ANTI-PDGFR-beta ANTIBODIES AND USES THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to antibodies, and antigen-binding fragments thereof, which are specific for human PDGFR-beta, and methods of use thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Platelet-derived growth factors (PDGFs) are potent mitogens that exist as five different dimeric configurations composed of four different isoform subunits: A, B, C and D. The five dimeric forms of the PDGFs are AA, BB, AB, CC and DD, which are formed by disulfide linkage of the corresponding individual PDGF monomers. PDGF ligands exert their biological effects through their interactions with PDGF receptors (PDGFRs). PDGFRs are single-pass, transmembrane, tyrosine kinase receptors composed of heterodimeric or homodimeric associations of an alpha (α) receptor chain (PDGFR-alpha) and/or a beta (β) receptor chain (PDGFR-beta). Thus, active PDGFRs may consist of αα, ββ or αβ receptor chain pairings. PDGFRs share a common domain structure, including five extracellular immunoglobulin (Ig) loops, a transmembrane domain, and a split intracellular tyrosine kinase (TK) domain. The interaction between dimeric PDGF ligands and PDGFRs leads to receptor chain dimerization, receptor autophosphorylation and intracellular signal transduction. It has been demonstrated *in vitro* that ββ receptors are activated by PDGF-BB and -DD, while αβ receptors are activated by PDGF-BB, -CC, -DD and -AB, and αα receptors are activated by PDGF-AA, -BB, -CC and -AB (*see* Andrae *et al.* (2008) Genes Dev 22(10):1276-1312).

[0003] PDGF signaling has been implicated in various human diseases including diseases associated with pathological neovascularization, vascular and fibrotic diseases, tumor growth and eye diseases. Accordingly, inhibitors of PDGF signaling have been suggested for use in a variety of therapeutic settings. For example, inhibitors of PDGFR-beta have been proposed for use in treating various diseases and disorders. (Andrae *et al.* (2008) Genes Dev 22(10):1276-1312). PDGFR-beta inhibitors include non-specific small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as imatinib mesylate, sunitinib malate and CP-673451, as well as anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies (*see*, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 7,060,271; 5,882,644; 7,740,850; and U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2011/0177074). Anti-ligand aptamers (*e.g.*, anti-PDGF-B) have also been proposed for therapeutic applications. Nonetheless, a need exists in the art for new, highly specific and potent inhibitors of PDGF signaling.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention provides antibodies that bind human platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta ("PDGFR-beta"). The antibodies of the invention are useful, *inter alia*, for inhibiting PDGFR-beta-mediated signaling and for treating diseases and disorders caused by or

related to PDGFR-beta activity and/or signaling. The antibodies of the invention are also useful for inducing cell death in cells that express high levels of PDGFR-beta on their surfaces.

[0005] 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).

[0006] The present invention provides antibodies, or antigen-binding fragments thereof comprising a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, and 322, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0007] The present invention also provides an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody comprising a light chain variable region (LCVR) having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, and 330, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0008] The present invention also provides an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprising a HCVR and LCVR (HCVR/LCVR) sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330.

[0009] The present invention also provides an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody comprising a heavy chain CDR3 (HCDR3) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 152, 168, 184, 200, 216, 232, 248, 264, 280, 296, 312, and 328, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a light chain CDR3 (LCDR3) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 240, 256, 272, 288, 304, 320, and 336, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0010] In certain embodiments, the antibody or antigen-binding portion of an antibody comprises a HCDR3/LCDR3 amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8/16, 24/32, 40/48, 56/64, 72/80, 88/96, 104/112, 120/128, 136/144, 152/160, 168/176, 184/192, 200/208, 216/224, 232/240, 248/256, 264/272, 280/288, 296/304, 312/320, and 328/336.

[0011] The present invention also provides an antibody or fragment thereof further comprising a heavy chain CDR1 (HCDR1) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 20, 36, 52, 68, 84, 100, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180, 196, 212, 228,

244, 260, 276, 292, 308, and 324, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a heavy chain CDR2 (HCDR2) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, 22, 38, 54, 70, 86, 102, 118, 134, 150, 166, 182, 198, 214, 230, 246, 262, 278, 294, 310, and 326, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a light chain CDR1 (LCDR1) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12, 28, 44, 60, 76, 92, 108, 124, 140, 156, 172, 188, 204, 220, 236, 252, 268, 284, 300, 316, and 332, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a light chain CDR2 (LCDR2) domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 126, 142, 158, 174, 190, 206, 222, 238, 254, 270, 286, 302, 318, and 334, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0012] Certain non-limiting, exemplary antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of the invention comprise HCDR1-HCDR2-HCDR3-LCDR1-LCDR2-LCDR3 domains, respectively, having the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOs: 4-6-8-12-14-16 (*e.g.* H1M3299N); 20-22-24-28-30-32 (*e.g.* H1M3305N); 36-38-40-44-46-48 (*e.g.* H1M3310N); 52-54-56-60-62-64 (*e.g.* H1M3361N); 68-70-72-76-78-80 (*e.g.* H2M3363N); 84-86-88-92-94-96 (*e.g.* H2M3365N); 100-102-104-108-110-112 (*e.g.* H2M3368N); 116-118-120-124-126-128 (*e.g.* H2M3373N); 132-134-136-140-142-144 (*e.g.* H2M3374N); 148-150-152-156-158-160 (*e.g.*, H4H3094P); 164-166-168-172-174-176 (*e.g.* H4H3095S); 180-182-184-188-190-192 (*e.g.*, H4H3096S); 196-198-200-204-206-208 (*e.g.* H4H3097S); 212-214-216-220-222-224 (*e.g.* H4H3098S); 228-230-232-236-238-240 (*e.g.* H4H3099S); 244-246-248-252-254-256 (*e.g.* H4H3102S); 260-262-264-268-270-272 (*e.g.* H4H3103S); 276-278-280-284-286-288 (*e.g.* H4H3104S); 292-294-296-300-302-304 (*e.g.* H4H3105S); 308-310-312-316-318-320 (*e.g.* H4H3106S); and 324-326-328-332-334-336 (*e.g.* H4H3107S).

[0013] In a related embodiment, the invention includes an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody which specifically binds PDGFR-beta, wherein the antibody or fragment comprises the heavy and light chain CDR domains contained within heavy and light chain variable region (HCVR/LCVR) sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330. 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.

[0014] In another aspect, the invention provides nucleic acid molecules encoding anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof. Recombinant expression vectors carrying the nucleic acids of the invention, and host cells into which such vectors have been introduced, are also encompassed by the invention, as are methods of producing the antibodies by culturing the host cells under conditions permitting production of the antibodies, and recovering the antibodies produced.

[0015] In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a HCVR encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 17, 33, 49, 65, 81, 97, 113, 129, 145, 161, 177, 193, 209, 225, 241, 257, 273, 289, 305, and 321, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0016] The present invention also provides an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a LCVR encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, 25, 41, 57, 73, 89, 105, 121, 137, 153, 169, 185, 201, 217, 233, 249, 265, 281, 297, 313, and 329, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0017] The present invention also provides an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody comprising a HCDR3 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, 23, 39, 55, 71, 87, 103, 119, 135, 151, 167, 183, 199, 215, 231, 247, 263, 279, 295, 311, and 327, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof; and a LCDR3 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, 31, 47, 63, 79, 95, 111, 127, 143, 159, 175, 191, 207, 223, 239, 255, 271, 287, 303, 319, and 335, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0018] The present invention also provides an antibody or fragment thereof which further comprises a HCDR1 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, 19, 35, 51, 67, 83, 99, 115, 131, 147, 163, 179, 195, 211, 227, 243, 259, 275, 291, 307, and 323, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof; a HCDR2 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, 21, 37, 53, 69, 85, 101, 117, 133, 149, 165, 181, 197, 213, 229, 245, 261, 277, 293, 309, and 325, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99%

homology thereof; a LCDR1 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 11, 27, 43, 59, 75, 91, 107, 123, 139, 155, 171, 187, 203, 219, 235, 251, 267, 283, 299, 315, and 331, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof; and a LCDR2 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13, 29, 45, 61, 77, 93, 109, 125, 141, 157, 173, 189, 205, 221, 237, 253, 269, 285, 301, 317, and 333, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0019] According to certain embodiments, the antibody or fragment thereof comprises the heavy and light chain CDR sequences encoded by the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 9 (*e.g.* H1M3299N), 17 and 25 (*e.g.* H1M3305N), 33 and 41 (*e.g.* H1M3310N), 49 and 57 (*e.g.* H1M3361N), 65 and 73 (*e.g.* H2M3363N), 81 and 89 (*e.g.* H2M3365N), 97 and 105 (*e.g.* H2M3368N), 113 and 121 (*e.g.* H2M3373N), 129 and 137 (*e.g.* H2M3374N), 145 and 153 (*e.g.* H4H3094P), 161 and 169 (*e.g.* H4H3095S), 177 and 185 (*e.g.* H4H3096S), 193 and 201 (*e.g.* H4H3097S), 209 and 217 (*e.g.* H4H3098S), 225 and 233 (*e.g.* H4H3099S), 241 and 249 (*e.g.* H4H3102S), 257 and 265 (*e.g.* H4H3103S), 273 and 281 (*e.g.* H4H3104S), 289 and 297 (*e.g.* H4H3105S), 305 and 313 (*e.g.* H4H3106S), or 321 and 329 (*e.g.* H4H3107S).

[0020] The present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies having a modified glycosylation pattern. In some applications, 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).

[0021] In another aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a recombinant human antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds PDGFR-beta and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a related aspect, the invention features a composition which is a combination of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody and a second therapeutic agent. In one embodiment, the second therapeutic agent is any agent that is advantageously combined with an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody. Exemplary agents that may be advantageously combined with an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody include, without limitation, other agents that inhibit PDGFR-beta activity (including other antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof, peptide inhibitors, small molecule antagonists, etc.) and/or agents which do not directly bind PDGFR-beta but nonetheless interfere with, block or attenuate PDGFR-beta-mediated signaling. Additional combination therapies and co-formulations involving the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention are disclosed elsewhere herein.

[0022] In yet another aspect, the invention provides therapeutic methods for inhibiting PDGFR-beta activity using an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody or antigen-binding portion of an antibody of the invention, wherein the therapeutic methods comprise administering a

therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the invention. The disorder treated is any disease or condition which is improved, ameliorated, inhibited or prevented by removal, inhibition or reduction of PDGFR-beta activity or signaling. The anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies or antibody fragments of the invention may function to block the interaction between PDGFR-beta and a PDGFR-beta binding partner (*e.g.*, a PDGF ligand), or otherwise inhibit the signaling activity of PDGFR-beta.

[0023] The present invention also includes the use of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody or antigen binding portion of an antibody of the invention in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder related to or caused by PDGFR-beta activity in a patient.

[0024] Other embodiments will become apparent from a review of the ensuing detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0025] **Figure 1** is a histogram showing the results of a PDGF ligand blocking assay in which PDGFR-beta was captured on a biosensor surface and PDGF ligand (BB, DD or AB) was applied to the surface following treatment with various anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention or control antibody. Results are shown as RUs.

