PREVENTING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

This is a non-provisional application claiming priority under 35 USC §119 to provisional application no. 60/568,460 filed May 5, 2004, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention concerns preventing autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic human subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

Background of the Invention

Lymphocytes are one of many types of white blood cells produced in the bone marrow during the process of hematopoiesis. There are two major populations of lymphocytes: B lymphocytes (B cells) and T lymphocytes (T cells). The lymphocytes of particular interest herein are B cells.

B cells mature within the bone marrow and leave the marrow expressing an antigen-binding antibody on their cell surface. When a naive B cell first encounters the antigen for which its membrane-bound antibody is specific, the cell begins to divide rapidly and its progeny differentiate into memory B cells and effector cells called "plasma cells". Memory B cells have a longer life span and continue to express membrane-bound antibody with the same specificity as the original parent cell. Plasma cells do not produce membrane-bound antibody but instead produce the antibody in a form that can be secreted. Secreted antibodies are the major effector molecule of humoral immunity.

The CD20 antigen (also called human B-lymphocyte-restricted differentiation antigen, Bp35) is a hydrophobic transmembrane protein with a molecular weight of approximately 35 kD located on pre-B and mature B lymphocytes (Valentine *et al. J. Biol. Chem.* 264(19):11282-11287 (1989); and Einfeld *et al. EMBO J.* 7(3):711-717 (1988)). The antigen is also expressed on greater than 90% of B cell non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL) (Anderson *et al. Blood* 63(6):1424-1433 (1984)), but is not found on hematopoietic stem cells, pro-B

cells, normal plasma cells or other normal tissues (Tedder *et al. J. Immunol.* 135(2):973-979 (1985)). CD20 regulates an early step(s) in the activation process for cell cycle initiation and differentiation (Tedder *et al., supra*) and possibly functions as a calcium ion channel (Tedder *et al. J. Cell. Biochem.* 14D:195 (1990)).

Given the expression of CD20 in B cell lymphomas, this antigen can serve as a candidate for "targeting" of such lymphomas. In essence, such targeting can be generalized as follows: antibodies specific to the CD20 surface antigen of B cells are administered to a patient. These anti-CD20 antibodies specifically bind to the CD20 antigen of (ostensibly) both normal and malignant B cells; the antibody bound to the CD20 surface antigen may lead to the destruction and depletion of neoplastic B cells. Additionally, chemical agents or radioactive labels having the potential to destroy the tumor can be conjugated to the anti-CD20 antibody such that the agent is specifically "delivered" to the neoplastic B cells. Irrespective of the approach, a primary goal is to destroy the tumor; the specific approach can be determined by the particular anti-CD20 antibody which is utilized and, thus, the available approaches to targeting the CD20 antigen can vary considerably.

The rituximab (RITUXAN®) antibody is a genetically engineered chimeric murine/human monoclonal antibody directed against the CD20 antigen. Rituximab is the antibody called "C2B8" in US Patent No. 5,736,137 issued April 7, 1998 (Anderson *et al.*). RITUXAN® is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory low-grade or follicular, CD20-positive, B cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. *In vitro* mechanism of action studies have demonstrated that RITUXAN® binds human complement and lyses lymphoid B cell lines through complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) (Reff *et al. Blood* 83(2):435-445 (1994)). Additionally, it has significant activity in assays for antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). More recently, RITUXAN® has been shown to have anti-proliferative effects in tritiated thymidine incorporation assays and to induce apoptosis directly, while other anti-CD19 and CD20 antibodies do not (Maloney *et al. Blood* 88(10):637a (1996)). Synergy between RITUXAN® and chemotherapies and toxins has also been observed experimentally. In particular, RITUXAN® sensitizes drug-resistant human B cell lymphoma cell lines to the cytotoxic effects of doxorubicin, CDDP, VP-16, diphtheria toxin and ricin (Demidem *et al. Cancer Chemotherapy & Radiopharmaceuticals* 12(3):177-186 (1997)). *In vivo* preclinical studies have shown that RITUXAN® depletes B cells from the peripheral blood, lymph

nodes, and bone marrow of cynomolgus monkeys, presumably through complement and cell-mediated processes (Reff *et al. Blood* 83(2):435-445 (1994)).

Patents and patent publications concerning CD20 antibodies include US Patent Nos. 5,776,456, 5,736,137, 5,843,439, 6,399,061, and 6,682,734, as well as US patent appln nos. US 2002/0197255A1, US 2003/0021781A1, US 2003/0082172 A1, US 2003/0095963 A1, US 2003/0147885 A1 (Anderson *et al.)*; US Patent No. 6,455,043B1 and WO00/09160 (Grillo-Lopez, A.); WO00/27428 (Grillo-Lopez and White); WO00/27433 (Grillo-Lopez and Leonard); WO00/44788 (Braslawsky *et al.*); WO01/10462 (Rastetter, W.); WO01/10461 (Rastetter and White); WO01/10460 (White and Grillo-Lopez); US2001/0018041A1, US2003/0180292A1, WO01/34194 (Hanna and Hariharan); US appln no. US2002/0006404 and WO02/04021 (Hanna and Hariharan); US appln no. US2002/0012665 A1 and WO01/74388 (Hanna, N.); US appln no. US 2002/0058029 A1 (Hanna, N.); US appln no. US 2003/0103971 A1 (Hariharan and Hanna); US appln no. US2002/0009444A1, and WO01/80884 (Grillo-Lopez, A.); WO01/97858 (White, C.); US appln no. US2002/0128488A1 and WO02/34790 (Reff, M.);WO02/060955 (Braslawsky *et al.*);WO2/096948 (Braslawsky et al.);WO02/079255 (Reff and Davies); US Patent No. 6,171,586B1, and WO98/56418 (Lam *et al.*); WO98/58964 (Raju, S.); WO99/22764 (Raju, S.);WO99/51642, US Patent No. 6,194,551B1, US Patent No. 6,242,195B1, US Patent No. 6,528,624B1 and US Patent No. 6,538,124 (Idusogie *et al.*); WO00/42072 (Presta, L.); WO00/67796 (Curd et al.); WO01/03734 (Grillo-Lopez et al.); US appln no. US 2002/0004587A1 and WO01/77342 (Miller and Presta); US appln no. US2002/0197256 (Grewal, I.); US Appln no. US 2003/0157108 A1 (Presta, L.); US Patent Nos. 6,565,827B1, 6,090,365B1, 6,287,537B1, 6,015,542, 5,843,398, and 5,595,721, (Kaminski *et al.*); US Patent Nos. 5,500,362, 5,677,180, 5,721,108, 6,120,767, 6,652,852B1 (Robinson *et al.*); US Pat No. 6,410,391B1 (Raubitschek *et al.)*; US Patent No. 6,224,866B1 and WO00/20864 (Barbera-Guillem, E.); WO01/13945 (Barbera-Guillem, E.); WO00/67795 (Goldenberg); US Appl No. US 2003/0133930 A1 and WO00/74718 (Goldenberg and Hansen); WO00/76542 (Golay *et al.*);WO01/72333 (Wolin and Rosenblatt); US Patent No. 6,368,596B1 (Ghetie *et al.*); US Patent No. 6,306,393 and US Appln no. US2002/0041847 A1, (Goldenberg, D.); US Appln no. US2003/0026801A1 (Weiner and Hartmann); WO02/102312 (Engleman, E.); US Patent Application No. 2003/0068664 (Albitar *et al.*); WO03/002607 (Leung, S.); WO 03/049694, US2002/0009427A1, and US 2003/0185796 A1 (Wolin *et al.*) ; WO03/061694

(Sing and Siegall); US 2003/0219818 A1 (Bohen *et al.*); US 2003/0219433 A1 and WO 03/068821 (Hansen *et al.*); US2003/0219818A1 (Bohen *et al.*); US2002/0136719A1 (Shenoy *et al.*); WO2004/032828 (Wahl *et al.*), each of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference. See, also, US Patent No. 5,849,898 and EP appln no. 330,191 (Seed *et al.*); US Patent No. 4,861,579 and EP332,865A2 (Meyer and Weiss); USP 4,861,579 (Meyer *et al.*); WO95/03770 (Bhat *et al.*); US 2003/0219433 A1 (Hansen *et al.).*

Publications concerning therapy with Rituximab include: Perotta and Abuel "Response of chronic relapsing ITP of 10 years duration to Rituximab" Abstract # 3360 *Blood* 10(1)(part 1-2): p. 88B (1998); Stashi *et al.* "Rituximab chimeric anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody treatment for adults with chronic idopathic thrombocytopenic purpura" *Blood* 98(4):952-957 (2001); Matthews, R. "Medical Heretics" *New Scientist* (7 April, 2001); Leandro *et al.* "Clinical outcome in 22 patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with B lymphocyte depletion" *Ann Rheum Dis* 61:833-888 (2002); Leandro *et al.* "Lymphocyte depletion in rheumatoid arthritis: early evidence for safety, efficacy and dose response. *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 44(9): S370 (2001); Leandro *et al.* "An open study of B lymphocyte depletion in systemic lupus erythematosus", *Arthritis & Rheumatism* 46(1):2673-2677 (2002); Edwards and Cambridge "Sustained improvement in rheumatoid arthritis following a protocol designed to deplete B lymphocytes" *Rhematology* 40:205-211 (2001); Edwards *et al.* "B-lymphocyte depletion therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune disorders" *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* 30(4):824-828 (2002); Edwards *et al.* "Efficacy and safety of Rituximab, a B-cell targeted chimeric monoclonal antibody: A randomized, placebo controlled trial in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 46(9): S197 (2002); Levine and Pestronk "IgM antibody-related polyneuropathies: B-cell depletion chemotherapy using Rituximab" *Neurology* 52: 1701-1704 (1999); DeVita *et al.* "Efficacy of selective B cell blockade in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis" *Arthritis & Rheum* 46:2029-2033 (2002); Hidashida *et al.* "Treatment of DMARD-Refractory rheumatoid arthritis with rituximab." Presented at the *Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology*; Oct 24-29; New Orleans, LA 2002; Tuscano, J. "Successful treatment of Infliximab-refractory rheumatoid arthritis with rituximab" Presented at the *Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology*; Oct 24-29; New Orleans, LA 2002; Specks *et al.* "Response of Wegener's granulomatosis to anti-CD20 chimeric monoclonal antibody therapy" *Arthritis & Rheumatism* 44(12):2836-2840 (2001).

Arbuckle *et al.* describes the development of autoantibodies before the clinical onset of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (Arbuckle *et al. N. Engl. J. Med.* 349(16): 1526-1533 (2003)).

Summary of the Invention

In a first aspect, the present invention concerns a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome, multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, Guillain-Barre syndrome, myasthenia gravis, large vessel vasculitis, medium vessel vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa, pemphigus, scleroderma, Goodpasture's syndrome, glomerulonephritis, primary biliary cirrhosis, Grave's disease, membranous nephropathy, autoimmune hepatitis, celiac sprue, Addison's disease, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, monoclonal gammopathy, Factor VIII deficiency, cryoglobulinemia, peripheral neuropathy, IgM polyneuropathy, chronic neuropathy, and Hashimoto's thyroiditis.

In another aspect, the invention concerns a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

The invention also pertains to a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject with abnormal autoantibody levels, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

The invention further relates to an article of manufacture comprising:
(a) a container comprising a composition comprising a CD20 antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent within the container; and

(b) instructions for administering the composition to an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of an autoimmune disease, so as to prevent the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1A is a sequence alignment comparing the amino acid sequences of the light chain variable domain (V_L) of each of murine 2H7 (SEQ ID NO:1), humanized 2H7.v16 variant (SEQ ID NO:2), and the human kappa light chain subgroup I (SEQ ID NO:3). The CDRs of V_L of 2H7 and hu2H7.v16 are as follows: CDR1 (SEQ ID NO:4), CDR2 (SEQ ID NO:5), and CDR3 (SEQ ID NO:6).

FIG. 1B is a sequence alignment comparing the amino acid sequences of the heavy chain variable domain (V_H) of each of murine 2H7 (SEQ ID NO:7), humanized 2H7.v16 variant (SEQ ID NO:8), and the human consensus sequence of the heavy chain subgroup III (SEQ ID NO:9). The CDRs of V_H of 2H7 and hu2H7.v16 are as follows: CDR1 (SEQ ID NO:10), CDR2 (SEQ ID NO:11), and CDR3 (SEQ ID NO:12).

In FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B, the CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 in each chain are enclosed within brackets, flanked by the framework regions, FR1-FR4, as indicated. 2H7 refers to the murine 2H7 antibody. The asterisks in between two rows of sequences indicate the positions that are different between the two sequences. Residue numbering is according to Kabat *et al. Sequences of Immunological Interest*, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991), with insertions shown as a, b, c, d, and e.

FIG. 2 shows the amino acid sequence of the mature 2H7.v16 L chain (SEQ ID NO:13)

FIG. 3 shows the amino acid sequence of the mature 2H7.v16 H chain (SEQ ID NO:14).

FIG. 4 shows the amino acid sequence of the mature 2H7.v31 H chain (SEQ ID NO:15). The L chain of 2H7.v31 is the same as for 2H7.v16.

FIG. 5 shows an alignment of the mature 2H7.v16 and 2H7.v511 light chains (SEQ ID Nos. 13 and 16, respectively), with Kabat variable domain residue numbering and Eu constant domain residue numbering.

FIG. 6 shows an alignment of the mature 2H7.v16 and 2H7.v511 heavy chains (SEQ ID Nos. 14 and 17, respectively), with Kabat variable domain residue numbering and Eu constant domain residue numbering.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

I. Definitions

An "autoimmune disease" herein is a disease or disorder arising from and directed against an individual's own tissues or a co-segregate or manifestation thereof or resulting condition therefrom. Examples of autoimmune diseases or disorders include, but are not limited to arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis such as acute arthritis, chronic rheumatoid arthritis, gout or gouty arthritis, acute gouty arthritis, acute immunological arthritis, chronic inflammatory arthritis, degenerative arthritis, type II collagen-induced arthritis, infectious arthritis, Lyme arthritis, proliferative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Still's disease, vertebral arthritis, and juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, arthritis chronica progrediente, arthritis deformans, polyarthritis chronica primaria, reactive arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis), inflammatory hyperproliferative skin diseases, psoriasis such as plaque psoriasis, gutatte psoriasis, pustular psoriasis, and psoriasis of the nails, atopy including atopic diseases such as hay fever and Job's syndrome, dermatitis including contact dermatitis, chronic contact dermatitis, exfoliative dermatitis, allergic dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, dermatitis herpetiformis, nummular dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, non-specific dermatitis, primary irritant contact dermatitis, and atopic dermatitis, x-linked hyper IgM syndrome, allergic intraocular inflammatory diseases, urticaria such as chronic allergic urticaria and chronic idiopathic urticaria, including chronic autoimmune urticaria, myositis, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, juvenile dermatomyositis, toxic epidermal necrolysis, scleroderma (including systemic scleroderma), sclerosis such as systemic sclerosis, multiple sclerosis (MS) such as spino-optical MS, primary progressive MS (PPMS), and relapsing remitting MS (RRMS), progressive systemic sclerosis, atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis, sclerosis disseminata, ataxic sclerosis, neuromyelitis optica (NMO), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) (for example, Crohn's disease, autoimmune-mediated gastrointestinal diseases, colitis such as ulcerative colitis, colitis ulcerosa, microscopic colitis, collagenous colitis, colitis polyposa, necrotizing enterocolitis, and transmural colitis, and autoimmune inflammatory bowel disease), bowel inflammation, pyoderma gangrenosum, erythema nodosum, primary sclerosing cholangitis, respiratory distress syndrome, including adult or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), meningitis, inflammation of all or part of the uvea, iritis, choroiditis, an autoimmune hematological disorder, rheumatoid spondylitis,

rheumatoid synovitis, hereditary angioedema, cranial nerve damage as in meningitis, herpes gestationis, pemphigoid gestationis, pruritis scroti, autoimmune premature ovarian failure, sudden hearing loss due to an autoimmune condition, IgE-mediated diseases such as anaphylaxis and allergic and atopic rhinitis, encephalitis such as Rasmussen's encephalitis and limbic and/or brainstem encephalitis, uveitis, such as anterior uveitis, acute anterior uveitis, granulomatous uveitis, nongranulomatous uveitis, phacoantigenic uveitis, posterior uveitis, or autoimmune uveitis, glomerulonephritis (GN) with and without nephrotic syndrome such as chronic or acute glomerulonephritis such as primary GN, immune-mediated GN, membranous GN (membranous nephropathy), idiopathic membranous GN or idiopathic membranous nephropathy, membrano- or membranous proliferative GN (MPGN), including Type I and Type II, and rapidly progressive GN, proliferative nephritis, autoimmune polyglandular endocrine failure, balanitis including balanitis circumscripta plasmacellularis, balanoposthitis, erythema annulare centrifugum, erythema dyschromicum perstans, eythema multiform, granuloma annulare, lichen nitidus, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, lichen simplex chronicus, lichen spinulosus, lichen planus, lamellar ichthyosis, epidermolytic hyperkeratosis, premalignant keratosis, pyoderma gangrenosum, allergic conditions and responses, allergic reaction, eczema including allergic or atopic eczema, asteatotic eczema, dyshidrotic eczema, and vesicular palmoplantar eczema, asthma such as asthma bronchiale, bronchial asthma, and auto-immune asthma, conditions involving infiltration of T cells and chronic inflammatory responses, immune reactions against foreign antigens such as fetal A-B-O blood groups during pregnancy, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, autoimmune myocarditis, leukocyte adhesion deficiency, lupus, including lupus nephritis, lupus cerebritis, pediatric lupus, non-renal lupus, extra-renal lupus, discoid lupus and discoid lupus erythematosus, alopecia lupus, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) such as cutaneous SLE or subacute cutaneous SLE, neonatal lupus syndrome (NLE), and lupus erythematosus disseminatus, juvenile onset (Type I) diabetes mellitus, including pediatric insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM), adult onset diabetes mellitus (Type II diabetes), autoimmune diabetes, idiopathic diabetes insipidus, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic large-artery disorder, immune responses associated with acute and delayed hypersensitivity mediated by cytokines and T-lymphocytes, tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, granulomatosis including lymphomatoid granulomatosis, Wegener's granulomatosis, agranulocytosis, vasculitides, including vasculitis, large-vessel vasculitis (including polymyalgia rheumatica and giant-cell

