the

antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 200 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

8. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 7, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 250 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

9. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 8, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds human IL-25 with a $t_{1/2}$ of greater than about 400 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C.

10. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 720 pM.

11. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 10, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 500 pM.

12. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 11, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25 receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 100 pM.

13. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC_{50} of less than about 2.0 nM.

14. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 13, wherein the

antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC₅₀ of less than about 700 pM.

15. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 14, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks human IL-25 signaling in human PBMCs with an IC₅₀ ranging from about 30 pM to about 150 pM.

16. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1, which comprises an HCVR amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:114.

17. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1, which comprises an LCVR amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 122.

18. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1, which comprises an HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair of SEQ ID NO: 114/122.

19. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a set of six CDRs SEQ ID NOs: 116, 118, 120, 124, 126, and 128.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

21. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof further exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) is a fully human monoclonal antibody;
- (b) binds human IL-25 with a K_D of less than about 120 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C;
- (c) binds human IL-25 with a dissociative half life (t_{1/2}) of greater than about 105 minutes as measured by surface plasmon resonance at 25°C;
- (d) blocks human IL-25 signaling in cells engineered to express an IL-25

receptor (IL-17RA/IL-17RB) with an IC_{50} of less than about 2 nM;

(e) blocks human IL-25 signaling in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) with an IC_{50} of less than about 16 nM;

(f) reduces circulating and/or lung IgE levels in a mammal that overexpresses IL-25; or

(g) reduces goblet cell metaplasia in a mammal that overexpresses IL-25.