3. SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

[0018] The present disclosure~~invention~~ relates to covalent diabodies and/or covalent diabody molecules and to their use in the treatment of a variety of diseases and disorders including cancer, autoimmune disorders, allergy disorders and infectious diseases caused by bacteria, fungi or viruses. Preferably, the diabody of the present disclosure~~invention~~ can bind to two different epitopes on two different cells wherein the first epitope is expressed on a different cell type than the second epitope, such that the diabody can bring the two cells together.

[0018a] In one aspect, there is provided a diabody molecule comprising a first, second, third and fourth polypeptide chain, said chains each having an N-terminal end and a C-terminal end and being covalently bonded to one another, wherein:

(A) said first polypeptide chain comprises:

(i) a domain (A) comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for said epitope (1);

(ii) a domain (B) comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for said epitope (2); and

(iii) a domain (C) comprising a light chain constant region (CL) domain;

wherein said domain (A) and said domain (B) do not associate to form an epitope binding site;

(B) said second polypeptide chain comprises:

(i) a domain (D) comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2);

(ii) a domain (E) comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and

(iii) a domain (F) comprising a heavy chain constant region 1 (CH1) domain or portion thereof, and

(iv) a hinge region, a heavy chain constant region 2 (CH2) and a heavy chain constant region 3 (CH3);

wherein said domain (D) and said domain (E) do not associate to form an epitope binding site;

wherein said domains (A) and (E) associate to form a binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds said epitope (1); said domains (B) and (D) associate to form a binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds said epitope (2), and said domains (C) and (F) are associated together via a disulfide bond;

(C) said third polypeptide chain comprises:

(i) a domain (G) comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a third immunoglobulin (VL3) specific for an epitope (3);

(ii) a domain (H) comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a fourth immunoglobulin (VH4) specific for an epitope (4); and

(iii) a domain (I) comprising a light chain constant region (CL) domain;

wherein said domains (G) and (H) do not associate to form an epitope binding site;

(D) said fourth polypeptide chain comprises:

(i) a domain (J) comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the fourth immunoglobulin (VL4) specific for said epitope (4);

(ii) a domain (K) comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the third immunoglobulin (VH3) specific for said epitope (3);

(iii) a domain (L) comprising a heavy chain constant region 1 (CH1) domain; and

(iv) a hinge region, a heavy chain constant region 2 (CH2) and a heavy chain constant region 3 (CH3);

wherein said domain (J) and (K) do not associate to form an epitope binding site;

wherein said domains (G) and (K) associate to form a binding site that binds said epitope (3); said domains (H) and (J) associate to form a binding site that binds said epitope (4); said domains (I) and (L) are associated together via a disulfide bond; and said hinge region, heavy chain constant region 2 (CH2) and said heavy chain constant region 3 (CH3) of said second and fourth polypeptide chains associate to form an Fc region.

[0019] In one embodiment, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent bispecific diabody, which diabody comprises a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises (i) a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, (ii) a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope, and, optionally, (iii) a third domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; which second polypeptide chain comprises (i) a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), (ii) a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and, optionally, (iii) a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope.

[0020] In another embodiment, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent bispecific diabody, which diabody comprises a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a

second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; which second polypeptide chain comprises (i) a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the third and fourth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope.

[0021] In certain embodiment~~aspects~~, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to diabody molecule, which molecule comprises a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope;

wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope.

[0022] In certain embodiments, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent bispecific diabody, which diabody is a dimer of diabody molecules, each diabody molecule comprising a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain of each diabody molecule are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain of each diabody molecule associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain of each diabody molecule associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope.

[0023] In yet other embodiments, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent tetrapecific diabody, which diabody is a dimer of diabody molecules, the first diabody molecule comprising a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site;

and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope; and the second diabody molecule comprising a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a third immunoglobulin (VL3) specific for a third epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a fourth immunoglobulin (VH4) specific for a fourth epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the fourth immunoglobulin (VL4), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the third immunoglobulin (VH3), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL3)(VH3) that binds the third epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL4)(VH4) that binds the fourth epitope.

