

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising a variant soluble B-cell maturation antigen (sBCMA) comprising at least one amino acid substitution as compared to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said amino acid substitution is at a position number selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, wherein the numbering is according to the EU index.
2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1.
3. The composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) occur at one of said positions, two of said positions, three of said positions, four of said positions, five of said positions, six of said positions, seven of said positions, eight of said positions, or nine of said positions.
4. The composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16G, S16N, S16R, H19L, H19Y, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36A, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.
5. The composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of M1V, L2S, Q3P, M4T, S9P, N11D, S16G, H19Y, N31S, N31D, T32I, T36A, R39H, N47S, K50E, and N53E.
6. The composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of S16G, H19Y and T36A.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said amino acid substitutions are selected from the group consisting of

L2S/S9P/E12K/N31D/T36A/N42S/N53S, M1V/T32P/T36A/T46I/N53D/A54V, Q3R/S16N/T36A/A43T, F14L/S16G/T36A/V45A/N47D, M1T/M4V/S9F/S16G/T32A/Q38R, M1A/S9A/Q38R, G6E/Q25R/Q38R, M1V/M4I/G6E/S9P/N11D/V49M/T52M/A54V, N11D/S16G/N31S, N11D/H19Y/I22M/T32P/N47S/N53S, G6E/Q7R/H19Y/L35S, H19Y/N42D/S48P/T52A, M1V/N31D/T32I/T36A, M1V/A5T/H19L/T36A, M1T/N31D/T32A/T36A/Q38R/S44D/V49A/K50E, M1V/T36A/Q38R/A43V, M1V/L2S/S9P/Q10H/T36A/Q38R/K50G, T36A/Q38R/N53S, M1T/L2S/L35P/T36A/Q38R/T46A/K50R, A5T/A20V/T36A/Q38R, M1T/S16G/I22V/T36A/S44G/T46A/V49A, S16G/T36A, M1I/N11D/S16G/I22M/S29A/T36A/S44G/K50R, M1C/L2C/Q3R/M4E/N11D/S16G/T36P, M1I/N11D/S16G/I22M/S29A/T36A/S44G/K50R, N11D/N31D/T32I/T36A/S44N/N47D/N53D, M1R/L2C/Q3R, H19Y/T36A/S44G, H19Y/T32I/T36A/V49A, H19Y/N31S/T36A/V45A, H19Y/N31S/T36A, H19Y/T36P/T52A, H19Y/N31D/T52M, M1V/H19Y/V45M, S16G/H19Y/N47D, S16G/H19Y/K50T, S16G/H19Y/S44N/K50R, N11D/H19Y/S48T, S9P/N11D/S16R/T32A/Q38R/S44G/T46I/T52A/N53D/A54T, N11D/S16G/S44R, H19L/T32A/S44G/G51E/T52A, S16N/H19Y/T36A/K50R, M1V/H19Y/T36A/R39H/T46A, M1V/H19Y/T36A, H19Y/T36A/N42D/N47S/S48P, M1V/H19Y/T36A/S44G/N47D, M1V/H19Y/T36A/N42R/N53S, H19Y/L35P/T36A/N42D/T46I/V49A, Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, M1V/H19Y/T36A/N42R/N53S, M1T/H19Y/T36A, M1V/S16N/H19Y/I22M/T36A, M1T/N11D/H19Y/T36A/N42S/V45A/N53S, N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D, M1V/S9P/Q10P/S16G/H19Y/L26F/T36A/A43V/N53D, S16G/H19Y/T36A/V49A/N53D, S16G/T36A/A43T/S44G/V45M, M4V/S9P/S16G/T36A/Q38R, S9P/N11S/S16G/T36A/Q38R, N11D/E12K/S16R/T36A/T52M, M4V/T32I/T36A/Q38R/A43T/V45A/S48P, S9P/N11D/S16G/Q25R, M1T/A5T/S9P/S16G/Q25R/N31D/V49M, L2S/S9P/S16G/A20T/T32I/Q38R/N42D/T46A/S48L, S16G/Q25R/T46A, G6E/S9A/S16G/Q25R/N31D/N47S/T52M, H19Y/Q38R/T52M, N11D/H19Y/I22M/T32P/N47S/N53S, S16G/H19Y/T36A, S16G/H19Y/T36A/N53D, S9P/N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D,

Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/H19Y/T36A, M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/T36A, M1V/L2S/M4T/H19Y/T36I/V45A/V49M, M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/H19Y/T36A, M1V/L2S/M4T/S9P/Q10R/H19Y/T36A/T46A/N47S, M1V/L2S/M4T/S16G/N31D/T32I/T36A, M1V/M4T/T36A/Q38R/N53K, M1T/N11D/H19Y/T36A/N42S/V45A/N53S, M1T/N31D/T32A/T36A/A38R/S44D/V49A/K50E, M1T/S9P/P23S/Q38R/N42S/S48P/V49A/A54V, H19Y/T36A/S44G, H19Y/T36A, and M4T/T36A/Q38R/N42S/S44G/T46A/N47K/S48P/T52A.

8. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA comprises the amino acid substitutions S16G/H19Y/T36A, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V and A54T.

9. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA comprises the amino acid substitutions S16G/H19Y/T36A/N53D, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

10. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA comprises the amino acid substitutions S9P/N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T,

I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

11. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA comprises the amino acid substitutions~~

~~Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16G, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.~~

12. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA comprises the amino acid substitutions M1V/L2S/M4T/S16G/N31D/T32I/T36A,~~

~~and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, L2C, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, H19Y, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31S, T32A, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.~~

113. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 67.

124. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 68.

135. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 69.

~~16. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 49.~~

~~17. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 74.~~

148. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 67.

159. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 68.

~~1620~~. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 69.

~~21. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 49.~~

~~22. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 and 7, wherein said variant sBCMA has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 74.~~

~~1723~~. The composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said variant sBCMA exhibits enhanced binding affinity for A Proliferation Inducing Ligand (APRIL) or B-cell Activating Factor of the TNF family (BAFF) as compared to SEQ ID NO:1.

~~1824~~. The composition according to any one of claims 1-~~1622~~, wherein said variant sBCMA exhibits enhanced binding affinity for APRIL and BAFF as compared to SEQ ID NO:1.

1925. A nucleic acid encoding said variant sBCMA according to any one of the preceding claims.

206. An expression vector comprising said nucleic acid of claim 1925.

217. A host cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim 1925 or said expression vector of claim 2026.

228. A method of making a variant sBCMA protein comprising: a) culturing said host cell of claim 217 under conditions wherein said Fc fusion protein is expressed; and b) recovering said variant sBCMA protein.

239. A composition comprising an sBCMA variant – Fc fusion protein comprising:

a) a variant sBCMA domain comprising at least one amino acid substitution as compared to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said amino acid substitution is at a position number selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, wherein the numbering is according to the EU index;

b) an optional linker; and

c) an Fc domain.

~~30. The composition according to claim 29, wherein said fusion protein comprises, from N- to C-terminal:~~

~~—— a) said variant sBCMA domain;~~

~~—— b) said optional linker; and~~

~~—— c) said Fc domain.~~

~~31. The composition according to claim 29, wherein said fusion protein comprises, from N- to C-terminal:~~

~~—— a) said Fc domain;~~

~~—— b) said optional linker; and~~

~~—— c) said variant sBCMA domain.~~

~~32. The composition according to any one of claims 29-31, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1.~~

33. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-32, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) occur at one of said positions, two of said positions, three of said positions, four of said positions, five of said positions, six of said positions, seven of said positions, eight of said positions, or nine of said positions.~~

34. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-33, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16G, S16N, S16R, H19L, H19Y, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36A, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.~~

35. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of M1V, L2S, Q3P, M4T, S9P, N11D, S16G, H19Y, N31S, N31D, T32I, T36A, R39H, N47S, K50E, and N53E.~~

36. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-35, wherein said amino acid substitution(s) is selected from the group consisting of S16G, H19Y and T36A.~~

37. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34, wherein said amino acid substitutions are selected from the group consisting of~~
~~L2S/S9P/E12K/N31D/T36A/N42S/N53S, M1V/T32P/T36A/T46I/N53D/A54V,~~
~~Q3R/S16N/T36A/A43T, F14L/S16G/T36A/V45A/N47D,~~
~~M1T/M4V/S9F/S16G/T32A/Q38R, M1A/S9A/Q38R, G6E/Q25R/Q38R,~~
~~M1V/M4I/G6E/S9P/N11D/V49M/T52M/A54V, N11D/S16G/N31S,~~
~~N11D/H19Y/I22M/T32P/N47S/N53S, G6E/Q7R/H19Y/L35S, H19Y/N42D/S48P/T52A,~~
~~M1V/N31D/T32I/T36A, M1V/A5T/H19L/T36A,~~
~~M1T/N31D/T32A/T36A/Q38R/S44D/V49A/K50E, M1V/T36A/Q38R/A43V,~~
~~M1V/L2S/S9P/Q10H/T36A/Q38R/K50G, T36A/Q38R/N53S,~~
~~M1T/L2S/L35P/T36A/Q38R/T46A/K50R, A5T/A20V/T36A/Q38R,~~
~~M1T/S16G/I22V/T36A/S44G/T46A/V49A, S16G/T36A,~~