[0026] **Figure 2** is a matrix showing the results of an antibody cross-competition assay in which a first anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (mAb#1) was applied to a PDGFR-beta-coated sensor tip, followed by treatment with a second anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (mAb#2). Binding responses (numerical values -0.01 to 0.36) for each antibody combination tested are depicted. Light grey boxes with black font represent binding response for self-competition. Antibodies competing in both directions, independent of the order of antigen binding, are highlighted in black boxes with white font. No competition, suggesting distinct binding regions, is represented as white boxes with black font.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0027] 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.

[0028] 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.).

[0029] 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.

Definitions

[0030] The expressions "platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta," "PDGFRβ," "PDGFR-beta," "PDGFRb" and the like, as used herein, refer to the human PDGFR-beta protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:341 (see also UniProt accession No. P09619). 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 (*e.g.*, "mouse PDGFR-beta," "monkey PDGFR-beta," etc.).

[0031] As used herein, "an antibody that binds PDGFR-beta" or an "anti-PDGFR-beta antibody" includes antibodies, and antigen-binding fragments thereof, that bind a soluble fragment of an PDGFR-beta protein (*e.g.*, all or a portion of the extracellular domain of PDGFR-beta) and/or cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta. The expression "cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta" means a PDGFR-beta protein or portion thereof that is expressed on the surface of a cell *in vitro* or *in vivo*, such that at least a portion of the PDGFR-beta protein (*e.g.*, amino acids 33 to 532 of SEQ ID NO:341) is exposed to the extracellular side of the cell membrane and is accessible to an antigen-binding portion of an antibody. "Cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta" includes PDGFR-beta molecules in the context of ββ receptor homodimers as well as PDGFR-beta molecules in the context of αβ heterodimers. Soluble PDGFR-beta molecules include, *e.g.*, monomeric and dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs as described in Example 3 herein (*e.g.*, "PDGFRb.mmh", SEQ ID NO:337 [monomeric], "PDGFRb.mFc", SEQ ID NO:338 [dimeric] and "PDGFRb.hFc", SEQ ID NO:339 [dimeric]), or constructs substantially similar thereto.

[0032] The term "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 a particular antigen (*e.g.*, PDGFR-beta). 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-PDGFR-beta 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.

[0033] The term "antibody", as used herein, also includes antigen-binding fragments of full antibody molecules. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody, and the like, as used herein, include any naturally occurring, 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.

[0034] 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.

[0035] 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.

[0036] 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)).

[0037] 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.

[0038] 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.

[0039] In certain embodiments of the invention, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention are human antibodies. The term "human antibody", as used herein, is intended to include antibodies having variable and constant regions derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. The human antibodies of the invention may include amino acid residues not encoded by human germline immunoglobulin sequences (e.g., mutations

introduced by random or site-specific mutagenesis *in vitro* or by somatic mutation *in vivo*), for example in the CDRs and in particular CDR3. However, the term "human antibody", as used herein, is not intended to include antibodies in which CDR sequences derived from the germline of another mammalian species, such as a mouse, have been grafted onto human framework sequences.

[0040] The antibodies of the invention may, in some embodiments, be recombinant 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. Such recombinant human antibodies have variable and constant regions derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. In certain embodiments, however, 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 derived from and related to human germline V_H and V_L sequences, may not naturally exist within the human antibody germline repertoire *in vivo*.

[0041] 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.

[0042] 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.

[0043] 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.

[0044] The present invention includes neutralizing and/or blocking anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies. A "neutralizing" or "blocking" antibody, as used herein, is intended to refer to an antibody whose binding to PDGFR-beta: (i) interferes with the interaction between PDGFR-beta or a PDGFR-beta fragment and a PDGF ligand (*e.g.*, PDGF-BB, PDGF-CC, PDGF-DD, PDGF-AB, etc.); (ii) interferes with the formation of ββ and/or αβ receptor dimers; and/or (ii) results in inhibition of at least one biological function of PDGFR-beta. The inhibition caused by a PDGFR-beta neutralizing or blocking antibody need not be complete so long as it is detectable using an appropriate assay. Exemplary assays for detecting PDGFR-beta inhibition are described in the working Examples herein.

[0045] The anti-PDGFR-beta 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 as compared to the corresponding germline sequences from which the antibodies were derived. Such mutations can be readily ascertained by comparing the amino acid sequences disclosed herein to germline sequences available from, for example, public antibody sequence databases. The present invention includes antibodies, and antigen-binding fragments thereof, which are derived from any of the amino acid sequences disclosed herein, wherein one or more amino acids within one or more framework and/or CDR regions are mutated to the corresponding residue(s) of the germline sequence from which the antibody was derived, or to the corresponding residue(s) of another human germline sequence, or to a conservative amino acid substitution of the corresponding germline residue(s) (such sequence changes are referred to herein collectively as "germline mutations"). A person of ordinary skill in the art, starting with the heavy and light chain variable region sequences disclosed herein, can easily produce numerous antibodies and antigen-binding fragments which comprise one or more individual germline mutations or combinations thereof. In certain embodiments, all of the framework and/or CDR residues within the V_H and/or V_L domains are mutated back to the residues found in the original germline sequence from which the antibody was derived. In other embodiments, only certain residues are mutated back to the original germline sequence, *e.g.*, only the mutated residues found within the first 8 amino acids of FR1 or within the last 8 amino acids of FR4, or only the mutated residues found within CDR1, CDR2 or CDR3. In other embodiments, one or more of the framework and/or CDR residue(s) are mutated to the corresponding residue(s) of a different germline sequence (*i.e.*, a germline sequence that is

different from the germline sequence from which the antibody was originally derived). Furthermore, the antibodies of the present invention may contain any combination of two or more germline mutations within the framework and/or CDR regions, *e.g.*, wherein certain individual residues are mutated to the corresponding residue of a particular germline sequence while certain other residues that differ from the original germline sequence are maintained or are mutated to the corresponding residue of a different germline sequence. Once obtained, antibodies and antigen-binding fragments that contain one or more germline 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.

[0046] The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta 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 disclosed herein.

[0047] 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.

[0048] 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.

[0049] 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. 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. A "moderately conservative" replacement is any change having a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix.

[0050] 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.

pH-DEPENDENT BINDING

[0051] The present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies with pH-dependent binding

characteristics. For example, an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention may exhibit reduced binding to PDGFR-beta at acidic pH as compared to neutral pH. Alternatively, anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention may exhibit enhanced binding to its antigen 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.

[0052] In certain instances, "reduced binding to PDGFR-beta 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 PDGFR-beta at acidic pH to the K_D value of the antibody binding to PDGFR-beta at neutral pH (or vice versa). For example, an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof may be regarded as exhibiting "reduced binding to PDGFR-beta 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.

[0053] 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-PDGFR-beta Antibodies Comprising Fc Variants

[0054] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta 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).

[0055] For example, the present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta 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

[0056] The present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that bind soluble monomeric or dimeric PDGFR-beta molecules with high affinity. For example, the present invention includes antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of antibodies that bind monomeric PDGFR-beta (*e.g.*, at 25°C or 37°C) with a K_D of less than about 30 nM as measured by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 3 herein. In certain embodiments, the antibodies or antigen-binding fragments of the present invention bind monomeric PDGFR-beta with a K_D of less than about 25 nM, less than about 20 nM, less than about 15 nM, less than about 10 nM, less than about 5 nM, less than about 2 nM, or less than about 1 nM, as measured by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 3 herein, or a substantially similar assay.

[0057] The present invention also includes antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that bind dimeric PDGFR-beta (*e.g.*, at 25°C or 37°C) with a K_D of less than about 250 pM as measured by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 3 herein. In certain embodiments, the antibodies or antigen-binding fragments of the present invention bind dimeric PDGFR-beta with a K_D of less than about 240 pM, less than about 230 pM, less than about 220 pM, less than about 210 pM, less than about 200 pM, less than about 190 pM, less than about 180 pM, less than about 170 pM, less than about 160 pM, less than about 150 pM, less than about 140 pM, less than about 130 pM, less than about 120 pM, less than about 110 pM, or less than about 100 pM, as measured by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 3 herein, or a substantially similar assay.

[0058] The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that block the binding of one or more PDGF ligand(s) (*e.g.*, PDGF-BB, -AB, -

CC, or -DD) to PDGFR-beta. For example, the present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that block the binding of PDGF-BB to monomeric PDGFR-beta *in vitro*, with an IC_{50} value of less than about 300 pM, as measured by an ELISA-based immunoassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 4(A) herein, or a real-time bioassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 4(B), or a substantially similar assay. In certain embodiments, the antibodies or antigen-binding fragments of the present invention block the binding of PDGF-BB to monomeric PDGFR-beta *in vitro* with an IC_{50} value of less than about 280 pM, less than about 260 pM, less than about 240 pM, less than about 220 pM, less than about 200 pM, less than about 180 pM, less than about 160 pM, less than about 150 pM, less than about 140 pM, less than about 130 pM, less than about 120 pM, less than about 110 pM, less than about 100 pM, less than about 90 pM, less than about 80 pM, or less than about 75 pM, as measured by an ELISA-based immunoassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 4(A) herein, or a real-time bioassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 4(B), or a substantially similar assay.

[0059] The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that inhibit PDGF ligand-mediated activation of cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta. For example, the present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that inhibit PDGF-BB- or PDGF-DD-mediated activation of cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta, with an IC_{50} value of less than about 500 pM, as measured in a cell-based blocking bioassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 6 herein, or a substantially similar assay. In certain embodiments, the antibodies or antigen-binding fragments of the present invention block PDGF-BB- or PDGF-DD-mediated activation of cell surface expressed PDGFR-beta with an IC_{50} of less than about 400 pM, less than about 350 pM, less than about 300 pM, less than about 250 pM, less than about 200 pM, less than about 150 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, or less than about 30 pM, as measured in a cell-based blocking bioassay, *e.g.*, using the assay format as defined in Example 6 herein, or a substantially similar assay.

[0060] The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that are internalized into cells expressing PDGFR-beta. For example, the present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and antigen-binding fragments thereof that are effectively internalized into PDGFR-beta-expressing cells as measured using a cell-based antibody internalization assay as defined in Example 7 herein, or a substantially similar assay.

[0061] The antibodies of the present invention may possess one or more of the aforementioned biological characteristics, or any combinations thereof. 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

[0062] The present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies which interact with one or more amino acids found within the extracellular domain of human PDGFR-beta (*e.g.*, within Ig domains 1, 2, 3, 4 and/or 5 of the extracellular domain of PDGFR-beta). Ig domains 1 through 3 (*e.g.*, amino acids 1 through 277 of SEQ ID NO:337) are known to be involved in ligand binding. The present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that interact with one or more amino acids found within Ig domain 1 (*e.g.*, amino acids 1 through 88 of SEQ ID NO:337), Ig domain 2 (*e.g.*, amino acids 97 through 178 of SEQ ID NO:337) and/or Ig domain 3 (*e.g.*, amino acids 182 through 277 of SEQ ID NO:337), and thereby effectively block the receptor/ligand interaction. In certain exemplary embodiments of the present invention, antibodies are provided which specifically interact with Ig domain 2 (*e.g.*, within amino acids 97 through 178 of SEQ ID NO:337; *see*, *e.g.*, Example 8). The epitope to which the antibodies 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 located within the extracellular domain of PDGFR-beta. Alternatively, the epitope may consist of a plurality of non-contiguous amino acids (or amino acid sequences) located within the extracellular domain of PDGFR-beta.