(Takayasu's) arteritis), medium-vessel vasculitis (including Kawasaki's disease and polyarteritis nodosa/periarteritis nodosa), microscopic polyarteritis, immunovasculitis, CNS vasculitis, cutaneous vasculitis, hypersensitivity vasculitis, necrotizing vasculitis such as systemic necrotizing vasculitis, and ANCA-associated vasculitis, such as Churg-Strauss vasculitis or syndrome (CSS) and ANCA-associated small-vessel vasculitis, temporal arteritis, aplastic anemia, autoimmune aplastic anemia, Coombs positive anemia, Diamond Blackfan anemia, hemolytic anemia or immune hemolytic anemia including autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA), pernicious anemia (anemia perniciosa), Addison's disease, pure red cell anemia or aplasia (PRCA), Factor VIII deficiency, hemophilia A, autoimmune neutropenia, pancytopenia, leukopenia, diseases involving leukocyte diapedesis, CNS inflammatory disorders, multiple organ injury syndrome such as those secondary to septicemia, trauma or hemorrhage, antigen-antibody complex- mediated diseases, anti-glomerular basement membrane disease, anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome, allergic neuritis, Behçet's disease/syndrome, Castleman's syndrome, Goodpasture's syndrome, Reynaud's syndrome, Sjögren's syndrome, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, pemphigoid such as pemphigoid bullous and skin pemphigoid, pemphigus (including pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigus foliaceus, pemphigus mucus-membrane pemphigoid, and pemphigus erythematosus), autoimmune polyendocrinopathies, Reiter's disease or syndrome, thermal injury, preeclampsia, an immune complex disorder such as immune complex nephritis, antibody-mediated nephritis, polyneuropathies, chronic neuropathy such as IgM polyneuropathies or IgM-mediated neuropathy, thrombocytopenia (as developed by myocardial infarction patients, for example), including thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), post-transfusion purpura (PTP), heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, and autoimmune or immune-mediated thrombocytopenia such as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) including chronic or acute ITP, scleritis such as idiopathic cerato-scleritis, episcleritis, autoimmune disease of the testis and ovary including autoimmune orchitis and oophoritis, primary hypothyroidism, hypoparathyroidism, autoimmune endocrine diseases including thyroiditis such as autoimmune thyroiditis, Hashimoto's disease, chronic thyroiditis (Hashimoto's thyroiditis), or subacute thyroiditis, autoimmune thyroid disease, idiopathic hypothyroidism, Grave's disease, polyglandular syndromes such as autoimmune polyglandular syndromes (or polyglandular endocrinopathy syndromes), paraneoplastic syndromes, including neurologic paraneoplastic syndromes such as Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome

or Eaton-Lambert syndrome, stiff-man or stiff-person syndrome, encephalomyelitis such as allergic encephalomyelitis or encephalomyelitis allergica and experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE), myasthenia gravis such as thymoma-associated myasthenia gravis, cerebellar degeneration, neuromyotonia, opsoclonus or opsoclonus myoclonus syndrome (OMS), and sensory neuropathy, multifocal motor neuropathy, Sheehan's syndrome, autoimmune hepatitis, chronic hepatitis, lupoid hepatitis, giant-cell hepatitis, chronic active hepatitis or autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, lymphoid interstitial pneumonitis (LIP), bronchiolitis obliterans (non-transplant) vs NSIP, Guillain-Barré syndrome, Berger's disease (IgA nephropathy), idiopathic IgA nephropathy, linear IgA dermatosis, acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis, subcorneal pustular dermatosis, transient acantholytic dermatosis, cirrhosis such as primary biliary cirrhosis and pneumonocirrhosis, autoimmune enteropathy syndrome, Celiac or Coeliac disease, celiac sprue (gluten enteropathy), refractory sprue, idiopathic sprue, cryoglobulinemia, amylotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS; Lou Gehrig's disease), coronary artery disease, autoimmune ear disease such as autoimmune inner ear disease (AIED), autoimmune hearing loss, polychondritis such as refractory or relapsed or relapsing polychondritis, pulmonary alveolar proteinosis, Cogan's syndrome/nonsyphilitic interstitial keratitis, Bell's palsy, Sweet's disease/syndrome, rosacea autoimmune, zoster-associated pain, amyloidosis, a non-cancerous lymphocytosis, a primary lymphocytosis, which includes monoclonal B cell lymphocytosis (e.g., benign monoclonal gammopathy and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, MGUS), peripheral neuropathy, paraneoplastic syndrome, channelopathies such as epilepsy, migraine, arrhythmia, muscular disorders, deafness, blindness, periodic paralysis, and channelopathies of the CNS, autism, inflammatory myopathy, focal or segmental or focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), endocrine ophthalmopathy, uveoretinitis, chorioretinitis, autoimmune hepatological disorder, fibromyalgia, multiple endocrine failure, Schmidt's syndrome, adrenalitis, gastric atrophy, presenile dementia, demyelinating diseases such as autoimmune demyelinating diseases and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, Dressler's syndrome, alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, CREST syndrome (calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia), male and female autoimmune infertility, e.g., due to anti-spermatozoan antibodies, mixed connective tissue disease, Chagas' disease, rheumatic fever, recurrent abortion, farmer's lung, erythema multiforme, post-cardiotomy syndrome, Cushing's syndrome, bird-fancier's lung, allergic granulomatous angiitis, benign

lymphocytic angiitis, Alport's syndrome, alveolitis such as allergic alveolitis and fibrosing alveolitis, interstitial lung disease, transfusion reaction, leprosy, malaria, parasitic diseases such as leishmaniasis, kypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis, ascariasis, aspergillosis, Sampter's syndrome, Caplan's syndrome, dengue, endocarditis, endomyocardial fibrosis, diffuse interstitial pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, endophthalmitis, erythema elevatum et diutinum, erythroblastosis fetalis, eosinophilic faciitis, Shulman's syndrome, Felty's syndrome, flariasis, cyclitis such as chronic cyclitis, heterochronic cyclitis, iridocyclitis (acute or chronic), or Fuch's cyclitis, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, SCID, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), echovirus infection, sepsis, endotoxemia, pancreatitis, thyroxicosis, parvovirus infection, rubella virus infection, post-vaccination syndromes, congenital rubella infection, Epstein-Barr virus infection, mumps, Evan's syndrome, autoimmune gonadal failure, Sydenham's chorea, post-streptococcal nephritis, thromboangitis ubiterans, thyrotoxicosis, tabes dorsalis, chorioiditis, giant-cell polymyalgia, chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, epidemic keratoconjunctivitis, idiopathic nephritic syndrome, minimal change nephropathy, benign familial and ischemia-reperfusion injury, transplant organ reperfusion, retinal autoimmunity, joint inflammation, bronchitis, chronic obstructive airway/pulmonary disease, silicosis, aphthae, aphthous stomatitis, arteriosclerotic disorders, aspermiogenese, autoimmune hemolysis, Boeck's disease, cryoglobulinemia, Dupuytren's contracture, endophthalmia phacoanaphylactica, enteritis allergica, erythema nodosum leprosum, idiopathic facial paralysis, chronic fatigue syndrome, febris rheumatica, Hamman-Rich's disease, sensoneural hearing loss, haemoglobinuria paroxysmatica, hypogonadism, ileitis regionalis, leucopenia, mononucleosis infectiosa, traverse myelitis, primary idiopathic myxedema, nephrosis, ophthalmia symphatica, orchitis granulomatosa, pancreatitis, polyradiculitis acuta, pyoderma gangrenosum, Quervain's thyreoiditis, acquired spenic atrophy, non-malignant thymoma, vitiligo, toxic-shock syndrome, food poisoning, conditions involving infiltration of T cells, leukocyte-adhesion deficiency, immune responses associated with acute and delayed hypersensitivity mediated by cytokines and T-lymphocytes, diseases involving leukocyte diapedesis, multiple organ injury syndrome, antigen-antibody complex-mediated diseases, antiglomerular basement membrane disease, allergic neuritis, autoimmune polyendocrinopathies, oophoritis, primary myxedema, autoimmune atrophic gastritis,

sympathetic ophthalmia, rheumatic diseases, mixed connective tissue disease, nephrotic syndrome, insulitis, polyendocrine failure, autoimmune polyglandular syndrome type I, adult-onset idiopathic hypoparathyroidism (AOIH), cardiomyopathy such as dilated cardiomyopathy, epidermolisis bullosa acquisita (EBA), hemochromatosis, myocarditis, nephrotic syndrome, primary sclerosing cholangitis, purulent or nonpurulent sinusitis, acute or chronic sinusitis, ethmoid, frontal, maxillary, or sphenoid sinusitis, an eosinophil-related disorder such as eosinophilia, pulmonary infiltration eosinophilia, eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome, Loffler's syndrome, chronic eosinophilic pneumonia, tropical pulmonary eosinophilia, bronchopneumonic aspergillosis, aspergilloma, or granulomas containing eosinophils, anaphylaxis, seronegative spondyloarthritides, polyendocrine autoimmune disease, sclerosing cholangitis, sclera, episclera, chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis, Bruton's syndrome, transient hypogammaglobulinemia of infancy, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, ataxia telangiectasia syndrome, angiectasis, autoimmune disorders associated with collagen disease, rheumatism, neurological disease, lymphadenitis, reduction in blood pressure response, vascular dysfunction, tissue injury, cardiovascular ischemia, hyperalgesia, renal ischemia, cerebral ischemia, and disease accompanying vascularization, allergic hypersensitivity disorders, glomerulonephritides, reperfusion injury, ischemic re-perfusion disorder, reperfusion injury of myocardial or other tissues, lymphomatous tracheobronchitis, inflammatory dermatoses, dermatoses with acute inflammatory components, multiple organ failure, bullous diseases, renal cortical necrosis, acute purulent meningitis or other central nervous system inflammatory disorders, ocular and orbital inflammatory disorders, granulocyte transfusion-associated syndromes, cytokine-induced toxicity, narcolepsy, acute serious inflammation, chronic intractable inflammation, pyelitis, endarterial hyperplasia, peptic ulcer, valvulitis, and endometriosis.

A "B-cell" is a lymphocyte that matures within the bone marrow, and includes a naive B cell, memory B cell, or effector B cell (plasma cells). The B-cell herein may be a normal or non-malignant B-cell.

A "B cell surface marker" or "B cell surface antigen" herein is an antigen expressed on the surface of a B cell that can be targeted with an antagonist which binds thereto. Exemplary B cell surface markers include the CD10, CD19, CD20, CD21, CD22, CD23, CD24, CD37, CD40, CD53, CD72, CD73, CD74, CDw75, CDw76, CD77, CDw78, CD79a, CD79b, CD80, CD81, CD82, CD83, CDw84, CD85 and CD86 leukocyte surface markers (for descriptions,

see The Leukocyte Antigen Facts Book, 2nd Edition. 1997, ed. Barclay *et al.* Academic Press, Harcourt Brace & Co., New York). Other B cell surface markers include RP105, FcRH2, B cell CR2, CCR6, P2X5, HLA-DOB, CXCR5, FCER2, BR3, Btig, NAG14, SLGC16270, FcRH1, IRTA2, ATWD578, FcRH3, IRTA1, FcRH6, BCMA, and 239287. The B cell surface marker of particular interest is preferentially expressed on B cells compared to other non-B cell tissues of a mammal and may be expressed on both precursor B cells and mature B cells. The preferred B cell surface marker herein is CD20.

The "CD20" antigen, or "CD20," is an about 35-kDa, non-glycosylated phosphoprotein found on the surface of greater than 90% of B cells from peripheral blood or lymphoid organs. CD20 is present on both normal B cells as well as malignant B cells, but is not expressed on stem cells. Other names for CD20 in the literature include "B-lymphocyte-restricted antigen" and "Bp35". The CD20 antigen is described in Clark *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* (USA) 82:1766 (1985), for example.

An "antagonist" is a molecule which, upon binding to a B cell surface marker on B cells, destroys or depletes B cells in a mammal and/or interferes with one or more B cell functions, *e.g.* by reducing or preventing a humoral response elicited by the B cell. The antagonist preferably is able to deplete B cells (*i.e.* reduce circulating B cell levels) in a mammal treated therewith. Such depletion may be achieved via various mechanisms such antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) and/or complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC), inhibition of B cell proliferation and/or induction of B cell death (*e.g.* via apoptosis). Antagonists included within the scope of the present invention include antibodies, synthetic or native sequence peptides and small molecule antagonists which bind to the B cell surface marker, optionally conjugated with or fused to a cytotoxic agent. The preferred antagonist comprises an antibody.

"Antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity" and "ADCC" refer to a cell-mediated reaction in which nonspecific cytotoxic cells that express Fc receptors (FcRs) (*e.g.* Natural Killer (NK) cells, neutrophils, and macrophages) recognize bound antibody on a target cell and subsequently cause lysis of the target cell. The primary cells for mediating ADCC, NK cells, express FcγRIII only, whereas monocytes express FcγRI, FcγRII and FcγRIII. FcR expression on hematopoietic cells in summarized is Table 3 on page 464 of Ravetch and Kinet, *Annu. Rev. Immunol* 9:457-92 (1991). To assess ADCC activity of a molecule of interest, an *in vitro* ADCC assay, such as that described in US Patent No.

5,500,362 or 5,821,337 may be performed. Useful effector cells for such assays include peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and Natural Killer (NK) cells. Alternatively, or additionally, ADCC activity of the molecule of interest may be assessed *in vivo*, *e.g.*, in a animal model such as that disclosed in Clynes *et al. PNAS (USA)* 95:652-656 (1998).

"Human effector cells" are leukocytes which express one or more FcRs and perform effector functions. Preferably, the cells express at least FcγRIII and carry out ADCC effector function. Examples of human leukocytes which mediate ADCC include peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), natural killer (NK) cells, monocytes, cytotoxic T cells and neutrophils; with PBMCs and NK cells being preferred.

The terms "Fc receptor" or "FcR" are used to describe a receptor that binds to the Fc region of an antibody. The preferred FcR is a native sequence human FcR. Moreover, a preferred FcR is one which binds an IgG antibody (a gamma receptor) and includes receptors of the FcγRI, FcγRII, and Fcγ RIII subclasses, including allelic variants and alternatively spliced forms of these receptors. FcγRII receptors include FcγRIIA (an "activating receptor") and FcγRIIB (an "inhibiting receptor"), which have similar amino acid sequences that differ primarily in the cytoplasmic domains thereof. Activating receptor FcγRIIA contains an immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif (ITAM) in its cytoplasmic domain. Inhibiting receptor FcγRIIB contains an immunoreceptor tyrosine-based inhibition motif (ITIM) in its cytoplasmic domain. (see Daëron, *Annu. Rev. Immunol.* 15:203-234 (1997)). FcRs are reviewed in Ravetch and Kinet, *Annu. Rev. Immunol* 9:457-92 (1991); Capel *et al.*, *Immunomethods* 4:25-34 (1994); and de Haas *et al.*, *J. Lab. Clin. Med.* 126:330-41 (1995). Other FcRs, including those to be identified in the future, are encompassed by the term "FcR" herein. The term also includes the neonatal receptor, FcRn, which is responsible for the transfer of maternal IgGs to the fetus (Guyer *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 117:587 (1976) and Kim *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 24:249 (1994)).

"Complement dependent cytotoxicity" or "CDC" refer to the ability of a molecule to lyse a target in the presence of complement. The complement activation pathway is initiated by the binding of the first component of the complement system (C1q) to a molecule (*e.g.* an antibody) complexed with a cognate antigen. To assess complement activation, a CDC assay, *e.g.* as described in Gazzano-Santoro *et al.*, *J. Immunol. Methods* 202:163 (1996), may be performed.

"Growth inhibitory" antagonists are those which prevent or reduce proliferation of a cell expressing an antigen to which the antagonist binds. For example, the antagonist may prevent or reduce proliferation of B cells *in vitro* and/or *in vivo*.

Antagonists which "induce apoptosis" are those which induce programmed cell death, *e.g.* of a B cell, as determined by standard apoptosis assays, such as binding of annexin V, fragmentation of DNA, cell shrinkage, dilation of endoplasmic reticulum, cell fragmentation, and/or formation of membrane vesicles (called apoptotic bodies).

The term "antibody" herein is used in the broadest sense and specifically covers monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies (*e.g.* bispecific antibodies) formed from at least two intact antibodies, and antibody fragments so long as they exhibit the desired biological activity.

"Antibody fragments" comprise a portion of an intact antibody, preferably comprising the antigen binding region thereof. Examples of antibody fragments include Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$, and Fv fragments; diabodies; linear antibodies; single-chain antibody molecules; and multispecific antibodies formed from antibody fragments.

For the purposes herein, an "intact antibody" is one comprising heavy and light variable domains as well as an Fc region.

"Native antibodies" are usually heterotetrameric glycoproteins of about 150,000 daltons, composed of two identical light (L) chains and two identical heavy (H) chains. Each light chain is linked to a heavy chain by one covalent disulfide bond, while the number of disulfide linkages varies among the heavy chains of different immunoglobulin isotypes. Each heavy and light chain also has regularly spaced intrachain disulfide bridges. Each heavy chain has at one end a variable domain (V_H) followed by a number of constant domains. Each light chain has a variable domain at one end (V_L) and a constant domain at its other end; the constant domain of the light chain is aligned with the first constant domain of the heavy chain, and the light chain variable domain is aligned with the variable domain of the heavy chain. Particular amino acid residues are believed to form an interface between the light chain and heavy chain variable domains.

The term "variable" refers to the fact that certain portions of the variable domains differ extensively in sequence among antibodies and are used in the binding and specificity of each particular antibody for its particular antigen. However, the variability is not evenly distributed throughout the variable domains of antibodies. It is concentrated in three

segments called hypervariable regions both in the light chain and the heavy chain variable domains. The more highly conserved portions of variable domains are called the framework regions (FRs). The variable domains of native heavy and light chains each comprise four FRs, largely adopting a β-sheet configuration, connected by three hypervariable regions, which form loops connecting, and in some cases forming part of, the β-sheet structure. The hypervariable regions in each chain are held together in close proximity by the FRs and, with the hypervariable regions from the other chain, contribute to the formation of the antigen-binding site of antibodies (see Kabat *et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest*, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. (1991)). The constant domains are not involved directly in binding an antibody to an antigen, but exhibit various effector functions, such as participation of the antibody in antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC).

