

NON-HUMAN ANIMALS HAVING A HUMANIZED CLUSTER OF DIFFERENTIATION 274 GENE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[01] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/089,549, filed December 9, 2014, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/106,525, filed January 22, 2015, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF SEQUENCE LISTING

[02] The Sequence Listing in the ASCII text file, named as 31971_10133WO01_PCTSequenceListing.txt of 79 KB, created on November 24, 2015, and submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web, is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[03] Despite significant advancements in the treatment of autoimmunity, cancer and infectious diseases, major challenges in the global healthcare industry remain. These major challenges are due, in part, to the ability of cells to modulate the immune response via cell surface polypeptides. Through some cell surface polypeptides cells and microorganisms have usurped signaling pathways to attenuate the monitoring mechanisms of the host immune system and inhibit immune responses to them, which leads to the development of disease phenotypes. Still, development of *in vivo* systems to optimally determine the therapeutic potential of new targeted therapies for autoimmunity, cancer and infectious diseases that are designed to modulate the immune responses to such disease pathologies and determine the molecular aspects of how such cells manipulate immune responses is lacking. Such *in vivo* systems provide a source for assays for assessing the therapeutic efficacy and development of candidate agents for the treatment of autoimmunity, cancer and infectious diseases in the future.

SUMMARY

[04] The present invention encompasses the recognition that it is desirable to engineer non-human animals to permit improved *in vivo* systems for identifying and developing new therapeutics and, in some embodiments, therapeutic regimens, which can be used for the treatment of autoimmunity, inflammatory diseases and cancer. The present invention also encompasses the recognition that it is desirable to engineer non-human animals to permit improved *in vivo* systems for identifying and developing new therapeutics and, in some embodiments, therapeutic regimens, which can be used for the treatment of infectious diseases. Further, the present invention also encompasses the recognition that non-human animals having a humanized CD274 gene and/or otherwise expressing, containing, or producing a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide are desirable, for example for use in identifying and developing therapeutics that up-regulate anti-tumor and/or anti-microbial immunity. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention provide improved *in vivo* systems for the identification and development of combination therapies that include targeting PD-L1 or indirectly targeting a PD-L1 binding partner (e.g., PD-1, B7-1).

[05] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human animal having a genome comprising a CD274 gene that includes genetic material from two different species (e.g., a human and a non-human). In some embodiments, the CD274 gene of a non-human animal as described herein encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that contains human and non-human portions, wherein the human and non-human portions are linked together and form a functional PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a non-human portion includes an endogenous portion. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of a non-human animal as described herein encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that contains an extracellular domain, in whole or in part, of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[06] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human animal that expresses a PD-L1 polypeptide, which PD-L1 polypeptide comprises a human portion and an endogenous portion. In some embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide of the present invention is translated in a cell of the non-human animal with a non-human signal peptide; in some certain embodiments, a rodent signal peptide.

[07] In some embodiments, an endogenous portion comprises an intracellular portion of an endogenous PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, an endogenous portion further comprises a transmembrane portion of an endogenous PD-L1

polypeptide. In some embodiments, an endogenous portion has an amino acid sequence that is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, an endogenous portion has an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, an endogenous portion has an amino acid sequence that is identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[008] In some embodiments, a human portion comprises amino acids 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises amino acids 19-277 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises amino acids 19-131 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to a corresponding amino acid sequence of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[009] In some embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide of the present invention is encoded by a CD274 gene that includes an endogenous non-human CD274 sequence and a human CD274 sequence. In some certain embodiments, a CD274 gene comprises endogenous CD274 exons 1, 2, 6 and 7. In some certain embodiments, a CD274 gene further comprises an endogenous CD274 exon 5 in whole or in part. In some embodiments a CD274 gene that includes an endogenous non-human CD274 sequence and a human CD274 sequence is located at an endogenous CD274 locus.

[010] In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises a sequence that is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:16. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises a sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID

NO:16. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises a sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:16.

[011] In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 16. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 16. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17.

[012] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a humanized CD274 locus. In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus is an endogenous non-human CD274 locus that has been genetically modified to include a human CD274 sequence. In some embodiments, the present invention provides a humanized CD274 locus comprising one or more exons of a non-human CD274 gene operably linked to one or more exons, in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus further comprises 5' and 3' non-human CD274 untranslated regions (UTRs) flanking the one or more exons of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus is under the control of a rodent promoter; in some certain embodiments, an endogenous rodent promoter.

[013] In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus comprises non-human CD274 exons 1, 2, 6 and 7 operably linked to human *CD274* exons 3 and 4. In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus comprises non-human CD274 exons 1, 2, 6 and 7, human *CD274* exons 3 and 4, and further comprises a CD274 exon 5, which CD274 exon 5 comprises a human portion and a non-human portion, and wherein said non-human and human exons are operably linked. In some embodiments, a human portion of a CD274 exon 5 includes nucleotides that encode amino acid residues that are a part of the extracellular domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a human portion of a CD274 exon 5 includes nucleotides that encode amino acid residues 229-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, a human portion of a CD274 exon 5 includes about 32 bp of a human *CD274* exon 5. In some embodiments, a non-human portion of a CD274 exon 5 includes nucleotides that encode a transmembrane sequence. In some embodiments, a non-human portion of a CD274 exon

5 includes about 69 bp of a rodent CD274 exon 5. In some certain embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus comprises a CD274 exon 5 having a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:12. In some certain embodiments, a humanized CD274 locus comprises a CD274 exon 5 that encodes amino acids corresponding to L229-R238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide and amino acids corresponding to T238-Q263 of a rodent PD-L1 polypeptide.

[014] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human animal comprising a CD274 gene that comprises an endogenous portion and a human portion, wherein the endogenous and human portions are operably linked to a non-human CD274 promoter. In some embodiments, a non-human CD274 promoter is a rodent CD274 promoter. In some certain embodiments, a rodent CD274 promoter is an endogenous rodent CD274 promoter.

[015] In some embodiments, an endogenous portion comprises endogenous CD274 exons 1, 2, 6 and 7. In some embodiments, an endogenous portion further comprises an endogenous CD274 exon 5 in whole or in part. In some embodiments, endogenous CD274 exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of the endogenous CD274 gene are at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to the corresponding exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of a mouse *Cd274* gene that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, endogenous CD274 exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of the endogenous CD274 gene are substantially identical to the corresponding exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of a mouse *Cd274* gene that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, endogenous CD274 exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of the endogenous CD274 gene are identical to the corresponding exons 1, 2, 5 in whole or in part, 6 and 7 of a mouse *Cd274* gene that appears in Figure 6.

[016] In some embodiments, a human portion encodes amino acids 19-131, 19-227 or 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[017] In some embodiments, a human portion comprises exons 3 and 4 of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, a human portion further comprises a human *CD274* exon 5 in whole or in part. In some embodiments, human *CD274* exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part, are at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to the corresponding exons 3, 4 and 5, in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, human

CD274 exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part, are substantially identical to the corresponding exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, human *CD274* exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part, are identical to the corresponding exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene that appears in Figure 6. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises a sequence that is codon-optimized for expression in a non-human animal; in some embodiments, expression in a rodent; in some certain embodiments, expression in a mouse or rat.

[018] In some embodiments, a human portion includes a sequence that is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, or at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:12. In some embodiments, a human portion includes a sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:12. In some embodiments, a human portion includes a sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:12. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:12. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises a sequence that is identical to or substantially identical to SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:11. In some embodiments, a human portion comprises SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:11.

[019] In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention has a genome comprising a *CD274* gene that comprises SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17 or a combination thereof.

[020] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a PD-L1 polypeptide produced, expressed, or generated from a non-human animal as described herein. In some certain embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced, expressed, or generated from a non-human animal as described herein comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 98% identical to a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some certain embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced, expressed, or generated from a non-human animal as described herein comprises an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6. In some certain embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced, expressed, or generated from

a non-human animal as described herein comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[021] In some embodiments, the present invention provides an isolated cell or tissue from a non-human animal as described herein. In some embodiments, an isolated cell or tissue comprises a CD274 gene as described herein. In some embodiments, a cell is from a lymphoid lineage. In some embodiments, a cell is from a myeloid lineage. In some embodiments, a cell is selected from a B cell, dendritic cell, macrophage, monocyte, and a T cell. In some embodiments, a tissue is selected from adipose, bladder, brain, breast, bone marrow, eye, heart, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, lymph node, muscle, pancreas, plasma, serum, skin, spleen, stomach, thymus, testis, ovum, and a combination thereof.

[022] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human embryonic stem cell whose genome comprises a CD274 gene as described herein. In some embodiments, a non-human embryonic stem cell is a rodent embryonic stem cell. In some certain embodiments, a rodent embryonic stem cell is a mouse embryonic stem cell and is from a 129 strain, C57BL strain, or a mixture thereof. In some certain embodiments, a rodent embryonic stem cell is a mouse embryonic stem cell and is a mixture of 129 and C57BL strains.

[023] In some embodiments, a non-human embryonic stem cell of the present invention has a genome comprising a CD274 gene that comprises SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16 or a combination thereof.

[024] In some embodiments, the present invention provides the use of a non-human embryonic stem cell as described herein to make a non-human animal. In some certain embodiments, a non-human embryonic stem cell is a mouse embryonic stem cell and is used to make a mouse comprising a CD274 gene as described herein. In some certain embodiments, a non-human embryonic stem cell is a rat embryonic stem cell and is used to make a rat comprising a CD274 gene as described herein.

[025] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human embryo comprising, made from, obtained from, or generated from a non-human embryonic stem cell comprising a CD274 gene as described herein. In some certain embodiments, a non-human embryo is a rodent embryo; in some embodiments, a mouse embryo; in some embodiments, a rat embryo.

[026] In some embodiments, the present invention provides the use of a non-human embryo as described herein to make a non-human animal. In some certain embodiments,

a non-human embryo is a mouse embryo and is used to make a mouse comprising a CD274 gene as described herein. In some certain embodiments, a non-human embryo is a rat embryo and is used to make a rat comprising a CD274 gene as described herein.

[027] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct as described herein. In some embodiments, the present invention provides a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct that comprises a humanized CD274 gene as described herein. In some embodiments, the present invention provides a targeting vector (or nucleic acid construct) that comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that comprises a human extracellular domain in whole or in part; in some certain embodiments a PD-L1 polypeptide that comprises amino acids 19-131, 19-227 or 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[028] In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct of the present invention comprises one or more exons, in whole or in part, of a non-human CD274 gene operably linked to one or more exons, in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises 5' and 3' non-human CD274 untranslated regions (UTRs) flanking the one or more exons of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises one or more selection markers. In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises one or more site-specific recombination sites. In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises human *CD274* exons 3 and 4. In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises human *CD274* exons 3 and 4 and a human *CD274* exon 5 in whole or in part.

[029] In some embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises SEQ ID NO:7. In some certain embodiments, a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct comprises a sequence that is identical or substantially identical to any one of SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:11.

[030] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct as described herein to make a modified non-human embryonic stem cell. In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct as described herein to make a modified non-human cell. In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct as described herein to make a modified non-human

embryo. In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a targeting vector or nucleic acid construct as described herein to make a non-human animal.

[031] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of making a non-human animal that expresses a PD-L1 polypeptide from an endogenous CD274 gene, wherein the PD-L1 polypeptide comprises a human sequence, the method comprising (a) inserting a genomic fragment into an endogenous CD274 gene in a non-human embryonic stem cell, said genomic fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a human PD-L1 polypeptide in whole or in part; (b) obtaining the non-human embryonic stem cell generated in (a); and, (c) creating a non-human animal using the rodent embryonic stem cell of (b).

[032] In some embodiments, a human sequence comprises amino acids 19-131, 19-227 or 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[033] In some embodiments, a nucleotide sequence comprises human *CD274* exons 3 and 4. In some embodiments, a nucleotide sequence further comprises human *CD274* exon 5 in whole or in part. In some embodiments, a nucleotide sequence comprises one or more selection markers. In some embodiments, a nucleotide sequence comprises one or more site-specific recombination sites.

[034] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of making a non-human animal whose genome comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human CD274 promoter, the method comprising modifying the genome of a non-human animal so that it comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human CD274 promoter, thereby making said non-human animal. In some embodiments, a non-human CD274 promoter is a rodent CD274 promoter. In some certain embodiments, a rodent CD274 promoter is an endogenous rodent CD274 promoter.

[035] In some embodiments, a human portion comprises amino acids 19-131, 19-227 or 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[036] In some embodiments, a CD274 gene is modified to include human *CD274* exons 3 and 4. In some embodiments, a CD274 gene is modified to include human *CD274* exons 3, 4, and 5 in whole or in part.

[037] In some embodiments, modifying the genome of a non-human animal is performed in a non-human embryonic stem cell followed by generating a non-human animal with said non-human embryonic stem cell. In some certain embodiments, the non-human embryonic stem cell is a rodent embryonic stem cell; in some embodiments, a mouse embryonic stem cell; in some embodiments, a rat embryonic stem cell.

[038] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a non-human animal obtainable by, generated from, or produced from a method as described herein.

[039] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of reducing, preventing or eliminating tumor growth in a non-human animal, the method comprising the steps of administering a drug targeting human PD-L1 to a non-human animal whose genome comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human animal CD274 promoter; the administering being performed under conditions and for a time sufficient that tumor growth is reduced, prevented or eliminated in the non-human animal.

[040] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of killing tumor cells in a non-human animal, the method comprising the steps of administering a drug targeting human PD-L1 to a non-human animal whose genome comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human animal CD274 promoter; the administering being performed under conditions and for a time sufficient that the drug mediates killing of the tumor cells in the non-human animal.

[041] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of assessing the pharmacokinetic properties of a drug targeting human PD-L1, the method comprising the steps of administering a drug targeting human PD-L1 to a non-human animal whose genome comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human animal CD274 promoter; and performing an assay to determine one or more pharmacokinetic properties of the drug targeting human PD-L1.

[042] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method of assessing the efficacy of a drug targeting human PD-L1, the method comprising the steps of administering a drug targeting human PD-L1 to a non-human animal whose genome comprises a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and

an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a non-human animal CD274 promoter; and performing an assay to determine the efficacy of the drug targeting human PD-L1.

[043] In various embodiments, a non-human animal as described herein is a rodent whose genome includes a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a rodent CD274 promoter. In various embodiments, a rodent CD274 promoter is an endogenous rodent CD274 promoter. In various embodiments, a human portion comprises amino acids 19-131, 19-227 or 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[044] In some embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 is a PD-L1 antagonist. In some embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 is a PD-L1 agonist. In some embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 is an anti-PD-L1 antibody. In some embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 is administered to a non-human animal intravenously, intraperitoneally, intramuscularly, or subcutaneously.

[045] In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method for identification or validation of a drug or vaccine, the method comprising the steps of delivering a drug or vaccine to a non-human animal whose genome includes a CD274 gene as described herein, and monitoring one or more of the immune response to the drug or vaccine, the safety profile of the drug or vaccine, or the effect on a disease, disorder or condition. In some embodiments, monitoring the safety profile includes determining if the non-human animal exhibits a side effect or adverse reaction as a result of delivering the drug or vaccine. In some embodiments, a side effect or adverse reaction is selected from morbidity, mortality, alteration in body weight, alteration of the level of one or more enzymes (e.g., liver), alteration in the weight of one or more organs, loss of function (e.g., sensory, motor, organ, etc.), increased susceptibility to one or more diseases, alterations to the genome of the non-human animal, increase or decrease in food consumption and complications of one or more diseases. In some embodiments, the disease, disorder or condition is induced in the non-human animal. In some embodiments, the disease, disorder or condition induced in the non-human animal is associated with a disease, disorder or condition suffered by one or more human patients in need of treatment. In some certain embodiments, the drug is an antibody.

[046] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a non-human animal as described herein in the development of a drug or vaccine for use in medicine, such as use as a medicament.

[047] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a non-human animal as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer or a neoplasm.

[048] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a non-human animal as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament of the treatment of an infectious disease.

[049] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a non-human animal as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament of the treatment of an inflammatory disease, disorder or condition.

[050] In some embodiments, the present invention provides use of a non-human animal as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament of the treatment of an autoimmune disease, disorder or condition.

[051] In various embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention includes a CD274 gene as described herein. In various embodiments, a CD274 gene of the present invention encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having a human portion and an endogenous portion, which portions are operably linked to a rodent CD274 promoter. In various embodiments, a rodent promoter is an endogenous rodent promoter. In various embodiments, a human portion comprises human *CD274* exons 3 and 4. In various embodiments, a human portion comprises human *CD274* exons 3 and 4 and a human *CD274* exon 5 in whole or in part.

[052] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide of the present invention includes a PD-L1 polypeptide as described herein.

[053] In various embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention does not detectably express a full-length endogenous non-human PD-L1 polypeptide. In various embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention does not detectably express an extracellular portion of an endogenous PD-L1 polypeptide. In various embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention does not detectably express an immunoglobulin V domain and, in some embodiments, an immunoglobulin C domain of an endogenous PD-L1 polypeptide.

[054] In various embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a rodent; in some embodiments, a mouse; in some embodiments, a rat.

[055] As used in this application, the terms "about" and "approximately" are used as equivalents. Any numerals used in this application with or without about/approximately are meant to cover any normal fluctuations appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the relevant art.

[056] Other features, objects, and advantages of the present invention are apparent in the detailed description of certain embodiments that follows. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description, while indicating certain embodiments of the present invention, is given by way of illustration only, not limitation. Various changes and modifications within the scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[057] The Drawing included herein, which is composed of the following Figures, is for illustration purposes only and not for limitation.

[058] *Figure 1* shows a diagram, not to scale, of the genomic organization of a non-human (e.g., mouse) and human cluster of differentiation 274 (CD274) genes. Exons are numbered beneath each exon. Untranslated regions (UTRs) are indicated by open rectangles.