[0063] 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.

[0064] The present invention further includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that bind to the same epitope as any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein (*e.g.* H1M3299N, H1M3305N, H1M3310N, H1M3361N, H2M3363N, H2M3365N, H2M3368N, H2M3373N, H2M3374N, H4H3094P, H4H3095S, H4H3096S, H4H3097S, H4H3098S, H4H3099S,

H4H3102S, H4H3103S, H4H3104S, H4H3105S, H4H3106S, H4H3107S, etc.). Likewise, the present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that compete for binding to PDGFR-beta with any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein (*e.g.* H1M3299N, H1M3305N, H1M3310N, H1M3361N, H2M3363N, H2M3365N, H2M3368N, H2M3373N, H2M3374N, H4H3094P, H4H3095S, H4H3096S, H4H3097S, H4H3098S, H4H3099S, H4H3102S, H4H3103S, H4H3104S, H4H3105S, H4H3106S, H4H3107S, etc.). For example, the present invention includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that cross-compete for binding to PDGFR-beta with one or more antibodies of "Bin 1" as defined in Example 5 herein (*e.g.*, H4H3365N, H4H3374N, H4H3103S and H4H3094P). The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that cross-compete for binding to PDGFR-beta with one or more antibodies of "Bin 2" as defined in Example 5 herein (*e.g.*, H4H3099S, H4H3107S, H4H3305N and H4H3310N).

[0065] One can easily determine whether an antibody binds to the same epitope as, or competes for binding with, a reference anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to a PDGFR-beta protein (*e.g.*, a soluble portion of the PDGFR-beta extracellular domain or cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta). Next, the ability of a test antibody to bind to the PDGFR-beta molecule is assessed. If the test antibody is able to bind to PDGFR-beta following saturation binding with the reference anti-PDGFR-beta antibody, it can be concluded that the test antibody binds to a different epitope than the reference anti-PDGFR-beta antibody. On the other hand, if the test antibody is not able to bind to the PDGFR-beta molecule following saturation binding with the reference anti-PDGFR-beta antibody, then the test antibody may bind to the same epitope as the epitope bound by the reference anti-PDGFR-beta 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.

[0066] To determine if an antibody competes for binding (or cross-competes for binding) with a reference anti-PDGFR-beta antibody, the above-described binding methodology is performed in two orientations: In a first orientation, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to a PDGFR-beta protein (*e.g.*, a soluble portion of the PDGFR-beta extracellular domain or cell surface-expressed PDGFR-beta) under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the test antibody to the PDGFR-beta molecule. In a second orientation, the test antibody is allowed to bind to a PDGFR-beta molecule under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the reference antibody to the PDGFR-beta molecule. If, in both orientations, only the first (saturating) antibody is capable of binding to the PDGFR-beta molecule, then it is concluded that the test antibody and the reference antibody compete for binding to PDGFR-beta (*see*, *e.g.*, the assay format described in Example 5 herein, in which soluble PDGFR-beta protein is captured onto sensor tips and the PDGFR-beta-coated sensor tips are treated with a reference antibody [mAb#1] and a test anti-PDGFR-beta antibody [mAb#2] sequentially and in both bsinding 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

[0067] 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 PDGFR-beta.

[0068] Using VELOCIMMUNE™ technology, for example, or any other known method for generating fully human monoclonal antibodies, high affinity chimeric antibodies to PDGFR-beta are initially isolated having a human variable region and a mouse constant region. As in the experimental section below, the antibodies are characterized and selected for desirable characteristics, including affinity, selectivity, epitope, etc. If necessary, mouse constant regions are replaced with a desired human constant region, for example wild-type or modified IgG1 or IgG4, to generate a fully human anti-PDGFR-beta antibody. While the constant region selected may vary according to specific use, high affinity antigen-binding and target specificity characteristics reside in the variable region. In certain instances, fully human anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies are isolated directly from antigen-positive B cells.

Bioequivalents

[0069] The anti-PDGFR-beta 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 PDGFR-beta. 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-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta antibody or antibody fragment that is essentially bioequivalent to an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody or antibody fragment of the invention. Examples of such variant amino acid and DNA sequences are discussed above.

[0070] 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 does 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.

[0071] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if there are no clinically meaningful differences in their safety, purity, and potency.

[0072] 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.

[0073] 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.

[0074] 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.

[0075] Bioequivalent variants of anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta 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

[0076] The present invention, according to certain embodiments, provides anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that bind to human PDGFR-beta but not to PDGFR-beta from other species. The present invention also includes anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies that bind to human PDGFR-beta and to PDGFR-beta from one or more non-human species. For example, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention may bind to human PDGFR-beta 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 PDGFR-beta. According to certain exemplary embodiments of the present invention, anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies are provided which specifically bind human PDGFR-beta (*e.g.*, monomeric and/or dimeric hPDGFR-beta constructs) and cynomolgus monkey (*e.g.*, *Macaca fascicularis*) PDGFR-beta (*e.g.*, monomeric and/or dimeric mfPDGFR-beta constructs). (*See*, *e.g.*, Example 3, herein).

Immunoconjugates

[0077] The invention encompasses anti-PDGFR-beta monoclonal antibodies conjugated to a therapeutic moiety ("immunoconjugate"), such as a cytotoxin, a chemotherapeutic drug, an immunosuppressant or a radioisotope. Cytotoxic agents include any agent that is detrimental to cells. Examples of suitable cytotoxic agents and chemotherapeutic agents for forming immunoconjugates are known in the art, (see for example, WO 05/103081).

Multispecific Antibodies

[0078] The antibodies of the present invention may be monospecific, bi-specific, or multispecific. 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-PDGFR-beta 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. For example, the present invention includes bi-

specific antibodies wherein one arm of an immunoglobulin is specific for human PDGFR-beta or a fragment thereof, and the other arm of the immunoglobulin is specific for a second therapeutic target or is conjugated to a therapeutic moiety.

[0079] An exemplary bi-specific 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 bi-specific antibody format described above are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

[0080] 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 Mab^2 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

[0081] The invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the anti-PDGFR-beta 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.

[0082] 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. When an antibody of the present invention is used for treating a condition or disease associated with PDGFR-beta activity 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-PDGFR-beta 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).

[0083] 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 an antibody or other therapeutic protein of the invention, receptor mediated endocytosis (see, e.g., Wu et al., 1987, J. Biol. Chem. 262:4429-4432). The antibodies and other therapeutically active components of the present invention may also be delivered by gene therapy techniques. 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.

[0084] 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.

[0085] 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.

[0086] 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.

[0087] 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.

[0088] 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

[0089] 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 PDGFR-beta expression, signaling, or activity, or treatable by blocking the interaction between PDGFR-beta and a PDGFR-beta ligand (*e.g.*, PDGF-BB, PDGF-CC, PDGF-DD, PDGF-AB, etc.) or otherwise inhibiting PDGFR-beta activity and/or signaling. For example, the present invention provides methods for treating eye diseases, fibrotic diseases (fibrosis), vascular diseases and/or cancer (tumor growth inhibition) by administering an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (or pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody) as described herein to a patient in need of such treatment. In the context of the methods of treatment described herein, the anti-PDGFR-beta 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).

[0090] Exemplary eye diseases that are treatable by administering the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention include age-related macular degeneration (*e.g.*, "wet" AMD), exudative AMD, diabetic retinopathy (*e.g.*, proliferative diabetic retinopathy), retinal venous occlusive diseases such as central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), iris neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, post-surgical fibrosis in glaucoma, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), choroidal neovascularization, optic disc neovascularization, corneal neovascularization, retinal neovascularization, vitreal neovascularization, pannus, pterygium, macular edema, diabetic macular edema (DME), vascular retinopathy, retinal degeneration, uveitis, and inflammatory diseases of the eye.

[0091] Exemplary fibrotic diseases that are treatable by administering the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention include pulmonary fibrosis (*e.g.*, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, bleomycin-induced pulmonary fibrosis, asbestos-induced pulmonary fibrosis, and bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome), chronic asthma, fibrosis associated with acute lung injury and acute respiratory distress (*e.g.*, bacterial pneumonia induced fibrosis, trauma induced fibrosis, viral pneumonia induced fibrosis, ventilator induced fibrosis, non-pulmonary sepsis induced fibrosis and aspiration induced fibrosis), silicosis, radiation-induced fibrosis, chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease (COPD), ocular fibrosis (e.g., ocular fibrotic scarring), skin fibrosis (*e.g.*, scleroderma), hepatic fibrosis (*e.g.*, cirrhosis, alcohol-induced liver fibrosis, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), bilary duct injury, primary bilary cirrhosis, infection- or viral-induced liver fibrosis [*e.g.*, chronic HCV infection], autoimmune hepatitis), kidney (renal) fibrosis, cardiac fibrosis, atherosclerosis, stent restenosis, and myelofibrosis.

[0092] Exemplary vascular diseases that are treatable by administering the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention include vasoproliferative diseases, pulmonary arterial hypertension, restenosis, vascular scarring, etc.

[0093] The present invention also includes methods for treating cancer, inhibiting tumor growth, promoting tumor regression, inhibiting metastasis, and/or inhibiting pathological angiogenesis (*e.g.*, angiogenesis related to tumor growth) by administering an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody as described herein to a patient in need of such treatment. For example, the antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of the present invention may be used to treat, *e.g.*, primary and/or metastatic tumors arising in the brain and meninges, oropharynx, lung and bronchial tree, gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive tract, muscle, bone, skin and appendages, connective tissue, spleen, immune system, blood forming cells and bone marrow, liver and urinary tract, and special sensory organs such as the eye. In certain embodiments, the antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of the invention are used to treat one or more of the following cancers: renal cell carcinoma, pancreatic carcinoma, breast cancer, head and neck cancer (*e.g.*, cancer of the brain, oral cavity, orophyarynx, nasopharynx, hypopharynx, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, larynx, lip, etc.), prostate cancer, urinary bladder cancer, malignant gliomas, osteosarcoma, osteoblastoma, osteochondroma, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer (*e.g.*, gastric cancer with MET amplification), malignant mesothelioma, astrocytoma, glioblastoma, medulloblastoma, retinoblastoma, multiple myeloma, ovarian cancer, small cell lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, synovial sarcoma, thyroid cancer, connective tissue neoplasms, Kaposi's sarcoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, or melanoma.

Combination Therapies and Formulations

[0094] The present invention includes compositions and therapeutic formulations comprising any of the anti-PDGFR-beta 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.

