CLAIMS:

1. A method for purifying a botulinum toxin, comprising purifying the toxin from a solution comprising the toxin, wherein the process does not comprise precipitation, centrifugation or lyophilization.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

a. the botulinum toxin is serotype A;

b. the purified botulinum toxin obtained is free, essentially free, or substantially free of botulinum toxin complexes;

c. the purified botulinum toxin obtained is free, essentially free, or substantially free of animal products;

c. the purified botulinum toxin obtained is free, essentially free, or substantially free of human albumin; and/or

d. the purifying comprises a filtering step, preferably a tangential flow filtration step.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the filtering step uses a hollow fiber filter.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the purifying comprises contacting a first chromatography column with a solution comprising the toxin to produce a toxin-containing fraction.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first chromatography column comprises an anion exchange chromatography column.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the anion exchange chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the purifying further comprises collecting the toxin-containing fraction, wherein the toxin-containing fraction does not adsorb to the first stationary phase.

8. The method of claim any one of claims 4-7, wherein the purifying further comprises contacting a second chromatography column with the toxin-containing fraction.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the second chromatography column comprises a cation exchange chromatography column.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the cation exchange chromatography column comprises SP Sepharose.

11. The method of any one of claims 8-10, further comprising eluting the botulinum toxin from the second chromatography column to produce a first toxin-containing eluant; and/or

further comprising filtering the first toxin-containing eluant to produce a toxin-containing retentate

12. The method of claim 11, wherein filtering the toxin-containing eluant comprises a buffer exchange.

13. The method of claim 11 or 12, wherein filtering the first toxin-containing eluant separates botulinum toxin molecules from non-toxin proteins to produce free toxin molecules in the toxin-containing retentate; and/or

further comprising contacting a third chromatography column with the toxin-containing retentate.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the third chromatography column comprises a second anion exchange chromatography column.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the second anion exchange chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose.

16. The method of any one of claims 13-15, further comprising eluting the botulinum toxin from the third chromatography column to produce a second toxin-containing eluant; and/or

further comprising contacting a fourth chromatography column with the second toxin-containing eluant.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the fourth chromatography column comprises a size exclusion chromatography column.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the size exclusion chromatography column comprises a gel filtration chromatography column.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the gel filtration chromatography column comprises Superdex 200.

20. The method of any one of claims 16-19, further comprising eluting the botulinum toxin from the fourth chromatography column to produce a purified botulinum toxin.

21. The method of any one of claims 1-20, wherein the solution comprising botulinum toxin is an animal product free, essentially animal product free, or substantially animal product free fermentation medium; or

further comprising contacting the botulinum toxin with a buffer solution, wherein the buffer solution has been filtered to reduce bioburden.

22. A method for purifying a botulinum toxin from a solution comprising the toxin, comprising:

(a) filtering the solution comprising the toxin;

(b) contacting a first chromatography column with the filtered solution comprising the toxin from (a), wherein the first chromatography column is an ion exchange chromatography column;

(c) collecting a toxin-containing fraction, wherein the toxin-containing fraction flows through the first chromatography column without adsorbing to the stationary phase;

(d) contacting a second chromatography column with the toxin-containing fraction, wherein the second chromatography column is an ion exchange chromatography column;

(e) eluting the botulinum toxin from the second chromatography column to produce a first toxin-containing eluant;

(f) filtering the first toxin-containing eluant to produce a toxin-containing retentate;

(g) contacting a third chromatography column with the toxin-containing retentate from the filtering (f), wherein the third chromatography column is an ion exchange column;

(h) eluting the botulinum toxin from the third chromatography column to produce a second toxin-containing eluant;

(i) contacting a fourth chromatography column with the second toxin-containing eluant, wherein said fourth chromatography column is a size exclusion chromatography column;

(j) eluting the botulinum toxin from the fourth chromatography column, thereby producing a purified botulinum toxin,

wherein the process does not comprise precipitating, centrifugation or lyophilizing the botulinum toxin.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein:

a. the botulinum toxin comprises botulinum neurotoxin serotype A;

b. wherein the purified botulinum toxin obtained is free, essentially free, or substantially free of botulinum toxin complexes;

c. wherein the purified botulinum toxin obtained is free, essentially free, or substantially free of animal products;

d. wherein the purified botulinum toxin is free, essentially free, or substantially free of human albumin;

e. wherein the first chromatography column comprises an anion exchange chromatography column;

f. wherein the first chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose;

g. wherein the second chromatography column comprises a cation exchange chromatography column;

h. wherein the second chromatography column comprises SP Sepharose;

i. wherein the first chromatography column comprises an anion exchange chromatography column and the second chromatography column comprises a cation exchange chromatography column;

j. wherein the first chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose and the second chromatography column comprises SP Sepharose;

k. wherein the third chromatography column comprises an anion exchange chromatography column;

l. wherein the third chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose;

m. wherein the fourth chromatography column comprises a gel filtration column;

n. wherein the fourth chromatography column comprises Superdex 200;

o. wherein the third chromatography column comprises an anion exchange chromatography column and the fourth chromatography column comprises a gel filtration chromatography column;

p. wherein the third chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose and the fourth chromatography column comprises Superdex 200;

q. wherein the second toxin-containing eluant is directly injected onto the fourth chromatography column;

r. wherein the third chromatography column and the fourth chromatography column are interconnected;

s. wherein the first chromatography column is an anion exchange chromatography column, the second chromatography column is a cation exchange chromatography column, the third chromatography column is a second anion exchange chromatography column, and the fourth chromatography column is a gel filtration chromatography column;

t. wherein the first chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose, the second chromatography column comprises SP Sepharose, the third chromatography column comprises Q Sepharose, and the fourth chromatography column comprises Superdex 200;

u. wherein the first, second, third, and fourth chromatography columns are single-use chromatography systems;

v. wherein the filtering (f) dissociates botulinum toxin protein molecules from non-toxin proteins to produce free toxin molecules;

w. wherein the filtering (f) comprises a buffer exchange;

x. wherein the solution comprising botulinum toxin is an animal product free, essentially animal product free, or substantially animal product free fermentation medium; and/or

y. further comprising contacting the botulinum toxin with a buffer solution, wherein said buffer solution has been filtered to reduce bioburden.

24. A composition comprising purified botulinum toxin in a buffer, the buffer comprising phosphate.

25. The composition of claim 24, wherein:

a. the buffer further comprises acetate;

b. the buffer further comprises at least one source of chloride ions;

c. the buffer further comprises at least one surfactant;

d. the botulinum toxin is botulinum neurotoxin serotype A;

e. the composition is free, essentially free, or substantially free of botulinum toxin complexes;

f. the composition is free, essentially free, or substantially free of animal products;

g. the composition is free, essentially free, or substantially free of human albumin; and/or

h. the composition has a pH of between about 6.6 and 6.9.

26. The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one source of chloride ions is sodium chloride.

27. The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one surfactant comprises polysorbate 20.