M1I/N11D/S16G/I22M/S29A/T36A/S44G/K50R, M1C/L2C/Q3R/M4E/N11D/S16G/T36P,
M1I/N11D/S16G/I22M/S29A/T36A/S44G/K50R,
N11D/N31D/T32I/T36A/S44N/N47D/N53D, M1R/L2C/Q3R, H19Y/T36A/S44G,
H19Y/T32I/T36A/V49A, H19Y/N31S/T36A/V45A, H19Y/N31S/T36A, H19Y/T36P/T52A,
H19Y/N31D/T52M, M1V/H19Y/V45M, S16G/H19Y/N47D, S16G/H19Y/K50T,
S16G/H19Y/S44N/K50R, N11D/H19Y/S48T,
S9P/N11D/S16R/T32A/Q38R/S44G/T46I/T52A/N53D/A54T, N11D/S16G/S44R,
H19L/T32A/S44G/G51E/T52A, S16N/H19Y/T36A/K50R, M1V/H19Y/T36A/R39H/T46A,
M1V/H19Y/T36A, H19Y/T36A/N42D/N47S/S48P, M1V/H19Y/T36A/S44G/N47D,
M1V/H19Y/T36A/N42R/N53S, H19Y/L35P/T36A/N42D/T46I/V49A,
Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, M1V/H19Y/T36A/N42R/N53S,
M1T/H19Y/T36A, M1V/S16N/H19Y/I22M/T36A,
M1T/N11D/H19Y/T36A/N42S/V45A/N53S, N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D,
M1V/S9P/Q10P/S16G/H19Y/L26F/T36A/A43V/N53D, S16G/H19Y/T36A/V49A/N53D,
S16G/T36A/A43T/S44G/V45M, M4V/S9P/S16G/T36A/Q38R,
S9P/N11S/S16G/T36A/Q38R, N11D/E12K/S16R/T36A/T52M,
M4V/T32I/T36A/Q38R/A43T/V45A/S48P, S9P/N11D/S16G/Q25R,
M1T/A5T/S9P/S16G/Q25R/N31D/V49M,
L2S/S9P/S16G/A20T/T32I/Q38R/N42D/T46A/S48L, S16G/Q25R/T46A,
G6E/S9A/S16G/Q25R/N31D/N47S/T52M, H19Y/Q38R/T52M,
N11D/H19Y/I22M/T32P/N47S/N53S, S16G/H19Y/T36A, S16G/H19Y/T36A/N53D,
S9P/N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D,
Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/H19Y/T36A,
M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/T36A, M1V/L2S/M4T/H19Y/T36I/V45A/V49M,
M1V/L2S/M4T/N11D/H19Y/T36A, M1V/L2S/M4T/S9P/Q10R/H19Y/T36A/T46A/N47S,
M1V/L2S/M4T/S16G/N31D/T32I/T36A, M1V/M4T/T36A/Q38R/N53K,
M1T/N11D/H19Y/T36A/N42S/V45A/N53S,
M1T/N31D/T32A/T36A/A38R/S44D/V49A/K50E,
M1T/S9P/P23S/Q38R/N42S/S48P/V49A/A54V, H19Y/T36A/S44G, H19Y/T36A, and
M4T/T36A/Q38R/N42S/S44G/T46A/N47K/S48P/T52A.

38. —The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain comprises the amino acid substitutions S16G/H19Y/T36A, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R,

M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

39. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain comprises the amino acid substitutions S16G/H19Y/T36A/N53D, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

40. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain comprises the amino acid substitutions S9P/N11D/S16G/H19Y/T36A/N47S/N53D, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31D, N31S, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

41. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain comprises the amino acid substitutions Q3P/S9P/H19Y/N31S/T36A/R39H/N47R/K50E, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, M1V, L2C, L2S, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4T, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16G, S16N, S16R, H19L, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R,

L26F, S29A, N31D, T32A, T32I, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

42. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain comprises the amino acid substitutions