[0095] The anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention may be co-formulated with and/or administered in combination with, *e.g.*, a VEGF antagonist, *e.g.*, a "VEGF-trap" such as aflibercept or other VEGF-inhibiting fusion protein as set forth in US 7,087,411, an anti-VEGF antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof (*e.g.*, bevacizumab, ranibizumab), a small molecule kinase inhibitor of VEGF receptor (*e.g.*, sunitinib, sorafenib or pazopanib), or an anti-VEGF receptor antibody. The anti-PDGFR-beta antibody may also be combined with a PDGF

ligand antagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-PDGF-BB antibody, an anti-PDGF-DD antibody, an anti-PDGF-CC antibody, an anti-PDGF-AB antibody, or other PDGF ligand antagonist such as an aptamer [*e.g.*, an anti-PDGF-B aptamer such as Fovista™, Ophthotech Corp., Princeton, NJ], an antisense molecule, a ribozyme, an siRNA, a peptibody, a nanobody or an antibody fragment directed against a PDGF ligand). In other embodiments, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention may be co-formulated with and/or administered in combination with an EGFR antagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-EGFR antibody [*e.g.*, cetuximab or panitumumab] or small molecule inhibitor of EGFR [*e.g.*, gefitinib or erlotinib]), an antagonist of another EGFR family member such as Her2/ErbB2, ErbB3 or ErbB4 (*e.g.*, anti-ErbB2, anti-ErbB3 or anti-ErbB4 antibody or small molecule inhibitor of ErbB2, ErbB3 or ErbB4 activity), an antagonist specific for EGFRvIII (*e.g.*, an antibody that specifically binds EGFRvIII), a cMET anagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-cMET antibody), an IGF1R antagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-IGF1R antibody), or a B-raf inhibitor (*e.g.*, vemurafenib, sorafenib, GDC-0879, PLX-4720). In certain instances, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention are combined, co-formulated and/or administered in combination with a PDGFR-alpha inhibitor (*e.g.*, an anti-PDGFR-alpha antibody), a DLL4 antagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-DLL4 antibody disclosed in US 2009/0142354 such as REGN421), an Ang2 antagonist (*e.g.*, an anti-Ang2 antibody disclosed in US 2011/0027286 such as H1H685P), etc. Other agents that may be beneficially administered in combination with the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention include cytokine inhibitors, including small-molecule cytokine inhibitors and antibodies that bind to cytokines such as IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-8, IL-9, IL-11, IL-12, IL-13, IL-17, IL-18, or to their respective receptors.

[0096] The anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention may also be administered and/or co-formulated in combination with antivirals, antibiotics, analgesics, corticosteroids, steroids, oxygen, antioxidants, metal chelators, IFN-gamma, and/or NSAIDs. The anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention may also be administered as part of a treatment regimen that also includes radiation treatment and/or conventional chemotherapy (*e.g.*, in the context of methods of treating cancer or inhibiting tumor growth).

[0097] Any of the aforementioned additional therapeutically active components may be administered in combination with any of the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention for the treatment of any disease or disorder in which administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody is beneficial, including, *e.g.*, any of the eye diseases, fibrotic diseases, vascular diseases and/or cancers mentioned herein. For example, in the context of treating an eye disease (*e.g.*, wet AMD, diabetic retinopathy, CRVO, or any of the other eye diseases described herein), an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention may be co-formulated with, and/or administered in combination with a VEGF antagonist, *e.g.*, a "VEGF-trap" such as aflibercept or other VEGF-inhibiting fusion protein as set forth in US 7,087,411, or an anti-VEGF antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof (*e.g.*, bevacizumab, or ranibizumab).

[0098] In exemplary embodiments in which an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention is

administered in combination with a VEGF antagonist (*e.g.*, a VEGF trap such as aflibercept), including administration of co-formulations comprising an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody and a VEGF antagonist, the individual components may be administered to a subject and/or co-formulated using a variety of dosage combinations. For example, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody may be administered to a subject and/or contained in a co-formulation in an amount selected from the group consisting of 0.05 mg, 0.1 mg, 0.2 mg, 0.3 mg, 0.4 mg, 0.5 mg, 0.6 mg, 0.7 mg, 0.8 mg, 0.9 mg, 1.0 mg, 1.5 mg, 2.0 mg, 2.5 mg, 3.0 mg, 3.5 mg, 4.0 mg, 4.5 mg, 5.0 mg, and 5.5 mg; and the VEGF antagonist (*e.g.*, a VEGF trap such as aflibercept) may be administered to the subject and/or contained in a co-formulation in an amount selected from the group consisting of 1.0 mg, 1.1 mg, 1.2 mg, 1.3 mg, 1.4 mg, 1.5 mg, 1.6 mg, 1.7 mg, 1.8 mg, 1.9 mg, 2.0 mg, 2.1 mg, 2.2 mg, 2.3 mg, 2.4 mg, 2.5 mg, 2.6 mg, 2.7 mg, 2.8 mg, 2.9 mg and 3.0 mg. Exemplary anti-PDGFR-beta antibody / aflibercept dosage combinations of the present invention include, *e.g.*: (i) 0.2 mg anti-PDGFR-beta antibody + 2 mg aflibercept; (ii) 0.5 mg anti-PDGFR-beta antibody + 2 mg aflibercept; (iii) 1 mg anti-PDGFR-beta antibody + 2 mg aflibercept; (iv) 3 mg anti-PDGFR-beta antibody + 2 mg aflibercept; and (v) 4 mg anti-PDGFR-beta antibody + 2 mg aflibercept. The combinations/co-formulations may be administered to a subject according to any of the administration regimens disclosed elsewhere herein, including, *e.g.*, once every week, once every 2 weeks, once every 3 weeks, once every month, once every 2 months, once every 3 months, once every 4 months, once every 5 months, once every 6 months, etc.

[0099] The additional therapeutically active component(s) may be administered to a subject prior to administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention. For example, a first component may be deemed to be administered "prior to" a second component if the first component is administered 1 week before, 72 hours before, 60 hours before, 48 hours before, 36 hours before, 24 hours before, 12 hours before, 6 hours before, 5 hours before, 4 hours before, 3 hours before, 2 hours before, 1 hour before, 30 minutes before, 15 minutes before, 10 minutes before, 5 minutes before, or less than 1 minute before administration of the second component. In other embodiments, the additional therapeutically active component(s) may be administered to a subject after administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention. For example, a first component may be deemed to be administered "after" a second component if the first component is administered 1 minute after, 5 minutes after, 10 minutes after, 15 minutes after, 30 minutes after, 1 hour after, 2 hours after, 3 hours after, 4 hours after, 5 hours after, 6 hours after, 12 hours after, 24 hours after, 36 hours after, 48 hours after, 60 hours after, 72 hours after administration of the second component. In yet other embodiments, the additional therapeutically active component(s) may be administered to a subject concurrent with administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention. "Concurrent" administration, for purposes of the present invention, includes, *e.g.*, administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody and an additional therapeutically active component to a subject in a

single dosage form (*e.g.*, co-formulated), or in separate dosage forms administered to the subject within about 30 minutes or less of each other. If administered in separate dosage forms, each dosage form may be administered via the same route (*e.g.*, both the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody and the additional therapeutically active component may be administered intravitreally, subcutaneously, etc.); alternatively, each dosage form may be administered via a different route (*e.g.*, the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody may be administered Intravitreally, and the additional therapeutically active component may be administered systemically). In any event, administering the components in a single dosage from, in separate dosage forms by the same route, or in separate dosage forms by different routes are all considered "concurrent administration," for purposes of the present disclosure. For purposes of the present disclosure, administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody "prior to", "concurrent with," or "after" (as those terms are defined herein above) administration of an additional therapeutically active component is considered administration of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody "in combination with" an additional therapeutically active component).

[0100] The present invention includes pharmaceutical compositions in which an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the present invention is co-formulated with one or more of the additional therapeutically active component(s) as described elsewhere herein.

[0101] The present invention also includes additional therapeutic compositions comprising a combination of a PDGF antagonist and a VEGF antagonist. PDGF antagonists according to this aspect of the invention include PDGF receptor antagonists as well as PDGF ligand antagonists. Likewise, VEGF antagonists according to this aspect of the invention include VEGF receptor antagonists as well as VEGF ligand antagonists.

Administration Regimens

[0102] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, multiple doses of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of an anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention. As used herein, "sequentially administering" means that each dose of anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta antibody, followed by one or more secondary doses of the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody, and optionally followed by one or more tertiary doses of the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody.

[0103] The terms "initial dose," "secondary doses," and "tertiary doses," refer to the temporal sequence of administration of the anti-PDGFR-beta 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-PDGFR-beta antibody, but generally may differ from one another in terms of frequency of administration. In certain embodiments, however, the amount of anti-PDGFR-beta 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").

[0104] 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-PDGFR-beta antibody which is administered to a patient prior to the administration of the very next dose in the sequence with no intervening doses.

[0105] 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-PDGFR-beta 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.

[0106] 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.

[0107] 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, *e.g.*, once a month (e.g., two, three, four, or more loading doses administered once a month), then the maintenance doses may be administered to the patient once every five weeks, once every six weeks, once every seven weeks, once every eight weeks, once every ten weeks, once every twelve weeks, etc.).

Diagnostic Uses of the Antibodies

[0108] The anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention may also be used to detect and/or measure PDGFR-beta, or PDGFR-beta-expressing cells in a sample, *e.g.*, for diagnostic purposes. For example, an anti-PDGFR-beta 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 PDGFR-beta. Exemplary diagnostic assays for PDGFR-beta may comprise, *e.g.*, contacting a sample, obtained from a patient, with an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention, wherein the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody is labeled with a detectable label or reporter molecule. Alternatively, an unlabeled anti-PDGFR-beta 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 ^{3}H, ^{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 PDGFR-beta in a sample include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS).

[0109] Samples that can be used in PDGFR-beta diagnostic assays according to the present invention include any tissue or fluid sample obtainable from a patient which contains detectable quantities of PDGFR-beta protein, or fragments thereof, under normal or pathological conditions. Generally, levels of PDGFR-beta in a particular sample obtained from a healthy patient (*e.g.*, a patient not afflicted with a disease or condition associated with abnormal PDGFR-beta levels or activity) will be measured to initially establish a baseline, or standard, level of PDGFR-beta. This baseline level of PDGFR-beta can then be compared against the levels of PDGFR-beta measured in samples obtained from individuals suspected of having a PDGFR-beta related disease or condition.

EXAMPLES

[0110] 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 Human Antibodies to PDGFR-beta

[0111] An immunogen comprising the PDGFR-beta ecto domain was administered directly, with an adjuvant to stimulate the immune response, to a VELOCIMMUNE® mouse comprising DNA encoding human Immunoglobulin heavy and kappa light chain variable regions. The antibody immune response was monitored by a PDGFR-beta-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 PDGFR-beta-specific antibodies. Using this technique several anti-PDGFR-beta chimeric antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies possessing human variable domains and mouse constant domains) were obtained; exemplary antibodies generated in this manner were designated as follows: H1M3299N, H1M3305N, H1M3310N, H1M3361N, H2M3363N, H2M3365N, H2M3368N, H2M3373N and H2M3374N. The human variable domains from the chimeric antibodies were subsequently cloned onto human constant domains to make fully human anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies as described herein.

[0112] Anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies were also isolated directly from antigen-positive B cells without fusion to myeloma cells, as described in US 2007/0280945A1. Using this method, several fully human anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies possessing human variable domains and human constant domains) were obtained; exemplary antibodies generated in this manner were designated as follows: H4H3394P, H4H3095S, H4H3096S, H4H3097S, H4H3098S, H4H3099S, H4H3102S, H4H3103S, H4H3104S, H4H3105S, H4H3106S, H4H3107S.