[0024] In certain embodiment~~aspect~~s of the disclosure~~invention~~ the first epitope, second epitope, and where applicable, third epitope and fourth epitope can be the same. In other embodiment~~aspect~~s, the first epitope, second epitope, and where applicable, third epitope and fourth epitope can

each different from the other. In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention comprising a third epitope binding domain, the first epitope and third epitope can be the same. In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention comprising a fourth epitope binding domain, the first epitope and fourth epitope can be the same. In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention comprising a third epitope binding domain, the second epitope and third epitope can be the same. In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention comprising a fourth epitope binding domain, the second epitope and fourth epitope can be the same. In preferred embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention, the first eptitope and second epitope are different. In yet other embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention comprising a third epitope binding domain and a fourth epitope binding domain, the third epitope and fourth epitope can be different. It is to be understood that any combination of the foregoing is encompassed in the present disclosureinvention.

[0025] In particular embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention, the first domain and the fifth domain of the diabody or diabody molecule can be derived from the same immunoglobulin. In another embodimentaspect, the second domain and the fourth domain of the diabody or diabody molecule can be derived from the same immunoglobulin. In yet another embodimentaspect, the first domain and the fifth domain of the diabody or diabody molecule can be derived from a different immunoglobulin. In yet another embodimentaspect, the second domain and the fourth domain of the diabody or diabody molecule can be derived from a different immunoglobulin. It is to be understood that any combination of the foregoing is encompassed in the present disclosureinvention.

[0026] In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention, the covalent linkage between the first polypeptide chain and second polypeptide chain of the diabody or diabody molecule can be via a disulfide bond between at least one cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain and at least one cysteine residue on the second polypeptide chain. The cysteine residues on the first or second polypeptide chains that are responsible for disulfide bonding can be found anywhere on the polypeptide chain including within the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth domains. In a specific embodiment the cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain is found in the first domain and the cysteine residue on the second polypeptide chain is found in the fifth domain. The first, second, fourth and fifth domains correspond to the variable regions responsible for binding. In preferred embodiments, the cysteine residues responsible for the disulfide bonding between the first and second polypeptide chains are located within the third and sixth

light chain, FNRGEC **(SEQ ID NO:23)**; and the third domain of the first polypeptide chain comprises an Fc domain, or portion thereof.

[0027] In other embodiments, the cysteine residues on the first or second polypeptide that are responsible for the disulfide bonding can be located outside of the first, second or third domains on the first polypeptide chain and outside of the fourth, fifth and sixth domain on the second polypeptide chain. In particular, the cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the first domain or can be C-terminal to the first domain. The cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the second domain or can be C-terminal to the second domain. The cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the third domain or can be C-terminal to the third domain. Further, the cysteine residue on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the fourth domain or can be C-terminal to the fourth domain. The cysteine residue on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the fifth domain or can be C-terminal to the fifth domain. Accordingly, the cysteine residue on the second polypeptide chain can be C-terminal to the sixth domain or can be N-terminal to the sixth domain. In a particular embodiment~~aspect~~, disulfide bond can between at least two cysteine residues on the first polypeptide chain and at least two cysteine residues on the second polypeptide chain. In a particular embodiment~~aspect~~, wherein the third domain and sixth domain do not comprise an Fc domain, or portion thereof, the cysteine residue can be at the C-terminus of the first polypeptide chain and at the C-terminus of the second polypeptide chain. It is to be understood that any combination of the foregoing is encompassed in the present disclosure~~invention~~.

[0028] In specific embodiments of the disclosure~~invention~~ described supra, the covalent diabody of the disclosure~~invention~~ encompasses dimers of diabody molecules, wherein each diabody molecule comprises a first and second polypeptide chain. In certain aspects of this embodiment the diabody molecules can be covalently linked to form the dimer, with the proviso that the covalent linkage is not a peptide bond. In preferred aspects of this embodiment, the covalent linkage is a disulfide bond between at least one cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain of each of the diabody molecules of the dimer. In yet more preferred aspects of this invention, the covalent linkage is a disulfide bond between at least one cysteine residue on the first polypeptide chain of each of the

diabody molecules forming the dimer, wherein said at least one cysteine residue is located in the third domain of each first polypeptide chain.