[059] *Figure 2* shows an illustration, not to scale, of an exemplary constructs used in humanization of a non-human cluster of differentiation 274 (CD274) gene. Top diagram represents a humanized targeting vector with a neomycin cassette, while the bottom diagram represents a humanized targeting vector with the cassette deleted. Selected nucleotide junction locations are marked with a line below each junction accompanied by the corresponding SEQ ID NOs. Exemplary humanization fragments are set forth in Figure 6 and are illustrated as follows: humanization fragment A: human 4,494 bp-neomycin cassette-human 3,950 bp (SEQ ID NO:7); humanization fragment B: human 4,494 bp-*loxP*-human 3,950 bp (SEQ ID NO:8); humanization fragment C: human 4,494 bp fragment (SEQ ID NO:9); humanization fragment D: human 3,950 bp fragment (SEQ ID NO:10).

[060] *Figure 3* shows a diagram, not to scale, of the genomic organization of a non-human (e.g., mouse) and human cluster of differentiation 274 (CD274) genes indicating

the approximate locations of probes used in an assay described in Example 1. Also illustrated are an exemplary humanization fragment (humanization fragment E; SEQ ID NO:11) within a human *CD274* gene and an exemplary deletion of a portion of a mouse *Cd274* gene.

[061] *Figure 4* shows exemplary MC38.ova/hPD-L1 tumor growth curves over 21 days in mice homozygous for humanization of an endogenous PD-L1 gene as described in Example 1. Control Ab: antibody not specific for PD-L1, a-hPD-L1: antibody specific for human PD-L1. Arrows indicate the days for antibody treatment during the experiment. The number of tumor-free mice on day 21 is shown for each treatment group.

[062] *Figure 5* shows exemplary real-time PCR analysis of CD8b, CD3 and PD-L1 mRNA expression in splenocytes of mice homozygous for an endogenous *CD274* gene as described in Example 1 after treatment with anti-PD-L1 or control antibodies. A, mean of six mice per group. B, expression levels for individual mice in each treatment group. Control Ab: antibody not specific for PD-L1; a-PD-L1: anti-PD-L1 antibody.

[063] *Figure 6* shows exemplary mouse, human and humanized *CD274* and PD-L1 sequences, as well as exemplary human nucleic acid sequences for humanization of a non-human *CD274* gene. For mRNA sequences, bold font indicates coding sequence and consecutive exons, where indicated, are separated by alternating underlined text; for humanized mRNA sequences, human sequences are contained within parentheses. For protein sequences, signal peptides are underlined, extracellular sequences are bold font, immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain sequences are within parentheses, and intracellular sequences are italicized; for humanized protein sequences, non-human sequences are indicated in regular font, human sequences are indicated in bold font. Humanization fragment A: human 4,494 bp-neomycin cassette-human 3,950 bp (SEQ ID NO:7); humanization fragment B: human 4,494 bp-*loxP*-human 3,950 bp (SEQ ID NO:8); humanization fragment C: human 4,494 bp fragment (SEQ ID NO:9); humanization fragment D: human 3,950 bp fragment (SEQ ID NO:10).

DEFINITIONS

[064] This invention is not limited to particular methods and experimental conditions described herein, 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 is defined by the claims.

[065] Unless defined otherwise, all terms and phrases used herein include the meanings that the terms and phrases have attained in the art, unless the contrary is clearly indicated or clearly apparent from the context in which the term or phrase is used. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, particular methods and materials are now described. All publications mentioned herein are hereby incorporated by reference.

[066] The term "*approximately*", as applied herein to one or more values of interest, includes a value that is similar to a stated reference value. In certain embodiments, the term "*approximately*" or "*about*" refers to a range of values that fall within 25%, 20%, 19%, 18%, 17%, 16%, 15%, 14%, 13%, 12%, 11%, 10%, 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 1%, or less in either direction (greater than or less than) of the stated reference value unless otherwise stated or otherwise evident from the context (except where such number would exceed 100% of a possible value).

[067] The term "*biologically active*", as used herein, includes a characteristic of any agent that has activity in a biological system, *in vitro* or *in vivo* (e.g., in an organism). For instance, an agent that, when present in an organism, has a biological effect within that organism is considered to be biologically active. In particular embodiments, where a protein or polypeptide is biologically active, a portion of that protein or polypeptide that shares at least one biological activity of the protein or polypeptide is typically referred to as a "*biologically active*" portion.

[068] The phrase "*cluster of differentiation 274 protein*", "*CD274 protein*", "*B7-H1 protein*", or "*PD-L1 protein*" as used herein, includes a transmembrane protein that belongs to the B7 family of cell-surface protein ligands and has extracellular immunoglobulin V (IgV) and immunoglobulin constant-like (IgC) domains, which are related to immunoglobulin variable and constant domains, and transmembrane and cytoplasmic (or intracellular) domains. PD-L1 is expressed in both lymphoid (e.g., B cell, T cell, dendritic cell, macrophages, monocytes, etc.) and non-lymphoid lineages (heart, lung, liver, pancreas, etc.) and is involved in interactions between membrane surface proteins such as, for example, Programmed cell death 1 (PD-1) to regulate immune function. Expression of PD-L1 is regulated by cytokines (e.g., interferon- γ) and

has been reported to be up-regulated in many human cancers, which may allow such cancers to evade surveillance by the immune system. PD-L1 has been shown to be involved in several cellular processes such as, for example, intracellular infection, peripheral tolerance, T cell receptor signaling and T cell proliferation. Alternatively spliced CD274 isoforms have been identified between mouse and man. By way of illustration, nucleotide and amino acid sequences of murine and human CD274 genes are provided in Figure 6. Persons of skill upon reading this disclosure will recognize that one or more endogenous CD274 genes in a genome (or all) can be replaced, modified, altered, deleted, disrupted, etc. by one or more heterologous CD274 genes (e.g., polymorphic variants, subtypes or mutants, genes from another species, humanized forms, etc.).

[069] A "*CD274-expressing cell*", "*B7-H1-expressing cell*", or "*PD-L1-expressing cell*" as used herein, includes a cell that expresses a PD-L1 transmembrane polypeptide. In some embodiments, a PD-L1-expressing cell expresses PD-L1 transmembrane polypeptides on its surface. In some embodiments, PD-L1 polypeptides are expressed on the surface of the cell in an amount sufficient to mediate cell-to-cell interactions (e.g., through interactions with PD-1 receptor polypeptides). Exemplary PD-L1-expressing cells include B cells, dendritic cells, macrophages, monocytes and T cells. PD-L1-expressing cells modulate activation or inhibition of lymphoid cells to augment or attenuate immune responses. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention demonstrate regulation of various cellular processes (as described herein) via humanized PD-L1 polypeptides expressed on the surface of one more cells of the non-human animal.

[070] The term "*comparable*", as used herein, includes two or more agents, entities, situations, sets of conditions, etc. that may not be identical to one another but that are sufficiently similar to permit comparison between them so that conclusions may reasonably be drawn based on differences or similarities observed. Those of ordinary skill in the art will understand, in context, what degree of identity is required in any given circumstance for two or more such agents, entities, situations, sets of conditions, etc. to be considered comparable.

[071] The term "*conservative*", as used herein to describe a conservative amino acid substitution, includes substitution of an amino acid residue 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 interest of a protein, for example, the ability of a receptor to bind to a ligand. Examples of groups of amino acids that have side chains with similar chemical properties include: aliphatic side chains such as glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, and isoleucine; aliphatic-hydroxyl side chains such as serine and threonine; amide-containing side chains such as asparagine and glutamine; aromatic side chains such as phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan; basic side chains such as lysine, arginine, and histidine; acidic side chains such as aspartic acid and glutamic acid; and, sulfur-containing side chains such as cysteine and methionine. Conservative amino acids substitution groups include, for example, valine/leucine/isoleucine, phenylalanine/tyrosine, lysine/arginine, alanine/valine, glutamate/aspartate, and asparagine/glutamine. In some embodiments, a conservative amino acid substitution can be a substitution of any native residue in a protein with alanine, as used in, for example, alanine scanning mutagenesis. In some embodiments, a conservative substitution is made that has a positive value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix disclosed in Gonnet, G. H. et al., 1992, Science 256:1443-1445, hereby incorporated by reference. In some embodiments, a substitution is a moderately conservative substitution wherein the substitution has a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix.

[072] The term "*control*", as used herein, includes the art-understood meaning of a "*control*" being a standard against which results are compared. Typically, controls are used to augment integrity in experiments by isolating variables in order to make a conclusion about such variables. In some embodiments, a control is a reaction or assay that is performed simultaneously with a test reaction or assay to provide a comparator. As used herein, a "*control*" may refer to a "*control animal*." A "*control animal*" may have a modification as described herein, a modification that is different as described herein, or no modification (i.e., a wild-type animal). In one experiment, a "*test*" (i.e., a variable being tested) is applied. In a second experiment, the "*control*," the variable being tested is not applied. In some embodiments, a control is a historical control (i.e., of a test or assay performed previously, or an amount or result that is previously known). In some embodiments, a control is or comprises a printed or otherwise saved record. A control may be a positive control or a negative control.

[073] The term "*disruption*", as used herein, includes the result of a homologous recombination event with a DNA molecule (e.g., with an endogenous homologous

sequence such as a gene or gene locus). In some embodiments, a disruption may achieve or represent an insertion, deletion, substitution, replacement, missense mutation, or a frame-shift of a DNA sequence(s), or any combination thereof. Insertions may include the insertion of entire genes or fragments of genes, e.g., exons, which may be of an origin other than the endogenous sequence (e.g., a heterologous sequence). In some embodiments, a disruption may increase expression and/or activity of a gene or gene product (e.g., of a protein encoded by a gene). In some embodiments, a disruption may decrease expression and/or activity of a gene or gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption may alter sequence of a gene or an encoded gene product (e.g., an encoded protein). In some embodiments, a disruption may truncate or fragment a gene or an encoded gene product (e.g., an encoded protein). In some embodiments, a disruption may extend a gene or an encoded gene product; in some such embodiments, a disruption may achieve assembly of a fusion protein. In some embodiments, a disruption may affect level but not activity of a gene or gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption may affect activity but not level of a gene or gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption may have no significant effect on level of a gene or gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption may have no significant effect on activity of a gene or gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption may have no significant effect on either level or activity of a gene or gene product.

[074] The terms "*determining*", "*measuring*", "*evaluating*", "*assessing*", "*assaying*" and "*analyzing*" are used interchangeably herein to refer to any form of measurement, and include determining if an element is present or not. These terms include both quantitative and/or qualitative determinations. Assaying may be relative or absolute. "*Assaying for the presence of*" can be determining the amount of something present and/or determining whether or not it is present or absent.

[075] The phrase "*endogenous locus*" or "*endogenous gene*", as used herein, includes a genetic locus found in a parent or reference organism prior to introduction of a disruption, deletion, replacement, alteration, or modification as described herein. In some embodiments, the endogenous locus has a sequence found in nature. In some embodiments, the endogenous locus is a wild type locus. In some embodiments, the reference organism is a wild-type organism. In some embodiments, the reference organism is an engineered organism. In some embodiments, the reference organism is a laboratory-bred organism (whether wild-type or engineered).

[076] The phrase "*endogenous promoter*" includes a promoter that is naturally associated, e.g., in a wild-type organism, with an endogenous gene.

[077] The term "*heterologous*", as used herein, includes an agent or entity from a different source. For example, when used in reference to a polypeptide, gene, or gene product present in a particular cell or organism, the term clarifies that the relevant polypeptide, gene, or gene product: 1) was engineered by the hand of man; 2) was introduced into the cell or organism (or a precursor thereof) through the hand of man (e.g., via genetic engineering); and/or 3) is not naturally produced by or present in the relevant cell or organism (e.g., the relevant cell type or organism type).

[078] The term "*host cell*", as used herein, includes a cell into which a heterologous (e.g., exogenous) nucleic acid or protein has been introduced. Persons of skill upon reading this disclosure will understand that such terms refer not only to the particular subject cell, but also is used to refer to the progeny of such a cell. Because certain modifications may occur in succeeding generations due to either mutation or environmental influences, such progeny may not, in fact, be identical to the parent cell, but are still included within the scope of the term "*host cell*" as used herein. In some embodiments, a host cell is or comprises a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. In general, a host cell is any cell that is suitable for receiving and/or producing a heterologous nucleic acid or protein, regardless of the Kingdom of life to which the cell is designated. Exemplary cells include those of prokaryotes and eukaryotes (single-cell or multiple-cell), bacterial cells (e.g., strains of *E. coli*, *Bacillus* spp., *Streptomyces* spp., etc.), mycobacteria cells, fungal cells, yeast cells (e.g., *S. cerevisiae*, *S. pombe*, *P. pastoris*, *P. methanolicus*, etc.), plant cells, insect cells (e.g., SF-9, SF-21, baculovirus-infected insect cells, *Trichoplusia ni*, etc.), non-human animal cells, human cells, or cell fusions such as, for example, hybridomas or quadromas. In some embodiments, the cell is a human, monkey, ape, hamster, rat, or mouse cell. In some embodiments, the cell is eukaryotic and is selected from the following cells: CHO (e.g., CHO K1, DXB-11 CHO, VEGGIE-CHO), COS (e.g., COS-7), retinal cell, Vero, CV1, kidney (e.g., HEK293, 293 EBNA, MSR 293, MDCK, HaK, BHK), HeLa, HepG2, WI38, MRC 5, Colo205, HB 8065, HL-60, (e.g., BHK21), Jurkat, Daudi, A431 (epidermal), CV-1, U937, 3T3, L cell, C127 cell, SP2/0, NS-0, MMT 060562, Sertoli cell, BRL 3A cell, HT1080 cell, myeloma cell, tumor cell, and a cell line derived from an aforementioned cell. In some embodiments, the cell comprises one or more viral genes, e.g., a retinal cell that expresses a viral gene

(e.g., a PER.C6® cell). In some embodiments, a host cell is or comprises an isolated cell. In some embodiments, a host cell is part of a tissue. In some embodiments, a host cell is part of an organism.

[079] The term "*humanized*", is used herein in accordance with its art-understood meaning to refer to nucleic acids or proteins whose structures (i.e., nucleotide or amino acid sequences) include portions that correspond substantially or identically with structures of a particular gene or protein found in nature in a non-human animal, and also include portions that differ from that found in the relevant particular non-human gene or protein and instead correspond more closely with comparable structures found in a corresponding human gene or protein. In some embodiments, a "*humanized*" gene is one that encodes a polypeptide having substantially the amino acid sequence as that of a human polypeptide (e.g., a human protein or portion thereof – e.g., characteristic portion thereof). To give but one example, in the case of a membrane receptor, a "*humanized*" gene may encode a polypeptide having an extracellular portion having an amino acid sequence as that of a human extracellular portion and the remaining sequence as that of a non-human (e.g., mouse) polypeptide. In some embodiments, a humanized gene comprises at least a portion of a DNA sequence of a human gene. In some embodiment, a humanized gene comprises an entire DNA sequence of a human gene. In some embodiments, a humanized protein comprises a sequence having a portion that appears in a human protein. In some embodiments, a humanized protein comprises an entire sequence of a human protein and is expressed from an endogenous locus of a non-human animal that corresponds to the homolog or ortholog of the human gene.

[080] The term "*identity*", as used herein in connection with a comparison of sequences, includes identity as determined by a number of different algorithms known in the art that can be used to measure nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence identity. In some embodiments, identities as described herein are determined using a ClustalW v. 1.83 (slow) alignment employing an open gap penalty of 10.0, an extend gap penalty of 0.1, and using a Gonnet similarity matrix (MACVECTOR™ 10.0.2, MacVector Inc., 2008).

[081] "*Improve*," "*increase*," "*eliminate*," or "*reduce*," as used herein or grammatical equivalents thereof, indicate values that are relative to a baseline measurement, such as a measurement in the same individual (or animal) prior to initiation of a treatment described herein, or a measurement in a control individual (or

animal) or multiple control individuals (or animals) in the absence of the treatment described herein.

[082] The term "*isolated*", as used herein, includes a substance and/or entity that has been (1) separated from at least some of the components with which it was associated when initially produced (whether in nature and/or in an experimental setting), and/or (2) designed, produced, prepared, and/or manufactured by the hand of man. Isolated substances and/or entities may be separated from about 10%, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%, about 91%, about 92%, about 93%, about 94%, about 95%, about 96%, about 97%, about 98%, about 99%, or more than about 99% of the other components with which they were initially associated. In some embodiments, isolated agents are about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 91%, about 92%, about 93%, about 94%, about 95%, about 96%, about 97%, about 98%, about 99%, or more than about 99% pure. As used herein, a substance is "*pure*" if it is substantially free of other components. In some embodiments, as will be understood by those skilled in the art, a substance may still be considered "*isolated*" or even "*pure*", after having been combined with certain other components such as, for example, one or more carriers or excipients (e.g., buffer, solvent, water, etc.); in such embodiments, percent isolation or purity of the substance is calculated without including such carriers or excipients. To give but one example, in some embodiments, a biological polymer such as a polypeptide or polynucleotide that occurs in nature is considered to be "*isolated*" when: a) by virtue of its origin or source of derivation is not associated with some or all of the components that accompany it in its native state in nature; b) it is substantially free of other polypeptides or nucleic acids of the same species from the species that produces it in nature; or c) is expressed by or is otherwise in association with components from a cell or other expression system that is not of the species that produces it in nature. Thus, for instance, in some embodiments, a polypeptide that is chemically synthesized or is synthesized in a cellular system different from that which produces it in nature is considered to be an "*isolated*" polypeptide. Alternatively or additionally, in some embodiments, a polypeptide that has been subjected to one or more purification techniques may be considered to be an "*isolated*" polypeptide to the extent that it has been separated from other components: a) with which it is associated in nature; and/or b) with which it was associated when initially produced.

