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(54) Title: METHODS FOR OBTAINING ANTIBODY MOLECULES WITH HIGH AFFINITY

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are methods for obtaining antibody-producing cells that express antibody molecules exhibiting high binding affinity for an antigen which comprise contacting a population of antibody-producing cells encompassing cells that express antibody molecules to the antigen on the cell surface, with a first labeled form of the antigen to allow the antigen to bind to the antibody molecules on the cell surface, followed by contacting the cells with (i) an unlabeled form of the antigen, (ii) a second labeled form of the antigen, or (iii) the unlabeled form of the antigen and the second labeled form of the antigen; and collecting cells that remain bound to the first labeled form of the antigen, thereby obtaining cells expressing high affinity antibody molecules to the antigen. The present methods allow for obtaining cells expressing high affinity antibody molecules from a pool of antibody-producing cells that express antibody molecules with different affinities.



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