Papain digestion of antibodies produces two identical antigen-binding fragments, called "Fab" fragments, each with a single antigen-binding site, and a residual "Fc" fragment, whose name reflects its ability to crystallize readily. Pepsin treatment yields an $F(ab')_2$ fragment that has two antigen-binding sites and is still capable of cross-linking antigen.

"Fv" is the minimum antibody fragment which contains a complete antigen-recognition and antigen-binding site. This region consists of a dimer of one heavy chain and one light chain variable domain in tight, non-covalent association. It is in this configuration that the three hypervariable regions of each variable domain interact to define an antigen-binding site on the surface of the V_H-V_L dimer. Collectively, the six hypervariable regions confer antigen-binding specificity to the antibody. However, even a single variable domain (or half of an Fv comprising only three hypervariable regions specific for an antigen) has the ability to recognize and bind antigen, although at a lower affinity than the entire binding site.

The Fab fragment also contains the constant domain of the light chain and the first constant domain (CH1) of the heavy chain. Fab' fragments differ from Fab fragments by the addition of a few residues at the carboxy terminus of the heavy chain CH1 domain including one or more cysteines from the antibody hinge region. Fab'-SH is the designation herein for Fab' in which the cysteine residue(s) of the constant domains bear at least one free thiol group. $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments originally were produced as pairs of Fab' fragments which have hinge cysteines between them. Other chemical couplings of antibody fragments are also known.

The "light chains" of antibodies (immunoglobulins) from any vertebrate species can be assigned to one of two clearly distinct types, called kappa (κ) and lambda (λ), based on the amino acid sequences of their constant domains.

Depending on the amino acid sequence of the constant domain of their heavy chains, antibodies can be assigned to different classes. There are five major classes of intact antibodies: IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, and several of these may be further divided into subclasses (isotypes), *e.g.*, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA, and IgA2. The heavy chain constant domains that correspond to the different classes of antibodies are called α, δ, ϵ, γ, and μ, respectively. The subunit structures and three-dimensional configurations of different classes of immunoglobulins are well known.

"Single-chain Fv" or "scFv" antibody fragments comprise the V_H and V_L domains of antibody, wherein these domains are present in a single polypeptide chain. Preferably, the Fv polypeptide further comprises a polypeptide linker between the V_H and V_L domains which enables the scFv to form the desired structure for antigen binding. For a review of scFv see Plückthun in *The Pharmacology of Monoclonal Antibodies*, vol. 113, Rosenburg and Moore eds., Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 269-315 (1994).

The term "diabodies" refers to small antibody fragments with two antigen-binding sites, which fragments comprise a heavy chain variable domain (V_H) connected to a light chain variable domain (V_L) in the same polypeptide chain (V_H - V_L). By using a linker that is too short to allow pairing between the two domains on the same chain, the domains are forced to pair with the complementary domains of another chain and create two antigen-binding sites. Diabodies are described more fully in, for example, EP 404,097; WO 93/11161; and Hollinger *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90:6444-6448 (1993).

The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to an antibody obtained from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, *i.e.*, the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical and/or bind the same epitope, except for possible variants that may arise during production of the monoclonal antibody, such variants generally being present in minor amounts. In contrast to polyclonal antibody preparations which typically include different antibodies directed against different determinants (epitopes), each monoclonal antibody is directed against a single determinant on the antigen. In addition to their specificity, the monoclonal antibodies are advantageous in that they are uncontaminated by other immunoglobulins. The modifier "monoclonal" indicates the character of the antibody

as being obtained from a substantially homogeneous population of antibodies, and is not to be construed as requiring production of the antibody by any particular method. For example, the monoclonal antibodies to be used in accordance with the present invention may be made by the hybridoma method first described by Kohler *et al., Nature*, 256:495 (1975), or may be made by recombinant DNA methods (see, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567). The "monoclonal antibodies" may also be isolated from phage antibody libraries using the techniques described in Clackson *et al., Nature,* 352:624-628 (1991) and Marks *et al., J. Mol. Biol.*, 222:581-597 (1991), for example.

The monoclonal antibodies herein specifically include "chimeric" antibodies (immunoglobulins) in which a portion of the heavy and/or light chain is identical with or homologous to corresponding sequences in antibodies derived from a particular species or belonging to a particular antibody class or subclass, while the remainder of the chain(s) is identical with or homologous to corresponding sequences in antibodies derived from another species or belonging to another antibody class or subclass, as well as fragments of such antibodies, so long as they exhibit the desired biological activity (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567; Morrison *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 81:6851-6855 (1984)). Chimeric antibodies of interest herein include "primatized" antibodies comprising variable domain antigen-binding sequences derived from a non-human primate (*e.g.* Old World Monkey, such as baboon, rhesus or cynomolgus monkey) and human constant region sequences (US Pat No. 5,693,780).

"Humanized" forms of non-human (*e.g.*, murine) antibodies are chimeric antibodies that contain minimal sequence derived from non-human immunoglobulin. For the most part, humanized antibodies are human immunoglobulins (recipient antibody) in which residues from a hypervariable region of the recipient are replaced by residues from a hypervariable region of a non-human species (donor antibody) such as mouse, rat, rabbit or nonhuman primate having the desired specificity, affinity, and capacity. In some instances, framework region (FR) residues of the human immunoglobulin are replaced by corresponding non-human residues. Furthermore, humanized antibodies may comprise residues that are not found in the recipient antibody or in the donor antibody. These modifications are made to further refine antibody performance. In general, the humanized antibody will comprise substantially all of at least one, and typically two, variable domains, in which all or substantially all of the hypervariable loops correspond to those of a non-human immunoglobulin and all or

substantially all of the FRs are those of a human immunoglobulin sequence, except for FR substitution(s) as noted above. The humanized antibody optionally also will comprise at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region, typically that of a human immunoglobulin. For further details, see Jones *et al., Nature* 321:522-525 (1986); Riechmann *et al., Nature* 332:323-329 (1988); and Presta, *Curr. Op. Struct. Biol.* 2:593-596 (1992).

The term "hypervariable region" when used herein refers to the amino acid residues of an antibody which are responsible for antigen-binding. The hypervariable region comprises amino acid residues from a "complementarity determining region" or "CDR" (*e.g.* residues 24-34 (L1), 50-56 (L2) and 89-97 (L3) in the light chain variable domain and 31-35 (H1), 50-65 (H2) and 95-102 (H3) in the heavy chain variable domain; Kabat *et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest*, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. (1991)) and/or those residues from a "hypervariable loop" (*e.g.* residues 26-32 (L1), 50-52 (L2) and 91-96 (L3) in the light chain variable domain and 26-32 (H1), 53-55 (H2) and 96-101 (H3) in the heavy chain variable domain; Chothia and Lesk *J. Mol. Biol.* 196:901-917 (1987)). "Framework" or "FR" residues are those variable domain residues other than the hypervariable region residues as herein defined.

A "naked antibody" is an antibody (as herein defined) which is not conjugated to a heterologous molecule, such as a cytotoxic moiety or radiolabel.

Examples of antibodies which bind the CD20 antigen include: "C2B8" which is now called "Rituximab" ("RITUXAN®") (US Patent No. 5,736,137, expressly incorporated herein by reference); the yttrium-[90]-labeled 2B8 murine antibody designated "Y2B8" or "Ibritumomab Tiuxetan" ZEVALIN® (US Patent No. 5,736,137, expressly incorporated herein by reference); murine IgG2a "B1," also called "Tositumomab," optionally labeled with ^{131}I to generate the "^{131}I-B1" antibody (iodine I131 tositumomab, BEXXAR™) (US Patent No. 5,595,721, expressly incorporated herein by reference); murine monoclonal antibody "1F5" (Press *et al. Blood* 69(2):584-591 (1987) and variants thereof including "framework patched" or humanized 1F5 (WO03/002607, Leung, S.; ATCC deposit HB-96450); murine 2H7 and chimeric 2H7 antibody (US Patent No. 5,677,180, expressly incorporated herein by reference); humanized 2H7; huMax-CD20 (Genmab, Denmark; WO2004/035607); AME-133 (Applied Molecular Evolution); A20 antibody or variants thereof such as chimeric or humanized A20 antibody (cA20, hA20, respectively) (US 2003/0219433, Immunomedics);and monoclonal antibodies L27, G28-2, 93-1B3, B-C1 or NU-B2 available

from the International Leukocyte Typing Workshop (Valentine *et al.*, In: *Leukocyte Typing* III (McMichael, Ed., p. 440, Oxford University Press (1987)).

The terms "rituximab" or "RITUXAN®" herein refer to the genetically engineered chimeric murine/human monoclonal antibody directed against the CD20 antigen and designated "C2B8" in US Patent No. 5,736,137, expressly incorporated herein by reference, including fragments thereof which retain the ability to bind CD20.

Purely for the purposes herein and unless indicated otherwise, "humanized 2H7" refers to a humanized antibody that binds human CD20, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein the antibody is effective to deplete primate B cells *in vivo*, the antibody comprising in the H chain variable region (V_H) thereof at least a CDR H3 sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 (Fig. 1B) from an anti-human CD20 antibody and substantially the human consensus framework (FR) residues of the human heavy- chain subgroup III (V_HIII). In a preferred embodiment, this antibody further comprises the H chain CDR H1 sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 and CDR H2 sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, and more preferably further comprises the L chain CDR L1 sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, CDR L2 sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, CDR L3 sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and substantially the human consensus framework (FR) residues of the human light chain κ subgroup I (VκI), wherein the V_H region may be joined to a human IgG chain constant region, wherein the region may be, for example, IgG1 or IgG3. In a preferred embodiment, such antibody comprises the V_H sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 (v16, as shown in Fig. 1B), optionally also comprising the V_L sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (v16, as shown in Fig. 1A), which may have the amino acid substitutions of D56A and N100A in the H chain and S92A in the L chain (v96). Preferably the antibody is an intact antibody comprising the light and heavy chain amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS:13 and 14, respectively, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Another preferred embodiment is where the antibody is 2H7.v31 comprising the light and heavy chain amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS:13 and 15, respectively, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The antibody herein may further comprise at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region that improves ADCC and/or CDC activity, such as one wherein the amino acid substitutions are S298A/E333A/K334A, more preferably 2H7.v31 having the heavy chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15 (as shown in Fig. 4). Any of these antibodies may further comprise at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region that decreases CDC activity, for example, comprising at least the substitution K322A. US Patent No. 6,528,624B1 (Idusogie *et al.*).

A preferred humanized 2H7 is an intact antibody or antibody fragment comprising the variable light chain sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYMHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWSFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKR (SEQ ID NO:2);

and the variable heavy chain sequence:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN GDTSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSNSYWYFDV WGQGTLVTVSS (SEQ ID NO:8).

Where the humanized 2H7 antibody is an intact antibody, preferably it comprises the light chain amino acid sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYMHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWSFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFP PSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLS STLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (SEQ ID NO:13);

and the heavy chain amino acid sequence:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN GDTSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSNSYWYFDV WGQGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGAL TSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCD KTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYV DGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKT ISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYK TTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK (SEQ ID NO:14)

or the heavy chain amino acid sequence:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN GDTSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSNSYWYFDV WGQGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGAL TSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCD KTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYV DGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNATYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIAA

TISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNY KTTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK (SEQ ID NO:15).

In the preferred embodiment of the invention , the V region of variants based on 2H7 version 16 will have the amino acid sequences of v16 except at the positions of amino acid substitutions which are indicated in the table below. Unless otherwise indicated, the 2H7 variants will have the same L chain as that of v16.

2H7 version	Heavy chain (V_H) changes	Light chain (V_L) changes	Fc changes
31	-	-	S298A, E333A, K334A
96	D56A, N100A	S92A	
114	D56A, N10	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A
115	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A, E356D, M358L

An "isolated" antagonist is one which has been identified and separated and/or recovered from a component of its natural environment. Contaminant components of its natural environment are materials which would interfere with diagnostic or therapeutic uses for the antagonist, and may include enzymes, hormones, and other proteinaceous or nonproteinaceous solutes. In preferred embodiments, the antagonist will be purified (1) to greater than 95% by weight of antagonist as determined by the Lowry method, and most preferably more than 99% by weight, (2) to a degree sufficient to obtain at least 15 residues of N-terminal or internal amino acid sequence by use of a spinning cup sequenator, or (3) to homogeneity by SDS-PAGE under reducing or nonreducing conditions using Coomassie blue or, preferably, silver stain. Isolated antagonist includes the antagonist in situ within recombinant cells since at least one component of the antagonist's natural environment will not be present. Ordinarily, however, isolated antagonist will be prepared by at least one purification step.

A "subject" herein is a human subject.

An “asymptomatic” subject herein is one who does not experience any symptoms of an autoimmune disease.

A “symptom” of a disease is any morbid phenomenon or departure from the normal in structure, function, or sensation, experienced by the subject and indicative of disease.

For the purposes herein, a subject who is "at risk" for experiencing one or more symptoms of an autoimmune disease is one who has a higher than normal likelihood of experiencing the one or more symptom(s) compared to individuals with similar demographic characteristics. The at risk subject may, for example, have an about 80-100% probability of experiencing symptom(s) of the autoimmune disease in 0-10 years.

An "autoantibody" herein is an antibody produced by a subject that binds to a self-antigen also produced by the subject.

By "abnormal" autoantibody levels is intended a concentration of autoantibody that exceeds the concentration of autoantibody present in a normal subject who is not at risk for experiencing the autoimmune disease of interest.

The expression "effective amount" refers to an amount of the antagonist which is effective for preventing the disease in question.

The term "immunosuppressive agent" as used herein for adjunct therapy refers to substances that act to suppress or mask the immune system of the mammal being treated herein. This would include substances that suppress cytokine production, downregulate or suppress self-antigen expression, or mask the MHC antigens. Examples of such agents include 2-amino-6-aryl-5-substituted pyrimidines (see U.S. Pat. No. 4,665,077, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference); nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs); azathioprine; cyclophosphamide; bromocryptine; danazol; dapsone; glutaraldehyde (which masks the MHC antigens, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,120,649); anti-idiotypic antibodies for MHC antigens and MHC fragments; cyclosporin A; steroids such as glucocorticosteroids, *e.g.*, prednisone, methylprednisolone, and dexamethasone; methotrexate (oral or subcutaneous); hydroxycloroquine; sulfasalazine; leflunomide; cytokine or cytokine receptor antagonists including anti-interferon-γ, -β, or -α antibodies, anti-tumor necrosis factor-α antibodies (infliximab or adalimumab), anti-TNFα immunoahesin (etanercept), anti-tumor necrosis factor-β antibodies, anti-interleukin-2 antibodies and anti-IL-2 receptor antibodies; anti-LFA-1 antibodies, including anti-CD11a and anti-CD18 antibodies; anti-L3T4 antibodies; heterologous anti-lymphocyte globulin; pan-T antibodies, preferably anti-CD3 or anti-CD4/CD4a antibodies; soluble peptide containing a LFA-3 binding domain (WO 90/08187 published 7/26/90); streptokinase; TGF-β; streptodornase; RNA or DNA from the host; FK506; RS-61443; deoxyspergualin; rapamycin; T-cell receptor (Cohen *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,114,721); T-cell receptor fragments (Offner *et al.*, *Science*, 251: 430-432 (1991); WO

90/11294; Ianeway, *Nature*, 341: 482 (1989); and WO 91/01133); and T cell receptor antibodies (EP 340,109) such as T10B9.

The term "cytotoxic agent" as used herein refers to a substance that inhibits or prevents the function of cells and/or causes destruction of cells. The term is intended to include radioactive isotopes (*e.g.* At^{211}, I^{131}, I^{125}, Y^{90}, Re^{186}, Re^{188}, Sm^{153}, Bi^{212}, P^{32} and radioactive isotopes of Lu), chemotherapeutic agents, and toxins such as small molecule toxins or enzymatically active toxins of bacterial, fungal, plant or animal origin, or fragments thereof.