[083] The phrase "*non-human animal*", as used herein, includes any vertebrate organism that is not a human. In some embodiments, a non-human animal is a cyclostome, a bony fish, a cartilaginous fish (e.g., a shark or a ray), an amphibian, a reptile, a mammal, and a bird. In some embodiments, a non-human mammal is a primate, a goat, a sheep, a pig, a dog, a cow, or a rodent. In some embodiments, a non-human animal is a rodent such as a rat or a mouse.

[084] The phrase "*nucleic acid*", as used herein, in its broadest sense, includes any compound and/or substance that is or can be incorporated into an oligonucleotide chain. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is a compound and/or substance that is or can be incorporated into an oligonucleotide chain via a phosphodiester linkage. As will be clear from context, in some embodiments, "*nucleic acid*" includes individual nucleic acid residues (e.g., nucleotides and/or nucleosides); in some embodiments, "*nucleic acid*" includes an oligonucleotide chain comprising individual nucleic acid residues. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is or comprises RNA; in some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is or comprises DNA. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is, comprises, or consists of one or more natural nucleic acid residues. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is, comprises, or consists of one or more nucleic acid analogs. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid analog differs from a "*nucleic acid*" in that it does not utilize a phosphodiester backbone. For example, in some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is, comprises, or consists of one or more "*peptide nucleic acids*", which are known in the art and have peptide bonds instead of phosphodiester bonds in the backbone, are considered within the scope of the present invention. Alternatively or additionally, in some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" has one or more phosphorothioate and/or 5'-N-phosphoramidite linkages rather than phosphodiester bonds. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is, comprises, or consists of one or more natural nucleosides (e.g., adenosine, thymidine, guanosine, cytidine, uridine, deoxyadenosine, deoxythymidine, deoxyguanosine, and deoxycytidine). In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is, comprises, or consists of one or more nucleoside analogs (e.g., 2-aminoadenosine, 2-thiothymidine, inosine, pyrrolo-pyrimidine, 3-methyl adenosine, 5-methylcytidine, C-5 propynyl-cytidine, C-5 propynyl-uridine, 2-aminoadenosine, C5-bromouridine, C5-fluorouridine, C5-iodouridine, C5-propynyl-uridine, C5-propynyl-cytidine, C5-methylcytidine, 2-aminoadenosine, 7-deazaadenosine, 7-deazaguanosine, 8-oxoadenosine, 8-oxoguanosine, O(6)-methylguanine, 2-thiocytidine, methylated bases,

intercalated bases, and combinations thereof). In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" comprises one or more modified sugars (e.g., 2'-fluororibose, ribose, 2'-deoxyribose, arabinose, and hexose) as compared with those in natural nucleic acids. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" has a nucleotide sequence that encodes a functional gene product such as an RNA or protein. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" includes one or more introns. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" includes one or more exons. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is prepared by one or more of isolation from a natural source, enzymatic synthesis by polymerization based on a complementary template (*in vivo* or *in vitro*), reproduction in a recombinant cell or system, and chemical synthesis. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 475, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000 or more residues long. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is single stranded; in some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" is double stranded. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" has a nucleotide sequence comprising at least one element that encodes, or is the complement of a sequence that encodes, a polypeptide. In some embodiments, a "*nucleic acid*" has enzymatic activity.

[085] The phrase "*operably linked*", as used herein, includes a juxtaposition wherein the components described are in a relationship permitting them to function in their intended manner. A control sequence "*operably linked*" to a coding sequence is ligated in such a way that expression of the coding sequence is achieved under conditions compatible with the control sequences. "*Operably linked*" sequences include both expression control sequences that are contiguous with the gene of interest and expression control sequences that act in trans or at a distance to control the gene of interest. The term "*expression control sequence*", as used herein, includes polynucleotide sequences, which are necessary to effect the expression and processing of coding sequences to which they are ligated. "*Expression control sequences*" include: appropriate transcription initiation, termination, promoter and enhancer sequences; efficient RNA processing signals such as splicing and polyadenylation signals; sequences that stabilize cytoplasmic mRNA; sequences that enhance translation efficiency (i.e., Kozak consensus sequence); sequences that enhance protein stability; and when desired, sequences that enhance protein secretion. The nature of such control

sequences differs depending upon the host organism. For example, in prokaryotes, such control sequences generally include promoter, ribosomal binding site, and transcription termination sequence, while in eukaryotes; typically, such control sequences include promoters and transcription termination sequence. The term "*control sequences*" is intended to include components whose presence is essential for expression and processing, and can also include additional components whose presence is advantageous, for example, leader sequences and fusion partner sequences.

[086] The term "*polypeptide*", as used herein, includes any polymeric chain of amino acids. In some embodiments, a polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that occurs in nature. In some embodiments, a polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that does not occur in nature. In some embodiments, a polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that contains portions that occur in nature separately from one another (i.e., from two or more different organisms, for example, human and non-human portions). In some embodiments, a polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is engineered in that it is designed and/or produced through action of the hand of man.

[087] "*Prevent*" or "*prevention*", as used herein when used in connection with the occurrence of a disease, disorder, and/or condition, includes reducing the risk of developing the disease, disorder and/or condition and/or to delaying onset of one or more characteristics or symptoms of the disease, disorder or condition. Prevention may be considered complete when onset of a disease, disorder or condition has been delayed for a predefined period of time.

[088] The term "*recombinant*", as used herein, is intended to refer to polypeptides (e.g., PD-L1 polypeptides as described herein) that are designed, engineered, prepared, expressed, created or isolated by recombinant means, such as polypeptides expressed using a recombinant expression vector transfected into a host cell, polypeptides isolated from a recombinant, combinatorial human polypeptide library (Hoogenboom H. R., 1997 TIB Tech. 15:62-70; Hoogenboom H., and Chames P., 2000, Immunology Today 21:371-378; Azzazy H., and Highsmith W. E., 2002, Clin. Biochem. 35:425-445; Gavilondo J. V., and Larrick J. W., 2002, BioTechniques 29:128-145), antibodies isolated from an animal (e.g., a mouse) that is transgenic for human immunoglobulin genes (see e.g., Taylor, L. D., et al., 1992, Nucl. Acids Res. 20:6287-6295; Little M. et al., 2000, Immunology Today 21:364-370; Kellermann S. A. and Green L. L., 2002, Current Opinion in Biotechnology 13:593-597; Murphy, A.J., et al., 2014, Proc. Natl.

Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 111(14):5153-5158) or polypeptides prepared, expressed, created or isolated by any other means that involves splicing selected sequence elements to one another. In some embodiments, one or more of such selected sequence elements is found in nature. In some embodiments, one or more of such selected sequence elements is designed *in silico*. In some embodiments, one or more such selected sequence elements result from mutagenesis (e.g., *in vivo* or *in vitro*) of a known sequence element, e.g., from a natural or synthetic source. For example, in some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises sequences found in the genome of a source organism of interest (e.g., human, mouse, etc.). In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide comprises sequences that occur in nature separately from one another (i.e., from two or more different organisms, for example, human and non-human portions) in two different organisms (e.g., a human and a non-human organism). In some embodiments, a recombinant polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that resulted from mutagenesis (e.g., *in vitro* or *in vivo*, for example in a non-human animal), so that the amino acid sequences of the recombinant polypeptides are sequences that, while originating from and related to polypeptides sequences, may not naturally exist within the genome of a non-human animal *in vivo*.

[089] The term "*replacement*" is used herein to refer to a process through which a "*replaced*" nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a gene) found in a host locus (e.g., in a genome) is removed from that locus, and a different, "*replacement*" nucleic acid is located in its place. In some embodiments, the replaced nucleic acid sequence and the replacement nucleic acid sequences are comparable to one another in that, for example, they are homologous to one another and/or contain corresponding elements (e.g., protein-coding elements, regulatory elements, etc.). In some embodiments, a replaced nucleic acid sequence includes one or more of a promoter, an enhancer, a splice donor site, a splice receiver site, an intron, an exon, an untranslated region (UTR); in some embodiments, a replacement nucleic acid sequence includes one or more coding sequences. In some embodiments, a replacement nucleic acid sequence is a homolog of the replaced nucleic acid sequence. In some embodiments, a replacement nucleic acid sequence is an ortholog of the replaced sequence. In some embodiments, a replacement nucleic acid sequence is or comprises a human nucleic acid sequence. In some embodiments, including where the replacement nucleic acid sequence is or comprises a human nucleic acid sequence, the replaced nucleic acid sequence is or comprises a rodent sequence

(e.g., a mouse or rat sequence). The nucleic acid sequence so placed may include one or more regulatory sequences that are part of source nucleic acid sequence used to obtain the sequence so placed (e.g., promoters, enhancers, 5'- or 3'-untranslated regions, etc.). For example, in various embodiments, the replacement is a substitution of an endogenous sequence with a heterologous sequence that results in the production of a gene product from the nucleic acid sequence so placed (comprising the heterologous sequence), but not expression of the endogenous sequence; the replacement is of an endogenous genomic sequence with a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a protein that has a similar function as a protein encoded by the endogenous sequence (e.g., the endogenous genomic sequence encodes a PD-L1 protein, and the DNA fragment encodes one or more human PD-L1 proteins). In various embodiments, an endogenous gene or fragment thereof is replaced with a corresponding human gene or fragment thereof. A corresponding human gene or fragment thereof is a human gene or fragment that is an ortholog of, or is substantially similar or the same in structure and/or function, as the endogenous gene or fragment thereof that is replaced.

[090] The term "*reference*" is used herein to describe a standard or control agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value against which an agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value of interest is compared. In some embodiments, a reference agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value is tested and/or determined substantially simultaneously with the testing or determination of the agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value of interest. In some embodiments, a reference agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value is a historical reference, optionally embodied in a tangible medium. In some embodiments, a reference may refer to a control. As used herein, a "*reference*" may include a "*reference animal*". A "*reference animal*" may have a modification as described herein, a modification that is different as described herein or no modification (i.e., a wild-type animal). Typically, as would be understood by those skilled in the art, a reference agent, animal, cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value is determined or characterized under conditions comparable to those utilized to determine or characterize the agent, animal (e.g., a mammal), cohort, individual, population, sample, sequence or value of interest.

[091] The term "*substantially*", as used herein, includes the qualitative condition of exhibiting total or near-total extent or degree of a characteristic or property of interest.

One of ordinary skill in the biological arts will understand that biological and chemical phenomena rarely, if ever, go to completion and/or proceed to completeness or achieve or avoid an absolute result. The term "*substantially*" is therefore used herein to capture the potential lack of completeness inherent in many biological and chemical phenomena.

[092] The phrase "*substantial homology*", as used herein, includes a comparison between amino acid or nucleic acid sequences. As will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art, two sequences are generally considered to be "*substantially homologous*" if they contain homologous residues in corresponding positions. Homologous residues may be identical residues. Alternatively, homologous residues may be non-identical residues with appropriately similar structural and/or functional characteristics. For example, as is well known by those of ordinary skill in the art, certain amino acids are typically classified as "*hydrophobic*" or "*hydrophilic*" amino acids, and/or as having "*polar*" or "*non-polar*" side chains. Substitution of one amino acid for another of the same type may often be considered a "*homologous*" substitution. Typical amino acid categorizations are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1

Alanine	Ala	A	Nonpolar	Neutral	1.8
Arginine	Arg	R	Polar	Positive	-4.5
Asparagine	Asn	N	Polar	Neutral	-3.5
Aspartic acid	Asp	D	Polar	Negative	-3.5
Cysteine	Cys	C	Nonpolar	Neutral	2.5
Glutamic acid	Glu	E	Polar	Negative	-3.5
Glutamine	Gln	Q	Polar	Neutral	-3.5
Glycine	Gly	G	Nonpolar	Neutral	-0.4
Histidine	His	H	Polar	Positive	-3.2
Isoleucine	Ile	I	Nonpolar	Neutral	4.5
Leucine	Leu	L	Nonpolar	Neutral	3.8
Lysine	Lys	K	Polar	Positive	-3.9
Methionine	Met	M	Nonpolar	Neutral	1.9
Phenylalanine	Phe	F	Nonpolar	Neutral	2.8
Proline	Pro	P	Nonpolar	Neutral	-1.6
Serine	Ser	S	Polar	Neutral	-0.8

Threonine	Thr	T	Polar	Neutral	-0.7
Tryptophan	Trp	W	Nonpolar	Neutral	-0.9
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y	Polar	Neutral	-1.3
Valine	Val	V	Nonpolar	Neutral	4.2

TABLE 2

Ambiguous Amino Acids	3-Letter	1-Letter
Asparagine or aspartic acid	Asx	B
Glutamine or glutamic acid	Glx	Z
Leucine or Isoleucine	Xle	J
Unspecified or unknown amino acid	Xaa	X

[093] As is well known in this art, amino acid or nucleic acid sequences may be compared using any of a variety of algorithms, including those available in commercial computer programs such as BLASTN for nucleotide sequences and BLASTP, gapped BLAST, and PSI-BLAST for amino acid sequences. Exemplary such programs are described in Altschul, S. F. et al., 1990, *J. Mol. Biol.*, 215(3): 403-410; Altschul, S. F. et al., 1997, *Methods in Enzymology*; Altschul, S. F. et al., 1997, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 25:3389-3402; Baxevanis, A.D., and B. F. F. Ouellette (eds.) *Bioinformatics: A Practical Guide to the Analysis of Genes and Proteins*, Wiley, 1998; and Misener et al. (eds.) *Bioinformatics Methods and Protocols (Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 132)*, Humana Press, 1998. In addition to identifying homologous sequences, the programs mentioned above typically provide an indication of the degree of homology. In some embodiments, two sequences are considered to be substantially homologous if at least 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more of their corresponding residues are homologous over a relevant stretch of residues. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch is a complete sequence. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch is at least 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or more residues. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch includes contiguous residues along a complete sequence. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch includes discontinuous residues along a complete sequence, for example, noncontiguous residues brought together by the folded conformation of a polypeptide or a portion thereof. In

some embodiments, the relevant stretch is at least 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more residues.

[094] The phrase "*substantial identity*", as used herein, includes a comparison between amino acid or nucleic acid sequences. As will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art, two sequences are generally considered to be "*substantially identical*" if they contain identical residues in corresponding positions. As is well known in this art, amino acid or nucleic acid sequences may be compared using any of a variety of algorithms, including those available in commercial computer programs such as BLASTN for nucleotide sequences and BLASTP, gapped BLAST, and PSI-BLAST for amino acid sequences. Exemplary such programs are described in Altschul, S. F. et al., 1990, J. Mol. Biol., 215(3): 403-410; Altschul, S. F. et al., 1997, Methods in Enzymology; Altschul, S. F. et al., 1997, Nucleic Acids Res., 25:3389-3402; Baxevanis, A.D., and B. F. F. Ouellette (eds.) Bioinformatics: A Practical Guide to the Analysis of Genes and Proteins, Wiley, 1998; and Misener et al. (eds.) Bioinformatics Methods and Protocols (Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 132), Humana Press, 1998. In addition to identifying identical sequences, the programs mentioned above typically provide an indication of the degree of identity. In some embodiments, two sequences are considered to be substantially identical if at least 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more of their corresponding residues are identical over a relevant stretch of residues. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch is a complete sequence. In some embodiments, the relevant stretch is at least 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more residues.

[095] The phrase "*targeting vector*" or "*targeting construct*", as used herein, includes a polynucleotide molecule that comprises a targeting region. A targeting region comprises a sequence that is identical or substantially identical to a sequence in a target cell, tissue or animal and provides for integration of the targeting construct into a position within the genome of the cell, tissue or animal via homologous recombination. Targeting regions that target using site-specific recombinase recognition sites (e.g., *loxP* or Frt sites) are also included. In some embodiments, a targeting construct of the present invention further comprises a nucleic acid sequence or gene of particular interest, a selectable marker, control and or regulatory sequences, and other nucleic acid sequences that allow for recombination mediated through exogenous addition of proteins that aid in or facilitate recombination involving such sequences. In some embodiments, a targeting

construct of the present invention further comprises a gene of interest in whole or in part, wherein the gene of interest is a heterologous gene that encodes a protein, in whole or in part, that has a similar function as a protein encoded by an endogenous sequence. In some embodiments, a targeting construct of the present invention further comprises a humanized gene of interest, in whole or in part, wherein the humanized gene of interest encodes a protein, in whole or in part, that has a similar function as a protein encoded by the endogenous sequence.

[096] The term "*variant*", as used herein, includes an entity that shows significant structural identity with a reference entity, but differs structurally from the reference entity in the presence or level of one or more chemical moieties as compared with the reference entity. In many embodiments, a "*variant*" also differs functionally from its reference entity. In general, whether a particular entity is properly considered to be a "*variant*" of a reference entity is based on its degree of structural identity with the reference entity. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, any biological or chemical reference entity has certain characteristic structural elements. A "*variant*", by definition, is a distinct chemical entity that shares one or more such characteristic structural elements. To give but a few examples, a small molecule may have a characteristic core structural element (e.g., a macrocycle core) and/or one or more characteristic pendent moieties so that a variant of the small molecule is one that shares the core structural element and the characteristic pendent moieties but differs in other pendent moieties and/or in types of bonds present (single vs. double, E vs. Z, etc.) within the core, a polypeptide may have a characteristic sequence element comprised of a plurality of amino acids having designated positions relative to one another in linear or three-dimensional space and/or contributing to a particular biological function, a nucleic acid may have a characteristic sequence element comprised of a plurality of nucleotide residues having designated positions relative to one another in linear or three-dimensional space. For example, a "*variant polypeptide*" may differ from a reference polypeptide as a result of one or more differences in amino acid sequence and/or one or more differences in chemical moieties (e.g., carbohydrates, lipids, etc.) covalently attached to the polypeptide backbone. In some embodiments, a "*variant polypeptide*" shows an overall sequence identity with a reference polypeptide that is at least 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, or 99%. Alternatively or additionally, in some embodiments, a "*variant polypeptide*" does not share at least one

characteristic sequence element with a reference polypeptide. In some embodiments, the reference polypeptide has one or more biological activities. In some embodiments, a "*variant polypeptide*" shares one or more of the biological activities of the reference polypeptide. In some embodiments, a "*variant polypeptide*" lacks one or more of the biological activities of the reference polypeptide. In some embodiments, a "*variant polypeptide*" shows a reduced level of one or more biological activities as compared with the reference polypeptide. In many embodiments, a polypeptide of interest is considered to be a "*variant*" of a parent or reference polypeptide if the polypeptide of interest has an amino acid sequence that is identical to that of the parent but for a small number of sequence alterations at particular positions. Typically, fewer than 20%, 15%, 10%, 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% of the residues in the variant are substituted as compared with the parent. In some embodiments, a "*variant*" has 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 substituted residue as compared with a parent. Often, a "*variant*" has a very small number (e.g., fewer than 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1) number of substituted functional residues (i.e., residues that participate in a particular biological activity). Furthermore, a "*variant*" typically has not more than 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 additions or deletions, and often has no additions or deletions, as compared with the parent. Moreover, any additions or deletions are typically fewer than about 25, about 20, about 19, about 18, about 17, about 16, about 15, about 14, about 13, about 10, about 9, about 8, about 7, about 6, and commonly are fewer than about 5, about 4, about 3, or about 2 residues. In some embodiments, the parent or reference polypeptide is one found in nature. As will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, a plurality of variants of a particular polypeptide of interest may commonly be found in nature, particularly when the polypeptide of interest is an infectious agent polypeptide.

