

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated antibody that specifically binds to human B and T lymphocyte attenuator (BTLA), wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain and a light chain, wherein said heavy chain comprises an Fc region that comprises a substitution that results in increased binding to FcγR2B compared to a parent molecule that lacks the substitution.
2. The antibody according to claim 1, wherein said heavy chain comprises an Fc region that comprises one or more of the following amino acids: alanine (A) at position 234, alanine (A) at position 235, aspartic acid (D) at position 236, aspartic acid (D) at position 237, aspartic acid (D) at position 238, alanine (A) at position 265, glutamic acid (E) at position 267, glycine (G) at position 271, arginine (R) at position 330, alanine (A) at position 332, or alanine (A) at position 297 (numbering according to EU Index).
3. The antibody according to claim 1, wherein said heavy chain comprises an Fc region that comprises an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index).
4. The antibody according to claim 3, wherein (i) said Fc region binds to FcγR2B with a higher affinity relative to a comparable control antibody that comprises an Fc region with proline at position 238 (EU Index); or (ii) said antibody binds to FcγR2B with an affinity of from about 5μM to 0.1μM, as determined by surface plasmon resonance (SPR); or (iii) said Fc region binds to FcγR2A (131R allotype) with a lower or equal affinity relative to a comparable control antibody that comprises an Fc region that comprises a proline at position 238 (EU Index); or (iv) said antibody binds to FcγR2A (131R allotype) with a KD of at least 20μM, as determined by surface plasmon resonance (SPR); or (v) said antibody binds to FcγR2A (131H allotype) with a lower or equal affinity relative to a comparable control antibody that comprises an Fc region that comprises a proline at position 238 (EU Index); or (vi) said antibody binds to FcγR2A (131H allotype) with a KD of at least 50μM, as determined by surface plasmon resonance (SPR); or (vii) wherein said antibody exhibits an *in vivo* half-life of at least 10 days.

5. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said antibody binds to an epitope of human BTLA selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) D52, P53, E55, E57, E83, Q86, E103, L106 and E92; or
- (ii) Y39, K41, R42, Q43, E45 and S47; or
- (iii) D35, T78, K81, S121 and L123; or
- (iv) H68; or
- (v) N65 and A64;

wherein each position is in relation to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO:225.

6. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said antibody exhibits increased agonism of human BTLA expressed on the surface of a human immune cell, such as measured by a BTLA agonist assay selected from a T cell activation assay or a B cell activation assay.

7. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising three complementarity determining regions (CDRs): CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3 and the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising three CDRs: CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3, wherein

(i) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, 17, and 3, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, and 6, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(ii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, 21, and 22, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, 24, and 25, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(iii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30, 31, and 32, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 35, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(iv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, and 47, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 35, respectively with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(v) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 53, 54, and 55, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56, 57, and 58, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(vi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61, 62, and 63, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 64, 65, and 66, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(vii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61, 69, and 70, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 71, 72, and 73, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(viii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 76, 77, and 78, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79, 80, and 81, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(ix) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, and 84, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and

CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 85, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(x) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 88, 89, and 90, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91, 65, and 92, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95, 96, and 97, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 98, 99, and 100, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103, 104, and 105, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 106, 107, and 108, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xiii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 76, 111, and 112, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, 114, and 115, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xiv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118, 119, and 120, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 121, 122, and 123, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, 127, and 128, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79, 129, and 130, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xvi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 133, 134, and 135, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 106, 107, and 136, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xvii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103, 134, and 139, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 106, 107, and 136, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xviii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143, 144, and 145, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 146, 147, and 148, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xix) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 151, 152, and 153, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 154, 155, and 156, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xx) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 159, 160, and 161, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, and 164, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xx1) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 167, 168, and 169, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170, 171, and 172, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, and 47, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and

CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170, 171, and 172, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxiii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45, 46, and 177, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 154, 155, and 178, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxiv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 181, 182, and 183, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 184, 185, and 186, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 76, 77, and 78, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79, 80, and 189, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxvi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45, 191, and 192, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 154, 155, and 193, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxvii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 196, 197, and 198, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 199, 200, and 201, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxviii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204, 205, and 206, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 207, 208, and 209, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxix) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 212, 213, and 214, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 215, 34, and 216, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxx) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, and 3, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, and 6, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, 163, and 22, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, 176, and 25, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30, 48, and 32, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 35, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxiii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, 11, and 3, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, and 6, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxiv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, 11, and 3, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, and 6, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxv) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, 17, and 3, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and

CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, 12, and 6, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxvi) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, 21, and 22, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, 24, and 25, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxvii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30, 31, and 32, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 35, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications; or

(xxxviii) CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30, 40, and 32, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications, and CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 33, 34, and 35, respectively, with from 0 to 3 amino acid modifications;

optionally wherein the Fc region comprises an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index).

8. An isolated antibody that specifically binds BTLA, comprising a heavy chain and a light chain, wherein (1) the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto and an Fc region comprising an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index) and the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto; or (2) the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto and an Fc region comprising an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index) and the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, or a sequence with at least 90% identity

thereto; or (3) the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto and an Fc region comprising an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index) and the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 43, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto.

9. An isolated antibody that specifically binds BTLA, comprising a heavy chain and a light chain, wherein (1) the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19, or a sequence with at least 90% sequence identity thereto and light chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto; (2) the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28, or a sequence with at least 90% sequence identity thereto and light chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto; or (3) the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 38, or a sequence with at least 90% sequence identity thereto and light chain comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto; wherein the heavy chain comprises an Fc region comprising an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index).

10. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, which is an IgG1, IgG2 or IgG4 antibody.

11. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, which is selected from the group consisting of: a human antibody, a humanised antibody, a chimeric antibody and a multispecific antibody (such as a bispecific antibody).

12. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, which is monoclonal.

13. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said antibody agonizes human BTLA expressed on the surface of an immune cell, optionally wherein said immune cell is a T cell.

14. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein binding of said antibody to human BTLA expressed on the surface of an immune cell decreases proliferation of said cell relative to a comparable immune cell not bound by said antibody, optionally wherein said cell is a T cell, optionally wherein said decrease in cell proliferation is at least about 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 40%, or 50%.

15. The antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein (i) said antibody specifically binds human B and T Lymphocyte Attenuator (BTLA) with a KD of less than 10 nM; and/or (ii) wherein said antibody binds cynomolgus BTLA with a KD of less than 20 nM; and/or (iii) said antibody does not inhibit binding of BTLA to herpes virus entry mediator (HVEM); and/or (iv) said antibody inhibits proliferation of T cells in vitro, as determined by a mixed lymphocyte reaction assay.

16. The antibody of claim 15, wherein said antibody binds human B and T Lymphocyte Attenuator (BTLA) with an on rate of at least 5.0×10^5 (1/Ms) at 37°C and/or with an off rate of less than 3.0×10^{-4} (1/s) at 37°C and/or with a KD of less than 10 nM, as determined by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) at 37°C.

17. An isolated human antibody that specifically binds B and T lymphocyte attenuator (BTLA), comprising a heavy chain and a light chain, wherein

(a) the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising three CDRs: CDRH1, CDRH2 and CDRH3, wherein CDRH1, CDRH2, CDRH3 have an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 3, respectively, and wherein the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising three CDRs: CDRL1, CDRL2 and CDRL3, wherein CDRL1 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, CDRL2 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12, and CDRL3 has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6; and/or

(b) the heavy chain comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18; or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto; and/or

(c) the light chain comprises a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14, or a sequence with at least 90% identity thereto;

wherein the heavy chain comprises an Fc region that comprises an aspartic acid at position 238 (EU Index);

optionally wherein the antibody is an IgG1, IgG2 or IgG4 antibody.

18. A nucleic acid which comprises one or more nucleotide sequences encoding polypeptides capable of forming an antibody in any of claims 1 to 17.

19. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 18.

20. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 18 or 19.

21. A method of producing an antibody that binds to BTLA, comprising the step of culturing the host cell of claim 20 under conditions for production of said antibody, optionally further comprising isolating and/or purifying said antibody.

22. A method for preparing an antibody that specifically binds BTLA, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a host cell comprising one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding the amino acid sequence of a heavy chain and a light chain which when expressed are capable of combining to create an antibody molecule of any one of claims 1 to 17;
- (ii) culturing the host cell expressing the encoded amino acid sequence; and
- (iii) isolating the antibody.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of any one of claims 1 to 17 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

24. An antibody in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 17, or the pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 23, for use in therapy.

25. An antibody in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 17, or the pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 23, for use in the treatment or prevention of inflammatory or autoimmune diseases, and disorders of excessive immune cell proliferation.
26. The antibody for use according to claim 25, wherein the inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from Addison's disease, allergy, alopecia areata, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ankylosing spondylitis, anti-phospholipid syndrome, asthma (including allergic asthma), autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, autoimmune hepatitis, autoimmune pancreatitis, autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome, Behcet's disease, bullous pemphigoid, cerebral malaria, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, coeliac disease, Crohn's disease, Cushing's Syndrome, dermatomyositis, diabetes mellitus type 1, eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis, graft versus host disease, Graves' disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Hidradenitis Suppurativa, inflammatory fibrosis (e.g., scleroderma, lung fibrosis, and cirrhosis), juvenile arthritis, Kawasaki disease, leukemia, lymphoma, lymphoproliferative disorders, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, myeloma, neuromyelitis optica, pemphigus, polymyositis, primary biliary cholangitis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, sarcoidosis, Sjögren's syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, Takayasu's arteritis, temporal arteritis, transplant rejection, transverse myelitis, ulcerative colitis, uveitis, vasculitis, vitiligo and Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada Disease.
27. The antibody for use according to claim 25, wherein the disorder of excessive immune cell proliferation is selected from lymphoma, leukemia, systemic mastocytosis, myeloma, or a lymphoproliferative disorder.
28. A method of treating a BTLA-related disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of any one of claims 1-17 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 23.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the BTLA-related disease is an inflammatory or autoimmune disease, or an immunoproliferative disease or disorder.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the inflammatory or autoimmune disease is selected from Addison's disease, allergy, alopecia areata, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ankylosing spondylitis, anti-phospholipid syndrome, asthma (including allergic asthma), autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, autoimmune hepatitis, autoimmune pancreatitis, autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome, Behcet's disease, bullous pemphigoid, cerebral malaria, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, coeliac disease, Crohn's disease, Cushing's Syndrome, dermatomyositis, diabetes mellitus type 1, eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis, graft versus host disease, Graves' disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Hidradenitis Suppurativa, inflammatory fibrosis (e.g., scleroderma, lung fibrosis, and cirrhosis), juvenile arthritis, Kawasaki disease, leukemia, lymphoma, lymphoproliferative disorders, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, myeloma, neuromyelitis optica, pemphigus, polymyositis, primary biliary cholangitis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, sarcoidosis, Sjögren's syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, Takayasu's arteritis, temporal arteritis, transplant rejection, transverse myelitis, ulcerative colitis, uveitis, vasculitis, vitiligo and Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada Disease.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the immunoproliferative disease or disorder is selected from lymphoma, leukemia, systemic mastocytosis, myeloma, or a lymphoproliferative disorder.