A "chemotherapeutic agent" is a chemical compound useful in the treatment of cancer. Examples of chemotherapeutic agents include alkylating agents such as thiotepa and CYTOXAN® cyclosphosphamide; alkyl sulfonates such as busulfan, improsulfan and piposulfan; aziridines such as benzodopa, carboquone, meturedopa, and uredopa; ethylenimines and methylamelamines including altretamine, triethylenemelamine, trietylenephosphoramide, triethiylenethiophosphoramide and trimethylolomelamine; acetogenins (especially bullatacin and bullatacinone); a camptothecin (including the synthetic analogue topotecan); bryostatin; callystatin; CC-1065 (including its adozelesin, carzelesin and bizelesin synthetic analogues); cryptophycins (particularly cryptophycin 1 and cryptophycin 8); dolastatin; duocarmycin (including the synthetic analogues, KW-2189 and CB1-TM1); eleutherobin; pancratistatin; a sarcodictyin; spongistatin; nitrogen mustards such as chlorambucil, chlornaphazine, cholophosphamide, estramustine, ifosfamide, mechlorethamine, mechlorethamine oxide hydrochloride, melphalan, novembichin, phenesterine, prednimustine, trofosfamide, uracil mustard; nitrosureas such as carmustine, chlorozotocin, fotemustine, lomustine, nimustine, and ranimnustine; antibiotics such as the enediyne antibiotics (*e. g.*, calicheamicin, especially calicheamicin gamma1I and calicheamicin omegaI1 (see, *e.g.*, Agnew, *Chem Intl. Ed. Engl.*, 33: 183-186 (1994)); dynemicin, including dynemicin A; bisphosphonates, such as clodronate; an esperamicin; as well as neocarzinostatin chromophore and related chromoprotein enediyne antiobiotic chromophores), aclacinomysins, actinomycin, authramycin, azaserine, bleomycins, cactinomycin, carabicin, carminomycin, carzinophilin, chromomycinis, dactinomycin, daunorubicin, detorubicin, 6-diazo-5-oxo-L-norleucine, ADRIAMYCIN® doxorubicin (including morpholino-doxorubicin, cyanomorpholino-doxorubicin, 2-pyrrolino-doxorubicin and deoxydoxorubicin), epirubicin, esorubicin, idarubicin, marcellomycin, mitomycins such

as mitomycin C, mycophenolic acid, nogalamycin, olivomycins, peplomycin, potfiromycin, puromycin, quelamycin, rodorubicin, streptonigrin, streptozocin, tubercidin, ubenimex, zinostatin, zorubicin; anti-metabolites such as methotrexate and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU); folic acid analogues such as denopterin, methotrexate, pteropterin, trimetrexate; purine analogs such as fludarabine, 6-mercaptopurine, thiamiprine, thioguanine; pyrimidine analogs such as ancitabine, azacitidine, 6-azauridine, carmofur, cytarabine, dideoxyuridine, doxifluridine, enocitabine, floxuridine; androgens such as calusterone, dromostanolone propionate, epitiostanol, mepitiostane, testolactone; anti- adrenals such as aminoglutethimide, mitotane, trilostane; folic acid replenisher such as frolinic acid; aceglatone; aldophosphamide glycoside; aminolevulinic acid; eniluracil; amsacrine; bestrabucil; bisantrene; edatraxate; defofamine; demecolcine; diaziquone; elfornithine; elliptinium acetate; an epothilone; etoglucid; gallium nitrate; hydroxyurea; lentinan; lonidainine; maytansinoids such as maytansine and ansamitocins; mitoguazone; mitoxantrone; mopidanmol; nitraerine; pentostatin; phenamet; pirarubicin; losoxantrone; podophyllinic acid; 2- ethylhydrazide; procarbazine; PSK® polysaccharide complex (JHS Natural Products, Eugene, OR); razoxane; rhizoxin; sizofiran; spirogermanium; tenuazonic acid; triaziquone; 2,2',2"-trichlorotriethylamine; trichothecenes (especially T-2 toxin, verracurin A, roridin A and anguidine); urethan; vindesine; dacarbazine; mannomustine; mitobronitol; mitolactol; pipobroman; gacytosine; arabinoside ("Ara-C"); cyclophosphamide; thiotepa; taxoids, *e.g.*, TAXOL® paclitaxel (Bristol- Myers Squibb Oncology, Princeton, N.J.), ABRAXANE™ Cremophor-free, albumin-engineered nanoparticle formulation of paclitaxel (American Pharmaceutical Partners, Schaumberg, Illinois), and TAXOTERE® doxetaxel (Rhône- Poulenc Rorer, Antony, France); chloranbucil; GEMZAR® gemcitabine; 6-thioguanine; mercaptopurine; methotrexate; platinum analogs such as cisplatin and carboplatin; vinblastine; platinum; etoposide (VP-16); ifosfamide; mitoxantrone; vincristine; NAVELBINE® vinorelbine; novantrone; teniposide; edatrexate; daunomycin; aminopterin; xeloda; ibandronate; CPT-11; topoisomerase inhibitor RFS 2000; difluorometlhylornithine (DMFO); retinoids such as retinoic acid; capecitabine; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, acids or derivatives of any of the above.

Also included in this definition are anti-hormonal agents that act to regulate or inhibit hormone action on tumors such as anti-estrogens and selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs), including, for example, tamoxifen (including NOLVADEX® tamoxifen), raloxifene, droloxifene, 4-hydroxytamoxifen, trioxifene, keoxifene, LY117018, onapristone,

and FARESTON· toremifene; aromatase inhibitors that inhibit the enzyme aromatase, which regulates estrogen production in the adrenal glands, such as, for example, 4(5)-imidazoles, aminoglutethimide, MEGASE® megestrol acetate, AROMASIN® exemestane, formestanie, fadrozole, RIVISOR® vorozole, FEMARA® letrozole, and ARIMIDEX® anastrozole; and anti-androgens such as flutamide, nilutamide, bicalutamide, leuprolide, and goserelin; as well as troxacitabine (a 1,3-dioxolane nucleoside cytosine analog); antisense oligonucleotides, particularly those which inhibit expression of genes in signaling pathways implicated in abherant cell proliferation, such as, for example, PKC-alpha, Ralf and H-Ras; vaccines such as gene therapy vaccines, for example, ALLOVECTIN® vaccine, LEUVECTIN® vaccine, and VAXID® vaccine; PROLEUKIN® rIL-2; LURTOTECAN® topoisomerase 1 inhibitor; ABARELIX® rmRH; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, acids or derivatives of any of the above.

The term "cytokine" is a generic term for proteins released by one cell population that act on another cell as intercellular mediators. Examples of such cytokines are lymphokines, monokines; interleukins (ILs) such as IL-1, IL-1α, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-11, IL-12, IL-15; a tumor necrosis factor such as TNF-α or TNF-β; and other polypeptide factors including LIF and kit ligand (KL). As used herein, the term cytokine includes proteins from natural sources or from recombinant cell culture and biologically active equivalents of the native sequence cytokines, including synthetically produced small-molecule entities and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof.

The term "hormone" refers to polypeptide hormones, which are generally secreted by glandular organs with ducts. Included among the hormones are, for example, growth hormone such as human growth hormone, N-methionyl human growth hormone, and bovine growth hormone; parathyroid hormone; thyroxine; insulin; proinsulin; relaxin; prorelaxin; glycoprotein hormones such as follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), and luteinizing hormone (LH); prolactin, placental lactogen, mouse gonadotropin-associated peptide, inhibin; activin; mullerian-inhibiting substance; and thrombopoietin. As used herein, the term hormone includes proteins from natural sources or from recombinant cell culture and biologically active equivalents of the native sequence hormone, including synthetically produced small-molecule entities and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof.

The term "growth factor" refers to proteins that promote growth, and include, for example, hepatic growth factor; fibroblast growth factor; vascular endothelial growth factor; nerve growth factors such as NGF-β; platelet-derived growth factor; transforming growth factors (TGFs) such as TGF-α and TGF-β; insulin-like growth factor-I and -II; erythropoietin (EPO); osteoinductive factors; interferons such as interferon-α, -β, and -γ; and colony stimulating factors (CSFs) such as macrophage-CSF (M-CSF); granulocyte-macrophage-CSF (GM-CSF); and granulocyte-CSF (G-CSF). As used herein, the term growth factor includes proteins from natural sources or from recombinant cell culture and biologically active equivalents of the native sequence growth factor, including synthetically produced small-molecule entities and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof.

The term "integrin" refers to a receptor protein that allows cells both to bind to and to respond to the extracellular matrix and is involved in a variety of cellular functions such as wound healing, cell differentiation, homing of tumor cells and apoptosis. They are part of a large family of cell adhesion receptors that are involved in cell-extracellular matrix and cell-cell interactions. Functional integrins consist of two transmembrane glycoprotein subunits, called alpha and beta, that are non-covalently bound. The alpha subunits all share some homology to each other, as do the beta subunits. The receptors always contain one alpha chain and one beta chain. Examples include Alpha6beta1, Alpha3beta1, Alpha7beta1, LFA-1 etc. As used herein, the term integrin includes proteins from natural sources or from recombinant cell culture and biologically active equivalents of the native sequence integrin, including synthetically produced small-molecule entities and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof.

For the purposes herein, "tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNFα)" refers to a human TNFα molecule comprising the amino acid sequence as described in Pennica *et al., Nature,* 312:721 (1984) or Aggarwal *et al., JBC,* 260:2345 (1985).

A "TNFα inhibitor" herein is an agent that inhibits, to some extent, a biological function of TNFα, generally through binding to TNFα and neutralizing its activity. Examples of TNF inhibitors specifically contemplated herein are Etanercept (ENBREL®), Infliximab (REMICADE®) and Adalimumab (HUMIRA™).

Examples of "disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs" or "DMARDs" include hydroxycloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, etanercept, infliximab (plus oral

and subcutaneous methrotrexate), azathioprine, D-penicillamine, Gold (oral), Gold (intramuscular), minocycline, cyclosporine, Staphylococcal protein A immunoadsorption etc.

The term "prodrug" as used in this application refers to a precursor or derivative form of a pharmaceutically active substance that is less cytotoxic to tumor cells compared to the parent drug and is capable of being enzymatically activated or converted into the more active parent form. See, *e.g.*, Wilman, "Prodrugs in Cancer Chemotherapy" *Biochemical Society Transactions*, 14, pp. 375-382, 615th Meeting Belfast (1986) and Stella *et al.*, "Prodrugs: A Chemical Approach to Targeted Drug Delivery," *Directed Drug Delivery*, Borchardt *et al.*, (ed.), pp. 247-267, Humana Press (1985). The prodrugs of this invention include, but are not limited to, phosphate-containing prodrugs, thiophosphate-containing prodrugs, sulfate-containing prodrugs, peptide-containing prodrugs, D-amino acid-modified prodrugs, glycosylated prodrugs, β-lactam-containing prodrugs, optionally substituted phenoxyacetamide-containing prodrugs or optionally substituted phenylacetamide-containing prodrugs, 5-fluorocytosine and other 5-fluorouridine prodrugs which can be converted into the more active cytotoxic free drug. Examples of cytotoxic drugs that can be derivatized into a prodrug form for use in this invention include, but are not limited to, those chemotherapeutic agents described above.

A "B cell malignancy" is a malignancy involving B cells. Examples include Hodgkin's disease, including lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin's disease (LPHD); non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL); follicular center cell (FCC) lymphoma; acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL); chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL); hairy cell leukemia; plasmacytoid lymphocytic lymphoma; mantle cell lymphoma; AIDS or HIV-related lymphoma; multiple myeloma; central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma; post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD); Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia (lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma); mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma; and marginal zone lymphoma/leukemia.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) includes, but is not limited to, low grade/follicular NHL, relapsed or refractory NHL, front line low grade NHL, Stage III/IV NHL, chemotherapy resistant NHL, small lymphocytic (SL) NHL, intermediate grade/follicular NHL, intermediate grade diffuse NHL, diffuse large cell lymphoma, aggressive NHL (including aggressive front-line NHL and aggressive relapsed NHL), NHL relapsing after or refractory to autologous stem

cell transplantation, high grade immunoblastic NHL, high grade lymphoblastic NHL, high grade small non-cleaved cell NHL, bulky disease NHL, etc.

II. Selecting At Risk Subjects

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the subject selected for treatment herein is generally an individual from a high risk cohort of asymptomatic individuals at high risk for developing moderate-severe disease in a definable time frame. For instance, the subject may have an about 80-100% likelihood of developing the disease in 0-10 years.

As the subject is asymptomatic, one will evaluate one or more surrogate markers of disease. For instance, autoantibody production may be evaluated, and/or one may evaluate genomic and/or proteomic signatures to select a high risk individual. Alternatively, or additionally, an autoimmune profile may be obtained by FACs analysis of B-cell subsets from whole blood.

A sample may be taken from the subject which undergoes one or more diagnostic/prognostic assays to assess the likelihood the subject has of developing an autoimmune disease. The sample may be obtained from body cells, such as those present in the blood, tissue biopsy, surgical specimen, or autopsy material. The sample may, for example, be serum, whole blood, cell lysate, milk, saliva or other secretions, but preferably serum.

One may evaluate polynucleotide(s), including oligonucleotide sequences, genomic DNA and complementary RNA and DNA molecules. The polynucleotides may be used to detect and quantitate gene expression in biopsied tissues in which mutations or abnormal expression of gene(s) may be correlated with risk of developing disease. Genomic DNA used for the diagnosis or prognosis may be obtained from body cells, such as those present in the blood, tissue biopsy, surgical specimen, or autopsy material. The DNA may be isolated and used directly for detection of a specific sequence or may be amplified by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) prior to analysis. Similarly, RNA or cDNA may also be used, with or without PCR amplification. To detect a specific nucleic acid sequence, direct nucleotide sequencing, reverse transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR), hybridization using specific oligonucleotides, restriction enzyme digest and mapping, PCR mapping, RNAse protection, and various other methods may be employed.

Oligonucleotides specific to particular sequences can be chemically synthesized and labeled radioactively or non- radioactively and hybridized to individual samples immobilized on membranes or other solid-supports or in solution. The presence, absence or excess expression of gene(s) may then be visualized using methods such as autoradiography, fluorometry, or colorimetry.

In order to provide a basis for the diagnosis or prognosis or risk for developing the disease, the nucleotide sequence of the gene(s) can be compared between normal sample and diseased sample from a patient with the disease in order to establish abnormal expression.

Another method to identify a normal or standard profile for expression is through quantitative RT-PCR studies. RNA isolated from body cells of a normal individual, particularly RNA isolated from tumor cells, is reverse transcribed and real-time PCR using oligonucleotides specific for the relevant gene is conducted to establish a normal level of expression of the gene.

Standard values obtained in both these examples may be compared with values obtained from samples from subjects who are symptomatic for a disorder. Deviation from standard values is used to establish susceptibility to the disease in question.

Once susceptibility to disease is established and a treatment protocol is initiated, hybridization assays or quantitative RT-PCR studies may be repeated on a regular basis to determine if the level of expression in the subject begins to approximate that which is observed in the normal subject. The results obtained from successive assays may be used to show the efficacy of treatment over a period ranging from several days to months.

Where susceptibility to disease is assessed by studying nucleic acid, preferably microarray(s) are used to compare the nucleic acid profile of the subject to control profile(s). Microarrays may be prepared, used, and analyzed using methods known in the art (for example, see Schena *et al. PNAS USA* 93:10614-10619 (1996); Heller *et al., PNAS USA* 94:2150-2155 (1997); and Heller, M, *Annual Review of Biomedical Engineering* 4:129-53 (2002)). For example, microarrays containing multiple genes generated by printing PCR products derived from cDNA clones (Invitrogen, California and Genentech, Inc.) on glass slides optionally coated with 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (Aldrich, Milwaukee WI) and 1,4-phenylenediisothiocyanate (Aldrich, Milwaukee WI) using a robotic arrayer (Norgren Systems, Mountain View, California). RNA isolation may be accomplished by CsCl step

gradient, (Kingston, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* 1:4.2.5-4.2.6 (1998)). Probes for array analysis may be generated by conservative amplification and subsequent labeling as follows: double-stranded DNA generated from total RNA (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) may be amplified using a single round of a modified *in vitro* transcription protocol (MEGASCript T7 from Ambion, Austin, Texas (Gelder *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:1663-1667 (1990)). The resulting cRNA may be used as a template to generate a sense DNA probe using random primers, using MMLV-derived reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Probes may then be hybridized to arrays overnight in 50% formamide / 5XSSC at 37 °C and washed the next day in 2XSSC, 0.2% SDS followed by 0.2XSSC, 0.2% SDS. Array images may be collected using a CCD-camera based imaging system (Norgren Systems, Mountain View, California) equipped with a Xenon light source and optical filters appropriate for each dye. Full dynamic-range images may be collected (Autograb, Genentech Inc) and intensities and ratios extracted using automated gridding and data extraction software (gImage, Genentech Inc) built on a Matlab (the MathWorks, Natick, Massachusetts) platform.

Microarray procedures are also described in US2003/0219818A1, Bohen *et al.*

In another aspect, the subject susceptible to the disease is identified using an assay to detect autoantibodies, such as those noted in the table below. In the preferred embodiment, autoantibody production is assessed qualitatively, and preferably quantitatively. The autoantibody or antibodies to be evaluated generally vary with the autoimmune disease to be prevented. Exemplary auto-antibodies associated with selected autoimmune diseases are reflected in the table below.

Table 1

Autoimmune Disease	**Autoantibody (Ab)**
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Cross reactive antibodies to GM1 ganglioside or GQ1b ganglioside
Myasthenia Gravis	Anti-acetylcholine receptor (AchR) Ab, anti-AchR Subtypes Ab, anti-MuSK Ab
Large Vessel Vasculitis/ Giant cell (Takayasu's) Arteritis	Serum anti-endothelial cell Ab
Medium Vessel Vasculitis/Kawasaki's Disease	Anti-endothelial Ab, Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic Ab (ANCA)

Polyarteritis Nodosa	Autoantibodies staining the nuclear or perinuclear zone of neutrophils (pANCA)
Pemphigus	IgG, Anti-desmoglein (Dsg) Ab, including anti-Dsg 3 (pemfigus vulgaris), anti-Dsg 1 (pemfigus foliaceus), and anti-Dsg 2 Ab
Scleroderma	Anti-centromere, anti-topoisomerase-1 (Scl-70) Ab, anti-RNA polymerase or anti-U3-RNP Ab
Goodpasture's Syndrome	Anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) Ab
Rapidly Progressive glomerulonephritis	Anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) Ab
Sjogren's syndrome	Anti-La/SSB Ab, Anti-Ro/SSB Ab
Primary biliary cirrhosis	Anti-mitochondrial Ab (AMA), Anti-M2 Ab
Ulcerative Colitis, Crohn's	Autoantibodies staining the nuclear or perinuclear zone of neutrophils (pANCA), anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibodies (ASCA)
Grave's disease	Anti-TPO Ab, Anti-TG Ab, Anti-thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) Ab
Membranous Nephropathy	Anti-dsDNA Ab (if related to lupus nephritis)
Autoimmune hepatitis	Anti-Nuclei (AN) Ab, Anti-Actin (AA) Ab, anti-ASM Ab
Celiac sprue (gluten enteropathy)	IgA anti-endomysial Ab, IgA anti-tissue transglutaminase Ab, IgA anti-gliadin Ab, IgG anti-gliadin Ab

Addison's disease	Anti-CYP21A2 (p450c21 or 21, hydroxylase), anti-CYP11A1, anti-CYP17
Polymyositis/Dermatomyositis	Anti-nuclear Ab (ANA), Anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP) Ab, Myositis-specific Ab (Anti-Jo-1 Ab, Anti-Mi-2 Ab, Anti-PM-Scl Ab, Anti-Ku Ab)
Monoclonal gammopathy	Anti-MAG Ab
Cryoglobulinema	Anti-HCV Ab
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Anti-nuclear Ab (ANA), anti-double stranded DNA (dsDNA) Ab, anti-Sm Ab, anti-nuclear ribonucleoprotein Ab, anti-phospholipid Ab, anti-ribosomal P Ab, anti-Ro/SS-A Ab, anti-Ro Ab, anti-La Ab
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Low affinity IgM rheumatoid factor (RF) antibodies directed against the Fc portion of IgG
Factor VIII deficiency	Anti-Factor VIII Ab
Peripheral Neuropathy	Anti-GM1 Ab, anti-MAG Ab, anti-SGPG Ab, IgM anti-glycoconjugate Ab
IgM polyneuropathy	Anti-myelin associated glycoprotein (MAG) Ab
Chronic neuropathy	IgM anti-ganglioside Ab
Hashimoto's Thyroiditis	Anti-TPO Ab, Anti-TG Ab, Anti-thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) Ab
Anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome	Anti-phospholipid Ab
Multiple sclerosis	Anti-myelin basic protein, anti-myelin oligodendrocytic glycoprotein Ab

Generally, an antibody or other reagent which binds to the autoantibody of interest is employed in such an assay. However, detection of autoantibody nucleic acid is another option. Auto-antibodies in human body fluids or in extracts of cells or tissues are evaluated. The antibodies or other reagents which bind to the autoantibody may be used with or without modification, and may be labeled by covalent or non-covalent attachment of a reporter molecule.