[097] The term "*vector*", as used herein, includes a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting another nucleic acid to which it is associated. In some embodiment, vectors are capable of extra-chromosomal replication and/or expression of nucleic acids to which they are linked in a host cell such as a eukaryotic and/or prokaryotic cell. Vectors capable of directing the expression of operatively linked genes are referred to herein as "*expression vectors*."

[098] The term "*wild-type*", as used herein, has its art-understood meaning that includes an entity having a structure and/or activity as found in nature in a "*normal*" (as contrasted with mutant, diseased, altered, etc.) state or context. Those of ordinary skill in

the art will appreciate that wild-type genes and polypeptides often exist in multiple different forms (e.g., alleles).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN EMBODIMENTS

[099] The present invention provides, among other things, improved and/or engineered non-human animals having humanized genetic material encoding a Programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) polypeptide for determining the therapeutic efficacy of PD-L1 modulators (e.g., an anti-PD-L1 antibody) for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases and infectious pathogens, as well as assays in immune cell responses and function. It is contemplated that such non-human animals provide an improvement in determining the therapeutic efficacy of PD-L1 modulators and their potential for PD-1:PD-L1 (or PD-L1:B7-1) blockade. Therefore, the present invention is particularly useful for the development of anti-PD-L1 and, in some embodiments, anti-PD-1 therapies, for the treatment of various cancers, autoimmune diseases as well as for augmenting immune responses to treat and/or ameliorate infectious etiologies. In particular, the present invention encompasses the humanization of a rodent CD274 gene resulting in expression of a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide on the surface of cells of the non-human animal. Such humanized PD-L1 non-human animals have the capacity to provide a source of human PD-L1⁺ cells for determining the efficacy of anti-PD-L1 therapeutics to promote anti-tumor immune responses. Such humanized PD-L1 non-human animals also have the capacity to provide a source of human PD-L1⁺ cells for determining the efficacy of anti-PD-L1 therapeutics to ameliorate an autoimmune disease, disorder, or condition. Further, such humanized PD-L1 non-human animals provide an *in vivo* system for the screening and development of anti-PD-L1 therapies for the treatment of various cancers, autoimmune diseases and infectious diseases. In some embodiments, treatment efficacy may be demonstrated in non-human animals of the present invention by a decrease in or disappearance of signs and/or symptoms of the disease, disorder, or condition; in some embodiments, a decrease in or disappearance of some, but not all, signs and symptoms of the disease, disorder, or condition; in some embodiments, a decrease in or disappearance of all signs and symptoms of the disease, disorder, or condition, although the disease, disorder, or condition still may be in the body of the non-human animal. In various embodiments, the disease, disorder or condition is associated with a cancer. In various embodiments, the disease, disorder or

condition is associated with an autoimmune disease, disorder or condition. In various embodiments, the disease, disorder or condition is associated with an infectious pathogen (e.g., a bacterium).

[0100] In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention demonstrate modulated immune responses via blockade of PD-1:PD-L1 signaling through the humanized PD-L1 polypeptide expressed on the surface of cells of the non-human animal. In some embodiments, humanized PD-L1 polypeptides have a sequence corresponding to the immunoglobulin V and C domains, in whole or in part, of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, humanized PD-L1 polypeptides have a sequence corresponding to substantially all of the extracellular domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, humanized PD-L1 polypeptides have a sequence corresponding to the cytoplasmic domain of a rodent PD-L1 polypeptide; in some embodiments, a sequence corresponding to the transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains of a rodent PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, humanized PD-L1 polypeptides have a sequence corresponding to amino acid residues 19-238 (or 19-227, or 19-131) of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a CD274 gene that contains genetic material from the non-human animal and a heterologous species (e.g., a human). In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises exon 3, exon 4, and exon 5 in whole or in part, of a human *CD274* gene. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises about 4,494 bp of a human *CD274* gene corresponding to exon 3 and about 4,160 bp of human genomic sequence 3' of exon 3. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises about 3,950 bp of a human *CD274* gene corresponding to about 1,253 bp of human genomic sequence 5' of exon 4, exon 4, intron 4 and the first 32 bp of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises about 4,494 bp and about 3,950 bp of a human *CD274* gene juxtaposed with a site-specific recombination site (e.g., a *loxP* site), which 4,494 bp and 3,950 bp correspond to exon 3, exon 4 and the first 32 bp of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene. In some certain embodiments, non-human

animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises about 8,444 bp of a human *CD274* gene corresponding to exon 3, exon 4 and the first 32 bp of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, non-human animals (e.g., rodents such as mice or rats) of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, wherein the humanized CD274 gene comprises exon 3, exon 4 and a portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene, operably linked to exons 1, 2, a portion of exon 5, exon 6 and 7 of a non-human *Cd274* gene (e.g., an endogenous non-human *Cd274* gene); and in specific embodiments, the humanized CD274 gene encodes a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that includes all or substantially all of the extracellular domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide, and all or substantially all of the transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains of a non-human PD-L1 polypeptide. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene depicted in Figure 2.

[0101] Various aspects of the invention are described in detail in the following sections. The use of sections is not meant to limit the invention. Each section can apply to any aspect of the invention. Throughout this application, the use of "or" means "and/or" unless stated otherwise.

Cluster of Differentiation 274 (CD274) Gene

[0102] CD274, which encodes a polypeptide termed Programmed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1, also referred to as B7-H1), was discovered by searching the human expressed sequence tag (EST) database using B7 family members B7-1 and B7-2 (Dong, H. et al., 1999, *Nature Med.* 5(12):1365-1369; Freeman, G. J. et al., 2000, *J. Exp. Med.* 192(7):1027-1034). The CD274 gene consists of seven exons that each encode distinct portions of the PD-L1 polypeptide; exon 1: non-coding and contains 5'UTR; exon 2: signal sequence; exon 3: immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain; exon 4: immunoglobulin C (IgC) domain; exon 5: C-terminal part of the extracellular domain and transmembrane domain; exon 6: intracellular domain; and exon 7: ~ 6 amino acid residues of the intracellular domain and the 3'UTR. The PD-L1 polypeptide shares a common structural organization with other B7 family members (B7-1 and B7-2) despite a low percent sequence identity (~20%). In contrast, the PD-L1 polypeptide sequences of mouse and man share about 70% sequence identity (Freeman, G. J. et al., *supra*). PD-L1 is strongly expressed in heart, skeletal muscle, placenta, and lung, weakly expressed in thymus,

spleen, kidney and liver, and not expressed in brain, colon or small intestine (Dong, H. et al., supra). Further, PD-L1 is constitutively expressed on T cells, B cells, myeloid cells (e.g., dendritic cells, macrophages, mast cells, etc.) and keratinocytes in mouse, whereas expression in the same cells in humans has been reported after activation (e.g., reviewed in Keir, M.E., et al., 2008, *Annu. Rev. Immunol.* 26:677-704). Indeed, the CD274 promoter for both mouse and human genes has been reported to contain binding sites for interferon regulatory factor 1 (IRF-1), which has been suggested as being responsible for PD-L1 upregulation in human cancer cells (Lee, S. J. et al., 2006, *FEBS Lett.* 580(3):755-762). PD-L1 splice variants have been reported (see, e.g., below and He, X. H. et al., 2005, *Acta Pharmacol Sin.* 26(4):462-468), however, no causative relationship with any disease has yet been discovered. PD-L1 binds PD-1 exclusively without any interactions with other proteins structurally similar to PD-1 (CTLA4, CD28, ICOS; see Dong, H. et al. and Freeman, G. J. et al., supra). PD-L1 engagement with PD-1 leads to a variety of stimulatory or inhibitory functions in immune cells, some of which include cell proliferation, cytokine production, and T cell receptor and B cell receptor signaling. PD-L1 (as well as PD-L2) has also been suggested to be involved in bidirectional signaling (e.g., see Dong, H. et al., 2003, *J. Clin. Invest.* 111:363-370; Kuipers, H. et al., 2006, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 36:2472-2782). Interestingly, PD-L1 has been shown to bind B7-1 (CD80), a ligand for CD28, although no interaction with CD28 itself has been reported (Butte, M. J. et al., 2007, *Immunity* 27:111-122). This unique interaction with B7-1 has been particularly important for its implications in the regulation of T cell responses and tolerance. Indeed, due to multiple functional outcomes provided by its costimulatory and coinhibitory functions, PD-L1 has attracted much interest as a potential target for treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases as well as the treatment of cancer. In fact, anti-PD-L1 therapy is currently being tested in human clinical trials (see e.g., Pedoeem, A. et al., 2014, *Clin. Immunol.* 153:145-152; and Philips, G.K. and Atkins, M., 2014, *Intern. Immunol.* 8 pages).

[0103] A more thorough and detailed understanding of PD-L1-mediated functions across many of the cell types in which it is expressed (e.g., non-lymphoid cells) and the unique interactions with other B7 family members is needed to develop practical targeted therapies for treatment of cancer and autoimmunity in the future.

CD274 and PD-L1 (B7-H1) Sequences

[0104] Exemplary murine, human and humanized CD274 and PD-L1 sequences are set forth in Figure 6. Exemplary human nucleic acid sequences for humanization of a non-human CD274 gene are also set forth in Figure 6. For mRNA sequences, bold font indicates coding sequence and consecutive exons, where indicated, are separated by alternating underlined text; for humanized mRNA sequences, human sequences are contained within parentheses. For protein sequences, signal peptides are underlined, extracellular sequences are bold font, immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain sequences are within parentheses, and intracellular sequences are italicized; for humanized protein sequences, non-human sequences are indicated in regular font, human sequences are indicated in bold font.

[0105] CD274 transcript variants are known in the art. One transcript variant lacks an in-frame exon in the 5' coding region as compared to the canonical sequence (see Figure 6) and results in a deletion of residues 17-130 (i.e., the IgV domain plus ~5 amino acid residues). The mRNA and protein sequences of this variant can be found at Genbank accession numbers NM_001267706.1 and NP_001254635.1, respectively, hereby incorporated by reference. Another variant encodes a soluble protein having a K178D substitution and a deletion of residues 179-290. The mRNA and protein sequences of this variant can be found at Genbank accession numbers XM_006716759.1 and XP_006716822.1, respectively, hereby incorporated by reference. A third variant has been described (NR_052005.1) to lack an alternate internal segment as compared to the canonical sequence and, therefore, is represented as a non-coding variant because the use of the 5'-most supported translation start codon renders the transcript a candidate for nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD). Other isoforms are described in WO 2014/197369, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Humanized CD274 Non-Human Animals

[0106] Non-human animals are provided that express humanized PD-L1 polypeptides on the surface of cells of the non-human animals resulting from a genetic modification of an endogenous locus (e.g., a CD274 locus) of the non-human animal that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide. Suitable examples described herein include rodents, in some embodiments, mice.

[0107] A humanized CD274 gene, in some embodiments, comprises genetic material from a heterologous species (e.g., humans), wherein the humanized CD274 gene encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that comprises the encoded portion of the genetic material from the heterologous species. In some embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene of the present invention comprises genomic DNA of a heterologous species that encodes the extracellular portion of a PD-L1 polypeptide that is expressed on the plasma membrane of a cell. Non-human animals, embryos, cells and targeting constructs for making non-human animals, non-human embryos, and cells containing said humanized CD274 gene are also provided.

[0108] In some embodiments, an endogenous CD274 gene is deleted. In some embodiments, an endogenous CD274 gene is altered, wherein a portion of the endogenous CD274 gene is replaced with a heterologous sequence (e.g., a human *CD274* sequence, in whole or in part). In some embodiments, all or substantially all of an endogenous CD274 gene is replaced with a heterologous gene (e.g., a human *CD274* gene). In some embodiments, a portion of a heterologous CD274 gene is inserted into an endogenous non-human CD274 gene at an endogenous CD274 locus. In some embodiments, the heterologous gene is a human gene. In some embodiments, the modification or humanization is made to one of the two copies of the endogenous CD274 gene, giving rise to a non-human animal that is heterozygous with respect to the humanized CD274 gene. In other embodiments, a non-human animal is provided that is homozygous for a humanized CD274 gene.

[0109] In various aspects, a non-human animal contains a human *CD274* gene, in whole or in part, at an endogenous non-human CD274 locus. In some embodiments, a non-human animal contains a human *CD274* gene, at a location outside of an endogenous non-human CD274 locus. Thus, such non-human animals can be described as having a heterologous CD274 gene. The replaced, inserted, modified or altered CD274 gene at the endogenous CD274 locus (or outside the endogenous CD274 locus) or a polypeptide expressed from such gene (or expressed from elsewhere in the genome of the non-human animal) can be detected using a variety of methods including, for example, PCR, Western blot, Southern blot, restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), or a gain or loss of allele assay. In some embodiments, the non-human animal is heterozygous with respect to the humanized CD274 gene.

[0110] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third exon having a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a third exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0111] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third exon having a sequence that is substantially identical to a third exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0112] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third exon having a sequence that is identical to a third exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0113] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fourth exon having a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a fourth exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0114] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fourth exon having a sequence that is substantially identical to a fourth exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0115] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fourth exon having a sequence that is identical to a fourth exon that appears in a human *CD274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0116] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fifth exon having a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a fifth exon that appears in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0117] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fifth exon having a sequence that is substantially identical to a fifth exon that appears in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0118] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a fifth exon having a sequence that is identical to a fifth exon that appears in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0119] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third, fourth and fifth exon each having a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a third, fourth and fifth exon that appear in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0120] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third, fourth and fifth exon each having a sequence that is substantially identical to a third, fourth and fifth exon that appear in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0121] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a third, fourth and fifth exon each having a sequence that is identical to a third, fourth and fifth exon that appear in a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0122] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a first, second, sixth and seventh exon each having a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a first, second, sixth and seventh exon that appear in a mouse *Cd274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0123] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a first, second, sixth and seventh exon each having a sequence that is substantially identical to a first, second, sixth and seventh exon that appear in a mouse *Cd274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0124] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a first, second, sixth and seventh exon each having a sequence that is identical to a first, second, sixth and seventh exon that appear in a mouse *Cd274* mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0125] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to SEQ ID NO:12.

[0126] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:12.

[0127] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:12.

[0128] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:16.

[0129] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:16.

[0130] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:16.

[0131] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a first sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to SEQ ID NO:13 and a second sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to SEQ ID NO:16.

[0132] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a first sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:13 and a second sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:16.

[0133] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises a first sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:13 and a second sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:16.

[0134] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO:16 and a site-specific recombinase recognition site, wherein said site-specific recombinase recognition site is located within an intron of said humanized CD274 gene.

[0135] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO:16 and a *loxP* site, wherein said *loxP* site is located within an intron of said humanized CD274 gene.

[0136] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises an intron between a CD274 exon 3 and a CD274 exon 4, wherein said intron comprises a sequence that is substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:17.

[0137] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises an intron between a CD274 exon 3 and a CD274 exon 4, wherein said intron comprises a sequence that is identical to SEQ ID NO:17.

[0138] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:16 and SEQ ID NO:17.

[0139] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that comprises SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16.

[0140] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a nucleotide coding sequence (e.g., a cDNA sequence) at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a nucleotide coding sequence that appears in a humanized CD274 nucleotide coding sequence of Figure 6.

[0141] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a nucleotide coding sequence (e.g., a cDNA sequence) that is substantially identical to a nucleotide coding sequence that appears in a humanized CD274 nucleotide coding sequence of Figure 6.

[0142] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention includes a CD274 gene that has a nucleotide coding sequence (e.g., a cDNA sequence) that is identical to a nucleotide coding sequence that appears in a humanized CD274 nucleotide coding sequence of Figure 6.

[0143] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence according to the present invention comprises a sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%,

70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0144] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence according to the present invention comprises a sequence that is substantially identical to a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0145] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence according to the present invention comprises a sequence that is identical to a humanized CD274 mRNA sequence of Figure 6.

[0146] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a PD-L1 polypeptide sequence of Figure 6.

[0147] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a PD-L1 polypeptide sequence of Figure 6.

[0148] In various embodiments, a humanized CD274 gene according to the present invention encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that is identical to a PD-L1 polypeptide sequence of Figure 6.

[0149] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an extracellular portion having an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to an extracellular portion of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0150] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an extracellular portion having an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to an extracellular portion of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0151] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an extracellular portion having an amino acid sequence that is identical to an extracellular portion of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0152] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g.,

50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to amino acid residues 19-131 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0153] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to amino acid residues 19-131 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0154] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to amino acid residues 19-131 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0155] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to amino acid residues 19-227 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0156] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to amino acid residues 19-227 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0157] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to amino acid residues 19-227 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0158] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to amino acid residues 19-238 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0159] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to amino acid residues 19-238 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0160] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention comprises an amino acid sequence that is identical to amino acid residues 19-238 that appears in a human or humanized PD-L1 polypeptide of Figure 6.

