Claims

1. An isolated IL-23p19 antibody, comprising:

    (i) at least one light chain variable region, said light chain variable region comprising:
        a complementarity determining region light chain 1 (CDRL1) amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:50;
        a CDRL2 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:56; and
        a CDRL3 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:73;
        and

    (ii) at least one heavy chain variable region, said heavy chain variable region comprising:
        a complementarity determining region heavy chain 1 (CDRH1) amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;
        a CDRH2 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20; and
        a CDRH3 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44.

2. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody of claim 1, further comprising at least one human framework region adjacent to at least one complementarity determining region.

3. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:116.

4. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:106.

5. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:116 and a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 106.

6. An IL-23p19 antibody according to any of claims 1-5, wherein said antibody binds IL-23p19 with at least one affinity selected from at least 10^{-9} M, at least 10^{-10} M, at least 10^{-11} M, and at least 10^{-12} M, at least 10^{-13} M, at least 10^{-14} M, and at least 10^{-15} M, as determined by surface plasmon resonance or the Kinexa method.

7. An IL-23p19 antibody according to any of claims 1-5, wherein said antibody modulates an activity of at least one IL-23 polypeptide, the activity selected from IL-23p19 ligation of IL-23R, induction of STAT3 phosphorylation, and IL-17 production.

8. A composition comprising at least one isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claims 1-5 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9. The composition according to claim 8, further comprising at least one compound or polypeptide selected from a TNF antagonist, an anti-infective drug, a cardiovascular (CV) system drug, a central nervous system (CNS) drug, an autonomic nervous system (ANS) drug, a respiratory tract drug, a gastrointestinal (GI) tract drug, a hormonal drug, a drug for fluid or electrolyte balance, a hematologic drug, an antineoplastic, an immunomodulation drug, an opthalmic, otic or nasal drug, a topical drug, a cytokine, and a cytokine antagonist.

10. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising a light chain variable region amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:142-144.

11. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising a heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:139-141.

12. The isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 1, comprising the light chain variable region sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:142-144 and a heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:139-141.

13. An IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 12, wherein said antibody binds IL-23p19 with at least one affinity selected from at least 10^{-9} M, at least 10^{-10} M, at least 10^{-11}M, and at least 10^{-12} M, at least 10^{-13} M, at least 10^{-14} M, and at least 10^{-15} M, as determined by surface plasmon resonance or the Kinexa method.

14. An IL-23p19 antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody modulates an activity of at least one IL-23 polypeptide, the activity selected from the group consisting of binding to the IL-23 receptor (IL-23R), induction of STAT3 phosphorylation, and IL-17 production.

15. A composition comprising an effective amount of at least one antibody according to any of claims 1-5 and 10-14 for use in the treatment of an IL-23 related condition in a cell, tissue, organ or animal, comprising contacting or administering the composition, with, or to, said cell, tissue, organ or animal, wherein the IL-23 related condition is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, optic neuritis, and clinically isolated syndrome.

16. A composition comprising an effective amount of at least one antibody according to any of claims 1-5 and 10-14 for use *in vivo* in diagnosing an IL-23 related condition in a cell, tissue, organ or animal, comprising contacting or administering the composition, with, or to, said cell, tissue, organ or animal, wherein the IL-23 related condition is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, optic neuritis, and clinically isolated syndrome.

17. An *in vitro* method comprising using an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one antibody according to any of claims 1-5 and 10-14 for diagnosing IL-23 related conditions.

18. The composition for use in therapy according to claim 15 or for use in a method of diagnosis *in vivo* according to claim 16, where in the method further comprises administering, prior, concurrently or after said contacting or administering, at least one composition comprising an effective amount of at least one compound or polypeptide selected from an anti-infective drug, a cardiovascular (CV) system drug, a central nervous system (CNS) drug, an autonomic nervous system (ANS) drug, a respiratory tract drug, a gastrointestinal (GI) tract drug, a hormonal drug, a drug for fluid or electrolyte balance, a hematologic drug, an antineoplastic, an immunomodulation drug, an ophthalmic, otic or nasal drug, a topical drug, a cytokine, and a cytokine antagonist.

19. An article of manufacture for human pharmaceutical or diagnostic use, comprising packaging material and a container comprising a solution or a lyophilized form of an IL-23p19 antibody according to any of claims 1-7 and or 10-14.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein said container is a component of a parenteral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intrarticular, intrabronchial, intraabdominal, intracapsular, intracartilaginous, intracavi-tary, intracelial, intracerebellar, intracerebroventricular, intracolic, intracervical, intragastric, intrahepatic, intramyo-cardial, intraosteal, intrapelvic, intrapericardiac, intraperitoneal, intrapleural, intraprostatic, intrapulmonary, intrarectal, intrarenal, intraretinal, intraspinal, intrasynovial, intrathoracic, intrauterine, intravesical, intralesional, bolus, vaginal, rectal, buccal, sublingual, intranasal, or transdermal delivery device or system.

21. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to any of claims 1-7 and 10-14.

22. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, comprising at least one of:

    a light chain variable region nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 142-144; and

    a heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 139-141.

23. An isolated nucleic acid vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claims 21 or 22.

24. A prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23.

25. The host cell according to claim 24, wherein said host cell is at least one selected from COS-1, COS-7, H EK293, BHK21, CHO, BSC-1, Hep G2, 653, SP2/0, 293, HeLa, myeloma, or lymphoma cells, or any derivative, immortalized or transformed cell thereof.

26. An *in vitro* method for producing an isolated IL-23p19 antibody according to any of claims 1-7 and 10-14, comprising providing a host cell or non-human transgenic animal or transgenic plant or plant cell capable of expressing in recoverable amounts said antibody.

27. The composition for use according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein said effective amount is 0.001-50 mg/kilogram of said cells, tissue, organ or animal.