A variety of protocols for measuring autoantibody, including ELISA, RIAs, and FACS, are known in the art and provide a basis for diagnosing altered or abnormal levels of the autoantibody. Normal or baseline values for autoantibody levels may be established by evaluating autoantibody levels in body fluids or cell extracts taken from normal mammalian subjects, preferably human. Quantities of autoantibody in a sample derived from a subject can be compared with the standard values. Deviation between standard and subject values establishes the parameters for diagnosing susceptibility to disease.

III. Prophylactic Therapy

The present invention provides a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering an antagonist that binds to a B cell surface marker to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease. Preferably the B cell surface marker is CD20, and the antagonist is preferably an antibody. Hence, in the preferred embodiment, the invention provides a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

The method herein may prevent "new onset" of disease (*i.e.* the subject has never experienced any one or more symptoms of any autoimmune disease, or the subject has never experienced any one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease to be prevented). Alternatively, the method may prevent recurrence of an autoimmune disease in a subject who has been in a quiescent state for a substantial period of time (*e.g.* for 1 year or more, 2 years or more, for instance in remission for 2-20 years). Moreover, the method herein may prevent a

subject, who has previously experienced one or more symptoms of an autoimmune disease, from experiencing one or more symptoms of another different autoimmune disease.

In one embodiment, the subject has never been previously treated with drug(s), such as immunosuppressive agent(s), to treat the autoimmune disease and/or has never been previously treated with an antagonist to a B-cell surface marker (*e.g.* never been previously treated with a CD20 antibody).

Examples of autoimmune diseases to be prevented herein include systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome, multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, Guillain-Barre syndrome, myasthenia gravis, large vessel vasculitis, medium vessel vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa, pemphigus, scleroderma, Goodpasture's syndrome, glomerulonephritis, primary biliary cirrhosis, Grave's disease, membranous nephropathy, autoimmune hepatitis, celiac sprue, Addison's disease, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, monoclonal gammopathy, Factor VIII deficiency, cryoglobulinemia, peripheral neuropathy, IgM polyneuropathy, chronic neuropathy, and Hashimoto's thyroiditis etc.

In one embodiment, the subject treated herein is one who has been determined to be producing an abnormal amount of autoantibody. Thus, the invention provides a method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject with abnormal autoantibody levels, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

Once an at risk subject is identified, that individual is treated with an antagonist that binds to a B cell surface marker, preferably an antibody that binds to CD20, in an amount effective to prevent the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

The composition comprising the antagonist will be formulated, dosed, and administered in a fashion consistent with good medical practice. Factors for consideration in this context include the particular disease or disorder being treated, the particular mammal being treated, the clinical condition of the individual subject, the cause of the disease or disorder, the site of delivery of the agent, the method of administration, the scheduling of administration, and other factors known to medical practitioners. The effective amount of the antagonist to be administered will be governed by such considerations.

As a general proposition, the effective amount of the antagonist administered parenterally per dose will be in the range of about 20mg/m^2 to about 10,000mg/m^2 of subject body, by one or more dosages. Exemplary IV dosage regimens for intact antibodies include 375mg/m2 weekly x 4; 1000mg x 2 (*e.g.* on days 1 and 15); or 1 gram x 3.

As noted above, however, these suggested amounts of antagonist are subject to a great deal of therapeutic discretion. The key factor in selecting an appropriate dose and scheduling is the result obtained, as indicated above. For example, relatively higher doses may be needed initially for the treatment of ongoing and acute diseases. To obtain the most efficacious results, depending on the disease or disorder, the antagonist is administered as close to the first sign, diagnosis, appearance, or occurrence of the disease or disorder as possible or during remissions of the disease or disorder.

The antagonist is administered by any suitable means, including parenteral, topical, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intrapulmonary, intranasal, and/or intralesional administration. Parenteral infusions include intramuscular, intravenous, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, or subcutaneous administration. Intrathecal administration is also contemplated. In addition, the antagonist may suitably be administered by pulse infusion, *e.g.*, with declining doses of the antagonist. Preferably the dosing is given by intravenous injections.

One may administer other compounds, such as cytotoxic agents, chemotherapeutic agents, immunosuppressive agents, cytokines, cytokine antagonists or antibodies, growth factors, integrins, integrin antagonists or antibodies etc, with the antagonists herein. For example, the antagonist may be combined with a TNF-inhibitor, disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD), nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug (NSAID), glucocorticoid (via joint injection), low-dose prednisone, glucorticoids/prednisone/methylprednisone (glucocortocoids), intravenous immunoglobulin (gamma globulin), plasmapheresis, levothyroxine, cyclosporin A, somatastatin analogues, cytokine antagonist, anti-metabolite, immunosuppressive agent, cytotoxic agent (*e.g.* chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide, azathioprine), rehabilitative surgery, radioiodine, thyroidectomy, etc. The combined administration includes coadministration, using separate formulations or a single pharmaceutical formulation, and consecutive administration in either order, wherein preferably there is a time period while both (or all) active agents simultaneously exert their biological activities.

Aside from administration of protein antagonists to the subject the present application contemplates administration of antagonists by gene therapy. Such administration of nucleic acid encoding the antagonist is encompassed by the expression "administering an effective amount of an antagonist". See, for example, WO96/07321 published March 14, 1996 concerning the use of gene therapy to generate intracellular antibodies.

There are two major approaches to getting the nucleic acid (optionally contained in a vector) into the subject's cells; *in vivo* and *ex vivo*. For *in vivo* delivery the nucleic acid is injected directly into the subject, usually at the site where the antagonist is required. For *ex vivo* treatment, the subject's cells are removed, the nucleic acid is introduced into these isolated cells and the modified cells are administered to the subject either directly or, for example, encapsulated within porous membranes which are implanted into the subject (see, *e.g.* U.S. Patent Nos. 4,892,538 and 5,283,187). There are a variety of techniques available for introducing nucleic acids into viable cells. The techniques vary depending upon whether the nucleic acid is transferred into cultured cells *in vitro*, or *in vivo* in the cells of the intended host. Techniques suitable for the transfer of nucleic acid into mammalian cells *in vitro* include the use of liposomes, electroporation, microinjection, cell fusion, DEAE-dextran, the calcium phosphate precipitation method, etc. A commonly used vector for *ex vivo* delivery of the gene is a retrovirus.

The currently preferred *in vivo* nucleic acid transfer techniques include transfection with viral vectors (such as adenovirus, Herpes simplex I virus, or adeno-associated virus) and lipid-based systems (useful lipids for lipid-mediated transfer of the gene are DOTMA, DOPE and DC-Chol, for example). In some situations it is desirable to provide the nucleic acid source with an agent that targets the target cells, such as an antibody specific for a cell surface membrane protein or the target cell, a ligand for a receptor on the target cell, etc. Where liposomes are employed, proteins which bind to a cell surface membrane protein associated with endocytosis may be used for targeting and/or to facilitate uptake, *e.g.* capsid proteins or fragments thereof tropic for a particular cell type, antibodies for proteins which undergo internalization in cycling, and proteins that target intracellular localization and enhance intracellular half-life. The technique of receptor-mediated endocytosis is described, for example, by Wu *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:4429-4432 (1987); and Wagner *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:3410-3414 (1990). For review of the currently known gene marking and

gene therapy protocols see Anderson *et al.*, *Science* 256:808-813 (1992). See also WO 93/25673 and the references cited therein.

IV. Production of Antagonists

The methods and articles of manufacture of the present invention use, or incorporate, an antagonist which binds a B cell surface marker. Accordingly, methods for generating such antagonists will be described here.

The antigen to be used for production of, or screening for, antagonist(s) may be, *e.g.*, a soluble form of the B cell surface marker or a portion thereof, containing the desired epitope. Alternatively, or additionally, cells expressing the B cell surface marker at their cell surface can be used to generate, or screen for, antagonist(s). Other forms of the B cell surface marker useful for generating antagonists will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

While the preferred antagonist is an antibody, antagonists other than antibodies are contemplated herein. For example, the antagonist may comprise a small molecule antagonist optionally fused to, or conjugated with, a cytotoxic agent (such as those described herein). Libraries of small molecules may be screened against the B cell surface marker of interest herein in order to identify a small molecule which binds to that antigen. The small molecule may further be screened for its antagonistic properties and/or conjugated with a cytotoxic agent.

The antagonist may also be a peptide generated by rational design or by phage display (see, *e.g.*, WO98/35036 published 13 August 1998). In one embodiment, the molecule of choice may be a "CDR mimic" or antibody analogue designed based on the CDRs of an antibody. While such peptides may be antagonistic by themselves, the peptide may optionally be fused to a cytotoxic agent so as to add or enhance antagonistic properties of the peptide.

A description follows as to exemplary techniques for the production of the antibody antagonists used in accordance with the present invention.

(i) Polyclonal antibodies

Polyclonal antibodies are preferably raised in animals by multiple subcutaneous (sc) or intraperitoneal (ip) injections of the relevant antigen and an adjuvant. It may be useful to conjugate the relevant antigen to a protein that is immunogenic in the species to be immunized, *e.g.*, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, serum albumin, bovine thyroglobulin, or

soybean trypsin inhibitor using a bifunctional or derivatizing agent, for example, maleimidobenzoyl sulfosuccinimide ester (conjugation through cysteine residues), N-hydroxysuccinimide (through lysine residues), glutaraldehyde, succinic anhydride, $SOCl_2$, or $R^1N=C=NR$, where R and R^1 are different alkyl groups.

Animals are immunized against the antigen, immunogenic conjugates, or derivatives by combining, *e.g.*, 100 μg or 5 μg of the protein or conjugate (for rabbits or mice, respectively) with 3 volumes of Freund's complete adjuvant and injecting the solution intradermally at multiple sites. One month later the animals are boosted with 1/5 to 1/10 the original amount of peptide or conjugate in Freund's complete adjuvant by subcutaneous injection at multiple sites. Seven to 14 days later the animals are bled and the serum is assayed for antibody titer. Animals are boosted until the titer plateaus. Preferably, the animal is boosted with the conjugate of the same antigen, but conjugated to a different protein and/or through a different cross-linking reagent. Conjugates also can be made in recombinant cell culture as protein fusions. Also, aggregating agents such as alum are suitably used to enhance the immune response.

(ii) Monoclonal antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies are obtained from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, *i.e.*, the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical and/or bind the same epitope except for possible variants that arise during production of the monoclonal antibody, such variants generally being present in minor amounts. Thus, the modifier "monoclonal" indicates the character of the antibody as not being a mixture of discrete or polyclonal antibodies.

For example, the monoclonal antibodies may be made using the hybridoma method first described by Kohler *et al., Nature,* 256:495 (1975), or may be made by recombinant DNA methods (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567).

In the hybridoma method, a mouse or other appropriate host animal, such as a hamster, is immunized as hereinabove described to elicit lymphocytes that produce or are capable of producing antibodies that will specifically bind to the protein used for immunization. Alternatively, lymphocytes may be immunized *in vitro*. Lymphocytes then are fused with myeloma cells using a suitable fusing agent, such as polyethylene glycol, to form a hybridoma

cell (Goding, *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice*, pp.59-103 (Academic Press, 1986)).

The hybridoma cells thus prepared are seeded and grown in a suitable culture medium that preferably contains one or more substances that inhibit the growth or survival of the unfused, parental myeloma cells. For example, if the parental myeloma cells lack the enzyme hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (HGPRT or HPRT), the culture medium for the hybridomas typically will include hypoxanthine, aminopterin, and thymidine (HAT medium), which substances prevent the growth of HGPRT-deficient cells.

Preferred myeloma cells are those that fuse efficiently, support stable high-level production of antibody by the selected antibody-producing cells, and are sensitive to a medium such as HAT medium. Among these, preferred myeloma cell lines are murine myeloma lines, such as those derived from MOPC-21 and MPC-11 mouse tumors available from the Salk Institute Cell Distribution Center, San Diego, California USA, and SP-2 or X63-Ag8-653 cells available from the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland USA. Human myeloma and mouse-human heteromyeloma cell lines also have been described for the production of human monoclonal antibodies (Kozbor, *J. Immunol.*, 133:3001 (1984); Brodeur *et al., Monoclonal Antibody Production Techniques and Applications*, pp. 51-63 (Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1987)).

Culture medium in which hybridoma cells are growing is assayed for production of monoclonal antibodies directed against the antigen. Preferably, the binding specificity of monoclonal antibodies produced by hybridoma cells is determined by immunoprecipitation or by an *in vitro* binding assay, such as radioimmunoassay (RIA) or enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent assay (ELISA).

The binding affinity of the monoclonal antibody can, for example, be determined by the Scatchard analysis of Munson *et al., Anal. Biochem.*, 107:220 (1980).

After hybridoma cells are identified that produce antibodies of the desired specificity, affinity, and/or activity, the clones may be subcloned by limiting dilution procedures and grown by standard methods (Goding, *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice*, pp.59-103 (Academic Press, 1986)). Suitable culture media for this purpose include, for example, D-MEM or RPMI-1640 medium. In addition, the hybridoma cells may be grown *in vivo* as ascites tumors in an animal.

The monoclonal antibodies secreted by the subclones are suitably separated from the culture medium, ascites fluid, or serum by conventional immunoglobulin purification procedures such as, for example, protein A-Sepharose, hydroxylapatite chromatography, gel electrophoresis, dialysis, or affinity chromatography.

DNA encoding the monoclonal antibodies is readily isolated and sequenced using conventional procedures (*e.g.*, by using oligonucleotide probes that are capable of binding specifically to genes encoding the heavy and light chains of murine antibodies). The hybridoma cells serve as a preferred source of such DNA. Once isolated, the DNA may be placed into expression vectors, which are then transfected into host cells such as *E. coli* cells, simian COS cells, Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells, or myeloma cells that do not otherwise produce immunoglobulin protein, to obtain the synthesis of monoclonal antibodies in the recombinant host cells. Review articles on recombinant expression in bacteria of DNA encoding the antibody include Skerra *et al., Curr. Opinion in Immunol.*, 5:256-262 (1993) and Plückthun, *Immunol. Revs.*, 130:151-188 (1992).

In a further embodiment, antibodies or antibody fragments can be isolated from antibody phage libraries generated using the techniques described in McCafferty *et al., Nature*, 348:552-554 (1990). Clackson *et al., Nature*, 352:624-628 (1991) and Marks *et al., J. Mol. Biol.*, 222:581-597 (1991) describe the isolation of murine and human antibodies, respectively, using phage libraries. Subsequent publications describe the production of high affinity (nM range) human antibodies by chain shuffling (Marks *et al., Bio/Technology*, 10:779-783 (1992)), as well as combinatorial infection and *in vivo* recombination as a strategy for constructing very large phage libraries (Waterhouse *et al., Nuc. Acids. Res.*, 21:2265-2266 (1993)). Thus, these techniques are viable alternatives to traditional monoclonal antibody hybridoma techniques for isolation of monoclonal antibodies.

The DNA also may be modified, for example, by substituting the coding sequence for human heavy- and light chain constant domains in place of the homologous murine sequences (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567; Morrison, *et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA*, 81:6851 (1984)), or by covalently joining to the immunoglobulin coding sequence all or part of the coding sequence for a non-immunoglobulin polypeptide.

Typically such non-immunoglobulin polypeptides are substituted for the constant domains of an antibody, or they are substituted for the variable domains of one antigen-

combining site of an antibody to create a chimeric bivalent antibody comprising one antigen-combining site having specificity for an antigen and another antigen-combining site having specificity for a different antigen.

(iii) Humanized antibodies

Methods for humanizing non-human antibodies have been described in the art. Preferably, a humanized antibody has one or more amino acid residues introduced into it from a source which is non-human. These non-human amino acid residues are often referred to as "import" residues, which are typically taken from an "import" variable domain. Humanization can be essentially performed following the method of Winter and co-workers (Jones *et al., Nature*, 321:522-525 (1986); Riechmann *et al., Nature*, 332:323-327 (1988); Verhoeyen *et al., Science*, 239:1534-1536 (1988)), by substituting hypervariable region sequences for the corresponding sequences of a human antibody. Accordingly, such "humanized" antibodies are chimeric antibodies (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567) wherein substantially less than an intact human variable domain has been substituted by the corresponding sequence from a non-human species. In practice, humanized antibodies are typically human antibodies in which some hypervariable region residues and possibly some FR residues are substituted by residues from analogous sites in rodent antibodies.

The choice of human variable domains, both light and heavy, to be used in making the humanized antibodies is very important to reduce antigenicity. According to the so-called "best-fit" method, the sequence of the variable domain of a rodent antibody is screened against the entire library of known human variable-domain sequences. The human sequence which is closest to that of the rodent is then accepted as the human framework region (FR) for the humanized antibody (Sims *et al., J. Immunol.*, 151:2296 (1993); Chothia *et al., J. Mol. Biol.*, 196:901 (1987)). Another method uses a particular framework region derived from the consensus sequence of all human antibodies of a particular subgroup of light or heavy chain variable regions. The same framework may be used for several different humanized antibodies (Carter *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 89:4285 (1992); Presta *et al., J. Immunol.*, 151:2623 (1993)).

It is further important that antibodies be humanized with retention of high affinity for the antigen and other favorable biological properties. To achieve this goal, according to a preferred method, humanized antibodies are prepared by a process of analysis of the parental

sequences and various conceptual humanized products using three-dimensional models of the parental and humanized sequences. Three-dimensional immunoglobulin models are commonly available and are familiar to those skilled in the art. Computer programs are available which illustrate and display probable three-dimensional conformational structures of selected candidate immunoglobulin sequences. Inspection of these displays permits analysis of the likely role of the residues in the functioning of the candidate immunoglobulin sequence, *i.e.*, the analysis of residues that influence the ability of the candidate immunoglobulin to bind its antigen. In this way, FR residues can be selected and combined from the recipient and import sequences so that the desired antibody characteristic, such as increased affinity for the target antigen(s), is achieved. In general, the hypervariable region residues are directly and most substantially involved in influencing antigen binding.

