Biopharmaceutical Processing, Development, Design and Implementation of Processes, Jagschies et al., editors, Elsevier Ltd, pages 837-855, 2018).

Development of these multispecific proteins brings new biomanufacturing challenges, particularly with regard to product instability and low expression yields. In particular, purification of multispecific proteins is complicated by the formation of product-related variants, such as homodimers, half-antibodies, aggregates, high and low molecular weight species and the like. These variants share similar structural and physical properties, such as charge, with the multispecific protein of interest, making them difficult to separate from during purification. These product-related impurities lower the yield and activity of the multispecific drug product and impact the robustness of manufacturing processes.

Product-related impurities having similar charge (isoelectric point) to a multispecific protein of interest may co-elute with the multispecific protein during cation exchange chromatography unit operations, complicating purification and lowering yield. It would be beneficial to separate the low pI product-related impurities prior to elution. The invention described herein meets this need by providing high salt load conditioning for removal of these low pI impurities during cation exchange chromatography.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one aspect, the disclosure provides a method of purifying a bispecific protein from a composition comprising the bispecific protein and at least one product-related impurity, the method comprising equilibrating a cation exchange chromatography medium with an equilibration buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM Sodium chloride; loading the composition on to the cation exchange chromatography medium in a load buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM Sodium chloride; washing the column with at least one wash buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM Sodium chloride; and eluting the bispecific protein from the cation exchange chromatography medium. In one example the load buffer comprises 94-96 mM Sodium chloride. In a related example the load buffer comprises 96-105 mM Sodium chloride. In a related example the load buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride. In a related example the load buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride. In a related example the load buffer comprises 105 mM sodium chloride. In one example the load buffer comprises acetate. In a related example the load buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1. In a related example the load buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1. In a related example the load buffer comprises 100 mM acetate. In one example the load buffer comprises acetate and 94 mM–105 mM sodium chloride. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises 94-96 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one wash buffer comprises 96-105 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one wash buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one wash buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one wash buffer comprises 105

mM sodium chloride. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises acetate. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1. In a related example, at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1. In a related example at least one wash buffer comprises 100 mM acetate. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises acetate and 94 mM–105 mM sodium chloride. In one example at least one additional wash buffer comprises 0-26 mM sodium chloride. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises acetate and 94-96 mM sodium chloride, followed by at least one additional wash buffer comprising acetate and 25 mM sodium chloride. In one example at least one wash buffer comprises acetate and 105 mM sodium chloride, followed by at least one additional wash buffer comprising acetate. In one example at least one equilibration buffer comprises 94-96 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one equilibration buffer comprises 96-105 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one equilibration buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one equilibration buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride. In a related example at least one equilibration buffer comprises 105 mM sodium chloride. In one example the equilibration buffer comprises acetate. In a related example the equilibration buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1. In a related example the equilibration buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1. In a related example the equilibration buffer comprises 100 mM acetate. In one example the equilibration buffer comprises acetate and 94 mM–105 mM sodium chloride. In one example the composition is loaded at 10-27 g/L. In one example the composition is loaded at 15-27 g/L. In one example the multispecific protein is eluted from the cation exchange resin by a gradient. In a related example the gradient is linear. In one example the gradient is a salt gradient. In one example the multispecific protein is a bispecific protein. In one example the multispecific protein is a bispecific antibody. In one example is provided a purified, multispecific protein prepared by the method described above. In one example the cation exchange chromatography medium is a resin.

In another aspect, the disclosure provides a method of reducing low pI impurities in the eluate from cation exchange chromatography, the method comprising equilibrating a cation exchange chromatography medium with an equilibration buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride; loading a composition comprising a bispecific protein on to the cation exchange chromatography medium in a load buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride; washing the column with at least one wash buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride; and eluting the bispecific protein from the cation exchange chromatography medium; wherein the cation exchange chromatography eluate has reduced low pI impurities compared to the cation exchange chromatography eluate recovered in a corresponding method in which no sodium chloride is used in the equilibration, load, and wash steps. In one example the low pI impurity is a product-related impurity. In one example at least one product-related impurity is a half antibody or 2X, 3X, or 4X light chain-mis-assembly.

What is claimed is

1. A method of purifying a bispecific protein from a composition comprising the bispecific protein and at least one product-related impurity, the method comprising

equilibrating a cation exchange chromatography medium with an equilibration buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride;

loading the composition on to the cation exchange chromatography medium in a load buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride;

washing the column with at least one wash buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride; and

eluting the bispecific protein from the cation exchange chromatography medium.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the load buffer comprises 94-96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein the load buffer comprises 96-105 mM sodium chloride; or wherein the load buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride; or wherein the load buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein the load buffer comprises 98 mM sodium chloride; or wherein the load buffer comprises 105 mM sodium chloride.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the load buffer comprises acetate.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the load buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1; or wherein the load buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1; or wherein the load buffer comprises 100 mM acetate.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the load buffer comprises acetate, 94–105 mM sodium chloride.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 94-105 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 94-96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 96-105 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 98 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 105 mM sodium chloride.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one wash buffer comprises acetate.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises 100 mM acetate.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, 94 mM–105 mM sodium chloride.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises at least one additional wash buffer.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one additional wash buffer is a second wash buffer; or wherein at least one additional wash buffer comprises 0-26 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one wash buffer comprises acetate, 94-105 mM sodium chloride, followed by at least one additional wash buffer comprising acetate, 0-25 mM sodium chloride.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 94-105mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 94-96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 96-105 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 94 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 96 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 98 mM sodium chloride; or wherein at least one equilibration buffer comprises 105 mM sodium chloride.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the equilibration buffer comprises acetate.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the equilibration buffer comprises acetate, pH 4.9-5.1; or wherein the equilibration buffer comprises acetate, pH 5.0 ± 0.05 to 5.0 ± 0.1; and/or wherein the equilibration buffer comprises 100 mM acetate.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the composition is loaded at 10-27 g/L of the bispecific protein; or wherein the composition is loaded at 15-27 g/L of the bispecific protein.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the bispecific protein is eluted from the cation exchange chromatography medium by a gradient.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the gradient is linear; or wherein the gradient is a salt gradient.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein the bispecific protein is a bispecific antibody.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein the cation exchange chromatography medium is a resin.

20. A method of reducing low pI impurities in the eluate from cation exchange chromatography, the method comprising

equilibrating a cation exchange chromatography medium with an equilibration buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride;

loading a composition comprising a bispecific protein on to the cation exchange chromatography medium in a load buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride;

washing the column with at least one wash buffer of pH 4.9 to 5.1 comprising 94-105 mM sodium chloride; and

eluting the bispecific protein from the cation exchange chromatography medium;

wherein the cation exchange chromatography eluate has reduced low pI impurities compared to the cation exchange chromatography eluate recovered in a corresponding method in which no sodium chloride is used in the equilibration, load, and wash steps.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the low pI impurity is a product-related impurity.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein at least one product-related impurity is a half antibody or 2X, 3X, or 4X light chain-mis-assembly.