[0113] Certain biological properties of the exemplary anti-PDGFR-beta 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 Sequences

[0114] Table 1 sets forth the heavy and light chain variable region amino acid sequence pairs of selected anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies and their corresponding antibody identifiers.

Table 1

	SEQ ID NOs:							
Antibody Designation	**HCVR**	**HCDR1**	**HCDR2**	**HCDR3**	**LCVR**	**LCDR1**	**LCDR2**	**LCDR3**
3299N	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
3305N	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
3310N	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
3361N	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64
3363N	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
3365N	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96
3368N	98	100	102	104	106	108	110	112
3373N	114	116	118	120	122	124	126	128
3374N	130	132	134	136	138	140	142	144
3094P	146	148	150	152	154	156	158	160
3095S	162	164	166	168	170	172	174	176
3096S	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192
3097S	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208
3098S	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224
3099S	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240
3102S	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256
3103S	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272
3104S	274	276	278	280	282	284	286	288
3105S	290	292	294	296	298	300	302	304
3106S	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320
3107S	322	324	326	328	330	332	334	336

[0115] Antibodies are typically referred to herein according to the following nomenclature: Fc prefix (*e.g.* "H1M," "H2M," "H4H"), followed by a numerical identifier (*e.g.* "3299," "3363," or "3094" as shown in Table 1), followed by a "P," "N" or "S" suffix. Thus, according to this nomenclature, an antibody may be referred to herein as, *e.g.*, "H1M3299N," "H2M3363N," "H4H3094," 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, whereas an "H4H" antibody has a human IgG4 Fc. 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 Table 1 – will remain the same, and the binding properties are expected to be identical or substantially similar regardless of the nature of the Fc domain.

Control Construct Used in the Following Examples

[0116] An anti-PDGFR-beta control antibody was included in the following Examples for comparative purposes. The control antibody is designated herein as Control I: a human anti-

PDGFR-beta antibody with heavy and light chain variable domain sequences of "2C5" as set forth in US 7,740,850.

Example 3. Antibody Binding to Human PDGFR-beta as Determined by Surface Plasmon Resonance

[0117] Binding affinities and kinetic constants for antigen binding to selected purified anti-human PDGFR-beta monoclonal antibodies were determined using a real-time surface plasmon resonance biosensor (Biacore T100, GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Piscataway, NJ) assay at 25°C and 37ºC. Antibodies, expressed as either mouse Fc (prefix H1M; H2M) or human Fc (prefix H4H), were captured on their respective anti-Fc sensor surfaces (Mab capture format). Different concentrations of soluble monomeric PDGFR-beta constructs (hPDGFRb.mmh [SEQ ID NO:337], *Macaca fascicularis* PDGFRb.mmh [SEQ ID NO:340]) or dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs (human PDGFRb.mFc [SEQ ID NO:338] or human PDGFRb.hFc [SEQ ID NO:339]) were injected over the anti-PDFR-beta monoclonal antibody captured surface at a flow rate of 50 µL/min. Kinetic association (k_a) and dissociation (k_d) rate constants were determined by processing and fitting the data to a 1:1 binding model using Scrubber 2.0 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) = (ln2/(60*k_d). Kinetic binding parameters for different anti-PDGFR-beta monoclonal antibodies are shown in Tables 2 to 5. (NB = no binding observed under the conditions used; NT = not tested).

Table 2: Binding Characteristics of Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies (Mouse Fc Format) to Monomeric and Dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs at 25ºC

Antibody	Analyte	ka (Ms^{-1})	kd (s^{-1})	K_D (Molar)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H1M3305N	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.12E+04	2.52E-05	8.08E-10	458
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	5.10E+04	4.16E-05	8.16E-10	278
	hPDGFRb.mFc	1.62E+05	1.00E-06	6.18E-12	11550
H1M3310N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.40E+04	1.00E-06	7.00E-11	11550
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.00E+04	1.00E-06	2.00E-10	11550
	hPDGFRb.mFc	1.27E+04	1.00E-06	7.89E-11	11550
H1M3299N	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.11E+04	9.20E-04	4.35E-08	13
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NB	NB	NB	NB
	hPDGFRb.mFc	2.59E+04	1.65E-04	6.35E-09	70
H1M3361N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.73E+05	1.26E-03	7.29E-09	9
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.00E+04	3.89E-05	3.90E-09	297
	hPDGFRb.mFc	1.31E+04	1.00E-06	7.65E-11	11550
H2M3363N	hPDGFRb.mmh	7.11E+04	3.33E-03	4.68E-08	3
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	5.00E+04	6.85E-05	1.40E-09	169
	hPDGFRb.mFc	1.04E+05	4.03E-06	3.86E-11	2867
H2M3365N	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.54E+04	1.27E-04	2.79E-09	91
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	6.00E+04	2.06E-04	3.40E-09	56
	hPDGFRb.mFc	2.36E+05	8.01E-05	3.40E-10	144
H2M3368N	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.61E+04	3.41E-04	7.41E-09	34
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	7.00E+03	1.85E-04	3.00E-08	63

	hPDGFRb.mFc	1.18E+05	3.70E-05	3.13E-10	313
H2M3373N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.89E+05	2.35E-03	1.24E-08	5
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.30E+05	2.38E-03	1.83E-08	5
	hPDGFRb.mFc	4.73E+05	2.40E-04	5.07E-10	48
H1M3374N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.67E+05	3.31E-04	1.99E-09	35
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.37E+05	3.71E-04	2.70E-09	31
	hPDGFRb.mFc	9.96E+05	1.07E-04	1.08E-10	108

Table 3: Binding Characteristics of Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies (Human Fc Format) to Monomeric and Dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs at 25ºC

Antibody	Analyte	ka (Ms^{-1})	kd (s^{-1})	K_D (Molar)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H3305N	hPDGFRb.mmh	5.99E+04	1.09E-04	1.81E-09	106
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	6.12E+04	1.11E-04	1.82E-09	104
	hPDGFRb.hFc	1.38E+05	3.42E-05	2.48E-10	338
H4H3310N	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.61E+04	8.92E-05	3.41E-09	130
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.88E+04	1.08E-04	3.75E-09	107
	hPDGFRb.hFc	4.45E+04	2.90E-05	6.52E-10	398
H4H3365N	hPDGFRb.mmh	8.53E+04	1.42E-04	1.66E-09	81
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	8.83E+04	1.50E-04	1.70E-09	77
	hPDGFRb.hFc	1.84E+05	4.55E-05	2.44E-10	254
H4H3374N	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.83E+05	3.58E-04	1.26E-09	32
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.84E+05	4.72E-04	1.66E-09	24
	hPDGFRb.hFc	6.00E+05	8.93E-05	1.48E-10	129
H4H3107S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.21E+05	1.91E-04	8.63E-10	61
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.36E+05	1.98E-04	8.36E-10	58
	hPDGFRb.hFc	5.29E+05	4.24E-05	8.01E-11	272
H4H3102S	hPDGFRb.mmh	5.09E+05	4.55E-04	8.90E-10	25
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.83E+05	4.89E-04	1.73E-09	24
	hPDGFRb.hFc	3.00E+05	1.18E-04	3.90E-10	98
H4H3099S	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.45E+05	1.69E-04	1.16E-09	68
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.66E+05	1.64E-04	9.87E-10	71
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.38E+05	5.48E-05	2.30E-10	211
H4H3098S	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.86E+05	5.96E-04	1.54E-09	19
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.36E+05	9.40E-03	6.89E-08	1.2
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.80E+05	6.22E-05	2.19E-10	186
H4H3104S	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.28E+05	6.88E-04	1.61E-09	17
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	7.86E+05	7.14E-04	9.09E-10	16
	hPDGFRb.hFc	4.80E+05	1.46E-04	3.04E-10	79
H4H3094P	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.65E+05	2.57E-04	1.56E-09	45
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.77E+05	2.89E-04	1.63E-09	40
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.42E+05	6.20E-05	2.56E-10	186
H4H3103S	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.35E+05	1.05E-03	3.13E-09	11
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	3.59E+05	1.16E-03	3.24E-09	10
	hPDGFRb.hFc	6.21E+05	1.64E-04	2.64E-10	70
H4H3106S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.99E+05	7.44E-04	2.49E-09	16
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.90E+05	8.82E-04	4.65E-09	13
	hPDGFRb.hFc	3.14E+05	2.15E-04	6.86E-10	54
H4H3105S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.46E+05	7.84E-04	3.19E-09	15
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.80E+05	9.32E-04	5.20E-09	12
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.47E+05	2.25E-04	9.10E-10	51
H4H3095S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.85E+05	1.36E-03	4.78E-09	8

	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.07E+05	1.75E-03	8.50E-09	7
	hPDGFRb.hFc	3.21E+05	2.32E-04	7.20E-10	50
H4H3096S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.81E+05	1.04E-03	3.68E-09	11
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.82E+05	1.17E-03	6.39E-09	10
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.22E+05	2.60E-04	1.17E-09	44
H4H3097S	hPDGFRb.mmh	NB	NB	NB	NB
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NB	NB	NB	NB
	hPDGFRb.hFc	NB	NB	NB	NB
Control I	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.77E+05	3.49E-03	1.26E-08	3
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	3.02E+05	2.43E-03	8.06E-09	5
	hPDGFRb.hFc	5.39E+05	1.50E-04	2.78E-10	77

Table 4: Binding Characteristics of Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies (Mouse Fc Format) to Monomeric and Dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs at 37ºC

Antibody	Analyte	ka (Ms^{-1})	kd (s^{-1})	K_D (Molar)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H1M3305N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.16E+05	1.02E-04	8.80E-10	113
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H1M3310N	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.53E+04	6.46E-05	1.83E-09	179
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H1M3299N	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.16E+04	2.17E-03	6.86E-08	5
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H1M3361N	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.04E+05	8.33E-03	2.74E-08	1.4
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H2M3363N	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.86E+05	5.03E-03	1.76E-08	2
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H2M3365N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.15E+05	5.51E-04	4.79E-09	21
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H2M3368N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.37E+05	8.44E-04	6.17E-09	14
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H2M3373N	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.10E+05	1.22E-02	2.98E-08	0.9
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT
H1M3374N	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.63E+05	7.90E-04	1.71E-09	15
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NT	NT	NT	NT
	hPDGFRb.mFc	NT	NT	NT	NT

Table 5: Binding Characteristics of Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies (Human Fc Format) to Monomeric and Dimeric PDGFR-beta constructs at 37ºC

Antibody	Analyte	ka (Ms^{-1})	kd (s^{-1})	K_D (Molar)	$t_{1/2}$ (min)
H4H3305N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.84E+05	3.55E-04	1.93E-09	33
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.91E+05	3.90E-04	2.04E-09	30
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.47E+05	4.85E-05	1.97E-10	238