(iv) Human antibodies

As an alternative to humanization, human antibodies can be generated. For example, it is now possible to produce transgenic animals (*e.g.*, mice) that are capable, upon immunization, of producing a full repertoire of human antibodies in the absence of endogenous immunoglobulin production. For example, it has been described that the homozygous deletion of the antibody heavy chain joining region (J_H) gene in chimeric and germ-line mutant mice results in complete inhibition of endogenous antibody production. Transfer of the human germ-line immunoglobulin gene array in such germ-line mutant mice will result in the production of human antibodies upon antigen challenge. See, *e.g.*, Jakobovits *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90:2551 (1993); Jakobovits *et al., Nature*, 362:255-258 (1993); Bruggermann *et al., Year in Immuno.*, 7:33 (1993); and US Patent Nos. 5,591,669, 5,589,369 and 5,545,807.

Alternatively, phage display technology (McCafferty *et al.*, *Nature* 348:552-553 (1990)) can be used to produce human antibodies and antibody fragments *in vitro*, from immunoglobulin variable (V) domain gene repertoires from unimmunized donors. According to this technique, antibody V domain genes are cloned in-frame into either a major or minor coat protein gene of a filamentous bacteriophage, such as M13 or fd, and displayed as functional antibody fragments on the surface of the phage particle. Because the filamentous particle contains a single-stranded DNA copy of the phage genome, selections based on the functional properties of the antibody also result in selection of the gene encoding the antibody exhibiting those properties. Thus, the phage mimics some of the properties of the B cell.

Phage display can be performed in a variety of formats; for their review see, *e.g.*, Johnson, Kevin S. and Chiswell, David J., *Current Opinion in Structural Biology* 3:564-571 (1993). Several sources of V-gene segments can be used for phage display. Clackson *et al.*, *Nature*, 352:624-628 (1991) isolated a diverse array of anti-oxazolone antibodies from a small random combinatorial library of V genes derived from the spleens of immunized mice. A repertoire of V genes from unimmunized human donors can be constructed and antibodies to a diverse array of antigens (including self-antigens) can be isolated essentially following the techniques described by Marks *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 222:581-597 (1991), or Griffith *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 12:725-734 (1993). See, also, US Patent Nos. 5,565,332 and 5,573,905.

Human antibodies may also be generated by *in vitro* activated B cells (see US Patents 5,567,610 and 5,229,275).

(v) Antibody fragments

Various techniques have been developed for the production of antibody fragments. Traditionally, these fragments were derived via proteolytic digestion of intact antibodies (see, *e.g.*, Morimoto *et al.*, *Journal of Biochemical and Biophysical Methods* 24:107-117 (1992) and Brennan *et al.*, *Science*, 229:81 (1985)). However, these fragments can now be produced directly by recombinant host cells. For example, the antibody fragments can be isolated from the antibody phage libraries discussed above. Alternatively, Fab'-SH fragments can be directly recovered from *E. coli* and chemically coupled to form $F(ab')_2$ fragments (Carter *et al.*, Bio/Technology 10:163-167 (1992)). According to another approach, $F(ab')_2$ fragments can be isolated directly from recombinant host cell culture. Other techniques for the production of antibody fragments will be apparent to the skilled practitioner. In other embodiments, the antibody of choice is a single chain Fv fragment (scFv). See WO 93/16185; US Patent No. 5,571,894; and US Patent No. 5,587,458. The antibody fragment may also be a "linear antibody", *e.g.*, as described in US Patent 5,641,870 for example. Such linear antibody fragments may be monospecific or bispecific.

(vi) Bispecific antibodies

Bispecific antibodies are antibodies that have binding specificities for at least two different epitopes. Exemplary bispecific antibodies may bind to two different epitopes of the B cell surface marker. Other such antibodies may bind the B cell surface marker and further bind a second, different B cell surface marker. Alternatively, an anti-B cell surface marker

binding arm may be combined with an arm which binds to a triggering molecule on a leukocyte such as a T-cell receptor molecule (*e.g.* CD2 or CD3), or Fc receptors for IgG (FcγR), such as FcγRI (CD64), FcγRII (CD32) and FcγRIII (CD16) so as to focus cellular defense mechanisms to the B cell. Bispecific antibodies may also be used to localize cytotoxic agents to the B cell. These antibodies possess a B cell surface marker-binding arm and an arm which binds the cytotoxic agent (*e.g.* saporin, anti-interferon-α, vinca alkaloid, ricin A chain, methotrexate or radioactive isotope hapten). Bispecific antibodies can be prepared as full length antibodies or antibody fragments (*e.g.* $F(ab')_2$ bispecific antibodies).

Methods for making bispecific antibodies are known in the art. Traditional production of full length bispecific antibodies is based on the coexpression of two immunoglobulin heavy chain-light chain pairs, where the two chains have different specificities (Millstein *et al.*, *Nature*, 305:537-539 (1983)). Because of the random assortment of immunoglobulin heavy and light chains, these hybridomas (quadromas) produce a potential mixture of 10 different antibody molecules, of which only one has the correct bispecific structure. Purification of the correct molecule, which is usually done by affinity chromatography steps, is rather cumbersome, and the product yields are low. Similar procedures are disclosed in WO 93/08829, and in Traunecker *et al.*, *EMBO J.*, 10:3655-3659 (1991).

According to a different approach, antibody variable domains with the desired binding specificities (antibody-antigen combining sites) are fused to immunoglobulin constant domain sequences. The fusion preferably is with an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain, comprising at least part of the hinge, CH2, and CH3 regions. It is preferred to have the first heavy chain constant region (CH1) containing the site necessary for light chain binding, present in at least one of the fusions. DNAs encoding the immunoglobulin heavy chain fusions and, if desired, the immunoglobulin light chain, are inserted into separate expression vectors, and are co-transfected into a suitable host organism. This provides for great flexibility in adjusting the mutual proportions of the three polypeptide fragments in embodiments when unequal ratios of the three polypeptide chains used in the construction provide the optimum yields. It is, however, possible to insert the coding sequences for two or all three polypeptide chains in one expression vector when the expression of at least two polypeptide chains in equal ratios results in high yields or when the ratios are of no particular significance.

In a preferred embodiment of this approach, the bispecific antibodies are composed of a hybrid immunoglobulin heavy chain with a first binding specificity in one arm, and a hybrid immunoglobulin heavy chain-light chain pair (providing a second binding specificity) in the other arm. It was found that this asymmetric structure facilitates the separation of the desired bispecific compound from unwanted immunoglobulin chain combinations, as the presence of an immunoglobulin light chain in only one half of the bispecific molecule provides for a facile way of separation. This approach is disclosed in WO 94/04690. For further details of generating bispecific antibodies see, for example, Suresh *et al., Methods in Enzymology*, 121:210 (1986).

According to another approach described in US Patent No. 5,731,168, the interface between a pair of antibody molecules can be engineered to maximize the percentage of heterodimers which are recovered from recombinant cell culture. The preferred interface comprises at least a part of the C_H3 domain of an antibody constant domain. In this method, one or more small amino acid side chains from the interface of the first antibody molecule are replaced with larger side chains (*e.g.* tyrosine or tryptophan). Compensatory "cavities" of identical or similar size to the large side chain(s) are created on the interface of the second antibody molecule by replacing large amino acid side chains with smaller ones (*e.g.* alanine or threonine). This provides a mechanism for increasing the yield of the heterodimer over other unwanted end-products such as homodimers.

Bispecific antibodies include cross-linked or "heteroconjugate" antibodies. For example, one of the antibodies in the heteroconjugate can be coupled to avidin, the other to biotin. Such antibodies have, for example, been proposed to target immune system cells to unwanted cells (US Patent No. 4,676,980), and for treatment of HIV infection (WO 91/00360, WO 92/200373, and EP 03089). Heteroconjugate antibodies may be made using any convenient cross-linking methods. Suitable cross-linking agents are well known in the art, and are disclosed in US Patent No. 4,676,980, along with a number of cross-linking techniques.

Techniques for generating bispecific antibodies from antibody fragments have also been described in the literature. For example, bispecific antibodies can be prepared using chemical linkage. Brennan *et al., Science*, 229: 81 (1985) describe a procedure wherein intact antibodies are proteolytically cleaved to generate $F(ab')_2$ fragments. These fragments are

reduced in the presence of the dithiol complexing agent sodium arsenite to stabilize vicinal dithiols and prevent intermolecular disulfide formation. The Fab' fragments generated are then converted to thionitrobenzoate (TNB) derivatives. One of the Fab'-TNB derivatives is then reconverted to the Fab'-thiol by reduction with mercaptoethylamine and is mixed with an equimolar amount of the other Fab'-TNB derivative to form the bispecific antibody. The bispecific antibodies produced can be used as agents for the selective immobilization of enzymes.

Various techniques for making and isolating bispecific antibody fragments directly from recombinant cell culture have also been described. For example, bispecific antibodies have been produced using leucine zippers. Kostelny *et al.*, *J. Immunol.*, 148(5):1547-1553 (1992). The leucine zipper peptides from the Fos and Jun proteins were linked to the Fab' portions of two different antibodies by gene fusion. The antibody homodimers were reduced at the hinge region to form monomers and then re-oxidized to form the antibody heterodimers. This method can also be utilized for the production of antibody homodimers. The "diabody" technology described by Hollinger *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90:6444-6448 (1993) has provided an alternative mechanism for making bispecific antibody fragments. The fragments comprise a heavy chain variable domain (V_H) connected to a light chain variable domain (V_L) by a linker which is too short to allow pairing between the two domains on the same chain. Accordingly, the V_H and V_L domains of one fragment are forced to pair with the complementary V_L and V_H domains of another fragment, thereby forming two antigen-binding sites. Another strategy for making bispecific antibody fragments by the use of single-chain Fv (sFv) dimers has also been reported. See Gruber *et al., J. Immunol.*, 152:5368 (1994).

Antibodies with more than two valencies are contemplated. For example, trispecific antibodies can be prepared. Tutt *et al. J. Immunol.* 147: 60 (1991).

V. Conjugates and Other Modifications of the Antagonist

The antagonist used in the methods or included in the articles of manufacture herein is optionally conjugated to a cytotoxic agent. For instance, the antagonist may be conjugated to a drug as described in WO2004/032828.

Chemotherapeutic agents useful in the generation of such antagonist-cytotoxic agent conjugates have been described above.

Conjugates of an antagonist and one or more small molecule toxins, such as a calicheamicin, a maytansine (US Patent No. 5,208,020), a trichothene, and CC1065 are also contemplated herein. In one embodiment of the invention, the antagonist is conjugated to one or more maytansine molecules (*e.g.* about 1 to about 10 maytansine molecules per antagonist molecule). Maytansine may, for example, be converted to May-SS-Me which may be reduced to May-SH3 and reacted with modified antagonist (Chari *et al. Cancer Research* 52: 127-131 (1992)) to generate a maytansinoid-antagonist conjugate.

Alternatively, the antagonist is conjugated to one or more calicheamicin molecules. The calicheamicin family of antibiotics are capable of producing double-stranded DNA breaks at sub-picomolar concentrations. Structural analogues of calicheamicin which may be used include, but are not limited to, γ_1^I, α_2^I, α_3^I, N-acetyl-γ_1^I, PSAG and θ^I_1 (Hinman *et al. Cancer Research* 53: 3336-3342 (1993) and Lode *et al. Cancer Research* 58: 2925-2928 (1998)).

Enzymatically active toxins and fragments thereof which can be used include diphtheria A chain, nonbinding active fragments of diphtheria toxin, exotoxin A chain (from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), ricin A chain, abrin A chain, modeccin A chain, alpha-sarcin, *Aleurites fordii* proteins, dianthin proteins, *Phytolaca americana* proteins (PAPI, PAPII, and PAP-S), momordica charantia inhibitor, curcin, crotin, sapaonaria officinalis inhibitor, gelonin, mitogellin, restrictocin, phenomycin, enomycin and the tricothecenes. See, for example, WO 93/21232 published October 28, 1993.

The present invention further contemplates antagonist conjugated with a compound with nucleolytic activity (*e.g.* a ribonuclease or a DNA endonuclease such as a deoxyribonuclease; DNase).

A variety of radioactive isotopes are available for the production of radioconjugated antagonists. Examples include At^{211}, I^{131}, I^{125}, Y^{90}, Re^{186}, Re^{188}, Sm^{153}, Bi^{212}, P^{32} and radioactive isotopes of Lu.

Conjugates of the antagonist and cytotoxic agent may be made using a variety of bifunctional protein coupling agents such as N-succinimidyl-3-(2-pyridyldithiol) propionate (SPDP), succinimidyl-4-(N-maleimidomethyl) cyclohexane-1-carboxylate, iminothiolane (IT), bifunctional derivatives of imidoesters (such as dimethyl adipimidate HCL), active esters (such as disuccinimidyl suberate), aldehydes (such as glutareldehyde), bis-azido compounds

(such as bis (p-azidobenzoyl) hexanediamine), bis-diazonium derivatives (such as bis-(p-diazoniumbenzoyl)-ethylenediamine), diisocyanates (such as tolyene 2,6-diisocyanate), and bis-active fluorine compounds (such as 1,5-difluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene). For example, a ricin immunotoxin can be prepared as described in Vitetta *et al. Science* 238: 1098 (1987). Carbon-14-labeled 1-isothiocyanatobenzyl-3-methyldiethylene triaminepentaacetic acid (MX-DTPA) is an exemplary chelating agent for conjugation of radionucleotide to the antagonist. See WO94/11026. The linker may be a "cleavable linker" facilitating release of the cytotoxic drug in the cell. For example, an acid-labile linker, peptidase-sensitive linker, dimethyl linker or disulfide-containing linker (Chari *et al. Cancer Research* 52: 127-131 (1992)) may be used.

Alternatively, a fusion protein comprising the antagonist and cytotoxic agent may be made, *e.g.* by recombinant techniques or peptide synthesis.

In yet another embodiment, the antagonist may be conjugated to a "receptor" (such streptavidin) for utilization in tumor pretargeting wherein the antagonist-receptor conjugate is administered to the subject, followed by removal of unbound conjugate from the circulation using a clearing agent and then administration of a "ligand" (*e.g.* avidin) which is conjugated to a cytotoxic agent (*e.g.* a radionucleotide).

The antagonists of the present invention may also be conjugated with a prodrug-activating enzyme which converts a prodrug (*e.g.* a peptidyl chemotherapeutic agent, see WO81/01145) to an active anti-cancer drug. See, for example, WO 88/07378 and U.S. Patent No. 4,975,278.

The enzyme component of such conjugates includes any enzyme capable of acting on a prodrug in such a way so as to covert it into its more active, cytotoxic form.

Enzymes that are useful in the method of this invention include, but are not limited to, alkaline phosphatase useful for converting phosphate-containing prodrugs into free drugs; arylsulfatase useful for converting sulfate-containing prodrugs into free drugs; cytosine deaminase useful for converting non-toxic 5-fluorocytosine into the anti-cancer drug, 5-fluorouracil; proteases, such as serratia protease, thermolysin, subtilisin, carboxypeptidases and cathepsins (such as cathepsins B and L), that are useful for converting peptide-containing prodrugs into free drugs; D-alanylcarboxypeptidases, useful for converting prodrugs that contain D-amino acid substituents; carbohydrate-cleaving enzymes such as β-galactosidase and neuraminidase useful for converting glycosylated prodrugs into free drugs; β-lactamase

useful for converting drugs derivatized with β-lactams into free drugs; and penicillin amidases, such as penicillin V amidase or penicillin G amidase, useful for converting drugs derivatized at their amine nitrogens with phenoxyacetyl or phenylacetyl groups, respectively, into free drugs. Alternatively, antibodies with enzymatic activity, also known in the art as "abzymes", can be used to convert the prodrugs of the invention into free active drugs (see, *e.g.*, Massey, *Nature* 328: 457-458 (1987)). Antagonist-abzyme conjugates can be prepared as described herein for delivery of the abzyme to a tumor cell population.

The enzymes of this invention can be covalently bound to the antagonist by techniques well known in the art such as the use of the heterobifunctional crosslinking reagents discussed above. Alternatively, fusion proteins comprising at least the antigen binding region of an antagonist of the invention linked to at least a functionally active portion of an enzyme of the invention can be constructed using recombinant DNA techniques well known in the art (see, *e.g.*, Neuberger *et al.*, *Nature*, 312: 604-608 (1984)).

Other modifications of the antagonist are contemplated herein. For example, the antagonist may be linked to one of a variety of nonproteinaceous polymers, *e.g.*, polyethylene glycol (PEG), polypropylene glycol, polyoxyalkylenes, or copolymers of polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol. Antibody fragments, such as Fab', linked to one or more PEG molecules are an especially preferred embodiment of the invention.

The antagonists disclosed herein may also be formulated as liposomes. Liposomes containing the antagonist are prepared by methods known in the art, such as described in Epstein *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 82:3688 (1985); Hwang *et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA*, 77:4030 (1980); U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,485,045 and 4,544,545; and WO97/38731 published October 23, 1997. Liposomes with enhanced circulation time are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,013,556.

Particularly useful liposomes can be generated by the reverse phase evaporation method with a lipid composition comprising phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol and PEG-derivatized phosphatidylethanolamine (PEG-PE). Liposomes are extruded through filters of defined pore size to yield liposomes with the desired diameter. Fab' fragments of an antibody of the present invention can be conjugated to the liposomes as described in Martin *et al. J. Biol. Chem.* 257: 286-288 (1982) via a disulfide interchange reaction. A chemotherapeutic agent is optionally contained within the liposome. See Gabizon *et al. J. National Cancer Inst.*81(19)1484 (1989).

Amino acid sequence modification(s) of protein or peptide antagonists described herein are contemplated. For example, it may be desirable to improve the binding affinity and/or other biological properties of the antagonist. Amino acid sequence variants of the antagonist are prepared by introducing appropriate nucleotide changes into the antagonist nucleic acid, or by peptide synthesis. Such modifications include, for example, deletions from, and/or insertions into and/or substitutions of, residues within the amino acid sequences of the antagonist. Any combination of deletion, insertion, and substitution is made to arrive at the final construct, provided that the final construct possesses the desired characteristics. The amino acid changes also may alter post-translational processes of the antagonist, such as changing the number or position of glycosylation sites.