[0161] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain having an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to an IgV domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0162] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain having an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to an IgV domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0163] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain having an amino acid sequence that is identical to an IgV domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0164] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain and an immunoglobulin C (IgC) domain each having an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to an IgV domain and an IgC domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0165] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain and an immunoglobulin C (IgC) domain each having an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to an IgV domain and an IgC domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0166] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an immunoglobulin V (IgV) domain and an immunoglobulin C (IgC) domain each having an amino acid sequence that is identical to an IgV domain and an IgC domain of a human PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0167] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain each having an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0168] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain each having an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0169] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain each having an amino acid sequence that is identical to a transmembrane domain and an intracellular domain of a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0170] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an amino acid sequence at least 50% (e.g., 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more) identical to an amino acid sequence of a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0171] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an amino acid sequence that is substantially identical to an amino acid sequence of a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0172] In various embodiments, a PD-L1 polypeptide produced by a non-human animal of the present invention has an amino acid sequence that is identical to an amino acid sequence of a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that appears in Figure 6.

[0173] Compositions and methods for making non-human animals that express a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide, including specific polymorphic forms, allelic variants (e.g., single amino acid differences) or alternatively spliced isoforms, are provided, including compositions and methods for making non-human animals that express such polypeptides from a human promoter and a human regulatory sequence(s). In some embodiments, compositions and methods for making non-human animals that express such polypeptides from an endogenous promoter and an endogenous regulatory

sequence(s) are also provided; in some embodiments, from an endogenous rodent promoter and an endogenous rodent regulatory sequence(s). The methods include inserting the genetic material encoding a human PD-L1 polypeptide (e.g., a human *CD274* DNA sequence) in whole or in part at a precise location in the genome of a non-human animal that corresponds to an endogenous *CD274* gene thereby creating a humanized *CD274* gene that expresses a PD-L1 polypeptide that is human in whole or in part. Alternatively, insertion of the genetic material encoding a human PD-L1 polypeptide in whole or in part may be made at a random location in the genome of a non-human animal, i.e., outside of an endogenous *CD274* gene. In some embodiments, the methods include inserting genomic DNA corresponding to exons 3-5 (or exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5) of a human *CD274* gene into an endogenous *CD274* gene of the non-human animal thereby creating a humanized gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that contains a human portion containing amino acids encoded by the inserted exons. In some embodiments, the methods include randomly inserting genomic DNA corresponding to a full-length (or cDNA) human *CD274* gene into the genome of the non-human animal thereby creating a human *CD274* transgene that encodes a full-length human PD-L1 polypeptide.

[0174] Where appropriate, the coding region of the genetic material or polynucleotide sequence(s) encoding a human PD-L1 polypeptide in whole or in part may be modified to include codons that are optimized for expression in the non-human animal (e.g., see U.S. Patent No.'s 5,670,356 and 5,874,304). Codon optimized sequences are synthetic sequences, and preferably encode the identical polypeptide (or a biologically active fragment of a full length polypeptide which has substantially the same activity as the full length polypeptide) encoded by the non-codon optimized parent polynucleotide. In some embodiments, the coding region of the genetic material encoding a human PD-L1 polypeptide, in whole or in part, may include an altered sequence to optimize codon usage for a particular cell type (e.g., a rodent cell). For example, the codons of the genomic DNA corresponding to exons 3-5 (or exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5) of a human *CD274* gene to be inserted into an endogenous *CD274* gene of a non-human animal (e.g., a rodent) may be optimized for expression in a cell of the non-human animal. Such a sequence may be described as a codon-optimized sequence.

[0175] A humanized CD274 gene approach employs a relatively minimal modification of the endogenous gene and results in natural CD274-mediated (i.e., PD-L1-mediated) signal transduction in the non-human animal, because, e.g., the genomic sequence of the CD274 gene is modified in a single fragment and therefore retains normal functionality by including necessary regulatory sequences and, in some embodiments, intron sequences. Thus, in such embodiments, the CD274 gene modification does not affect other surrounding genes or other endogenous CD274-interacting genes (e.g., *Pdcd1*, etc.). Further, in various embodiments, the modification does not affect the assembly of a functional PD-L1 transmembrane polypeptide on the plasma membrane and maintains normal effector functions via binding and subsequent signal transduction through the cytoplasmic portion of the polypeptide which is unaffected by the modification.

[0176] A schematic illustration (not to scale) of the genomic organization of a rodent (e.g., mouse) *Cd274* gene and a human *CD274* gene is set forth in Figure 1. Exemplary constructs for humanizing an endogenous rodent (e.g., mouse) *Cd274* gene using a genomic fragment containing exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene are set forth in Figure 2. As illustrated, genomic DNA containing exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene is inserted into an endogenous rodent (e.g., mouse) *Cd274* gene locus by a targeting construct. This genomic DNA includes the portion of the gene that encodes an extracellular portion (e.g., amino acid residues 19-238) of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. If so desired, genomic DNA containing exons 3 and 4 of a human *CD274* gene may be inserted into an endogenous rodent (e.g., mouse) *Cd274* gene locus by a targeting construct so to include the portion of the gene that encodes the immunoglobulin V and C domains (e.g., amino acid residues 19-227) of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. Alternatively, genomic DNA containing only exon 3 of a human *CD274* gene may be inserted into an endogenous rodent (e.g., mouse) *Cd274* gene locus by a targeting construct so to include only the portion of the gene that encodes the immunoglobulin V domain (e.g., amino acid residues 19-131) of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. Persons of skill upon reading this disclosure will understand that various amounts of genetic material of a human *CD274* gene may be inserted into the genome of a non-human animal following the methodology described herein depending on the encoded PD-L1 polypeptide that is desired.

[0177] A non-human animal (e.g., a mouse) having a humanized CD274 gene at the endogenous CD274 locus can be made by any method known in the art. For example, a targeting vector can be made that introduces a human *CD274* gene in whole or in part with a selectable marker gene. Figure 2 illustrates an endogenous *Cd274* locus of a mouse genome comprising an insertion of exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5 (about 32 bp) of a human *CD274* gene. As illustrated, the targeting construct contains a 5' homology arm containing sequence upstream of exon 3 of an endogenous murine *Cd274* gene (~92.9 Kb), followed by a genomic DNA fragment containing exon 3 of a human *CD274* gene (~4494 bp), a drug selection cassette (e.g., a neomycin resistance gene flanked on both sides by *loxP* sequences; ~5 Kb) in opposite transcriptional direction relative to the endogenous murine *Cd274* gene, a genomic DNA fragment containing exons 4 and a portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene (~3950 bp), and a 3' homology arm containing a portion of exon 5 of an endogenous murine *Cd274* gene and genomic sequence downstream including exons 6 and 7 (~67.6 Kb). The targeting construct contains a self-deleting drug selection cassette (e.g., a neomycin resistance gene flanked by *loxP* sequences; see U.S. Patent Nos. 8,697,851, 8,518,392 and 8,354,389, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference). Upon homologous recombination, exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5 of an endogenous murine *Cd274* gene are replaced by the sequence contained in the targeting vector (i.e., exons 3, 4 and a portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene) resulting in a deletion of about 8,964 bp. A humanized CD274 gene is created resulting in a cell or non-human animal that expresses a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide that contains amino acids encoded by the inserted genomic DNA of a human *CD274* gene. The drug selection cassette is removed in a development-dependent manner, i.e., progeny derived from mice whose germ line cells containing the humanized *CD274* gene described above will shed the selectable marker from differentiated cells during development.

[0178] Although embodiments employing a humanized CD274 gene in a mouse (i.e., a mouse with a CD274 gene that encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide that includes a human portion and a mouse portion) are extensively discussed herein, other non-human animals that comprise a humanized CD274 gene are also provided. In some embodiments, such non-human animals comprise a humanized CD274 gene operably linked to an endogenous CD274 promoter. In some certain embodiments, an endogenous CD274 promoter is an endogenous rodent promoter. In some embodiments, such non-human

animals express a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide from an endogenous locus, wherein the humanized PD-L1 polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 19-238 (or 19-227 or 19-131) of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. Such non-human animals include any of those which can be genetically modified to express a PD-L1 polypeptide as disclosed herein, including, e.g., mammals, e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit, pig, bovine (e.g., cow, bull, buffalo), deer, sheep, goat, chicken, cat, dog, ferret, primate (e.g., marmoset, rhesus monkey), etc. Exemplary sequences of non-human CD274 orthologs include, e.g., chicken PD-L1 (XM_424811.3 and XP_424811.3), chimpanzee (XM_001140705.2 and XP_001140705.1), cow PD-L1 (NM_001163412.1 and NP_001156884.1), and dog PD-L1 (XM_541302.3 and XP_541302.3), monkey (NM_001083889.1 and NP_001077358.1), and rat (NM_001191954.1 and NP_001178883.1), which are hereby incorporated by reference. For example, for those non-human animals for which suitable genetically modifiable ES cells are not readily available, other methods are employed to make a non-human animal comprising the genetic modification. Such methods include, e.g., modifying a non-ES cell genome (e.g., a fibroblast or an induced pluripotent cell) and employing somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) to transfer the genetically modified genome to a suitable cell, e.g., an enucleated oocyte, and gestating the modified cell (e.g., the modified oocyte) in a non-human animal under suitable conditions to form an embryo (see, e.g., Wilmut, I. et al., 1997, Nature 385:810-813; International Patent Application Publication Nos. WO 97/07668 and WO 97/07669).

[0179] Methods for modifying a non-human animal genome (e.g., a pig, cow, rodent, chicken, etc. genome) include, e.g., employing a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) or a transcription activator-like effector nuclease (TALEN) to modify a genome to include a humanized CD274 gene.

[0180] A non-human animal harboring a humanized CD274 gene as described herein may also be created by randomly introducing a CD274 nucleic acid sequence into the genome of a non-human animal as a transgene. Depending upon context, cDNA or genomic human CD274 sequences may be employed. For example, intronic sequences and polyadenylation signals can be included in the transgene to increase the efficiency and level of expression of the transgene. A tissue-specific regulatory sequence(s) can be operably linked to a CD274 transgene to direct expression of a PD-L1 polypeptide to particular cell types. A constitutive promoter may be operably linked to the CD274 nucleic acid sequence so that the encoded PD-L1 polypeptide is overexpressed (i.e.,

expressed at a higher level and/or in tissues not observed in a wild-type non-human animal).

[0181] A transgenic founder non-human animal can be identified based upon the presence of a CD274 transgene in its genome and/or expression of PD-L1 mRNA in tissues or cells of the non-human animal. A transgenic founder non-human animal can then be used to breed additional non-human animals carrying the CD274 transgene. Moreover, transgenic non-human animals carrying a transgene encoding a human PD-L1 polypeptide, in whole or in part, can further be bred to other transgenic non-human animals carrying other transgenes (e.g., a *Pdcd1*, or CD80 transgene).

[0182] Transgenic non-human animals may also be produced to contain selected systems that allow for regulated or directed expression of the transgene. Exemplary systems include the Cre/*loxP* recombinase system of bacteriophage P1 (see, e.g., Lakso, M. et al., 1992, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:6232-6236) and the FLP/Frt recombinase system of *S. cerevisiae* (O'Gorman, S. et al, 1991, Science 251:1351-1355). Such animals can be provided through the construction of "double" transgenic animals, e.g., by mating two transgenic animals, one containing a transgene encoding a selected polypeptide (e.g., a CD274 transgene) and the other containing a transgene encoding a recombinase (e.g., a Cre recombinase).

[0183] The non-human animals of the present invention may be prepared as described above, or using methods known in the art, to comprise additional human or humanized genes, oftentimes depending on the intended use of the non-human animal. Genetic material of such additional human or humanized genes may be introduced through the further alteration of the genome of cells (e.g., embryonic stem cells) having the genetic modifications as described above or through breeding techniques known in the art with other genetically modified strains as desired. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are prepared to further comprise one or more human or humanized genes selected from the B7 family of ligands and/or the CD28 family of receptors (e.g., *Pdcd1* (PD-1), etc.). In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention may be prepared by introducing a targeting vector, as described herein, into a cell from a modified strain. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are prepared to further comprise a human or humanized Programmed cell death 1 (*Pdcd1*) gene. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene, as described herein, and

genetic material from a heterologous species (e.g., humans), wherein the genetic material encodes, in whole or in part, one or more heterologous polypeptides selected from the B-7 family of ligands or the CD28 family of receptors. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention comprise a humanized CD274 gene as described herein and genetic material from a heterologous species (e.g., humans), wherein the genetic material encodes, in whole or in part, a heterologous (e.g., human) PD-1 polypeptide. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention further comprise a *Pdcd1* gene that comprises an endogenous portion and a human portion, wherein the human portion encodes the extracellular domain of a human PD-1 polypeptide and the endogenous portion encodes the intracellular domain of an endogenous PD-1 polypeptide; in some embodiments, the human and endogenous portions are operably linked to an endogenous *Pdcd1* promoter; in some embodiments, an endogenous rodent *Pdcd1* promoter.

[0184] For example, as described herein, non-human animals comprising a humanized CD274 gene may further comprise (e.g., via cross-breeding or multiple gene targeting strategies) one or more modifications as described in U.S. Patent Application No. 14/744,592, filed June 19, 2015, hereby incorporated by reference. In certain embodiments, a rodent comprising a humanized CD274 gene (i.e., exon 3, 4 and a 5' portion of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene operably linked to exon 1, 2, a 3' portion of exon 5, 6 and 7 of an endogenous rodent *Cd274* gene so that the humanized CD274 gene encodes a PD-L1 polypeptide having an extracellular portion from a human PD-L1 polypeptide and an intracellular portion from a rodent PD-L1 polypeptide) is crossed to a rodent comprising a humanized *Pdcd1* gene (e.g., exon 2 and a 5' portion of exon 3 of a human *PDCD1* gene operably linked to exon 1, a 3' portion of exon 3, 4 and 5 of an endogenous rodent *Pdcd1* gene so that the humanized *Pdcd1* gene encodes a PD-1 polypeptide having an extracellular portion from a human PD-1 polypeptide and an intracellular portion from a rodent PD-1 polypeptide; see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application No. 14/744,592, filed June 19, 2015, hereby incorporated by reference). In some embodiments, a humanized *Pdcd1* gene comprises non-human (e.g., rodent) *Pdcd1* exons 1, 4 and 5, a human *Pdcd1* exon 2 and a *Pdcd1* exon 3, which *Pdcd1* exon 3 comprises a human portion and a non-human portion, and wherein said non-human and human exons are operably linked. In some embodiments, a human portion of a *Pdcd1* exon 3 includes nucleotides that encode a PD-1 stalk sequence. In some embodiments, a human portion

of a *Pdcd1* exon 3 includes about 71 bp of a human *Pdcd1* exon 3. In some embodiments, a non-human portion of a *Pdcd1* exon 3 includes nucleotides that encode a transmembrane sequence. In some embodiments, a non-human portion of a *Pdcd1* exon 3 includes about 91 bp of a rodent *Pdcd1* exon 3. In specific embodiments, a humanized *Pdcd1* gene encodes a humanized PD-1 polypeptide that includes an extracellular portion (e.g., substantially the entire extracellular domain) from a human PD-1 polypeptide, a transmembrane portion (e.g., substantially the entire transmembrane domain), and an intracellular portion (e.g., substantially the entire intracellular domain) from a rodent PD-1 polypeptide.

[0185] In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a mammal. In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a small mammal, e.g., of the superfamily Dipodoidea or Muroidea. In some embodiments, a genetically modified animal of the present invention is a rodent. In some embodiments, a rodent of the present invention is selected from a mouse, a rat, and a hamster. In some embodiments, a rodent of the present invention is selected from the superfamily Muroidea. In some embodiments, a genetically modified animal of the present invention is from a family selected from Calomyscidae (e.g., mouse-like hamsters), Cricetidae (e.g., hamster, New World rats and mice, voles), Muridae (true mice and rats, gerbils, spiny mice, crested rats), Nesomyidae (climbing mice, rock mice, white-tailed rats, Malagasy rats and mice), Platacanthomyidae (e.g., spiny dormice), and Spalacidae (e.g., mole rates, bamboo rats, and zokors). In some certain embodiments, a genetically modified rodent of the present invention is selected from a true mouse or rat (family Muridae), a gerbil, a spiny mouse, and a crested rat. In some certain embodiments, a genetically modified mouse of the present invention is from a member of the family Muridae. In some embodiment, a non-human animal of the present invention is a rodent. In some certain embodiments, a rodent of the present invention is selected from a mouse and a rat. In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a mouse.

[0186] In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a rodent that is a mouse of a C57BL strain selected from C57BL/A, C57BL/An, C57BL/GrFa, C57BL/KaLwN, C57BL/6, C57BL/6J, C57BL/6ByJ, C57BL/6NJ, C57BL/10, C57BL/10ScSn, C57BL/10Cr, and C57BL/Ola. In some certain embodiments, a mouse of the present invention is a 129 strain selected from the group

consisting of a strain that is 129P1, 129P2, 129P3, 129X1, 129S1 (e.g., 129S1/SV, 129S1/SvIm), 129S2, 129S4, 129S5, 129S9/SvEvH, 129/SvJae, 129S6 (129/SvEvTac), 129S7, 129S8, 129T1, 129T2 (see, e.g., Festing et al., 1999, *Mammalian Genome* 10:836; Auerbach, W. et al., 2000, *Biotechniques* 29(5):1024-1028, 1030, 1032). In some certain embodiments, a genetically modified mouse of the present invention is a mix of an aforementioned 129 strain and an aforementioned C57BL/6 strain. In some certain embodiments, a mouse of the present invention is a mix of aforementioned 129 strains, or a mix of aforementioned BL/6 strains. In some certain embodiments, a 129 strain of the mix as described herein is a 129S6 (129/SvEvTac) strain. In some embodiments, a mouse of the present invention is a BALB strain, e.g., BALB/c strain. In some embodiments, a mouse of the present invention is a mix of a BALB strain and another aforementioned strain.

