CLAIMS:

1. A method of identifying a hybridoma cell that secretes a monoclonal antibody that has a pre-selected characteristic, said cell residing among a population of cells that do not secrete a monoclonal antibody with said characteristic, comprising:

(a) contacting

(i) a population of hybridoma cells, prepared by fusing B lineage cells with immortalized cells having expressed on their outer plasma membrane surface an Anchor designed to form a first complex with a selected Linker; with

(ii) the Linker designed to form the first complex with the Anchor and a second complex with a single monoclonal antibody secreted by a single hybridoma cell, wherein the monoclonal antibody is not recognized by the Anchor; the contacting permitting the Linker to adhere to the outer plasma membrane of the hybridoma cells by binding in the first complex with the Anchor;

(b) maintaining the cells of (a) in the presence of the Linker under conditions in which the Linker forms a second complex with the monoclonal antibody secreted by a hybridoma cell and the monoclonal antibody binds to the hybridoma cell that secretes it via the adhered first and second complexes; and

(c) identifying the existence, antigen specificity, antigen binding affinity, titer, amount, or biological activity of the monoclonal antibody secreted by the hybridoma cells and bound thereto by the cell bound multiple immune complex formed by Anchor-Linker-monoclonal antibody.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising isolating the hybridoma cells at any time after step (a).

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein (a) further comprises contacting the cells with an excess concentration of the Linker, wherein the excess increases the specificity of the binding between the first complex on the cell surface of a hybridoma and the monoclonal antibody secreted by that hybridoma cell, relative to the binding of the monoclonal antibody to other cells that do not secrete it.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein (a) further comprises contacting the cells with a competitor antibody of the same species or type as the secreted monoclonal antibody, the competitor antibody having a different or non-specific antigen binding specificity, wherein the presence of the competitor antibody increases the specificity of the binding between the first complex on the cell surface and the monoclonal antibody secreted by the cell, relative to the binding of that monoclonal antibody to a cell that does not secrete it, by binding excess unbound Linker.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein step (a) further comprises contacting the hybridoma cells with a detectably labelled antigen to which the monoclonal antibody specifically binds in a third complex; and forming cells to which are bound a multi-complex formed by the first complex Anchor-Linker, the Linker also bound to the secreted monoclonal antibody, which is bound to the antigen; wherein step (c) comprises identifying hybridoma cells that secrete monoclonal antibody specific for a selected antigen by identifying or quantifying the detectable label associated with cell-bound multi-part complex.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a human antibody; the Anchor molecule comprises an scFv specific for a selected non-human-originated Linker; and the Linker is an anti-human-Ig antibody or an antibody binding fragment of the human antibody.

7. A nucleic acid molecule encoding an Anchor in operative association with regulatory sequences that direct expression of the Anchor on the surface of a cell containing the nucleic acid molecule, the Anchor designed to form a first complex with a selected Linker; the Linker designed to form a second complex with a target protein that is not recognized by the Anchor.

8. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 7, wherein the Anchor comprises:

(a) an extracellular region antibody or antibody fragment that binds the Linker;

(b) an optional polypeptide tag; and

(c) a transmembrane amino acid sequence derived from an integral membrane protein.

9. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8, wherein the extracellular region antibody or antibody fragment (a) comprises:

i. a single chain antibody variable region (scFv) that specifically binds a sequence on the Linker;

ii. a tandem scFv formed of from 2 to 6 scFvs, each designed to bind a sequence on the Linker;

iii. a Fab with one or two free Fv regions when expressed on the cell surface;

iv. an antibody with one or two free Fv regions when expressed on the cell surface;

v. a single domain antibody;

vii. a camelid antibody, or

vii. an aptamer.

10. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9, wherein the extracellular region comprises alternating heavy chain Fv and light chain Fv sequences of each scFv, and spacers interposed between each chain.

11. The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 7 to 10, comprising in operative association, a promoter, a leader sequence, an optional enhancer, and the nucleic acid sequence encoding the Anchor.

12. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 8.