A useful method for identification of certain residues or regions of the antagonist that are preferred locations for mutagenesis is called "alanine scanning mutagenesis" as described by Cunningham and Wells *Science*, 244:1081-1085 (1989). Here, a residue or group of target residues are identified (*e.g.*, charged residues such as arg, asp, his, lys, and glu) and replaced by a neutral or negatively charged amino acid (most preferably alanine or polyalanine) to affect the interaction of the amino acids with antigen. Those amino acid locations demonstrating functional sensitivity to the substitutions then are refined by introducing further or other variants at, or for, the sites of substitution. Thus, while the site for introducing an amino acid sequence variation is predetermined, the nature of the mutation *per se* need not be predetermined. For example, to analyze the performance of a mutation at a given site, ala scanning or random mutagenesis is conducted at the target codon or region and the expressed antagonist variants are screened for the desired activity.

Amino acid sequence insertions include amino- and/or carboxyl-terminal fusions ranging in length from one residue to polypeptides containing a hundred or more residues, as well as intrasequence insertions of single or multiple amino acid residues. Examples of terminal insertions include an antagonist with an N-terminal methionyl residue or the antagonist fused to a cytotoxic polypeptide. Other insertional variants of the antagonist molecule include the fusion to the N-- or C-terminus of the antagonist of an enzyme, or a polypeptide which increases the serum half-life of the antagonist.

Another type of variant is an amino acid substitution variant. These variants have at least one amino acid residue in the antagonist molecule replaced by different residue. The sites of greatest interest for substitutional mutagenesis of antibody antagonists include the

hypervariable regions, but FR alterations are also contemplated. Conservative substitutions are shown in Table 2 under the heading of "preferred substitutions". If such substitutions result in a change in biological activity, then more substantial changes, denominated "exemplary substitutions" in Table 2, or as further described below in reference to amino acid classes, may be introduced and the products screened.

Table 2

Original Residue	Exemplary Substitutions	Preferred Substitutions
Ala (A)	val; leu; ile	val
Arg (R)	lys; gln; asn	lys
Asn (N)	gln; his; asp, lys; arg	gln
Asp (D)	glu; asn	glu
Cys (C)	ser; ala	ser
Gln (Q)	asn; glu	asn
Glu (E)	asp; gln	asp
Gly (G)	ala	ala
His (H)	asn; gln; lys; arg	arg
Ile (I)	leu; val; met; ala; phe; norleucine	leu
Leu (L)	norleucine; ile; val; met; ala; phe	ile
Lys (K)	arg; gln; asn	arg
Met (M)	leu; phe; ile	leu
Phe (F)	leu; val; ile; ala; tyr	tyr
Pro (P)	ala	ala
Ser (S)	thr	thr
Thr (T)	ser	ser
Trp (W)	tyr; phe	tyr

Tyr (Y)	trp; phe; thr; ser	phe
Val (V)	ile; leu; met; phe; ala; norleucine	leu

Substantial modifications in the biological properties of the antagonist are accomplished by selecting substitutions that differ significantly in their effect on maintaining (a) the structure of the polypeptide backbone in the area of the substitution, for example, as a sheet or helical conformation, (b) the charge or hydrophobicity of the molecule at the target site, or (c) the bulk of the side chain. Naturally occurring residues are divided into groups based on common side-chain properties:

(1) hydrophobic: norleucine, met, ala, val, leu, ile;

(2) neutral hydrophilic: cys, ser, thr;

(3) acidic: asp, glu;

(4) basic: asn, gln, his, lys, arg;

(5) residues that influence chain orientation: gly, pro; and

(6) aromatic: trp, tyr, phe.

Non-conservative substitutions will entail exchanging a member of one of these classes for another class.

Any cysteine residue not involved in maintaining the proper conformation of the antagonist also may be substituted, generally with serine, to improve the oxidative stability of the molecule and prevent aberrant crosslinking. Conversely, cysteine bond(s) may be added to the antagonist to improve its stability (particularly where the antagonist is an antibody fragment such as an Fv fragment).

A particularly preferred type of substitutional variant involves substituting one or more hypervariable region residues of a parent antibody. Generally, the resulting variant(s) selected for further development will have improved biological properties relative to the parent antibody from which they are generated. A convenient way for generating such substitutional variants is affinity maturation using phage display. Briefly, several hypervariable region sites (*e.g.* 6-7 sites) are mutated to generate all possible amino

substitutions at each site. The antibody variants thus generated are displayed in a monovalent fashion from filamentous phage particles as fusions to the gene III product of M13 packaged within each particle. The phage-displayed variants are then screened for their biological activity (*e.g.* binding affinity) as herein disclosed. In order to identify candidate hypervariable region sites for modification, alanine scanning mutagenesis can be performed to identify hypervariable region residues contributing significantly to antigen binding. Alternatively, or in additionally, it may be beneficial to analyze a crystal structure of the antigen-antibody complex to identify contact points between the antibody and antigen. Such contact residues and neighboring residues are candidates for substitution according to the techniques elaborated herein. Once such variants are generated, the panel of variants is subjected to screening as described herein and antibodies with superior properties in one or more relevant assays may be selected for further development.

Another type of amino acid variant of the antagonist alters the original glycosylation pattern of the antagonist. Such altering includes deleting one or more carbohydrate moieties found in the antagonist, and/or adding one or more glycosylation sites that are not present in the antagonist.

Glycosylation of polypeptides is typically either N-linked or O-linked. N-linked refers to the attachment of the carbohydrate moiety to the side chain of an asparagine residue. The tripeptide sequences asparagine-X-serine and asparagine-X-threonine, where X is any amino acid except proline, are the recognition sequences for enzymatic attachment of the carbohydrate moiety to the asparagine side chain. Thus, the presence of either of these tripeptide sequences in a polypeptide creates a potential glycosylation site. O-linked glycosylation refers to the attachment of one of the sugars N-aceylgalactosamine, galactose, or xylose to a hydroxyamino acid, most commonly serine or threonine, although 5-hydroxyproline or 5-hydroxylysine may also be used.

Addition of glycosylation sites to the antagonist is conveniently accomplished by altering the amino acid sequence such that it contains one or more of the above-described tripeptide sequences (for N-linked glycosylation sites). The alteration may also be made by the addition of, or substitution by, one or more serine or threonine residues to the sequence of the original antagonist (for O-linked glycosylation sites).

Where the antibody comprises an Fc region, the carbohydrate attached thereto may be altered. For example, antibodies with a mature carbohydrate structure which lacks fucose

attached to an Fc region of the antibody are described in US Pat Appl No US 2003/0157108 A1, Presta, L. Antibodies with a bisecting N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) in the carbohydrate attached to an Fc region of the antibody are referenced in WO03/011878, Jean-Mairet *et al.* and US Patent No. 6,602,684, Umana *et al.* Antibodies with at least one galactose residue in the oligosaccharide attached to an Fc region of the antibody are reported in WO97/30087, Patel *et al.* See, also, WO98/58964 (Raju, S.) and WO99/22764 (Raju, S.) concerning antibodies with altered carbohydrate attached to the Fc region thereof.

Nucleic acid molecules encoding amino acid sequence variants of the antagonist are prepared by a variety of methods known in the art. These methods include, but are not limited to, isolation from a natural source (in the case of naturally occurring amino acid sequence variants) or preparation by oligonucleotide-mediated (or site-directed) mutagenesis, PCR mutagenesis, and cassette mutagenesis of an earlier prepared variant or a non-variant version of the antagonist.

It may be desirable to modify the antagonist of the invention with respect to effector function, *e.g.* so as to enhance antigen-dependent cell-mediated cyotoxicity (ADCC) and/or complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) of the antagonist. This may be achieved by introducing one or more amino acid substitutions in an Fc region of an antibody antagonist. Alternatively or additionally, cysteine residue(s) may be introduced in the Fc region, thereby allowing interchain disulfide bond formation in this region. The homodimeric antibody thus generated may have improved internalization capability and/or increased complement-mediated cell killing and antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). See Caron *et al.*, *J. Exp Med.* 176:1191-1195 (1992) and Shopes, B. *J. Immunol.* 148:2918-2922 (1992). Homodimeric antibodies with enhanced anti-tumor activity may also be prepared using heterobifunctional cross-linkers as described in Wolff *et al. Cancer Research* 53:2560-2565 (1993). Alternatively, an antibody can be engineered which has dual Fc regions and may thereby have enhanced complement lysis and ADCC capabilities. See Stevenson *et al. Anti-Cancer Drug Design* 3:219-230 (1989).

WO00/42072 (Presta, L.) describes antibodies with improved ADCC function in the presence of human effector cells, where the antibodies comprise amino acid substitutions in the Fc region thereof. Preferably, the antibody with improved ADCC comprises substitutions at positions 298, 333, and/or 334 of the Fc region. Preferably the altered Fc region is a

human IgG1 Fc region comprising or consisting of substitutions at one, two or three of these positions.

Antibodies with altered C1q binding and/or complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) are described in WO99/51642, US Patent No. 6,194,551B1, US Patent No. 6,242,195B1, US Patent No. 6,528,624B1 and US Patent No. 6,538,124 (Idusogie *et al.*). The antibodies comprise an amino acid substitution at one or more of amino acid positions 270, 322, 326, 327, 329, 313, 333 and/or 334 of the Fc region thereof.

To increase the serum half life of the antagonist, one may incorporate a salvage receptor binding epitope into the antagonist (especially an antibody fragment) as described in US Patent 5,739,277, for example. As used herein, the term "salvage receptor binding epitope" refers to an epitope of the Fc region of an IgG molecule (*e.g.*, IgG_1, IgG_2, IgG_3, or IgG_4) that is responsible for increasing the *in vivo* serum half-life of the IgG molecule. Antibodies with substitutions in an Fc region thereof and increased serum half-lives are also described in WO00/42072 (Presta, L.).

Engineered antibodies with three or more (preferably four) functional antigen binding sites are also contemplated (US Appln No. US2002/0004587 A1, Miller *et al.*).

VI. Pharmaceutical Formulations

Therapeutic formulations of the antagonists used in accordance with the present invention are prepared for storage by mixing an antagonist having the desired degree of purity with optional pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or stabilizers (*Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences* 16th edition, Osol, A. Ed. (1980)), in the form of lyophilized formulations or aqueous solutions. Acceptable carriers, excipients, or stabilizers are nontoxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed, and include buffers such as phosphate, citrate, and other organic acids; antioxidants including ascorbic acid and methionine; preservatives (such as octadecyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride; hexamethonium chloride; benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride; phenol, butyl or benzyl alcohol; alkyl parabens such as methyl or propyl paraben; catechol; resorcinol; cyclohexanol; 3-pentanol; and m-cresol); low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides; proteins, such as serum albumin, gelatin, or immunoglobulins; hydrophilic polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone; amino acids such as glycine, glutamine, asparagine, histidine, arginine, or lysine; monosaccharides, disaccharides, and other carbohydrates

including glucose, mannose, or dextrins; chelating agents such as EDTA; sugars such as sucrose, mannitol, trehalose or sorbitol; salt-forming counter-ions such as sodium; metal complexes (*e.g.* Zn-protein complexes); and/or non-ionic surfactants such as TWEEN™, PLURONICS™ or polyethylene glycol (PEG).

Exemplary anti-CD20 antibody formulations are described in WO98/56418, expressly incorporated herein by reference. This publication describes a liquid multidose formulation comprising 40 mg/mL rituximab, 25 mM acetate, 150 mM trehalose, 0.9% benzyl alcohol, 0.02% polysorbate 20 at pH 5.0 that has a minimum shelf life of two years storage at 2-8°C. Another anti-CD20 formulation of interest comprises 10mg/mL rituximab in 9.0 mg/mL sodium chloride, 7.35 mg/mL sodium citrate dihydrate, 0.7mg/mL polysorbate 80, and Sterile Water for Injection, pH 6.5.

Lyophilized formulations adapted for subcutaneous administration are described in US Pat No. 6,267,958 (Andya *et al.*). Such lyophilized formulations may be reconstituted with a suitable diluent to a high protein concentration and the reconstituted formulation may be administered subcutaneously to the mammal to be treated herein.

Crystalized forms of the antibody or antagonist are also contemplated. See, for example, US 2002/0136719A1 (Shenoy *et al.).*

The formulation herein may also contain more than one active compound as necessary for the particular indication being treated, preferably those with complementary activities that do not adversely affect each other. For example, it may be desirable to further provide a cytotoxic agent, chemotherapeutic agent, immunosuppressive agent, cytokine, cytokine antagonist or antibody, growth factor, integrin, integrin antagonist or antibody, a TNF-inhibitor, disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD), nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug (NSAID), glucocorticoid, low-dose prednisone, glucorticoid/prednisone/methylprednisone (glucocortocoid), intravenous immunoglobulin (gamma globulin), levothyroxine, cyclosporin A, somatastatin analogue, anti-metabolite, immunosuppressive agent, cytotoxic agent (*e.g.* chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide, azathioprine) etc in the formulation. The effective amount of such other agents depends on the amount of antagonist present in the formulation, the type of disease or disorder or treatment, and other factors discussed above. These are generally used in the same dosages and with administration routes as used hereinbefore or about from 1 to 99% of the heretofore employed dosages.

The active ingredients may also be entrapped in microcapsules prepared, for example, by coacervation techniques or by interfacial polymerization, for example, hydroxymethylcellulose or gelatin-microcapsules and poly-(methylmethacylate) microcapsules, respectively, in colloidal drug delivery systems (for example, liposomes, albumin microspheres, microemulsions, nano-particles and nanocapsules) or in macroemulsions. Such techniques are disclosed in *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences* 16th edition, Osol, A. Ed. (1980).

Sustained-release preparations may be prepared. Suitable examples of sustained-release preparations include semipermeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the antagonist, which matrices are in the form of shaped articles, *e.g.* films, or microcapsules. Examples of sustained-release matrices include polyesters, hydrogels (for example, poly(2-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate), or poly(vinylalcohol)), polylactides (U.S. Pat. No. 3,773,919), copolymers of L-glutamic acid and γ ethyl-L-glutamate, non-degradable ethylene-vinyl acetate, degradable lactic acid-glycolic acid copolymers such as the LUPRON DEPOT™ (injectable microspheres composed of lactic acid-glycolic acid copolymer and leuprolide acetate), and poly-D-(-)-3-hydroxybutyric acid. The formulations to be used for *in vivo* administration must be sterile. This is readily accomplished by filtration through sterile filtration membranes.

VII. Articles of Manufacture

In another embodiment of the invention, an article of manufacture containing materials useful for the treatment of the diseases or conditions described above is provided. Preferably, the article of manufacture comprises:(a) a container comprising a composition comprising an antagonist that binds to a B cell surface marker (*e.g.* a CD20 antibody) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent within the container; and (b) instructions for administering the composition to an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of an autoimmune disease, so as to prevent the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

The article of manufacture comprises a container and a label or package insert on or associated with the container. Suitable containers include, for example, bottles, vials, syringes, etc. The containers may be formed from a variety of materials such as glass or plastic. The container holds or contains a composition which is effective for treating the disease or condition of choice and may have a sterile access port (for example the container

may be an intravenous solution bag or a vial having a stopper pierceable by a hypodermic injection needle). At least one active agent in the composition is the antagonist which binds a B cell surface marker. The label or package insert indicates that the composition is used for preventing an autoimmune disease in a subject at risk for developing the autoimmune disease. The article of manufacture may further comprise a second container comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent buffer, such as bacteriostatic water for injection (BWFI), phosphate-buffered saline, Ringer's solution and dextrose solution. The article of manufacture may further include other materials desirable from a commercial and user standpoint, including other buffers, diluents, filters, needles, and syringes.

Further details of the invention are illustrated by the following non-limiting Examples. The disclosures of all citations in the specification are expressly incorporated herein by reference.

Example 1

Prevention of Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the tissues that make up its joints. The joints become swollen, stiff, and painful. In later stages, the joints can become deformed. Other areas of the body can also be affected, including the lungs, heart, blood vessels, and eyes. About 1 percent of the U.S. population suffers from RA. Typically, it strikes between the ages of 30 and 60, but it can occur at any age.

Symptoms of RA include stiffness, swelling, and pain in and around certain joints, especially after not moving for a while (for example, when waking). Affected joints typically include hands, fingers, wrists, ankles, feet, elbows, and knees. Generally, if a joint on the right side of the body is affected, the same joint on the left side is also affected. In addition, the person who suffers from RA may feel tired and run-down with swollen lymph glands, a low fever, little or appetite, and weight loss. Small bumps under the skin near the affected joints may also appear.

In order to avoid irreversible degeneration resulting from RA, the present Example shows how RA can be prevented in a subject who is found to be at risk for developing RA. Moreover, treatment with the non-toxic Rituxan® or humanized 2H7 drugs, will avoid the subject progressing to moderate-severe disease requiring therapy with highly toxic drugs such as methotrexate or cyclosphosphomide.

In a first step, the subject's susceptibility to develop RA is evaluated. Accordingly, a serum sample is obtained, with consent, from a human subject. The presence of IgM rheumatoid factor (RF) antibodies directed against the Fc portion of IgG in the serum sample is determined and compared to normal or baseline levels of such antibodies. Such RF antibodies are quantified using standard assay procedures, such as immunofluorescence, or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, etc using a labeled reagent, usually an antibody, which binds to human RF antibodies.

While the subject fails to experience clinical symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), elevated RF antibody levels relative to baseline (normal) levels indicates the subject is at risk for developing rheumatoid arthritis in the next 0-10 years. The "at risk" subject thus identified is treated prophylactically with Rituximab (commercially available from Genentech) or humanized 2H7 (see above) using a dosing regimen selected from 375mg/m2 weekly x 4, 1000mg x 2 (on days 1 and 15), or 1 gram x 3. The subject is optionally treated with other agents used to treat RA, such as one or more immunosuppressive agents, chemotherapeutic agents, methotrexate, prednisone, Cytoxan, Mycophenolate Mofetil (CellCept), cyclophosphamide, azathioprine, hydroxycloroquine, CNI, anti-CD4 antibody, anti-CD5 antibody, anti-CD40L antibody, human recombinant DNase, TNF inhibitor, DMARD(s), NSAID(s), LJP-394, anti-C5a antibody, anti-IL-10 antibody, BlyS inhibitor, CTLA-4Ig, LL2IgG, Lymphostat-B, Plaquenil, etc.