[0187] In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is a rat. In some certain embodiments, a rat of the present invention is selected from a Wistar rat, an LEA strain, a Sprague Dawley strain, a Fischer strain, F344, F6, and Dark Agouti. In some certain embodiments, a rat strain as described herein is a mix of two or more strains selected from the group consisting of Wistar, LEA, Sprague Dawley, Fischer, F344, F6, and Dark Agouti.

Methods Employing Non-Human Animals Having Humanized CD274 Genes

[0188] CD274 mutant and transgenic non-human animals (e.g., mice) and cells have been reported (Iwai, Y. et al., 2002, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 99(19):12293-12297; Latchman, Y. E. et al., 2004, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 101(29):10691-10696; Subudhi, S. K. et al., 2004, *J. Clin. Invest.* 113(5):694-700; Guleria, I. et al., 2005, *J. Exp. Med.* 202(2):231-237; Keir, M.E. et al., 2006, *J. Exp. Med.* 203(4):883-895; Tanaka, K. et al., 2007, *J. Immunol.* 179:5204-5210; Wang, C. et al., 2008, *Diabetes* 57:1861-1869; Wen, X. et al., 2008, *Transplant.* 86(11):1596-1602; Plege, A. et al., 2009, *Transpl.* 87(7):975-982; Cao, Y. et al., 2010, *Cancer Res.* 71(4):1235-1243; Plege, A. et al., 2010, *Eur. Soc. Organ Transplant.* 23:1293-1300; Ritprajak, P. et al., 2010, *J. Immunol.* 184:4918-4925; Yantha, J. et al., 2010, *Diabetes* 59:2588-2596; Ding, Q. et al., 2011, *J. Leukocyte Biol.* 90:77-86; Tang, L. et al., 2011, *Xi Bao Yu Fen Zi Mian Yi Xue Za Zhi* 27(4):357-359; Ghazizadeh, S. et al., 2012, 20(1):196-203). Such mutant and transgenic animals have been useful in determining the molecular aspects of PD-L1 expression and function, and

the role of the PD-1:PD-L1 pathway in regulating immune responses, in particular, T cell responses. However, they have come with limitations that are based, in part, on the demonstrated variability in the results obtained. Many transgenic PD-L1 animals have employed the use of transgenes designed to overexpress endogenous PD-L1 (see, e.g., Ghazizadeh et al., supra), while others have focused on linking transgenic PD-L1 expression to tissue-specific promoters (see, e.g., Ritprajak et al., supra). Some of these animals have displayed expression patterns of transgenic PD-L1 that do not correlate wild-type transcription profiles (see, e.g., Wang et al. and Yantha et al., supra). Further, due to the use of the same source genetic material (e.g., mouse PD-L1 transgene in a mouse), PD-L1 overexpression may have corresponded to endogenous PD-L1 rather than transgenic PD-L1 due to possible position effects of the transgene. In some cases, such animals have demonstrated an accelerated development of disease and, therefore, raise concern that the transgene may have possibly created or modified one or more phenotypes, thereby complicating analysis of PD-L1 function. These results may reasonably be attributed to construct design. In the context of human PD-L1, pig intestinal endothelial cells engineered to stably express a CMV-driven human PD-L1 have been employed in a miniature swine skin transplantation model and provided important insights in ectopic human PD-L1 expression in an allograft model (Ding et al., supra). Existing PD-L1 transgenic non-human animals have proved useful in elucidating some biological function of PD-L1 and of the PD-1:PD-L1 pathway, however, as demonstrated above, current *in vivo* systems exploiting PD-L1-mediated biology are incomplete. The molecular aspects of the PD-1:PD-L1 pathway and its role in the regulation of immune responses in the context of cancer and autoimmunity have not been exploited in transgenic animals (e.g., mice) to its fullest potential.

[0189] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an improved *in vivo* system and source of biological materials (e.g., cells) expressing human (or humanized) PD-L1 that are useful for a variety of assays. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to develop therapeutics that target PD-L1 and/or modulate PD-1:PD-L1 signaling (e.g., interfering with interactions with PD-1) and/or modulate PD-L1 interactions with other binding partners (e.g., B7-1). Such animals are particularly useful as they are fully immunocompetent in contrast to many other animal models used for *in vivo* studies; thus, analysis of effect of therapies is not complicated by compromised immune status. In various embodiments, non-human

animals of the present invention are used to identify, screen and/or develop candidate therapeutics (e.g., antibodies) that bind human PD-L1. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to screen and develop candidate therapeutics (e.g., antibodies) that block interaction of human PD-L1 with human PD-1 and/or human B7-1. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the binding profile of antagonists and/or agonists of a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide on the surface of a cell of a non-human animal as described herein; in some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the epitope or epitopes of one or more candidate therapeutic antibodies that bind human PD-L1.

[0190] In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the pharmacokinetic profiles of anti-PD-L1 antibodies. In various embodiments, one or more non-human animals of the present invention and one or more control or reference non-human animals are each exposed to one or more candidate therapeutic anti-PD-L1 antibodies at various doses (e.g., 0.1 mg/kg, 0.2 mg/kg, 0.3 mg/kg, 0.4 mg/kg, 0.5 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg, 2 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, 4 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, 7.5 mg/kg, 10 mg/kg, 15 mg/kg, 20 mg/kg, 25 mg/kg, 30 mg/kg, 40 mg/kg, or 50 mg/kg or more). Candidate therapeutic antibodies may be dosed via any desired route of administration including parenteral and non-parenteral routes of administration. Parenteral routes include, e.g., intravenous, intraarterial, intraportal, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intraspinal, intrathecal, intracerebro ventricular, intracranial, intrapleural or other routes of injection. Non-parenteral routes include, e.g., oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, rectal, buccal, vaginal, ocular. Administration may also be by continuous infusion, local administration, sustained release from implants (gels, membranes or the like), and/or intravenous injection. Blood is isolated from non-human animals (humanized and control) at various time points (e.g., 0 hr, 6 hr, 1 day, 2 days, 3 days, 4 days, 5 days, 6 days, 7 days, 8 days, 9 days, 10 days, 11 days, or up to 30 or more days). Various assays may be performed to determine the pharmacokinetic profiles of administered candidate therapeutic antibodies using samples obtained from non-human animals as described herein including, but not limited to, total IgG, anti-therapeutic antibody response, agglutination, etc.

[0191] In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to measure the therapeutic effect of blocking or modulating PD-L1 signaling (or

PD-1:PD-L1 signaling, or PD-L1:B7-1 mediated interactions) and the effect on gene expression as a result of cellular changes. In various embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention or cells isolated therefrom are exposed to a candidate therapeutic that binds a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide (or a human portion of a PD-L1 polypeptide) on the surface of a cell of the non-human animal and, after a subsequent period of time, analyzed for effects on PD-L1-dependent processes (or interactions), for example, adhesion, apoptosis, cytokine production, inflammation, proliferation, self-tolerance and viral infection (or responses).

[0192] Non-human animals of the present invention express humanized PD-L1 polypeptide, thus cells, cell lines, and cell cultures can be generated to serve as a source of humanized PD-L1 for use in binding and functional assays, e.g., to assay for binding or function of a PD-L1 antagonist or agonist, particularly where the antagonist or agonist is specific for a human PD-L1 sequence or epitope or, alternatively, specific for a human PD-L1 sequence or epitope that associates with PD-1 and/or B7-1. In various embodiments, PD-L1 epitopes bound by candidate therapeutic antibodies can be determined using cells isolated from non-human animals of the present invention.

[0193] In various embodiments, a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide expressed by a non-human animal as described herein may comprise a variant amino acid sequence. Exemplary human PD-L1 polypeptide variants include those listed in the SNP GeneView webpage from NCBI and are summarized in Table 3. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention express a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide variant. In various embodiments, the variant is polymorphic at an amino acid position associated with ligand binding. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the effect of ligand binding through interaction with a polymorphic polypeptide variant of human PD-L1. In some certain embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention express a human PD-L1 polypeptide variant that appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Chromosome position	mRNA position	Variant ID No.	Allele	Amino Acid	Codon position	Amino acid position
5456116	111	rs111401207	A	I	3	1
			G	M	3	1
5456126	121	rs139709512	C	P	1	5

			G	A	1	5
5456128	123	rs577786663	C	A	3	5
			T	A	3	5
5456131	126	rs545701711	G	V	3	6
			C	V	3	6
5462841	168	rs561746087	T	Y	3	20
			C	Y	3	20
5462844	171	rs138119378	T	N	3	21
			C	N	3	21
5462876	203	rs17718883	G	R	2	32
			C	P	2	32
5462881	208	rs140045210	T	S	1	34
			A	T	1	34
5462893	220	rs367921713	A	K	1	38
			G	E	1	38
5462919	246	rs565831052	T	Y	3	46
			C	Y	3	46
5462929	256	rs146495642	A	K	1	50
			G	E	1	50
5462931	258	rs181557130	G	E	3	50
			A	E	3	50
5462952	279	rs201730760	T	D	3	57
			C	D	3	57
5462964	291	rs569746752	A	L	3	61
			G	L	3	61
5462979	306	rs200229222	T	T	3	66
			C	T	3	66
5462984	311	rs555485716	T	I	2	68
			C	T	2	68
5462988	315	rs199878088	C	N	3	69
			T	N	3	69
5462997	324	rs41280721	C	S	3	72
			A	R	3	72
5463108	435	rs376339401	G	E	3	109
			A	E	3	109
5465514	464	rs61752860	T	L	2	119
			A	H	2	119
5465530	480	rs372727420	A	R	3	124
			G	R	3	124
5465594	544	rs568608390	T	C	1	146
			C	R	1	146
5465595	545	rs148141792	A	H	2	146
			G	R	2	146

5466785	572	rs141978642	A	E	2	155
			T	V	2	155
5467847	624	rs150697452	C	H	3	172
			T	H	3	172
5467858	635	rs369350813	T	M	2	176
			C	T	2	176
5467859	636	rs373167098	A	T	3	176
			G	T	3	176

[0194] Cells from non-human animals of the present invention can be isolated and used on an ad hoc basis, or can be maintained in culture for many generations. In various embodiments, cells from a non-human animal of the present invention are immortalized (e.g., via use of a virus) and maintained in culture indefinitely (e.g., in serial cultures).

[0195] In various embodiments, cells and/or non-human animals of the present invention are used in various immunization regimens to determine the PD-L1-mediated functions in the immune response to an antigen (e.g., a T cell response). In some embodiments, candidate therapeutics that bind, or block one or more functions of, human (or humanized) PD-L1 are characterized in a non-human animal of the present invention. Suitable measurements include various cellular assays, proliferation assays, serum immunoglobulin analysis (e.g., antibody titer), cytotoxicity assays, characterization of ligand-receptor interactions (e.g., immunoprecipitation assays) and characterization of ligand-ligand interactions. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to characterize the PD-L1-mediated functions regulating an immune response to an antigen. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with an autoimmune disease, disorder or condition. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with an inflammatory disease, disorder or condition. In some embodiments, that antigen is associated with a neoplasm. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with an infectious agent (e.g., a bacterium). In some embodiments, the antigen is a test antigen (e.g., ovalbumin or OVA). In some embodiments, the antigen is a target associated with a disease or condition suffered by one or more human patients in need of treatment.

[0196] In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used in serum assays for determining titers of autoantibody production for testing the pharmaco-toxicological aspects of candidate therapeutics that target human PD-L1. In

some embodiments, autoantibody production in non-human animals of the present invention results from one or more autoimmune diseases, disorders or conditions induced in the non-human animal.

[0197] In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used for challenge with one or more antigens to determine the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation of an immune response, including but not limited to, the specific T cell-dependent and B cell-dependent responses to a given antigen.

[0198] In various embodiments, cells and/or non-human animals of the present invention are used in a survival and/or proliferation assay (e.g., employing B or T cells) to screen and develop candidate therapeutics that modulate human PD-L1 signaling. Activation or inhibition of PD-L1 plays an important role in the regulation of T cell responses, and regulation of self-tolerance by PD-L1 may result from the activation of specific epitopes of the extracellular domain of PD-L1, therefore, candidate PD-L1 modulators (e.g., antagonists or agonists) may be identified, characterized and developed using cells of non-human animals of the present invention and/or a non-human animal as described herein. In some embodiments, cells and/or non-human animals of the present invention are used in survival or death assay(s) to determine the effect on proliferation or apoptosis of a specific cell(s) (e.g., cancer cells) in the presence and absence of PD-L1.

[0199] In various embodiments, cells and/or non-human animals of the present invention are used in xenotransplantation of heterologous (e.g., human) cells or tissue to determine the PD-L1-mediated functions in the physiological (e.g., immune) response to the transplanted human cells or tissue. In some embodiments, candidate therapeutics that bind, or block one or more functions of, human PD-L1 are characterized in a non-human animal of the present invention. Suitable measurements include various cellular assays, proliferation assays, serum immunoglobulin analysis (e.g., antibody titer), cytotoxicity assays, and characterization of ligand-receptor interactions (immunoprecipitation assays). In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to characterize the PD-L1-mediated functions regulating an immune response to an antigen. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with a neoplasm. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with an autoimmune disease, disorder or condition. In some embodiments, the antigen is associated with an inflammatory disease, disorder or

condition. In some embodiments, the antigen is a target associated with a disease or condition suffered by one or more human patients in need of treatment.

[0200] In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used in transplantation or adoptive transfer experiments to determine the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation of xenogenic lymphocytes and their immune function. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are transplanted with human T cells; in some embodiments, naïve T cells; in some embodiments, activated T cells.

[0201] In various embodiments, cells of non-human animals of the present invention are used in T cell assays to determine the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation of T cell-dependent response and function. Exemplary T cell assays include, but are not limited to, ELISpot, intracellular cytokine staining, major histocompatibility complex (MHC) restriction, viral suppression assays, cytotoxicity assays, proliferation assays and regulatory T cell suppression assays.

[0202] In various embodiments, cells of non-human animals of the present invention are used in cell transmigration assays to screen and develop candidate therapeutics that modulate human PD-L1. Cell transmigration involves the migration of cells across the endothelium and transmigration assays permit the measurement of interactions with, and transmigration of, the endothelium by leukocytes or tumor cells.

[0203] In various embodiments, cells of non-human animals of the present invention are used in tumor cell growth (or proliferation) assays to determine the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation and/or apoptosis of tumor cells.

[0204] In various embodiments, cells of non-human animals of the present invention are used in cytokine production assays to determine the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation of cytokine release from T cells (e.g., interferon- γ , interleukin-10). In some embodiments, cells of non-human animals of the present invention are used for detection (and/or measurement) of intracellular cytokine release resulting from interaction of humanized PD-L1 with a drug targeting human PD-L1 or a PD-L1 binding partner (e.g., PD-1, B7-1, or a soluble version thereof).

[0205] In various embodiments, an autoimmune disease, disorder or condition is induced in one or more non-human animals of the present invention to provide an *in vivo* system for determining the therapeutic potential of compounds or biological agents to modulate PD-L1-dependent regulation of one or more functions (or aspects) of the autoimmune disease, disorder or condition. Exemplary autoimmune diseases, disorders or conditions that may be induced in one or more non-human animals of the present invention include diabetes, experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (e.g., a model for multiple sclerosis), rheumatoid arthritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus.

[0206] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an *in vivo* system for the analysis and testing of a drug or vaccine. In various embodiments, a candidate drug or vaccine may be delivered to one or more non-human animals of the present invention, followed by monitoring of the non-human animals to determine one or more of the immune response to the drug or vaccine, the safety profile of the drug or vaccine, or the effect on a disease or condition and/or one or more symptoms of a disease or condition. In some embodiments, the vaccine targets a virus such as, for example, human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis virus (e.g. HCV). Exemplary methods used to determine the safety profile include measurements of toxicity, optimal dose concentration, efficacy of the drug or vaccine, and possible risk factors. Such drugs or vaccines may be improved and/or developed in such non-human animals.

[0207] Non-human animals of the present invention provide improved *in vivo* system for elucidating mechanisms of human cell-to-cell interaction through adoptive transfer. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention may be implanted with a tumor xenograft, followed by a second implantation of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes which could be implanted in the non-human animals by adoptive transfer to determine the effectiveness in eradication of solid tumors or other malignancies. Such experiments may be done with human cells due to the exclusive presence of human PD-L1 without competition with endogenous PD-L1 of the non-human animal. Further, therapies and pharmaceuticals for use in xenotransplantation can be improved and/or developed in such non-human animals.

[0208] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an *in vivo* system for assessing the pharmacokinetic properties of a drug targeting human PD-L1. In various embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 may be delivered or administered to one or more non-human animals of the present invention, followed by monitoring of, or

performing one or more assays on, the non-human animals (or cells isolated therefrom) to determine the effect of the drug on the non-human animal. Pharmacokinetic properties include, but are not limited to, how an animal processes the drug into various metabolites (or detection of the presence or absence of one or more drug metabolites, including, but not limited to, toxic metabolites), drug half-life, circulating levels of drug after administration (e.g., serum concentration of drug), anti-drug response (e.g., anti-drug antibodies), drug absorption and distribution, route of administration, routes of excretion and/or clearance of the drug. In some embodiments, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of drugs (e.g., PD-L1 modulators) are monitored in or through the use of non-human animals of the present invention.