13. A cell having expressed on its outer plasma membrane surface an Anchor designed to form a first complex with a selected Linker; the Linker designed to form a second complex with a target protein that is not recognized by the Anchor, said cell characterized by at least one of:

(a) wherein the Anchor comprises:

i. an extracellular region polypeptide that binds the Linker;

ii. an optional polypeptide tag; and

iii. a transmembrane amino acid sequence derived from an integral membrane protein; or

(b) wherein on the cell's outer plasma membrane surface is the first immune complex comprising the Anchor and the Linker; or

(c) wherein the Linker is an antibody or antibody fragment; or

(d) wherein the antibody fragment is Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fv or a single chain Fv, or a single domain antibody, and recombinant versions thereof; or

(e) wherein on the cell's outer plasma membrane surface is a multiple immune complex comprising the Anchor bound to the Linker, the Linker also bound to the target protein; or

(f) wherein the Linker can bind to both the Anchor and the Target Protein, under conditions wherein the Target Protein and the Anchor do not bind to each other in the absence of the Linker; or

(g) wherein the target protein is an antibody.

14. A method of making a cell of claim 13, which is a hybridoma cell, comprising fusing a B lineage cell with an immortalized cell having expressed on its outer plasma membrane surface an Anchor designed to form an complex with a selected Linker; the Linker designed to bind the antibody secreted by the B cell or a cell derived from a B lineage cell or the hybridoma cell created by this method, which antibody is not recognized by the Anchor.

15. The method according to claim 14,

(a) wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody; or

(b) wherein the immortalized cell has expressed on its outer plasma membrane surface an Anchor designed to form a first complex with a selected Linker; the Linker designed to form a second complex with a target protein that is not recognized by the Anchor, said cell characterized by at least one of:

i. wherein the Anchor comprises

A. an extracellular region polypeptide that binds the Linker;

B. an optional polypeptide tag; and

C. a transmembrane amino acid sequence derived from an integral membrane protein; or

ii. wherein on the cell's outer plasma membrane surface is the first immune complex comprising the Anchor and the Linker; or

iii. wherein the Linker is an antibody or antibody fragment; or

iv. wherein the antibody fragment is Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fv or a single chain Fv, or a single domain antibody, and recombinant versions thereof; or

v. wherein on the cell's outer plasma membrane surface is a multiple immune complex comprising the Anchor bound to the Linker, the Linker also bound to the target protein; or

vi. wherein the Linker can bind to both the Anchor and the Target Protein, under conditions wherein the Target Protein and the Anchor do not bind to each other in the absence of the Linker; or

vii. wherein the target protein is an antibody; or

(c) wherein the hybridoma cell is created that secretes a monoclonal antibody expressed from nucleic acid sequences that originated within the B lineage cell and expresses the Anchor protein from nucleic acid sequences provided by the immortalized cell.

16. A cell according to claim 13, comprising Cell line LCX strain 03.06.17 designated by ATCC Accession No. PTA-124063, and progeny thereof.

17. A method for identifying a monoclonal antibody that binds to a viral antigen comprising:

(a) providing a population of hybridoma cells of claim 13, each hybridoma cell comprising anchored on its outer plasma membrane an Anchor designed to form a first complex with a selected Linker; the Linker designed to form a second complex with a monoclonal antibody secreted by the cell, which monoclonal antibody is not recognized by the Anchor;

(b) contacting said population with a multivalent Viral Antigen for a time sufficient for said viral antigen to bind to the cell-bound Anchor-Linker-mAb complex, resulting in a cell-bound Anchor-Linker-mAb-Viral Antigen complex;

(c) allowing for additional immunoglobulins (Ig) secreted by the cell population to bind to other binding sites on the bound multi-valent Viral Antigen, thereby forming a detectable immune complex of Anchor-Linker-mAb-Viral Antigen-Ig,

(d) comprising identifying cells having bound thereto the Anchor-Linker-mAb-Viral Antigen-Ig complex based upon size and position or location of said complex on the cell surface.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said multivalent Viral Antigen is one or more purified viral antigen, whole virion, or Virus-like Particle (VLP); or wherein said identifying step (d) comprises comparing said cells of (a) resulting from contact with a monovalent Viral Antigen or no Viral Antigen; or wherein said monovalent Viral Antigen is a Fab fragment.