[0029] In certain aspects of the disclosure~~invention~~, the first domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the second domain or can be C-terminal to the second domain. The first domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the third domain or can be C-terminal to the third domain. The second domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the first domain or can be C-terminal to the first domain. Further, the second domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the third domain or can be C-terminal to the third domain. Accordingly, the third domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the first domain or can be C-terminal to the first domain. The third domain on the first polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the second domain or can be C-terminal to the second domain. With respect to the second polypeptide chain, the fourth domain can be N-terminal to the fifth domain or can be C-terminal to the fifth domain. The fourth domain can be N-terminal to the sixth domain or can be C-terminal to the sixth domain. The fifth domain on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the fourth domain or can be C-terminal to the fourth domain. The fifth domain on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the sixth domain or can be C-terminal to the sixth domain. Accordingly the sixth domain on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the fourth domain or can be C-terminal to the fourth domain. The sixth domain on the second polypeptide chain can be N-terminal to the fifth domain or can be C-terminal to the fifth domain. It is to be understood that any combination of the foregoing is encompassed in the present disclosure~~invention~~.

[0030] In certain embodiments, first domain and second domain can be located C-terminal to the third domain on the first polypeptide chain; or the first domain and second domain can be located N-terminal to the third domain on the first polypeptide chain. With respect to the second polypeptide chain, the fourth domain and fifth domain can be located C-terminal to the sixth domain, or the fourth domain and fifth domain can be located N-terminal to the sixth domain. In certain aspects of this embodiment, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent bispecific diabody, which diabody is a dimer of diabody molecules, each diabody molecule comprising a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising

a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site and wherein the third domain is located N-terminal to both the first domain and second domain; and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain of each diabody molecule are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain of each diabody molecule associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain of each diabody molecule associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope.

[0031] In yet another embodiment, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a covalent tetrapecific diabody, which diabody is a dimer of diabody molecules, the first diabody molecule comprising a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a first immunoglobulin (VL1) specific for a first epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a second immunoglobulin (VH2) specific for a second epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site and wherein the third domain is located N-terminal to both the first domain and second domain; and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the second immunoglobulin (VL2), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the first immunoglobulin (VH1), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine

residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL1)(VH1) that binds the first epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL2)(VH2) that binds the second epitope; and the second diabody molecule comprises a first and a second polypeptide chain, which first polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a first domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of a third immunoglobulin (VL3) specific for a third epitope, **(ii)** a second domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of a fourth immunoglobulin (VH4) specific for a fourth epitope and **(iii)** a third domain comprising an Fc domain or portion thereof, which first and second domains are covalently linked such that the first and second domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site and wherein the third domain is located N-terminal to both the first domain and second domain; and which second polypeptide chain comprises **(i)** a fourth domain comprising a binding region of a light chain variable domain of the fourth immunoglobulin (VL4), **(ii)** a fifth domain comprising a binding region of a heavy chain variable domain of the third immunoglobulin (VH3), and **(iii)** a sixth domain comprising at least one cysteine residue, which fourth and fifth domains are covalently linked such that the fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form an epitope binding site; and wherein the first polypeptide chain and the second polypeptide chain are covalently linked, with the proviso that the covalent link is not a peptide bond; wherein the first domain and the fifth domain associate to form a first binding site (VL3)(VH3) that binds the third epitope; wherein the second domain and the fourth domain associate to form a second binding site (VL4)(VH4) that binds the fourth epitope.

[0032] As discussed above, the domains on the individual polypeptide chains are covalently linked. In specific embodiment~~aspects~~, the covalent link between the first and second domain, first and third domain, second and third domain, fourth and fifth domain, fourth and sixth domain, and/or fifth and sixth domain can be a peptide bond. In particular, the first and second domains, and the fourth and fifth domains can be separated by the third domain and sixth domain, respectively, or by additional amino acid residues, so long as

the first and second, and fourth and fifth domains do not associate to form a binding site. The number of amino acid residues can be 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 amino acid residues. In one preferred embodimentaspect, the number of amino acid residues between the domains is 8.

[0033] In certain embodimentaspects of the disclosureinvention, the domains of the first and second polypeptid chain comprising an Fc domain, *i.e.*, optionally, the third and sixth domains, respectively, can further comprise a hinge domain such that the domain comprises a hinge-Fc region. In alternative embodiments, the first polypeptide chain or the second polypeptide chain can comprise a hinge domain without also comprising an Fc domain. The heavy chains, light chains, hinge regions, Fc domains, and/or hinge-Fc domains for use in the disclosureinvention can be derived from any immunoglobulin type including IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG or IgM. In a preferred embodimentaspect, the immunoglobulin type is IgG, or any subtype thereof, i.e., IgG_1, IgG_2, IgG_3 or IgG_4. In other embodimentaspects, the immunoglobulin from which the light and heavy chains are derived is humanized or chimerized.

