

We claim:

1. A nucleic acid encoding a heavy and/or a light chain variable region of an antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, that specifically binds to human CD40, wherein the heavy chain variable region comprises CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 sequences and the light chain variable region comprises CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3 sequences wherein CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 comprise residues 31-35, 50-66 and 99-108, respectively, of SEQ ID NO:12 and CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3 comprise residues 24-39, 55-61 and 94-102, respectively, of SEQ ID NO:9.
2. The nucleic acid of claim 1 encoding heavy and/or light chain variable region sequences comprising residues 1-119 and 1-112 of SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:9, respectively.
3. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
4. A cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 3.
5. A method of preparing an anti-human CD40 antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising:
 - a) expressing the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, in the cell of claim 4;and
 - b) isolating the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, from the cell.
6. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 2.
7. A cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 6.
8. A method of preparing an anti-human CD40 antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising:
 - a) expressing the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, in the cell of claim 7;and

- b) isolating the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, from the cell.
9. The nucleic acid of claim 1 encoding heavy and light chain variable region sequences of an antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, that specifically binds to human CD40, wherein CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 comprise residues 31-35, 50-66 and 99-108, respectively, of SEQ ID NO:12 and CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3 comprise residues 24-39, 55-61 and 94-102, respectively, of SEQ ID NO:9.
10. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 9.
11. A cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 10.
12. A method of preparing an anti-human CD40 antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising:
- a) expressing the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, in the cell of claim 11;
 - and
 - b) isolating the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, from the cell.
13. The nucleic acid of claim 2 encoding heavy and light chain variable region sequences comprising residues 1-119 and 1-112 of SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:9, respectively.
14. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 13.
15. A cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 14.
16. A method of preparing an anti-human CD40 antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising:
- a) expressing the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, in the cell of claim 15;
 - and
 - b) isolating the antibody, or antigen binding portion thereof, from the cell.