Administration of the CD20 antibody to the subject, will prevent the subject from experiencing any one more clinical symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

Example 2

Prevention of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Lupus is an autoimmune disease involving antibodies that attack connective tissue. The disease is estimated to affect nearly 1 million Americans, primarily women between the ages of 20-40. The principal form of lupus is a systemic one (systemic lupus erythematosus; SLE). SLE is associated with the production of antinuclear antibodies, circulating immune complexes, and activation of the complement system.

Untreated lupus can be fatal as it progresses from attack of skin and joints to internal organs, including lung, heart, and kidneys (with renal disease being the primary concern). Lupus mainly appears as a series of flare-ups, with intervening periods of little or no disease manifestation.

The symptoms used to diagnose lupus adapted from: Tan *et. al.* "The Revised Criteria for the Classification of SLE". *Arth Rheum* 25 (1982) are:

Malar Rash

- Rash over the cheeks
- Discoid Rash
- Red raised patches

Photosensitivity

- Reaction to sunlight, resulting in the development of or increase in skin rash

Oral Ulcers

- Ulcers in the nose or mouth, usually painless

Arthritis

- Nonerosive arthritis involving two or more peripheral joints (arthritis in which the bones around the joints do not become destroyed)

Serositis

Pleuritis or pericarditis

Renal Disorder

- Excessive protein in the urine (greater than 0.5 gm/day or 3+ on test sticks) and/or cellular casts (abnormal elements the urine, derived from and/or white cells and/or kidney tubule cells)

Neurologic

Seizures (convulsions) and/or psychosis in the absence of drugs or metabolic disturbances which are known to cause such effects

Hematologic

- Hemolytic anemia or leukopenia (white bloodcount below 4,000 cells per cubic millimeter) or lymphopenia (less than 1,500 lymphocytes per cubic millimeter) or thrombocytopenia (less than 100,000 platelets per cubic millimeter). The leukopenia and lymphopenia must be detected on two or more occasions. The thrombocytopenia must be detected in the absence of drugs known to induce it.

Lupus is generally treated with immunosuppressive strategies, mainly corticosteroids such as prednisone, which are given during periods of flare-ups, but may also be given persistently for those who have experienced frequent flare-ups. Even with effective treatment, which reduces symptoms and prolongs life, the combination of drug side effects and continued low-level manifestation of the disease can cause serious impairment and premature death. Recent therapeutic regimens include cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, antimalarials, hormonal treatment (*e.g.*, DHEA), and antihormonal therapy (*e.g.*, the antiprolactin agent bromocriptine).

Due to the severity of SLE, the ability to prevent it is desirable and can be achieved by pre-emptive therapy as described herein. In a first step, the subject at risk for developing one or more symptoms of SLE is identified. A serum sample is obtained from a human subject, and anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA), anti-double stranded DNA (dsDNA) antibodies, anti-Smith antigen (Sm) antibody, anti-nuclear ribonucleoprotein antibodies, antiphospholipid antibodies, anti-ribosomal P antibodies, anti-Ro/SS-A antibodies, anti-Ro antibodies, and/or anti-La antibodies are quantified using standard assays, such as immunofluorescence, or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, etc using a labeled reagent, usually an antibody, which binds to the autoantibodies being evaluated. See, *e.g.* Arbuckle *et al. New Eng. J. Med.* 349(16):1526 (2003). The levels of the autoantibodies relative to baseline levels are assessed, and a significant increase in these levels indicating the subject is at risk for developing SLE in the next 0-10 years.

The subject identified as being at risk for developing SLE, but not otherwise experiencing symptoms of disease, is then treated with Rituximab or humanized 2H7 using a dosing regimen selected from 375mg/m2 weekly x 4, 1000mg x 2 (on days 1 and 15), or 1 gram x 3. The antibody is optionally combined with further drug(s), such as one or more nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (such as acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, indomethacin, sulindac, tolmetin), acetaminophen, corticosteroids, anti-malarials (such as chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine), immunosuppressive agents, methotrexate, prednisone, cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan), Mycophenolate Mofetil (CellCept), azathioprine, hydroxycloroquine, CNI, anti-CD4 antibody, anti-CD5 antibody, anti-CD40L antibody, human recombinant DNase, TNF inhibitor, LJP-394, anti-C5a antibody, anti-IL-10 antibody, BlyS inhibitor, CTLA-4Ig, LL2IgG, Lymphostat-B, Plaquenil, etc.

Administration of Rituximab or humanized 2H7 to the subject will prevent him/her from experiencing any one or more symptoms of SLE.

Example 3

Prevention of Ulcerative Colitis

There are an estimated 500,000 ulcerative colitis (UC) patients in the US who suffer recurrent episodes of mucosal inflammation in the colon. Clinical symptoms include rectal bleeding, frequent bowel movements, and systemic symptoms such as fever, weight loss, and anemia. Podolsky, D. *NEJM* 347: 417-429 (2002). Symptoms in patients with mild UC include proctitis, proctosigmoiditis, distal colitis, intermittent rectal bleeding, mucus passage,

mild diarrhea, abdominal pain. Patients with moderate disease severity may experience symptoms including left sided colitis, frequent loose bloody stools (10/day), mild anemia, low grade fever and abdominal pain with nutrition maintained. Symptoms observed in UC patients who suffer from severe disease include pancolitis, greater than 10 stools/day, severe cramps, high fever, bleeding requiring transfusion, weight loss, toxic megacolon, and perforation (associated with 50% mortality).

Most physicians use a stepwise treatment algorithm in the management of UC. First line treatment generally involves oral and/or topical 5-ASAs. Second line treatment involves oral and/or topical steroids, but 50% of first time steroid users become dependent or refractory in 1 year. Third line treatment is achieved by administration of immunosuppressants (*e.g.* azathiprine, 6 mercaptopurine, cyclosporine). Finally, fourth line treatment is surgery (total colectomy).

The present example provides a means for preventing UC. First, the human subject at risk for developing UC is identified. A serum sample from the subject is tested for the presence of atypical levels of autoantibodies staining the nuclear or perinuclear zone of neutrophils (pANCA), and/or anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibodies (ASCA) using immunofluorescence, or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, etc and a labeled reagent, usually an antibody, which binds to pANCA or ASCA. Increased or abnormal pANCA or ASCA levels indicate the subject is at risk for developing UC, so treatment with the CD20 antibody is initiated.

While the subject fails to present with symptoms of UC, in order to prevent development of the disease the subject is treated with Rituximab or humanized 2H7 using a dosing regimen selected from 375mg/m2 weekly x 4, 1000mg x 2 (on days 1 and 15), or 1 gram x 3.

Aside from the CD20 antibody, the subject may optionally be treated with oral and/or topical 5-ASAs, oral and/or topical steroids, one or more immunosuppressants (*e.g.* azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, cyclosporine), MLN-02, antibiotics, mesalamine, prednisone, TNF-inhibitor, cortisone cream, hydrocortisone enema, sulfasalazine, alsalazine, balsalazide, methylprednisolone, hydrocortisone, ACTH, intravenous corticosteroids, GelTex, Visilizumab, OPC-6535, CBP 1011, thalidomide, ISIS 2302, BXT-51072, Repifermin (KGF-2), RPD-58, Antegren, FK-506, Rebif, Natalizumab etc.

Administration of the CD20 antibody as described above will prevent the subject from developing any one or more symptoms of UC.

Example 4

Humanized 2H7 variants

This example describes humanized 2H7 antibody variants for use in the methods disclosed herein. The humanized 2H7 antibody preferably comprises one, two, three, four, five or six of the following CDR sequences:

CDR L1 sequence RASSSVSYXH wherein X is M or L (SEQ ID NO. 18), for example SEQ ID NO:4 (Fig. 1A),

CDR L2 sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 (Fig. 1A),

CDR L3 sequence QQWXFNPPT wherein X is S or A (SEQ ID NO. 19), for example SEQ ID NO:6 (Fig. 1A),

CDR H1 sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 (Fig. 1B),

CDR H2 sequence of AIYPGNGXTSYNQKFKG wherein X is D or A (SEQ ID NO. 20), for example SEQ ID NO:11 (Fig. 1B), and

CDR H3 sequence of VVYYSXXYWYFDV wherein the X at position 6 is N, A, Y, W or D, and the X as position 7 is S or R (SEQ ID NO. 21), for example SEQ ID NO:12 (Fig. 1B).

The CDR sequences above are generally present within human variable light and variable heavy framework sequences, such as substantially the human consensus FR residues of human light chain kappa subgroup I (V_L6I), and substantially the human consensus FR residues of human heavy chain subgroup III (V_HIII). See also WO 2004/056312 (Lowman *et al.*).

The variable heavy region may be joined to a human IgG chain constant region, wherein the region may be, for example, IgG1 or IgG3, including native sequence and variant constant regions.

In a preferred embodiment, such antibody comprises the variable heavy domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 (v16, as shown in Fig. 1B), optionally also comprising the variable light domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (v16, as shown in Fig. 1A), which optionally comprises one or more amino acid substitution(s) at positions 56, 100, and/or 100a, *e.g.* D56A, N100A or N100Y, and/or S100aR in the variable heavy domain and one or more

amino acid substitution(s) at positions 32 and/or 92, *e.g.* M32L and/or S92A, in the variable light domain. Preferably, the antibody is an intact antibody comprising the light chain amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs. 13 or 16, and heavy chain amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 14, 15, 17, 22 or 25.

A preferred humanized 2H7 antibody is ocrelizumab (Genentech).

The antibody herein may further comprise at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region that improves ADCC activity, such as one wherein the amino acid substitutions are at positions 298, 333, and 334, preferably S298A, E333A, and K334A, using Eu numbering of heavy chain residues. See also US Patent No. 6,737,056B1, Presta.

Any of these antibodies may comprise at least one substitution in the Fc region that improves FcRn binding or serum half-life, for example a substitution at heavy chain position 434, such as N434W. See also US Patent No. 6,737,056B1, Presta.

Any of these antibodies may further comprise at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region that increases CDC activity, for example, comprising at least a substitution at position 326, preferably K326A or K326W. See also US Patent No. 6,528,624B1 (Idusogie *et al.*).

Some preferred humanized 2H7 variants are those comprising the variable light domain of SEQ ID NO:2 and the variable heavy domain of SEQ ID NO:8, including those with or without substitutions in an Fc region (if present), and those comprising a variable heavy domain with alteration N100A; or D56A and N100A; or D56A, N100Y, and S100aR; in SEQ ID NO:8 and a variable light domain with alteration M32L; or S92A; or M32L and S92A; in SEQ ID NO:2.

M34 in the variable heavy domain of 2H7.v16 has been identified as a potential source of antibody stability and is another potential candidate for substitution.

In a summary of some various preferred embodiments of the invention, the variable region of variants based on 2H7.v16 comprise the amino acid sequences of v16 except at the positions of amino acid substitutions that are indicated in the table below. Unless otherwise indicated, the 2H7 variants will have the same light chain as that of v16.

Exemplary Humanized 2H7 Antibody Variants

2H7 Version	Heavy chain (V_H) changes	Light chain (V_L) changes	Fc changes
16 for reference			-
31	-	-	S298A, E333A, K334A
73	N100A	M32L	
75	N100A	M32L	S298A, E333A, K334A
96	D56A, N100A	S92A	
114	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A
115	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A, E356D, M358L
116	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, K334A, K322A
138	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A, K326A
477	D56A, N100A	M32L, S92A	S298A, E333A, K334A, K326A, N434W
375	-	-	K334L
588	-		S298A, E333A, K334A, K326A
511	D56A, N100Y, S100aR		S298A, E333A, K334A, K326A

One preferred humanized 2H7 comprises 2H7.v16 variable light domain sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYMHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWSFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKR (SEQ ID NO:2);

and 2H7.v16 variable heavy domain sequence:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN GDTSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSNSYWYFDV WGQGTLVTVSS (SEQ ID NO:8).

Where the humanized 2H7.v16 antibody is an intact antibody, it may comprise the light chain amino acid sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYMHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWSFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFP PSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLS STLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (SEQ ID NO:13);

and the heavy chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 14 or:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN GDTSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSNSYWYFDV WGQGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGAL TSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCD KTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYV DGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKT ISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYK TTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG (SEQ ID NO:22).

Another preferred humanized 2H7 antibody comprises 2H7.v511 variable light domain sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYLHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWAFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKR (SEQ ID NO:23)

and 2H7.v511 variable heavy domain sequence:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAI YPGNGATSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSYRY WYFDVWGQGTLVTVSS (SEQ ID NO. 24).

Where the humanized 2H7.v511 antibody is an intact antibody, it may comprise the light chain amino acid sequence:

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCRASSSVSYLHWYQQKPGKAPKPLIYAPSNLASGVP SRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQPEDFATYYCQQWAFNPPTFGQGTKVEIKRTVAAPSVFIFP PSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLS STLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC (SEQ ID NO:16)

and the heavy chain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 17 or:

EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGYTFTSYNMHWVRQAPGKGLEWVGAIYPGN
GATSYNQKFKGRFTISVDKSKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVYYCARVVYYSYRYWYFD
VWGQGTLVTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGA
LTSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSC
DKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWY
VDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNATYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNAALPAPIA
ATISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENN
YKTTPPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG
(SEQ ID NO. 25).

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome, multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, Guillain-Barre syndrome, myasthenia gravis, large vessel vasculitis, medium vessel vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa, pemphigus, scleroderma, Goodpasture's syndrome, glomerulonephritis, primary biliary cirrhosis, Grave's disease, membranous nephropathy, autoimmune hepatitis, celiac sprue, Addison's disease, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, monoclonal gammopathy, Factor VIII deficiency, cryoglobulinemia, peripheral neuropathy, IgM polyneuropathy, chronic neuropathy, and Hashimoto's thyroiditis.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is producing an abnormal amount of autoantibody.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has never experienced one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has never been previously treated with a CD20 antibody.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has an about 80-100% likelihood of experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease within 0-10 years.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-nuclear, anti-double stranded DNA (dsDNA), anti-Smith antigen (Sm), anti-nuclear ribonucleoprotein, anti-phospholipid, anti-ribosomal P, anti-Ro/SS-A, anti-Ro, or anti-La antibody levels.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-phospholipid antibody levels.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the subject has abnormal autoantibodies staining the nuclear or perinuclear zone of neutrophils (pANCA) or anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibody levels.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Guillain-Barre syndrome.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the subject has abnormal levels of cross reactive antibodies to GM1 ganglioside or GQ1b ganglioside.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of myasthenia gravis.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-acetylcholine receptor (AchR), anti-AchR subtype, or anti-muscle specific tyrosine kinase (MuSK) antibody levels.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of large vessel vasculitis.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the subject has abnormal serum anti-endothelial cell antibody levels.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of medium vessel vasculitis.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the patient has abnormal anti-endothelial or anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic (ANCA) antibody levels.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of polyarteritis nodosa.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the subject has abnormal autoantibodies staining the nuclear or perinuclear zone of neutrophils (pANCA) levels.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of pemphigus.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the subject has abnormal IgG or anti-desmoglein (Dsg) antibody levels.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of scleroderma.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-centromere, anti-topoisomerase-1 (Scl-70), anti-RNA polymerase or anti-U3-ribonucleoprotein (U3-RNP) antibody levels.

26. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Goodpasture's syndrome.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) antibody levels.

28. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of glomerulonephritis.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) antibody levels.

30. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of primary biliary cirrhosis.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-mitochondrial (AMA) or anti-mitochondrial M2 antibody levels.

32. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Grave's disease.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-thyroid peroxidase (TPO), anti-thyroglobin (TG) or anti-thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) antibody levels.

34. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of membranous nephropathy.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-double stranded DNA (dsDNA) antibody levels.

36. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of autoimmune hepatitis.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-nucleic (AN), anti-actin (AA) or anti-smooth muscle antigen (ASM) antibody levels.

38. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of celiac sprue.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the subject has abnormal IgA anti-endomysial, IgA anti-tissue transglutaminase, IgA anti-gliadin or IgG anti-gliadin antibody levels.

40. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Addison's disease.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-CYP21A2, anti-CYP11A1 or anti-CYP17 antibody levels.

42. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of polymyositis/dermatomyositis.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-nuclear (ANA), anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP), or myosytis-specific antibody levels.

44. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of monoclonal gammopathy.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-myelin associated glycoprotein (MAG) antibody levels.

46. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of cryoglobulinemia.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody levels.

48. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-GM1 ganglioside, anti-myelin associated glycoprotein (MAG), anti-sulfate-3-glycuronyl paragloboside (SGPG), or IgM anti-glycoconjugate antibody levels.

50. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of IgM polyneuropathy.

51. The method of claim 50 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-myelin associated glycoprotein (MAG) antibody levels.

52. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of chronic neuropathy.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein the subject has abnormal IgM anti-ganglioside antibody levels.

54. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Hashimoto's thyroiditis.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-thyroid peroxidase (TPO), anti-thyroglobin (TG) or anti-thyroid stimulating hormone receptor (TSHR) antibody levels.

56. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-myelin basic protein or anti-myelin oligodendrocytic glycoprotein antibody levels.

58. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein the subject has abnormal levels of IgM rheumatoid factor antibodies directed against the Fc portion of IgG.

60. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Sjogren's syndrome.

61. The method of claim 60 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-La/SSB or anti-Ro/SSB antibody levels.

62. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of Factor VIII deficiency.

63. The method of claim 60 wherein the subject has abnormal anti-Factor VIII antibody levels.

64. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody is a naked antibody.

65. The method of claim 1 consisting essentially of administering the antibody to the subject.

66. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody is Rituximab.

67. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody is humanized 2H7 comprising the variable domain sequences in SEQ ID Nos. 2 and 8.

68. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody is a humanized 2H7 comprising the variable domain sequences in SEQ ID Nos. 23 and 24.

69. A method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

70. A method of preventing an autoimmune disease in an asymptomatic subject with abnormal autoantibody levels, comprising administering a CD20 antibody to the subject in an

amount which prevents the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.

71. An article of manufacture comprising:

(a) a container comprising a composition comprising a CD20 antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent within the container; and

(b) instructions for administering the composition to an asymptomatic subject at risk for experiencing one or more symptoms of an autoimmune disease, so as to prevent the subject from experiencing one or more symptoms of the autoimmune disease.