[0034] Further, the first epitope and second epitopes, and, where applicable, third epitope and fourth epitope, to which the diabody or diabody molecule binds can be different epitopes from the same antigen or can be different epitopes from different antigens. The antigens can be any molecule to which an antibody can be generated. For example, proteins, nucleic acids, bacterial toxins, cell surface markers, autoimmune markers, viral proteins, drugs, etc. In particular embodimentaspects, at least one epitope binding site of the diabody is specific for an antigen on a particular cell, such as a B-cell, a T-cell, a phagocytic cell, a natural killer (NK) cell or a dendritic cell.

[0035] In certain embodimentsaspects of the present embodiment, at least one epitope binding site of the diabody or diabody molecule is specific for a Fc receptor, which Fc receptor can be an activating Fc receptor or an inhibitory Fc receptor. In particular embodimentaspects, the Fc receptor is a Fcγ receptor, and the Fcγ receptor is a FcγRI, FcγRII or FcγRIII receptor. In more preferred embodimentaspects, the FcγRIII receptor is the FcγRIIIA (CD 16A) receptor or the FcγRIIIB (CD 16B) receptor, and, more preferably, the FcγRIII receptor is the FcγRIIIA (CD 16A) receptor. In another preferred embodimentaspect, the FcγRII receptor is the FcγRIIA (CD32A) receptor or the FcγRIIB (CD32B) receptor, and more preferably the FcγRIIB (CD32B) receptor. In a particularly preferred embodimentaspect, one binding site of the diabody is specific for CD32B and the other binding site is specific for CD16A. In a specific

embodiment of the disclosure~~invention~~, at least one epitope binding site of the diabody or diabody molecule is specific for an activating Fc receptor and at least one other site is specific for an inhibitory Fc receptor. In certain aspects of this embodiment the activating Fc receptor is CD32A and the inhibitory Fc receptor is CD32B. In other aspects of this embodiment the activating Fc receptor is BCR and the inhibitory Fc receptor is CD32B. In still other aspects of this embodiment, the activating Fc receptor is IgERI and the inhibitory Fc receptor is CD32B.

[0036] In cases where one epitope binding site is specific for CD16A, the VL and VH domains can be the same as or similar to the VL and VH domains of the mouse antibody 3G8, the sequence of which has been cloned and is set forth herein. In other cases where one epitope binding site is specific for CD32A, the VL and VH domains can be the same as or similar to the VL and VH domains of the mouse antibody IV.3. In yet other cases where one epitope binding site is specific for CD32B, the VL and VH domains can be the same as or similar to the VL and VH domains of the mouse antibody 2B6, the sequence of which has been cloned and is set forth herein. It is to be understood that any of the VL or VH domains of the 3G8, 2B6 and IV.3 antibodies can be used in any combination. The present disclosure~~invention~~ is also directed to a bispecific diabody or diabody molecule wherein the first epitope is specific for CD32B, and the second epitope is specific for CD16A.

[0037] In other embodiment~~aspects~~, an epitope binding site can be specific for a pathogenic antigen. As used herein, a pathogenic antigen is an antigen involved in a specific pathogenic disease, including cancer, infection and autoimmune disease. Thus, the pathogenic antigen can be a tumor antigen, a bacterial antigen, a viral antigen, or an autoimmune antigen. Exemplary pathogenic antigens include, but are not limited to lipopolysaccharide, viral antigens selected from the group consisting of viral antigens from human immunodeficiency virus, Adenovirus, Respiratory Syncitial Virus, West Nile Virus (e.g., E16 and/or E53 antigens) and hepatitis virus, nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) and collagen. Preferably, the pathogenic antigen is a neutralizing antigen. In a preferred embodiment~~aspect~~, where one epitope binding site is specific for CD16A or CD32A, the other epitope binding site is specific for a pathogenic antigen excluding autoimmune antigens. In yet another preferred embodiment~~aspect~~, where one epitope binding site is specific for CD32B, the other epitope binding site is specific for any pathogenic antigen. In specific

embodiments, the diabody molecule of the disclosure~~invention~~ binds two different antigens on the same cell, for example, one antigen binding site is specific for an activating Fc receptor while the other is specific for an inhibitory Fc receptor. In other embodiments, the diabody molecule binds two distinct viral neutralizing epitopes, for example, but not limited to, E16 and E53 of West Nile Virus.