M1V/L2S/M4T/S16G/N31D/T32I/T36A, and at least one further amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of M1A, M1C, M1I, M1R, M1T, L2C, Q3P, Q3R, M4E, M4I, M4V, A5T, G6E, Q7R, S9A, S9F, S9P, Q10H, Q10P, Q10R, N11D, N11S, E12K, F14L, S16N, S16R, H19L, H19Y, A20V, A20T, I22M, I22V, P23S, Q25R, L26F, S29A, N31S, T32A, T32P, L35S, L35P, T36I, T36P, Q38R, R39H, N42D, N42R, N42S, A43T, A43V, S44D, S44G, S44N, S44R, V45A, V45M, T46A, T46I, N47D, N47K, N47R, N47S, S48L, S48P, S48T, V49A, V49M, K50E, K50G, K50R, K50T, G51E, T52A, T52M, N53D, N53K, N53S, A54V, and A54T.

43. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 67.

44. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 68.

45. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 69.

46. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 49.

47. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 74.

48. — The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 67.

49. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 68.~~

50. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 69.~~

51. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 49.~~

52. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-34 and 37, wherein said variant sBCMA domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 74.~~

53. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-52, wherein said variant sBCMA domain exhibits enhanced binding affinity for APRIL or BAFF as compared to SEQ ID NO:1.~~

54. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-52, wherein said variant sBCMA domain exhibits enhanced binding affinity for APRIL and BAFF as compared to SEQ ID NO:1.~~

55. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-54, wherein said Fc domain is a human IgG Fc domain or a variant human IgG Fc domain.~~

56. — ~~The composition according to claim 55, wherein said human IgG Fc domain comprises the hinge-CH2-CH3 of human IgG1.~~

57. — ~~The composition according to claim 55, wherein said Fc domain is a variant human IgG Fc domain.~~

58. — ~~The composition according to any one of claims 29-57, wherein said linker is SEQ ID NO:87.~~

~~59. The composition according to any one of claims 29-57, wherein said linker is selected from the group consisting of (GS)_n, (GSGGS)_n, (GGGGS)_n, and (GGGS)_n, wherein n is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.~~

~~60. The composition according to claim 59, wherein said linker is SEQ ID NO:88.~~

~~61. The composition according to any one of claims 29, 30, 32-34, 37, 55, and 60, wherein the sBCMA variant—Fc fusion protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:80.~~

~~62. The composition according to any one of claims 29, 30, 32-34, 37, 55, and 60, wherein the sBCMA variant—Fc fusion protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:81.~~

~~63. The composition according to any one of claims 29, 30, 32-34, 37, 55, and 60, wherein the sBCMA variant—Fc fusion protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:82.~~

~~64. The composition according to any one of claims 29, 30, 32-34, 37, 55, and 60, wherein the sBCMA variant—Fc fusion protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:83.~~

~~65. The composition according to any one of claims 29, 30, 32-34, 37, 55, and 60, wherein the sBCMA variant—Fc fusion protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:84.~~

~~66. A nucleic acid encoding said fusion protein according to any one of claims 29-65.~~

~~67. An expression vector comprising said nucleic acid of claim 66.~~

~~68. A host cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim 66 or said expression vector of claim 67.~~

~~69. — A method of making an sBCMA variant — Fc fusion protein comprising: a) culturing said host cell of claim 68 under conditions wherein said fusion protein is expressed; and b) recovering said fusion protein.~~

~~70. — A method of treating, reducing or preventing metastasis or invasion of a tumor that expresses APRIL in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

~~71. — A method of inhibiting the activity of APRIL in a subject having a tumor that expresses APRIL, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

~~72. — A method of inhibiting B-cell growth, immunoglobulin production, or both in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65, wherein said variant sBCMA domain binds to BAFF.~~

~~73. — A method of treating an autoimmune disease expressing at least one receptor selected from the group consisting of BCMA, BAFFR, TACI and other receptor(s) that are activated through binding to BAFF in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

~~74. — A method of treating an autoimmune disease expressing BAFF and/or APRIL in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

~~75. — A method of treating fibrosis expressing BCMA, BAFFR and/or TACI in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

76. — ~~A method of treating fibrosis expressing BAFF and/or APRIL in a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective dose of one or more said fusion proteins according to any one of claims 29 to 65.~~

77. — ~~The method of claim 70 or claim 71, wherein the tumor is a hematologic cancer.~~

78. — ~~The method of claim 77, wherein the hematologic cancer is multiple myeloma.~~