H4H3310N	hPDGFRb.mmh	5.09E+04	3.39E-04	6.65E-09	34
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	5.14E+04	3.92E-04	7.62E-09	29
	hPDGFRb.hFc	7.13E+04	4.50E-05	6.32E-10	256
H4H3365N	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.90E+05	1.02E-03	5.38E-09	11
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.00E+05	1.01E-03	5.06E-09	11
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.50E+05	2.64E-04	1.05E-09	44
H4H3374N	hPDGFRb.mmh	6.85E+05	1.26E-03	1.84E-09	9
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	6.70E+05	1.77E-03	2.63E-09	7
	hPDGFRb.hFc	1.63E+06	2.91E-04	1.78E-10	40
H4H3107S	hPDGFRb.mmh	6.05E+05	8.79E-04	1.45E-09	13
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	6.83E+05	9.42E-04	1.38E-09	12
	hPDGFRb.hFc	6.95E+05	1.15E-04	1.65E-10	101
H4H3102S	hPDGFRb.mmh	1.04E+06	1.47E-03	1.42E-09	8
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	5.74E+05	1.64E-03	2.86E-09	7
	hPDGFRb.hFc	4.20E+05	3.19E-04	7.60E-10	36
H4H3099S	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.67E+05	6.39E-04	2.39E-09	18
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	3.00E+05	6.52E-04	2.17E-09	18
	hPDGFRb.hFc	5.40E+05	1.05E-04	1.93E-10	110
H4H3098S	hPDGFRb.mmh	7.33E+05	1.71E-03	2.34E-09	7
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.80E+05	2.67E-02	9.56E-08	0.4
	hPDGFRb.hFc	3.74E+05	7.66E-05	2.06E-10	151
H4H3104S	hPDGFRb.mmh	8.33E+05	2.80E-03	3.37E-09	4
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	7.40E+05	2.99E-03	4.05E-09	4
	hPDGFRb.hFc	9.36E+05	5.67E-04	6.06E-10	20
H4H3094P	hPDGFRb.mmh	2.23E+05	1.47E-03	6.58E-09	8
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.53E+05	1.70E-03	6.69E-09	7
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.83E+05	2.48E-04	8.77E-10	47
H4H3103S	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.92E+05	4.97E-03	1.01E-08	2
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	5.44E+05	5.56E-03	1.02E-08	2
	hPDGFRb.hFc	7.57E+05	3.06E-04	4.05E-10	38
H4H3106S	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.94E+05	3.35E-03	8.49E-09	3
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	3.72E+05	3.45E-03	9.26E-09	3
	hPDGFRb.hFc	3.56E+05	7.41E-04	2.08E-09	16
H4H3105S	hPDGFRb.mmh	3.14E+05	3.54E-03	1.13E-08	3
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.89E+05	4.16E-03	1.44E-08	3
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.80E+05	8.24E-04	3.00E-09	14
H4H3095S	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.52E+05	6.24E-03	1.38E-08	2
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	2.39E+05	7.97E-03	3.33E-08	1.5
	hPDGFRb.hFc	4.25E+05	7.10E-04	1.67E-09	16
H4H3096S	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.52E+05	6.24E-03	1.38E-08	2
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	1.62E+05	5.12E-03	3.16E-08	2
	hPDGFRb.hFc	2.50E+05	7.93E-04	3.10E-09	15
H4H3097S	hPDGFRb.mmh	NB	NB	NB	NB
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	NB	NB	NB	NB
	hPDGFRb.hFc	NB	NB	NB	NB
Control I	hPDGFRb.mmh	4.50E+05	1.46E-02	3.25E-08	0.8
	mfPDGFRb.mmh	4.89E+05	9.82E-03	2.01E-08	1.2
	hPDGFRb.hFc	8.04E+05	2.17E-04	2.70E-10	53

[0118] As shown in Tables 2-5, Several anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention displayed sub-nanomolar affinity to the human and *M. fascicularis* PDGFR-beta constructs. In

addition, several clones showed tighter (lower K_D) binding to the PDGFR-beta constructs than the reference (Control 1) antibody.

Example 4. Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies Block Binding of PDGF Ligands to PDGFR-beta

A. Receptor/Ligand Blocking Assessed Using an ELISA-Based Immunoassay

[0119] The ability of certain anti-human PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention to block receptor binding to its ligand PDGF-BB was first evaluated with an ELISA-based immunoassay. Briefly, plates were coated with human PDGF-BB (2 µg/mL). Separately, 250 pM of biotinylated soluble hPDGFR-beta.mmh ("biot-hPDGFR-beta-mmh," SEQ ID NO:337) was premixed with serially diluted anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies (0-100 nM) for 1 hr at room temperature (25°C). The equilibrated PDGFR-beta/antibody solutions were added to ligand-coated plates, allowed to incubate for 1 hr, and washed. Levels of bound biot-hPDGFR-beta.mmh were detected using HRP conjugated streptavidin. Data were analyzed using Prism software and IC_{50} values were calculated as the amount of antibody required to achieve 50% reduction of hPDGFR-beta-mmh bound to ligand. Maximum blocking values were also calculated and reflect the ability of the antibody to block relative to baseline. The absorbance measured at the constant amount of 250 pM biot-hPDGFR-beta-mmh on the dose curve is defined as 0% blocking and the absorbance with no added PDGFR-beta is defined as 100%. The absorbance of the wells containing the highest antibody concentration determined the maximum blocking percent. Results are shown in Table 6. ("E" indicates that the antibody is an enhancer, *i.e.*, signal was higher in the presence of some concentrations of the antibody than in the absence of the antibody.)

Table 6: Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibody Blocking of PDGF-BB Binding to PDGFR-beta

Antibody	IC_{50} of Antibody Blocking of Ligand/Receptor Interaction (Molar)	% Maximum Blocking
H1M3299N	7.6E-09	67
H1M3305N	8.5E-11	83
H1M3310N	1.2E-10	88
H1M3361N	1.0E-10	76
H1M3374N	7.7E-11	88
H2M3363N	4.1E-09	77
H2M3365N	9.0E-11	82
H2M3368N	1.3E-10	79
H2M3373N	9.0E-10	80
H4H3094P	1.2E-10	85
H4H3095S	1.4E-09	82
H4H3096S	1.8E-10	84

H4H3097S	E	5
H4H3098S	E	-13
H4H3099S	9.7E-11	91
H4H3102S	E	30
H4H3103S	2.4E-10	90
H4H3104S	3.8E-10	89
H4H3105S	1.6E-10	86
H4H3106S	1.7E-10	86
H4H3107S	6.6E-11	83
H4H3305N	3.0E-10	86
H4H3310N	4.5E-10	86
H4H3365N	3.7E-10	87
H4H3374N	1.2E-10	86
Control I	3.4E-10*	92

* Denotes the average IC_{50} of three separate experiments.

[0120] As shown in Table 6, several antibodies of the invention potently block the interaction of PDGFR-beta with its natural ligand PDGF-BB, with IC_{50} values ranging from about 7.6 nM (H1M3299N) to about 66 pM (H4H3107S), and certain antibodies enhanced receptor-ligand interactions (*e.g.*, H4H3097S, H4H3098S and H4H3102S).

B. Receptor/Ligand Blocking Assessed Using A Real-Time Biosensor Assay

[0121] The ability of select anti-human PDGFR-beta antibodies to block ligand (PDGF-BB, PDGF-DD and PDGF-AB) binding to human PDGFR-beta was also evaluated using a real-time SPR biosensor assay (Biacore 3000).

[0122] Briefly, 400RUs of soluble human PDGFR-beta.mFc (SEQ ID NO:338) was captured on a Biacore sensor surface derivatized (covalently coupled) with polyclonal rabbit anti-mouse Fc antibody (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Piscataway, NJ). The captured surface was saturated with 300 nM of selected anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies for 4 min followed by a 30 nM injection of ligand (PDGF-BB, PDGF-DD or PDGF-AB) for an additional 4 min at 25°C. Real-time binding response was monitored throughout the course of the assay and was compared to the binding response measured when PDGF ligand was applied over the derivatized captured control surface in the absence of captured antibody. Results are illustrated in Figure 1.

[0123] As seen in Figure 1, all antibodies displayed the ability to block PDGF-BB and PDGF-AB ligands with fewer antibodies enabling efficient blocking of PDGF-DD when compared to the no antibody control. Of note were antibodies H4H3094P, H4H3374N, and Control I, which displayed the least amount of RU response when ligand was applied over the Biacore sensor surface.

Example 5. Cross-Competition Analysis of anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies

[0124] A cross-competition assay was conducted to assess the ability of select antibodies to compete with one another for binding to human PDGFR-beta. Briefly, soluble human PDGFR-beta.mmh (SEQ ID NO:337), was captured onto anti-Penta-his Octet sensor tips (ForteBio Corp., Menlo Park, CA). Each PDGFR-beta.mmh-coated sensor tip was saturated for 5 min with a first anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (Mab #1; 50 µg/mL). Next, each sensor tip was saturated with a solution of a second anti-PDGFR-beta antibody (Mab #2). The real time response of Mab #2 binding to PDGR-beta.mmh pre-complexed with Mab #1 was then monitored. All assays were performed at 25°C with a flow rate of 1000 rpm on an Octet RED384 biosensor in Octet HBST buffer according to manufacturer's instructions (ForteBio Corp., Menlo Park, CA). Results are illustrated in Figure 2.

[0125] Binding responses of less than 0.1 nM are shown in Figure 2 in black or gray shading and indicate that the corresponding antibody pairs compete with one another for binding to PDGFR-beta. Binding responses greater than 0.2 nM (shown in white boxes in Figure 2) denote antibody pairs that do not compete with one another for binding to PDGFR-beta.

[0126] The results of this Example indicate that the anti-PDGFR beta antibodies of the invention can be grouped into two distinct "bins" based on epitope binding characteristics: Bin 1 includes Control I, H4H3365N, H4H3374N, H4H3103S and H4H3094P. Bin 2 includes H4H3099S, H4H3107S, H4H3305N and H4H3310N. The results of this Example suggest that the antibodies of Bin 1 bind to distinct regions on PDGFR-beta than the antibodies of Bin 2.

Example 6. Inhibition of Ligand-Mediated Receptor Activation and MAPK Signaling with Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies

[0127] To further characterize anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention, a bioassay was developed to detect the activation of PDGFR-beta by two of its known binding ligands, PDGF BB and DD. The interaction between PDGFR-beta receptors and its ligands is necessary for the induction of diverse cellular processes including proliferation, survival, migration and morphogenesis (Hoch and Soriano, 2003, Development 130:5769-4784). PDGF receptors are receptor tyrosine kinases and are formed by homo- or hetero-dimerization of alpha and beta receptors upon activation by PDGF BB and DD. Upon activation, auto-phosphorylation is induced and several signal transduction pathway cascades are triggered, including the Ras-MAPK (mitogen-activated protein kinase) pathway.

[0128] To detect the activation of the MAPK signal transduction pathway via ligand binding to PDGFR beta, a stable HEK293 cell line was generated to express full length human PDGFR-beta along with a luciferase reporter (Serum-Responsive Element [SRE-luciferase]). HEK293/hPDGFR-beta cells were seeded in a 96-well plate and maintained in low-serum media containing 0.1% FBS overnight. Following incubation, PDGF BB or DD, serially diluted 1:3, was added to cells at concentrations ranging from 100 nM to 0.002 nM, to determine dose response.