[0209] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an *in vivo* system for assessing the on-target toxicity of a drug targeting human PD-L1. In various embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 may be delivered or administered to one or more non-human animals of the present invention, followed by monitoring of or performing one or more assays on the non-human animals (or cells isolated therefrom) to determine the on-target toxic effect of the drug on the non-human animal. Typically, drugs are intended to modulate one or more functions of their targets. To give but one example, a PD-L1 modulator is intended to modulate PD-L1-mediated functions (e.g., PD-L1 signaling and/or PD-L1 interactions) through interacting in some way with the PD-L1 molecule on the surface of one or more cells and, in some embodiments, blocking interactions with one or more PD-L1 binding partners. In some embodiments, such a modulator may have an adverse effect that is an exaggeration of the desired pharmacologic action(s) of the modulator. Such effects are termed on-target effects. Exemplary on-target effects include too high of a dose, chronic activation/inactivation, and correct action in an incorrect tissue. In some embodiments, on-target effects of a drug targeting PD-L1 identified in or through the use of non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine a previously unknown function(s) of PD-L1.

[0210] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an *in vivo* system for assessing the off-target toxicity of a drug targeting human PD-L1. In various embodiments, a drug targeting human PD-L1 may be delivered or administered to one or more non-human animals of the present invention, followed by monitoring of or performing one or more assays on the non-human animals (or cells isolated therefrom) to determine the off-target toxic effect of the drug on the non-human animal. Off-target

effects can occur when a drug interacts with an unintended target (e.g., cross-reactivity to a common epitope). Such interactions can occur in an intended or unintended tissue. To give but one example, mirror image isomers (enantiomers) of a drug can lead to off-target toxic effects. Further, a drug can inappropriately interact with and unintentionally activate different receptor subtypes. Exemplary off-target effects include incorrect activation/inhibition of an incorrect target regardless of the tissue in which the incorrect target is found. In some embodiments, off-target effects of a drug targeting human PD-L1 are determined by comparing the effects of administering the drug to non-human animals of the present invention to one or more reference non-human animals.

[0211] In some embodiments, performing an assay includes determining the effect on the phenotype and/or genotype of the non-human animal to which the drug is administered. In some embodiments, performing an assay includes determining lot-to-lot variability for a PD-L1 modulator (e.g., an antagonist or an agonist) or a drug targeting PD-L1. In some embodiments, performing an assay includes determining the differences between the effects of a drug targeting PD-L1 administered to a non-human animal of the present invention and a reference non-human animal. In various embodiments, reference non-human animals may have a modification as described herein, a modification that is different as described herein (e.g., one that has a altered, disrupted, deleted, inserted, modified, etc. or otherwise non-functional CD274 gene) or no modification (i.e., a wild-type non-human animal).

[0212] Exemplary parameters that may be measured in non-human animals (or in and/or using cells isolated therefrom) for assessing the pharmacokinetic properties, on-target toxicity, and/or off-target toxicity of a drug targeting human PD-L1 include, but are not limited to, agglutination, autophagy, cell division, cell death, complement-mediated hemolysis, DNA integrity, drug-specific antibody titer, drug metabolism, gene expression arrays, metabolic activity, mitochondrial activity, oxidative stress, phagocytosis, protein biosynthesis, protein degradation, protein secretion, stress response, target tissue drug concentration, non-target tissue drug concentration, transcriptional activity and the like. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine a pharmaceutically effective dose of a PD-L1 modulator (e.g., a drug targeting PD-L1).

[0213] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an improved *in vivo* system for development and characterization of candidate therapeutics for use in cancer.

In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention may be implanted with a tumor (or tumor cells), followed by administration of one or more candidate therapeutics. In some embodiments, candidate therapeutics may include a multi-specific antibody (e.g., a bi-specific antibody) or an antibody cocktail; in some embodiments, candidate therapeutics include combination therapy such as, for example, administration of two or more mono-specific antibodies dosed sequentially or simultaneously. The tumor may be allowed sufficient time to be established in one or more locations within the non-human animal prior to administration of one or more candidate therapeutics. Tumor cell proliferation, growth, survival, etc. may be measured both before and after administration with the candidate therapeutic(s). Cytotoxicity of candidate therapeutics may also be measured in the non-human animal as desired.

[0214] Non-human animals of the present invention provide an improved *in vivo* system for development and characterization of candidate therapeutics for use in infectious diseases. In various embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention may be infected by injection with a virus (e.g., MHV, HIV, HCV, etc.) or pathogen (e.g., bacteria), followed by administration of one or more candidate therapeutics. In some embodiments, candidate therapeutics may include a multi-specific antibody (e.g., a bi-specific antibody) or an antibody cocktail; in some embodiments, candidate therapeutics include combination therapy such as, for example, administration of two or more mono-specific antibodies dosed sequentially or simultaneously; in some embodiments, candidate therapeutics may include a vaccine. The virus or pathogen may be allowed sufficient time to be established in one or more locations or cells within the non-human animal so that one or more symptoms associated with infection of the virus or pathogen develop in the non-human animal. T cell proliferation and growth may be measured both before and after administration with the candidate therapeutic(s). Further, survival, serum and/or intracellular cytokine analysis, liver and/or spleen histopathology may be measured in non-human animals infected with the virus or pathogen. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the extent of organ damage associated with viral infection. In some embodiments, non-human animals of the present invention are used to determine the cytokine expression profile and/or gene expression profile in various organs of non-human animals infected with a particular virus.

[0215] Non-human animals of the present invention can be employed to assess the efficacy of a therapeutic drug targeting human cells. In various embodiments, one or more non-human animals of the present invention is transplanted with human cells, and a drug candidate targeting such human cells is administered to such non-human animal. The therapeutic efficacy of the drug is then determined by monitoring the human cells in the non-human animal after the administration of the drug. Drugs that can be tested in the non-human animals include both small molecule compounds, i.e., compounds of molecular weights of less than 1500 kD, 1200 kD, 1000 kD, or 800 daltons, and large molecular compounds (such as proteins, e.g., antibodies), which have intended therapeutic effects for the treatment of human diseases and conditions by targeting (e.g., binding to and/or acting on) human cells.

[0216] In some embodiments, the drug is an anti-cancer drug, and the human cells are cancer cells, which can be cells of a primary cancer or cells of cell lines established from a primary cancer. In some embodiments, a non-human animal of the present invention is transplanted with human cancer cells, and an anti-cancer drug is given to the non-human animal. Drug efficacy can be determined by assessing whether growth or metastasis of the human cancer cells in the non-human animal is inhibited as a result of the administration of the drug.

[0217] In specific embodiments, the anti-cancer drug is an antibody molecule, which binds an antigen on human cancer cells. In particular embodiments, the anti-cancer drug is a bi-specific antibody that binds to an antigen on human cancer cells, and to an antigen on other human cells, for example, cells of the human immune system (or "human immune cells") such as B cells and T cells.

EXAMPLES

[0218] The following examples are provided so as to describe to those of ordinary skill in the art how to make and use methods and compositions of the invention, and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Unless indicated otherwise, temperature is indicated in Celsius, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1. Humanization of an endogenous Cluster of Differentiation 274 (CD274) Gene

[0219] This example illustrates exemplary methods of humanizing an endogenous CD274 gene encoding Programmed cell death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) in a non-human animal such as a rodent (e.g., a mouse). The methods described in this example can be employed to humanize an endogenous CD274 gene of a non-human animal using any human sequence, or combination of sequences (or sequence fragments) as desired. In this example, an ~8,444 bp human DNA fragment containing exon 3, 4 and 5 (in part) of a human *CD274* gene that appears in Genbank accession NM_014143.3 (SEQ ID NO:11) is employed for humanizing an endogenous *Cd274* gene of a mouse. A targeting vector for humanization of the genetic material encoding the extracellular domain, which includes an N-terminal IgV domain and an IgC2-type domain, of an endogenous *Cd274* gene was constructed using VELOCIGENE® technology (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 6,586,251 and Valenzuela et al., 2003, Nature Biotech. 21(6):652-659; herein incorporated by reference).

[0220] Briefly, mouse bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clone RP23-467A9 (Invitrogen) was modified to delete the coding sequences of exons 3, 4 and 5 (in part) of an endogenous mouse *Cd274* gene (~8942 bp) and insert exons 3, 4 and 5 (in part) of a human *CD274* gene using an ~8444 bp human DNA fragment, which encodes amino acids 19-238 of a human PD-L1 polypeptide. Endogenous DNA containing exon 1, exon 2, exon 6 and exon 7 as well as the untranslated regions (UTRs) were retained. Sequence analysis of the ~8,444 bp human DNA fragment confirmed that all human *CD274* exons (i.e., exons 3, 4 and 5 in part) and splicing signals. Sequence analysis revealed that the sequence matched the human *CD274* transcript NM014143.3. First, the ~8,444 bp human DNA fragment was amplified in two portions (Figure 2, top). A 5' portion (~4,494 bp) containing a human *CD274* exon 2 and part of intron 3 was amplified by PCR using a 3' primer that contained an *NheI* restriction site and a 5' primer containing a mouse homology box to facilitate bacterial homologous recombination. A 3' portion (~3,950 bp) containing part of intron 3, exon 4, intron 4 and part of exon 5 (~32 bp) was amplified by PCR using a 5' primer that contained an *XhoI* restriction site and a 3' primer containing a mouse homology box to facilitate bacterial homologous recombination. The PCR products were gel purified and separately digested with the corresponding restriction endonucleases. The *NheI*-*XhoI* restriction sites were

employed to ligate the ~4,494 bp and ~3,950 bp DNA fragments to the 5' and 3' ends of a ~4,996 bp self-deleting neomycin cassette (loxP-hUbl-em7-Neo-pA-mPrm1-Crei-loxP; see U.S. Patent No.'s 8,697,851, 8,518,392 and 8,354,389, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference) in reverse orientation to the DNA fragments containing human *CD274* coding sequence. Subsequent selection employed neomycin. By design, the junction between the portion of human *CD274* exon 5 (i.e., initial 32 bp) and endogenous *Cd274* exon 5 preserved the open reading frame in exon 5 (Figure 2) and created a unique *CD274* exon 5 (AACTACCTCTGGCACATCCTCCAAATGAAA GGACTCACTG GGTGCTTCTG GGATCCATCC TGTTGTTCCCT CATTGTAGTG TCCACGGTCC TCCTCTTCTT GAGAAAACAA G; SEQ ID NO:12). The resulting targeting vector contained, from 5' to 3', a 5' homology arm containing ~92.9 kb of mouse genomic DNA from BAC clone RP23-467A9, a ~4,494 bp human DNA fragment containing exon 3 and part of intron 3 of a human *CD274* gene, a self-deleting neomycin cassette flanked by *loxP* sites, a ~3950 bp human DNA fragment containing part of intron 3, exon 4, intron 4 and the first 32 bp of exon 5 of a human *CD274* gene, and ~67.6 kb of mouse genomic DNA from BAC clone RP23-467A9.

[0221] The modified RP23-467A9 clone described above was used to electroporate mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells to create modified ES cells comprising an endogenous *CD274* gene that is humanized from exon 3 through to part of exon 5 (i.e., a deletion of ~8,964 of the endogenous *Cd274* gene and insertion of ~8,444 bp of human *CD274* sequence). Positively targeted ES cells containing a humanized *CD274* gene were identified by an assay (Valenzuela et al., supra) that detected the presence of human *CD274* sequences (e.g., exon 3, 4 and part of exon 5) and confirmed the deletion and/or retention of mouse *Cd274* sequences (e.g., exon 3, 4 and part of 5 and/or exon 1, 2, 6 and 7). Table 4 sets forth exemplary sequences of primers and probes that were used to confirm humanization of an endogenous mouse *Cd274* gene as described above (illustrated in Figure 3).

[0222] Nucleotide sequences across various junctions are depicted in the diagrams in Figure 2. The nucleotide sequence across the upstream insertion point included the following, which indicates endogenous mouse *Cd274* sequence (contained within the parentheses below) contiguous with human *CD274* sequence downstream of the insertion point: (TAACCTTTTA CCCAGGTTTT CAGATGTGTT TGGAGGAGTT TTCTGTCTTC TGAGGGCTGG TCCTCTTTCCT TTTCAGCGTT TACT)

GTCAGGTTCC CAAGGACCTA TATGTGGTAG AGTATGGTAG CAATATGACA
ATTGAATGCA AATTCCCAGTAGAA (SEQ ID NO:13).

[0223] The nucleotide sequence across the 5' end of the self-deleting Neomycin cassette included the following, which indicates human *CD274* sequence contiguous with cassette sequence (contained within the parentheses below with an *NheI* restriction site italicized and a loxP sequence in bold font) downstream of the insertion point:

TTTGTATTAA CTCTCTGTGA AGAAATTACC TCACAAATCT ATTGCTGTC
(*GCTAGCTCGCTACCTT* AGGACCGTTA TAGTTACTAG C
ATAACTTCGTATAGCATACATTATACGAAGTTATTCCAGACATG
ATAAGATACA TTGATGAGTT TGGACAAACC ACAACTAGAA TGCAGTGAAA
AAAATGCTTT ATTTGTGAAA TTTGTGATGC TATTGCTTTA TTTGTAACCA
TTATAAGCTG) (SEQ ID NO:14).

[0224] The nucleotide sequence across the 3' end of the self-deleting Neomycin cassette included the following, which indicates cassette sequence (contained within the parentheses below with loxP sequence in bold font and an *XhoI* restriction site italicized) contiguous with human *CD274* sequence downstream of the insertion point:

(GTGAGGAGGG GGGCGCCCGC GGGAGGCGCC AAAACCCGGC
GCGGAGGCCA TGCAT **ATAACTTCGT** ATAGCATACA TTATACGAAG
TTATCTCGAG) CTTGGTAAAG GAATGGAGAA TTAAGGCTCT AGATCATTAG
TGGTTACACT ATAGTATTAG AAGTAAAAAA AAGATTATAC CAACAAAATA
AGAACATGTT AATGTACTTG TAATGAATAA ACATGAATAA AGCTCTTATG
CTATA (SEQ ID NO:15).

[0225] The nucleotide sequence across the 3' end of the human *CD274* sequence included the following, which indicates human *CD274* sequence contiguous with mouse *Cd274* sequence (contained within the parentheses below): TTTATCTTTA

GTCAGTTTGT TTTCGTTTTGT TTTGTTTTTC AGAACTACCT CTGGCACATC
CTCCAAATGA AAGG (ACTCACTGGG TGCTTCTGGG ATCCATCCTG
TTGTTCTCA TTGTAGTGTC CACGGTCCTC CTCTTCTTGA GAAAACAAGG
TATTTCTCCATTG) (SEQ ID NO:16).

[0226] The nucleotide sequence across the insertion point after deletion of the neomycin cassette included the following, which indicates human genomic sequence juxtaposed with remaining cassette sequence loxP sequence (contained within the parentheses below with *NheI* and *XhoI* restriction sites italicized and loxP sequence in

bold font): TCCTAGCCG TTTTGTATTA ACTCTCTGTG AAGAAATTAC
 CTCACAAATCT ATTGCTGTC (*GCTAGCTCGCTACCTT AGGACCGTTA*
TAGTTACTAGCATAACTTCGT
ATAGCATACATTATACGAAGTTATCTCGAG)CTTGGTAAAGGAATGGAGAA
 TTAAGGCTCTAGATCATTAGTGGTTACACTATAGTATTAGAAGTAAAAAAA
 GATTATACCAACAAAATAAGAA (SEQ ID NO:17).

[0227] Positive ES cell clones were then used to implant female mice using the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 7,294,754 and Poueymirou et al., 2007, Nature Biotech. 25(1):91-99) to generate a litter of pups containing an insertion of human *CD274* exon 3, 4 and part of human *CD274* exon 5 into an endogenous mouse *Cd274* gene. Mice bearing the humanization of exon 3, 4 and 5 in part (i.e., the ~8,444 bp human DNA fragment) of an endogenous *Cd274* gene were again confirmed and identified by genotyping of DNA isolated from tail snips using an assay (Valenzuela et al., supra) that detected the presence of the human *CD274* gene sequences. Pups are genotyped and cohorts of animals heterozygous for the humanized *Pdcd1* gene construct are selected for characterization. Mice are also bred to homozygosity.

TABLE 4

Name	Description	Sequence (5'-3')	
7096 hTU	Forward primer	CCGGCTGTTGAAGGACCAG	SEQ ID NO:18
	Probe	TCTCCCTGGGAAATGCTGCACTTCAG	SEQ ID NO:19
	Reverse primer	TGCATCCTGCAATTCACATCTG	SEQ ID NO:20
7096 hTD	Forward primer	ACACAGGTATCTCGCCATTCC	SEQ ID NO:21
	Probe	AGCCACTCAAACCTTTGGCATT	SEQ ID NO:22
	Reverse primer	GGTCATCCTTGAAGTTTAGTTTAGC	SEQ ID NO:23
7096 TU	Forward primer	CAGGACGCAGGCGTTTAC	SEQ ID NO:24
	Probe	CTGCATAATCAGCTACGGTGGTGCGG	SEQ ID NO:25
	Reverse primer	TTCAGCGTGATTTCGCTTGTAG	SEQ ID NO:26

	Forward primer	CTGGAGTGCCCAAGAGTC	SEQ ID NO:27
7096 TD	Probe	CAGACATGGAAGAAACACAACCCGCAC	SEQ ID NO:28
	Reverse primer	CTGCTAAGCCGCTTCTGTC	SEQ ID NO:29

Example 2. Expression of humanized PD-L1 on activated T cells

[0228] This Example demonstrates that non-human animals (e.g., rodents) modified to contain a humanized CD274 gene according to Example 1 express a humanized PD-L1 polypeptide on the surface of activated lymphocytes. In this Example, activated T cells from wild-type mice and mice whose genome contained a humanized CD274 gene as described in Example 1 were stained with commercial anti-PD-L1 antibodies to determine the expression of PD-L1 in stimulated and unstimulated T cells.