[0037a] In another aspect, there is provided a nucleic acid molecule that encodes said first, second, third or fourth polypeptide chains as defined herein.

[0037b] In another aspect, there is provided the diabody molecule as defined herein for use in therapy.

[0038] In yet another embodiment of the present disclosure~~invention~~, the diabodies of the disclosure~~invention~~ can be used to treat a variety of diseases and disorders. Accordingly, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a method for treating a disease or disorder comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a covalent diabody or diabody molecule of the disclosure~~invention~~ in which at least one binding site is specific for a pathogenic antigen, such as an antigen expressed on the surface of a cancer cell or on the surface of a bacterium or virion and at least one other binding site is specific for a Fc receptor, *e.g.*, CD16A.

[0039] In yet another embodiment, the disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a method for treating a disease or disorder comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a diabody or diabody molecule of the disclosure~~invention~~, in which at least one binding site is specific for CD32B and at least one other binding site is specific for CD16A.

[0039a] In another aspect, there is provided the diabody molecule as defined herein, wherein the diabody is used in the treatment of a disease or disorder characterized by a pathogenic antigen, which diabody molecule possesses an epitope binding site that binds to said pathogenic antigen.

[0040] In yet another embodiment, the disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a method for inducing immune tolerance to a pathogenic antigen comprising administering to a patient in need there an effective amount of a covalent diabody or dovalent diabody molecule of the disclosure~~invention~~, in which at least one binding site is specific for CD32B and at least one other binding site is specific for said pathogenic antigen. In aspects of this embodiment, the pathogenic antigen can be an allergen or another molecule to which immune tolerance is desired, such as a protein expressed on transplanted tissue.

[0041] In yet another embodiment, the present disclosure~~invention~~ is directed to a method for detoxification comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a covalent diabody or diabody molecule of the disclosure~~invention~~, in which at least one binding site is specific for a cell surface marker and at least one other binding site is specific for a toxin. In particular embodiment~~aspects~~, the diabody of the disclosure~~invention~~ administered is one where one binding site is specific for a cell surface marker such as an Fc and the

other binding site is specific for a bacterial toxin or for a drug. In one embodimentaspect, the cell surface marker is not found on red blood cells.

3.1 DEFINITIONS

[0042] Unless otherwise defined, all terms of art, notations and other scientific terms or terminology used herein are intended to have the meanings commonly understood by those of skill in the art to which this invention pertains. In some cases, terms with commonly understood meanings are defined herein for clarity and/or for ready reference, and the inclusion of such definitions herein should not necessarily be construed to represent a substantial difference over what is generally understood in the art. The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of molecular biology (including recombinant techniques), microbiology, cell biology, biochemistry, nucleic acid chemistry, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature, such as, Current Protocols in Immunology (J. E. Coligan et al., eds., 1999, including supplements through 2001); Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (F. M. Ausubel et al., eds., 1987, including supplements through 2001); Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, third edition (Sambrook and Russel, 2001); PCR: The Polymerase Chain Reaction, (Mullis et al., eds., 1994); The Immunoassay Handbook (D. Wild, ed., Stockton Press NY, 1994); Bioconjugate Techniques (Greg T. Hermanson, ed., Academic Press, 1996); Methods of Immunological Analysis (R. Masseyeff, W. H. Albert, and N. A. Staines, eds., Weinheim: VCH Verlags gesellschaft mbH, 1993), Harlow and Lane Using Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1999; and Beaucage et al. eds., Current Protocols in Nucleic Acid Chemistry John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 2000).

[0043] As used herein, the terms "antibody" and "antibodies" refer to monoclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies, human antibodies, humanized antibodies, synthetic antibodies, chimeric antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, camelized antibodies, single-chain Fvs (scFv), single chain antibodies, Fab fragments, F(ab') fragments, disulfide-linked bispecific Fvs (sdFv), intrabodies, and anti-idiotypic (anti-Id) antibodies (including, *e.g.*, anti-Id and anti-anti-Id antibodies to antibodies of the invention), and epitope-binding fragments of any of the above. In particular, antibodies include immunoglobulin molecules and immunologically active fragments of