To examine the inhibition of ligand-activated MAPK signaling cascade, antibodies were serially diluted at 1:3 and added to cells at a concentration ranging from 100 nM to 0.002 nM. PDGF BB and DD concentrations remained constant at 250 pM and 400 pM respectively and luciferase activity was detected after 5.5 h. PDGF BB and DD activated human PDGFRb with EC_{50}s of 0.04-1.11nM and 0.34-1.82nM respectively. The antibody concentration required to inhibit 50% of PDGFR-beta-mediated signaling (IC_{50}) was determined for each antibody. Results are summarized in Table 7. (NB = no blocking; Isotype 1 = mouse IgG negative control irrelevant antibody; Isotype 2 = human IgG negative control irrelevant antibody).

Table 7: IC_{50} Values for Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies Blocking PDGF-BB and PDGF–DD Ligand Activation

	PDGF-BB (250 pM)	PDGF-DD (400 pM)
Antibody	**IC_{50} (M)**	**IC_{50} (M)**
H4H3094P	4.0E-10	3.9E-10
H4H3095S	6.1E-10	8.2E-10
H4H3096S	4.5E-10	5.8E-10
H4H3097S	NB	NB
H4H3098S	1.2E-09	1.1E-09
H4H3099S	2.1E-10	1.9E-10
H4H3102S	4.1E-09	4.4E-09
H4H3103S	2.0E-10	2.6E-10
H4H3104S	5.0E-10	3.3E-10
H4H3105S	5.8E-10	5.1E-10
H4H3106S	7.4E-10	5.2E-10
H4H3107S	1.7E-10	2.4E-10
H1M3299N	5.6E-10	4.2E-10
H1M3305N	8.5E-09	1.9E-10
H1M3310N	2.3E-08	2.8E-10
H1M3361N	6.8E-09	8.4E-11
H2M3363N	7.5E-09	1.9E-10
H2M3365N	7.9E-09	1.1E-10
H2M3368N	1.8E-10	1.7E-10
H2M3373N	7.0E-11	9.2E-11
H1M3374N	3.1E-10	2.1E-10
H4H3305N	5.0E-10	4.8E-10
H4H3310N	6.8E-10	6.6E-10
H4H3365N	2.3E-10	3.7E-10
H4H3374N	1.3E-10	1.5E-10
Control I	1.8E-10	1.8E-10
Isotype 1	NB	NB
Isotype 2	NB	NB

[0129] As shown in Table 7, several of the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the present invention potently blocked ligand-dependent PDGFR-beta activation, with IC_{50}s in the sub-nanomolar range. Additionally, both mouse IgG (isotype 1) and human IgG (isotype 2) negative controls did not block ligand activation of the receptor.

Example 7. Internalization of Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies on PDGFR-beta-Expressing Cells

[0130] To study antibody mediated receptor internalization, experiments were performed using cells engineered to express human PDGFR-beta (HEK293/SRE-luc/PDGFRb cells). Briefly, 20,000 HEK293/SRE Luc/PDGFRb cells/well were plated overnight in full media (10%FBS, Pen/Strep/Glut, NEAA, and G418 in DMEM) and stained with anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies at 10 µg/ml for 30 mins at 4°C. Cells were washed twice and stained with Dylight 488 conjugated Fab goat anti-human IgG secondary antibody (10 ug/mL; Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA) for 30 mins at 4°C. Next, cells were incubated at 37°C for 2 hours to allow receptor internalization. Alexa-488 fluorescence was quenched by incubating washed cells with anti-Alexa fluor 488 (Invitrogen Corp., Carlsbad, CA) for 45 mins at 4°C to differentiate surface-bound antibodies from the internalized antibodies. Images were taken with ImageXpress Micro XL (Molecular Devices LLC, Sunnyvale, CA) and spot analysis was performed using Columbus software (Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA). Relative internalization was calculated by comparing the quenched staining (i.e. internalized antibody) of each antibody to that of the Control 1 antibody. Results are summarized in Table 8.

Table 8: Internalization of Select Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies

Antibody	Percent Internalization (Relative to Control I)
H4H3094P	77%
H4H3099S	88%
H4H3103S	87%
H4H3107S	92%
H4H3305N	79%
H4H3310N	66%
H4H3365N	65%
H4H3374N	81%
Isotype Ctrl	4%
Control I	100%

[0131] As shown in Table 8, all anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies studied showed robust internalization in this assay format, reflecting the potential ability of the antibodies to effectively target PDGFR-beta-expressing cells in various therapeutic contexts.

Example 8. Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies Bind Within Distinct Domains on PDGFR-beta

[0132] The extracellular portion of PDGFR-beta consists of 5 Ig-like C2-type domains, referred to as D1-D5. D1 through D3 are required for high affinity ligand binding. In this Example, experiments were conducted to determine which extracellular domain(s) certain anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies of the invention interact with.

[0133] For this experiment, four different PDGFR-beta extracellular domain constructs were used: D1 (SEQ ID NO:342), D1-D2 (SEQ ID NO:343), D1-D3 (SEQ ID NO:344), and D1-D4

(SEQ ID NO:345), as well as full-length PDGFR-beta. Four different anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies were tested for binding to the various constructs by surface plasmon resonance (Biacore). Briefly, 150-200 RU's of anti-PDGFR beta antibody was captured via an anti-human Fc CM5 chip. Next, the individual domain constructs, or full-length PDGFR beta, was applied over the antibody-bound surface at a concentration of 50nM. The ability of the various antibodies to bind to the various domain constructs was measured. Results are shown in Table 9. (-) = No binding observed; (+) = Binding observed; ND = Not determined.

Table 9. Observed Binding of Selected Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies to PDGFR-beta Domains and Full-length PDGFR-beta Protein

	PDGFR-beta Domains					
Antibody	D1	D1-2	D1-3	D1-4	Full-Length PDGFR beta	Predicted Domain of Binding
H4H3094P	-	+	+	+	+	2
H4H3099S	-	-	-	-	+	ND
H4H3305N	-	-	-	-	+	ND
H4H3374N	-	+	+	+	+	2

[0134] As summarized in Table 9, all antibodies bound to full-length PDGFR-beta. Two antibodies, H4H3094P and H4H3374N, were determined to bind to domain 2. Interestingly these two antibodies are also ligand blockers based on the ELISA immunoassay, confirming that domain 2 is important for ligand (PDGF-BB) binding. The two other exemplary antibodies tested, H4H3099S and H4H3305N, did not bind to any of the domain constructs, suggesting that these antibodies may need the amino acids between domains 4 and 5 and/or domain 5 itself for high affinity binding.

Example 9. Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibodies Deplete Pericytes in an *in vivo* Retinal Model

[0135] Two exemplary anti-PDGFR beta antibodies, H4H3374N and H4H3094P, were tested in an *in vivo* retinal pericyte depletion model. Pericytes are smooth-muscle-like cells that express PDGFR-beta. PDGF-B, expressed on endothelial cells, plays a role in the recruitment of pericytes to newly forming vessels, thus promoting angiogenesis and the establishment of vascular architecture. However, the interaction between pericytes and the endothelium, and PDGF-B/PDGFR-beta signaling, is disrupted during pathogenic angiogenesis, contributing to uncontrolled vessel formation. In diseases of the eye, this neovascularization can lead to visual morbidity and blindness.

[0136] In a first experiment, humanized PDGFR-beta mouse pups were injected subcutaneously (s.c.) with 3 mg/kg H4H3374N, H4H3094P, control I (2C5) or human Fc (hFc) to see the effect of blocking PDGF-B/PDGFR-beta signaling in newly forming vasculature. Briefly,

post-natal day 2 (P2) humanized PDGFR-beta pups were injected subcutaneously with 3 mg/kg of hFc control or PDGFR-beta antibody. On post-natal day 5, pups were sacrificed. Both eyes were collected and fixed in 4% P.F.A for 1 h. Eyes were washed 3x with PBS and retinas were dissected removing hyaloid vessels. Retinas were stained O/N at room temp with a rabbit anti-NG2 chondroitin sulfate primary antibody prepared in antibody dilution serum (ADS; 1% BSA in 0.05% Triton-X-100 in PBS). After incubation, all retinas were washed 3X for 15 min in PBS and then stained O/N at 4°C with fluorescein labeled *Griffonia Simplicifolia* lectin and a goat anti-rabbit alexa 594 labeled secondary prepared in ADS. After incubation, all retinas were again washed 3X for 15min in PBS. Retinas were flat-mounted on slides and cover-slipped using Fluoromount-G™ without DAPI.

[0137] Retinas were imaged using a Nikon 80i fluorescent microscope. Images were analyzed using Adobe Photoshop and Fovea. The average NG2 positive area, normalized to the hFc, was measured for each treatment group. Both imaging and analysis were performed in a blinded fashion. Statistical analysis was done using one-way ANOVA in prism software. Results are summarized in Tables 10-11.

Table 10: Reduction in NG2 Positive Retinal Area Post Treatment with 3 mg/kg H4H3374N, Control I or hFc

N	Normalized NG2 Area Relative to hFc		
	hFc	Control I (2C5)	H4H3374N
1	1.0	1.00	0.13
2	1.0	0.48	0.25
3	1.0	0.76	0.14
4	1.0	0.68	0.15
5	1.0	0.64	-
Avg	1.0	**0.71**	**0.17**

Table 11: Reduction in NG2 Positive Retinal Area Post Treatment with 3 mg/kg H4H3094P, Control I or hFc

N	Normalized NG2 Area Relative to hFc		
	hFc	Control I (2C5)	H4H3094P
1	1.0	0.88	0.79
2	1.0	0.85	0.61
3	1.0	0.85	0.37
4	1.0	0.87	0.66
5	1.0	0.88	0.83
Avg	1.0	**0.86**	**0.65**

[0138] As shown in Tables 10-11, the average retinal NG2 positive area was decreased in mice treated with the anti-PDGFR-beta antibodies compared to the hFc. The NG2 positive area was significantly decreased ($p<0.001$) for antibodies H4H3374N and H4H3094P relative to hFc.

Furthermore, H4H3374N displayed the greatest reduction in NG2 positive area when compared to both H4H3094P and the Control I antibody.

[0139] In a separate set of experiments, C57Bl/6 mouse pups were injected subcutaneously (SC) at P2 with an anti-mouse PDGFR-beta antibody "mAb39" (having the variable regions of the antibody referred to as APB5, *see* Uemura *et al.*, J. Clin. Invest. 2002; 110(11):1619-1628) at doses of 50 mg/kg, 25 mg/kg, 12.5 mg/kg, or 6.25 mg/kg, or with Fc at 50 mg/kg as a control (Study 1). The effect on pericyte coverage was assessed at P5 using a rabbit anti-NG2 chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan 4 primary antibody. In the developing retinal vessels, all doses of mAb39 ≥ 12.5 mg/kg inhibited blood vessel pericyte coverage.

[0140] In another study (Study 2), P2 pups were injected SC with 25 mg/kg of mAb39 or control. Retinas were collected at P5 and stained with *Griffonia simplicifolia* lectins ("GS Lectin I," Vector Labs). At a 25 mg/kg dose, mAb39 moderately decreased vascularized retinal areas and vessel density compared to controls.