[0229] Briefly, spleens were harvested and processed from a wild-type mouse and a mouse homozygous for an endogenous CD274 gene as described in Example 1 into single cell suspensions by mechanical dissociation. Cells were washed in media (RPMI supplemented with 10% FBS) and re-suspended at 1×10^6 /mL and 200 μ L (200,000 cells) were plated in 96-well plates. Cells in selected wells were stimulated with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 antibodies (both at 1 μ g/mL) for 72 hours. Cells were stained for FACS according to manufacturer's specifications with antibodies recognizing CD3, CD4, CD8 and human (clone MIH1, BD Biosciences) or mouse (clone 10F.9G2, eBioscience) PD-L1. Stained cells were run on LSRII flow cytometer and data was analyzed using FLOWJO™ software. CD8⁺ T (CD3⁺CD8⁺) and CD4⁺ T (CD3⁺CD4⁺) cells were gated and analyzed for expression of human and mouse PD-L1. Exemplary mean fluorescence intensity values are set forth in Table 5.

[0230] As shown in Table 5, mice bearing a humanized CD274 gene as described in Example 1 express a PD-L1 polypeptide that comprises a human portion and an endogenous portion on activated T cells. The human portion is detectably expressed via recognition by an antibody that is reactive to a fully human PD-L1 polypeptide, which antibody does not recognize a mouse PD-L1 polypeptide in wild-type mice. In contrast, the anti-mouse PD-L1 antibody clone 10F.9G2 demonstrated a high level of staining for mouse PD-L1 in wild-type mice after anti-CD3/anti-CD28 stimulation, and a marginal level of staining in humanized PD-L1 mice. This is most likely due to partial cross-reactivity to human PD-L1.

TABLE 5

Mean Fluorescence Intensity					
Genotype	Sample	CD8 ⁺ T cells		CD4 ⁺ T cells	
		α -hPD-L1	α -mPD-L1	α -hPD-L1	α -mPD-L1
humanized CD274	Isotype control	78	84	-55	-52
	Unstimulated	271	160	114	61
	Stimulated	384	276	457	155
wild-type	Isotype control	64	64	-58	-39
	Unstimulated	62	712	-45	538
	Stimulated	113	3174	22	2805

α -hPD-L1: anti-human PD-L1

α -mPD-L1: anti-mouse PD-L1

Example 3. *In vivo* efficacy of PD-L1 modulators

[0231] This Example demonstrates that non-human animals (e.g., rodents) modified to contain a humanized CD274 gene according to Example 1 can be used in an *in vivo* assay to screen PD-L1 modulators (e.g., anti-PD-L1 antibodies) and determine various characteristics such as, for example, reducing tumor growth and/or killing of tumor cells. In this Example, several anti-PD-L1 antibodies are screened in mice homozygous for humanization of an endogenous CD274 gene (as described in Example 1) subcutaneously injected with MC38.ova tumor cells to determine the optimal antibody dose that promotes tumor regression and the extent to which anti-PD-L1 antibodies mediate killing of tumor cells.

[0232] Briefly, mice were divided evenly according to body weight into five treatment or control groups for Study 1 (n=5 to 8 mice per group) or randomized into seven treatment groups for Study 2 (n=5 to 6 mice). Study 1 animals were anesthetized by isoflurane inhalation and then injected subcutaneously into the right flank with 1×10^6 MC38.ova cells in suspension of 100 μ L of DMEM (day 0). MC38.Ova (mouse colon adenocarcinoma) cells were engineered to express chicken ovalbumin in order to increase tumor immunogenicity and to allow monitoring of the T-cell immune responses to well-defined antigenic ovalbumin peptides. MC38.ova cells were also transduced with a lentiviral vector expressing full-length human PD-L1 under control of an SFFV

viral promoter, and sorted for positive expression of human PD-L1 (MC38.ova/hPD-L1) by flow cytometry using an antibody specific for human PD-L1 (clone MIH1, BD Biosciences). MC38.ova cells also express a low level of endogenous mouse PD-L1. Study 1 treatment groups were intraperitoneally injected with 500 µg of either one of three anti-PD-L1 antibodies or one of two isotype control antibodies not specific for PD-L1 on days 3, 7, 10, 14, and 17. A single group of animals was left untreated. Study 2 animals were also subcutaneously implanted with 1×10^6 MC38.Ova/hPD-L1 cells (day 0), however, study 2 treatment groups were intraperitoneally administered with an anti-PD-L1 antibody (Ab A, Ab B, or Ab C) or control antibodies (i.e., not specific for PD-L1) at doses of 10 mg/kg or 5 mg/kg. Treatment groups were administered antibody on days 3, 7, 10, 14, and 17. Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for each study is set forth in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Study 1		Study 2	
Antibody	Dose (µg)	Antibody	Dose (mg/kg)
Ab A	500	Ab A	10
Ab B	500	Ab A	5
Ab C	500	Ab B	10
Control 1	500	Ab B	5
Control 2	500	Ab C	10
		Ab C	5
		Control 1	10

[0233] For each study, tumor volumes were monitored by caliper measurement twice per week for the duration of the experiment (17 days for Study 1, 21 days for Study 2) and percent survival was recorded at the end of each study. The number of tumor-free mice was also scored at the end of each study. Exemplary results, expressed as mean tumor volume ($\text{mm}^3 \pm \text{SD}$), percent survival, and number of tumor-free mice, are set forth in Tables 7 and 8. Exemplary tumor growth curves are provided in Figure 4.

TABLE 7

Study 1					
Antibody	Mean tumor volume (mm ³ ±SD)		Survival (%)		Tumor-free mice
	Days 10	Day 17	Day 10	Day 17	Day 17
Ab A	6±10	2±5	100	100	4/5
Ab B	16±17	0±0	100	100	5/5
Ab C	13±14	0±0	100	100	5/5
Control 1	65±27	148±109	100	100	0/5
Control 2	54±44	80±63	100	100	0/5

TABLE 8

Study 2										
Antibody	Mean tumor volume (mm ³ ±SD)				Survival (%)				Tumor-free mice	
	Day 10		Day 21		Day 10		Day 21		Day 21	
	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5
	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg
Ab A	14±15	17±4	19±922	108±101	100	100	100	100	3/6	2/5
Ab B	18±10	23±10	34±81	231±238	100	100	100	100	5/6	1/5
Ab C	10±8	25±929	7±16	37±59	100	100	100	100	5/6	3/5
Control 1	55±37	N/A	534±356	N/A	100	N/A	100	N/A	0/6	N/A

[0234] For Study 1, all three anti-PD-L1 antibodies were efficacious in promoting tumor regression at 500 µg/mouse with all mice from treatment groups that received Ab B and Ab C being tumor free at day 17 (Table 7). In the Ab A treatment group, four of five mice (80%) were tumor free by day 17, whereas none of the animals in the control groups were tumor-free. One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison post-test revealed a significant difference in tumor volumes between treatments with anti-PD-L1 antibodies and the control antibodies with a p value <0.05. Control 2 is an unrelated matched isotype control antibody, while control 1 is an unrelated unmatched isotype control antibody.

[0235] For Study 2, administration of the selected anti-PD-L1 antibodies resulted in inhibition of tumor growth and thereby promoted tumor regression (Table 8). All anti-PD-L1 antibodies tested were efficacious at 10 mg/kg and 5 mg/kg, and promoted tumor regression in treated mice in a dose dependent manner throughout the course of the experiment. None of the animals treated with control antibodies were tumor-free (Table 8). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison post-test revealed a significant difference in tumor volumes between treatments with the anti-PD-L1 antibodies and control antibodies with p value <0.05 or lower. Control 1 is an unrelated matched isotype control.

[0236] As shown in Figure 4 and Tables 7 and 8, anti-PD-L1 antibodies significantly inhibited tumor growth in a prophylactic MC38.ova/hPD-L1 tumor growth model in mice having a humanized CD274 gene as described in Example 1. Anti-PD-L1 antibody therapy at 10 mg/kg and 5 mg/kg promoted tumor regression in all mice throughout the course of the experiment resulting in three out of six mice remaining tumor-free in 10 mg/kg group and two out of five mice remaining tumor-free in 5 mg/kg treatment group by Day 21, whereas none of the animals remained tumor-free in the control group (0/6) (Figure 4). One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison post-test revealed a significant difference in tumor volumes on Day 21 between anti-PD-L1 and control antibody treatments with a p value < 0.01 (5 mg/kg treatment group) and p value <0.0001 (10 mg/kg treatment group).

[0237] In a similar experiment, intact functional PD-L1 signaling in mice containing a humanized CD274 gene as described in Example 1 was investigated by measuring CD8⁺ and CD3⁺ T cell responses in splenocytes of tumor-bearing mice treated with anti-PD-L1 antibody.

[0238] Briefly, splenocytes were isolated from mice containing a humanized CD274 gene as described in Example 1 treated with anti-PD-L1 or control antibody at the end of the experiment on Day 21 (described above). Total RNA was isolated, and real-time PCR was performed on reverse transcribed cDNA using oligonucleotides and TAQMAN[™] probe mix specific for mouse CD8b, mouse CD3 ζ (Mm00446171_m1, Applied Biosystems), human PD-L1 and mouse PD-L1 (Table 9). Samples were normalized relative to expression of mouse cyclophilin B. Exemplary results are provided in Figure 5.

TABLE 9

Name	Description	Sequence (5'-3')	
mCD8b	Forward primer	GCTCTGGCTGGTCTTCAGTATG	SEQ ID NO:30
	Probe	AGCAGCTCTG CCCTCAT	SEQ ID NO:31
	Reverse primer	TTGCCGTATGGTTGGTTTGAAC	SEQ ID NO:32
hPD-L1	Forward primer	ACAGCCTGCTGTCACTTGC	SEQ ID NO:33
	Probe	TACGGGCGTTTACTGTCAC	SEQ ID NO:34
	Reverse primer	ACCACATATAGGTCCTTGGAAC	SEQ ID NO:35
mPD-L1	Forward primer	TTCTCAATGTGACCAGCAGTC	SEQ ID NO:36
	Probe	AGGGTCAACGCCACAGCGAATGA	SEQ ID NO:37
	Reverse primer	TCCTGTTCTGTGGAGGATGTG	SEQ ID NO:38

[0239] As shown in Figure 5, administration of anti-hPD-L1 antibody induced an increase in the number of CD8⁺ and CD3⁺ T cells in splenocytes of mice containing a humanized CD274 gene (as described in Example 1) and bearing MC38.ova/hPD-L1 tumors. This confirms that mice containing a humanized CD274 gene (as described in Example 1) demonstrate proper expression and signaling through humanized PD-L1 on the cell surface in that PD-L1 expression by MC38.ova cells was not able to suppress proliferation of anti-tumor CD8⁺ T cells. Overall, the demonstrated increase in T cells as compared to control-treated mice was observed for both treatment groups, however, statistical difference in CD8b (p value <0.01) and CD3 (p <0.001) levels using a one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison post-test was only reached between the 10 mg/kg anti-PD-L1 antibody and control treatment groups.

[0240] Human PD-L1 mRNA expression was measured with human specific probes designed for the extracellular portion of human PD-L1 polypeptide (Table 9) and confirmed proper expression of humanized PD-L1 protein on the cell surface (Figure 5). Additionally, measurement of mouse PD-L1 mRNA expression with primers designed to detect the extracellular portion of mouse PD-L1 (Table 9) failed to produce a product. These data confirm the flow cytometry results presented in Table 5, i.e., humanized PD-L1 mice indeed express humanized PD-L1 that is intact and functional on the cell surface.

[0241] Taken together, this example demonstrates that non-human animals of the present invention can be used to assess the *in vivo* efficacy of drugs (e.g., antibodies) that target PD-L1, and such animals are useful in discriminating the therapeutic effect of anti-PD-L1 antibodies. Moreover, non-human animals described herein can be used to assess the extent to which drugs targeting PD-L1 can promote the regression of tumors and/or mediate killing of tumor cells. Non-human animals (e.g. mice) of the present invention demonstrate expression of functional humanized PD-L1 polypeptide on the cell surface and proper PD-L1 regulation of immune responses via inhibition of PD-L1-dependent suppression of CD8⁺ T cells in a tumor model.

EQUIVALENTS

[0242] Having thus described several aspects of at least one embodiment of this invention, it is to be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various alterations, modifications, and improvements will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Such alterations, modifications, and improvements are intended to be part of this disclosure, and are intended to be within the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the foregoing description and drawing are by way of example only and the invention is described in detail by the claims that follow.

[0243] Use of ordinal terms such as "first," "second," "third," etc., in the claims to modify a claim element does not by itself connote any priority, precedence, or order of one claim element over another or the temporal order in which acts of a method are performed, but are used merely as labels to distinguish one claim element having a certain name from another element having a same name (but for use of the ordinal term) to distinguish the claim elements.

[0244] The articles "a" and "an" as used herein in the specification and in the claims, unless clearly indicated to the contrary, should be understood to include the plural referents. Claims or descriptions that include "or" between one or more members of a group are considered satisfied if one, more than one, or all of the group members are present in, employed in, or otherwise relevant to a given product or process unless indicated to the contrary or otherwise evident from the context. The invention includes embodiments in which exactly one member of the group is present in, employed in, or otherwise relevant to a given product or process. The invention also includes embodiments in which more than one, or the entire group members are present in,

employed in, or otherwise relevant to a given product or process. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention encompasses all variations, combinations, and permutations in which one or more limitations, elements, clauses, descriptive terms, etc., from one or more of the listed claims is introduced into another claim dependent on the same base claim (or, as relevant, any other claim) unless otherwise indicated or unless it would be evident to one of ordinary skill in the art that a contradiction or inconsistency would arise. Where elements are presented as lists, (e.g., in Markush group or similar format) it is to be understood that each subgroup of the elements is also disclosed, and any element(s) can be removed from the group. It should be understood that, in general, where the invention, or aspects of the invention, is/are referred to as comprising particular elements, features, etc., certain embodiments of the invention or aspects of the invention consist, or consist essentially of, such elements, features, etc. For purposes of simplicity those embodiments have not in every case been specifically set forth in so many words herein. It should also be understood that any embodiment or aspect of the invention can be explicitly excluded from the claims, regardless of whether the specific exclusion is recited in the specification.

[0245] Those skilled in the art will appreciate typical standards of deviation or error attributable to values obtained in assays or other processes described herein. The publications, websites and other reference materials referenced herein to describe the background of the invention and to provide additional detail regarding its practice are hereby incorporated by reference.

We claim:

1. A genetically modified mouse whose genome comprises a humanized CD274 gene at an endogenous CD274 locus, wherein said humanized CD274 gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of a human CD274 polypeptide, operably linked to
 - (i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular sequence and the transmembrane sequence of an endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide, and
 - (ii) an endogenous mouse CD274 promoter; and wherein said mouse expresses a functional humanized CD274 polypeptide.
2. The genetically modified mouse of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular and transmembrane sequences of the endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 6, exon 7, and a portion of exon 5 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.
3. The genetically modified mouse of claim 2, wherein the humanized CD274 gene further comprises exon 1 and exon 2 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.
4. The genetically modified mouse of claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of the human CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 3, exon 4, and a portion of exon 5 of a human CD274 gene.
5. A method of screening for a drug capable of treating a tumor, the method comprising the steps of
 - (a) administering tumor cells to the mouse of claim 1 such that a tumor is formed in the mouse,
 - (b) administering a drug to the mouse of step (a); and
 - (c) determining whether tumor growth is reduced in the mouse of step (b), wherein a drug that reduces tumor growth is capable of treating a tumor.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the drug is an antibody directed against human CD274.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the drug is administered to the mouse intravenously, intraperitoneally, intramuscularly, or subcutaneously.
8. An isolated mouse cell or tissue whose genome comprises a humanized CD274 gene at an endogenous CD274 locus, wherein said humanized CD274 gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of a human CD274 polypeptide, operably linked to
- (i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular sequence and the transmembrane sequence of an endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide, and
 - (ii) an endogenous mouse CD274 promoter; and wherein the isolated mouse cell or tissue expresses a functional humanized CD274 polypeptide.
9. An isolated mouse embryonic stem cell whose genome comprises a humanized CD274 gene at an endogenous CD274 locus, wherein said humanized CD274 gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of a human CD274 polypeptide, operably linked to
- (i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular sequence and the transmembrane sequence of an endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide, and
 - (ii) an endogenous mouse CD274 promoter; and wherein the humanized CD274 gene encodes a functional humanized CD274 polypeptide.
10. A mouse embryo generated from the embryonic stem cell of claim 9.
11. A method of making a genetically modified mouse, comprising
- (a) inserting a nucleic acid sequence that encodes the extracellular sequence of a human CD274 polypeptide into an endogenous mouse CD274 gene in a mouse embryonic stem cell; and
 - (b) obtaining a mouse using the mouse embryonic stem cell of (a), wherein the genome of the mouse comprises a humanized CD274 gene at the endogenous mouse CD274 locus, wherein said humanized CD274 gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of the human CD274 polypeptide, operably linked to
- (i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular sequence and the transmembrane sequence of an endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide, and

(ii) an endogenous mouse CD274 promoter; and wherein the mouse expresses a functional humanized CD274 polypeptide.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of the human CD274 polypeptide encodes amino acids 19-238 of the human CD274 polypeptide.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of the human CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 3, exon 4, and a portion of exon 5 of a human CD274 gene.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular and transmembrane sequences of the endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 6, exon 7, and a portion of exon 5 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the humanized CD274 gene further comprises exon 1 and exon 2 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.

16. A method of making a mouse whose genome comprises a humanized CD274 gene, the method comprising

modifying the genome of a mouse so that the modified genome comprises a humanized CD274 gene at an endogenous CD274 locus, wherein said humanized CD274 gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of a human CD274 polypeptide, operably linked to

(i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular sequence and the transmembrane sequence of an endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide, and

(ii) an endogenous mouse CD274 promoter; and wherein the mouse expresses a functional humanized CD274 polypeptide.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular sequence of the human CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 3, exon 4, and a portion of exon 5 of a human CD274 gene.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the intracellular and transmembrane sequences of the endogenous mouse CD274 polypeptide comprises exon 6, exon 7, and a portion of exon 5 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the humanized CD274 gene further comprises exon 1 and exon 2 of the endogenous mouse CD274 gene.