[0141] In a separate set of experiments (Study 3), left eyes of pups were injected intravitreally (IVT) with 5 µg (0.5 µl) of mAb39 or control at P4 and collected at P6. A single intravitreal anti-PDGFR-beta antibody administration almost completely depleted mural cells and produced marked effects on retinal vascular differentiation and morphology, *e.g.*, irregular blood vessel caliber. Additional experiments were conducted to investigate the effect of PDGFR-beta neutralization in the eyes of adult mice. In particular, left eyes of adult mice were injected IVT with mAb39 (5 µg or 10 µg) or control (5 µg or 10 µg). Eyes were collected 48 hrs later and stained with anti-NG2 and GS Lectin I. In adult mice, mAb39 produced no evidence of any pericyte loss or any vascular morphological changes.

[0142] These studies collectively demonstrate that selective pharmacological neutralization of PDGFR-beta is effective in promoting pericyte depletion and contributes to changes in vascular morphology and growth in developing retinal neovessels. In contrast, this same inhibition does not appear to have any effect on mature pericytes and vessels in the established vasculature in the adult mouse retina.

Example 10. A Phase 1 Clinical Trial of a Combination Formulation Comprising an Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibody and a VEGF Antagonist In Patients with Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Study Overview

[0143] A phase 1 clinical trial is conducted to test the safety of an anti-PDGFR-beta antibody of the invention delivered by intravitreal injection in patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in conjunction with intravitreal (IVT) aflibercept. The amino acid sequence of aflibercept (also known as VEGFR1R2-FcΔC1(a)), as well as the nucleic acid sequence encoding the same, are set forth, *e.g.*, in WO2012/097019.

[0144] The primary objective of this study is to investigate the safety of intravitreal (IVT) anti-

PDGFR-beta antibody in patients with neovascular AMD. The secondary objectives are to explore the anatomic effects of IVT anti-PDGFR-beta on corneal neovascularization (CNV) in patients with neovascular AMD, and to determine the pharmacokinetics of anti-PDGFR-beta and aflibercept in humans. Another objective of this study is to determine the presence of antibodies against the anti-PDGFR-beta antibody and/or aflibercept in subjects treated with these agents.

Target Population

[0145] The target population for this study is men and women aged 50 years and older with neovascular AMD. Approximately 3-6 patients will be enrolled in four planned cohorts. A total of 15-24 patients is planned. Six patients will be enrolled at the maximum tolerated dose (MTD), if identified, or the highest dose level.

Key Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

[0146] The key inclusion criteria for this study are as follows: (1) men or women 50 years of age or older; and (2) active subfoveal CNV secondary to AMD, including juxtafoveal lesions that affect the fovea as evidenced by FA in the study eye.

[0147] The key exclusion criteria are as follows: (1) IVT anti-VEGF therapy in the study eye within 8 weeks of the start of the study (Day 1); (2) any prior treatment with PDGF or PDGFR inhibitors; (3) intraocular pressure greater than or equal to 25 mmHg in the study eye; (4) evidence of infectious blepharitis, keratitis, scleritis, or conjunctivitis in either eye; (5) any intraocular inflammation/infection in either eye within 3 months of the screening visit; (6) current iris neovascularization, vitreous hemorrhage, or tractional retinal detachment visible at the screening assessments in the study eye; (7) evidence of CNV due to any cause other than AMD in either eye; (8) evidence of diabetic retinopathy or diabetic macular edema in either eye; (9) inability to obtaine photographs, FA or OCT to document CNV, e.g., due to media opacity, allergy to fluorescein dye or lack of venous access; and (10) systemic (IV) anti-VEGF administration within 6 weeks of Day 1.

Study Design

[0148] Patients will be assessed for study eligibility at the screening visit, up to 2 weeks before Day 1/baseline (Visit 2). At the Day 1/baseline (Visit 2), patients will undergo safety assessments prior to receiving the first dose of study drug.

[0149] Eligible patients will be enrolled into the current cohort that is open to enrollment. The initial cohort will receive anti-PDGFR-beta/aflibercept (coformulated at 0.2 mg : 2 mg). On Day 1 and Day 29 (± 3 days), patients will receive an injection of anti-PDGFR-beta/aflibercept.

[0150] The dose of anti-PDGFR-beta/aflibercept will be escalated based on safety and tolerability assessed during the previous cohort (starting from the first patient, first dose to 2 weeks following the last patient's second dose in that cohort, or approximately Week 6). Also,

the first patient enrolled in each cohort will be observed for at least 1 week after the first dose before additional patients are dosed. Escalation to the next dose cohort will occur once the data have been reviewed. Intra-patient dose escalation will not be permitted.

[0151] Patients will be evaluated at study visits for ocular and systemic safety (including ophthalmic exam, laboratory assessments, etc.) and efficacy (OCT, FA/FP, CNV area, classic CNV size, total lesion size, macular volume, imaging, and BCVA using the 4-meter ETDRS protocol) and will be followed to Week 24.

Study Drug Treatments

[0152] Four different anti-PDGFR-beta/aflibercept co-formulations will be administered to patients. The co-formulations are summarized in Table 12.

Table 12

Co-Formulation	Anti-PDGFR-beta Antibody	Aflibercept
1	0.2 mg	2 mg
2	0.5 mg	2 mg
3	1 mg	2 mg
4	3 mg	2 mg

[0153] Each formulation will consist of 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.2, 0.03% (w/v) polysorbate 20, 5% (w/v) sucrose, and 40 mM sodium chloride.

[0154] The various anti-PDGFR-beta/aflibercept co-formulations will be delivered via IVT injection and the injection volume will be 50 µl. As noted above, patients will receive two separate administrations of the co-formulation. The first administration will be on Day 1, and the second administration will be on Day 29.

Primary and Secondary Endpoints

[0155] The primary endpoint of the study is safety of study drug. Secondary endpoints are: (1) change in central retinal thickness from baseline (measured by OCT) at Week 8 and Week 12; (2) proportion of patients with complete resolution of retinal fluid (measured by OCT) at Week 8 and Week 12; (3) change in CNV area from baseline (measured by OCT) at Week 8 and Week 12; (4) change in CNV size from baseline (measured by FA) at Week 8 and Week 12; (5) change in area of leakage from baseline (measured by FA) at Week 8 and Week 12; (6) change in BCVA from baseline; and (7) pharmacokinetics and development of anti-drug antibodies.

[0156] 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 monomeric human platelet derived growth factor receptor beta (PDGFR-beta) with a binding dissociation equilibrium constant (K_D) of less than about 30 nM as measured in a surface plasmon resonance assay at 37°C.

2. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof specifically binds monomeric PDGFR-beta with a K_D of less than about 10 nM as measured in a surface plasmon resonance assay at 37°C.

3. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds dimeric human platelet derived growth factor receptor beta (PDGFR-beta) with a binding dissociation equilibrium constant (K_D) of less than about 200 pM as measured in a surface plasmon resonance assay at 37°C.

4. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks binding of at least one PDGF ligand to PDGFR-beta.

5. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 4, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks PDGF-BB ligand binding to soluble monomeric PDGFR-beta with an IC_{50} value of less than about 300 pM as measured in an *in vitro* receptor/ligand binding assay at 25°C.

6. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 5, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof blocks PDGF-BB ligand binding to soluble monomeric PDGFR-beta with an IC_{50} value of less than about 150 pM as measured in an *in vitro* receptor/ligand binding assay at 25°C.

7. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof inhibits PDGF ligand-mediated activation of PDGFR-beta signaling in cells that express PDGFR-beta.

8. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof specifically interacts with one or more amino acids within Ig domain 2 of the extracellular domain of PDGFR-beta (within amino acids 97 through 178 of SEQ ID NO:337).

9. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof competes for binding to PDGFR-beta with a

reference antibody comprising an HCVR/LCVR 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330.

10. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds to the same epitope on PDGFR-beta as a reference antibody comprising an HCVR/LCVR 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330.

11. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human platelet derived growth factor receptor beta (PDGFR-beta), wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises: (a) the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (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, 258, 274, 290, 306, and 322; and (b) the CDRs of a light chain variable region (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, 266, 282, 298, 314, and 330.

12. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 11, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises the heavy and light chain 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330.

13. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 12, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises HCDR1-HCDR2-HCDR3-LCDR1-LCDR2-LCDR3 domains, respectively, selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOs: 4-6-8-12-14-16; 20-22-24-28-30-32; 36-38-40-44-46-48; 52-54-56-60-62-64; 68-70-72-76-78-80; 84-86-88-92-94-96; 100-102-104-108-110-112; 116-118-120-124-126-128; 132-134-136-140-142-144; 148-150-152-156-158-160; 164-166-168-172-174-176; 180-182-184-188-190-192; 196-198-200-204-206-208; 212-214-216-220-222-224; 228-230-232-236-238-240; 244-246-248-252-254-256; 260-262-264-268-270-272; 276-278-280-284-286-288; 292-294-296-300-302-304; 308-310-312-316-318-320; and 324-326-328-332-334-336.

14. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds human platelet derived growth factor receptor beta (PDGFR-beta), wherein the antibody or

antigen-binding fragment comprises: (a) a heavy chain variable region (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, 258, 274, 290, 306, and 322; and (b) a light chain variable region (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, 266, 282, 298, 314, and 330.

15. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 14, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises 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, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, and 322/330.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 15, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

17. A method for treating an eye disease, the method comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 to a subject afflicted with an eye disease.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the eye disease is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), exudative AMD, diabetic retinopathy, central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), iris neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, post-surgical fibrosis in glaucoma, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), choroidal neovascularization, optic disc neovascularization, corneal neovascularization, retinal neovascularization, vitreal neovascularization, pannus, pterygium, macular edema, diabetic macular edema (DME), vascular retinopathy, retinal degeneration, uveitis, and inflammatory diseases of the eye.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 15, a VEGF antagonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein the VEGF antagonist is a VEGF-inhibiting fusion protein or an anti-VEGF antibody or antigen binding fragment of an anti-VEGF antibody.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20, wherein the VEGF antagonist is aflibercept, bevacizumab, or ranibizumab.

22. A method for treating an eye disease, the method comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 19 to 21 to a subject afflicted with an eye

disease.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the eye disease is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), exudative AMD, diabetic retinopathy, central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), iris neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, post-surgical fibrosis in glaucoma, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), choroidal neovascularization, optic disc neovascularization, corneal neovascularization, retinal neovascularization, vitreal neovascularization, pannus, pterygium, macular edema, diabetic macular edema (DME), vascular retinopathy, retinal degeneration, uveitis, and inflammatory diseases of the eye.

24. A method of treating age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof: (i) the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 15; and (ii) aflibercept.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered to the subject prior to, concurrent with, or after administration of aflibercept to the subject.

26. The method of claim 24 or 25, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof and aflibercept are administered to the subject together in a single formulation.

27. The method of claim 24 or 25, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof and aflibercept are administered to the subject in separate dosage forms.

28. A method for inhibiting tumor growth, the method comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 or 19 to a subject afflicted with a tumor.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the tumor is selected from the group consisting of a renal tumor, a pancreatic tumor, a head and neck tumor, a breast tumor, a prostate tumor, a colon tumor, a gastric tumor, and ovarian tumor, a lung tumor, and a skin tumor.

30. A method for treating fibrosis, the method comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 or 19 to a subject afflicted with a fibrotic condition.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the fibrotic condition is pulmonary fibrosis, ocular fibrosis, skin fibrosis, kidney fibrosis, or liver fibrosis.