WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain variable region (VH) comprising a heavy chain complementarity determining region-1 (VH-CDR1) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, a heavy chain complementarity determining region-2 (VH-CDR2) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 5, and a heavy chain complementarity determining region-3 (VH-CDR3) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 6; and a light chain variable region (VL) comprising a light chain complementarity determining region-1 (VL-CDR1) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 16 or 9, a light chain complementarity determining region-2 (VL-CDR2) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 10, and a light chain complementarity determining region-3 (VL-CDR3) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 11;

b) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to the same CXCL13 epitope as the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of a); and

c) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competitively inhibits the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of a) from specifically binding to human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13.

2. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH comprises a VH-CDR1 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, a VH-CDR2 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 5, and a VH-CDR3 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 6, and wherein the VL comprises a VL-CDR1 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 16 or 9, a VL-CDR2 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 10, and a VL-CDR3 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 11.

3. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the heavy chain variable region (VH) of said antibody or fragment

thereof comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

4. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 3, wherein the VH of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

6. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 3 or 5, wherein the VH framework regions have five or fewer amino acid substitutions.

7. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the light chain variable region (VL) of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

8. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 7, wherein the VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

9. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

10. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 7 or 9, wherein the VL framework regions have five or fewer amino acid substitutions.

11. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences at least 90% identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

12. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 11, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

13. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 12, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical to SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively.

14. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions each, to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

15. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the VL-CDR1, VL-CDR2, and VL-CDR3 amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 16, 10, and 11, respectively.

16. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the VL-CDR1, VL-CDR2, and VL-CDR3 amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 9, 10, and 11, respectively.

17. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 16, which binds to a linear epitope.

18. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 16, which binds to a non-linear conformational epitope.

19. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 18, which is multispecific.

20. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 19, which is bispecific.

21. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an Fab fragment.

22. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an $F(ab)_2$ fragment.

23. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an Fv fragment.

24. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is a single chain antibody.

25. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is multivalent and comprises at least two heavy chains and at least two light chains.

26. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, 24 and 25, which comprises a light chain constant region selected from the group consisting of a human kappa constant region and a human lambda constant region.

27. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20 and 24 to 26, which comprises a heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof.

28. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein said heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof is human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgM, IgA1, IgA2, IgE or IgD.

29. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 28, which specifically binds to a CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide with an affinity characterized by a dissociation constant (K_D) no greater than 5×10^{-2} M, 10^{-2} M, 5×10^{-3} M, 10^{-3} M, 5×10^{-4} M, 10^{-4} M, 5×10^{-5} M, 10^{-5} M, 5×10^{-6} M, 10^{-6} M, 5×10^{-7} M, 10^{-7} M, 5×10^{-8} M, 10^{-8} M, 5×10^{-9} M, 10^{-9} M, 5×10^{-10} M, 10^{-10} M, 5×10^{-11} M, 10^{-11} M, 5×10^{-12} M, 5.7×10^{-12} M, 8.4×10^{-12} M, 10^{-12} M, 5×10^{-13} M, 10^{-13} M, 5×10^{-14} M, 10^{-14} M, 5×10^{-15} M, or 10^{-15} M.

30. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 29, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is human or murine.

31. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 30, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is human and said $K_{D\ is}$ is about 5×10^{-8} to about 5×10^{-10}.

32. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 30, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is murine and said K_D is about 5×10^{-8} to about 5×10^{-10}.

33. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 32, which inhibits CXCL13 from binding to a CXCL13 receptor.

34. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 33, wherein said CXCL13 receptor is CXCR5.

35. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 34, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is humanized, primatized or chimeric.

36. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 35, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is humanized.

37. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 36, further comprising a heterologous polypeptide fused thereto.

38. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 37, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is conjugated to an agent selected from the group consisting of a cytotoxic agent, a therapeutic agent, a cytostatic agent, a biological toxin, a prodrug, a peptide, a protein, an enzyme, a virus, a lipid, a biological response modifier, a pharmaceutical agent, a lymphokine, a heterologous antibody or fragment thereof, a detectable label, polyethylene glycol (PEG), and a combination of two or more of any said agents.

39. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 38, wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of a radionuclide, a biotoxin, an enzymatically active toxin, or a combination of two or more of any said cytotoxic agents.

40. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 38, wherein said detectable label is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a bioluminescent label, a radioactive label, or a combination of two or more of any said detectable labels.

41. A composition comprising the antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 40, and a carrier.

42. A composition of claim 41, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, and combinations thereof.

43. A composition comprising an isolated heavy chain variable region (VH) encoding polynucleotide and an isolated light chain variable region (VL) encoding polynucleotide, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide encodes a VH polypeptide comprising heavy chain complementarity determining region-1 (VH-CDR1), heavy chain complementarity determining region-2 (VH-CDR2), and heavy chain complementarity determining region-3 (VH-CDR3) amino acid sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, and 6, respectively; wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide encodes a VL polypeptide comprising light chain complementarity determining region-1 (VL-CDR1), light chain complementarity determining region-2 (VL-CDR2), and light chain complementarity determining region-3 (VL-CDR3) amino acid sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 9 or 16, 10, and 11, respectively; and wherein an antibody or fragment thereof encoded by said VH and VL encoding polynucleotides specifically binds human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13.

44. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VH polypeptide is at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

45. The composition of claim 44, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. The composition of claim 45, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

47. The composition of claim 44, wherein at least one of the VH encoding polynucleotide and the VL encoding polynucleotide is optimized for increased expression without changing the amino acid sequence of said VH or VL polypeptide.

48. The composition of claim 47, wherein said optimization comprises identification and removal of splice donor and splice acceptor sites.

49. The composition of claim 47, wherein said optimization comprises optimization of codon usage for the cells expressing said polynucleotide.

50. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VH polypeptide is identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

51. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VL polypeptide is at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 15, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

52. The composition of claim 51, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, and SEQ ID NO: 18.

53. The composition of claim 52, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, and SEQ ID NO:18.

54. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VL polypeptide is identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 15, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

55. The composition according to claim 43, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences at least 90% identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

56. The composition of claim 55, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences consisting of VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

57. The composition according to claim 43, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences identical, except for less than 20 conservative amino acid substitutions, to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

58. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 57, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a signal peptide fused to said antibody VH polypeptide.

59. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 58, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a signal peptide fused to said antibody VL polypeptide.

60. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 59, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH1 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

61. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 60, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH2 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

62. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 61, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH3 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

63. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 62, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain hinge region fused to said VH polypeptide.

64. The composition of claim 62 or 63, wherein said heavy chain constant region is human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgM, IgA1, IgA2, IgE or IgD.

65. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 64, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a light chain constant region domain fused to said VL polypeptide.

66. The composition of claim 65, wherein said light chain constant region is human kappa.

67. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 66 wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are contained on a single vector.

68. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 66, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide is contained on a first vector and said VL encoding polynucleotide is contained on a second vector which is non-identical to said first vector.

69. The composition of claim 67 or 68, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide is operably associated with a first promoter and said VL encoding polynucleotide is operably associated with a second promoter.

70. The composition of claim 69, wherein said first and second promoters are copies of the same promoter.

71. The composition of claim 69, wherein said first and second promoters non-identical.

72. The composition of any one of claims 68 to 71, wherein said first vector and said second vector are contained in a single host cell.

73. The composition of any one of claims 68 to 71, wherein said first vector and said second vector are contained in separate host cells.

74. The composition of claim 67, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are fused in frame, are co-transcribed from a single promoter operably associated therewith, and are cotranslated into a single chain antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

75. The composition of claim 67, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are co-transcribed from a single promoter operably associated therewith, but are separately translated.

76. The composition of claim 67, further comprising an IRES sequence disposed between said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide.

77. The composition of claim 67, wherein said polynucleotide encoding a VH and said polynucleotide encoding a VL are separately transcribed, each being operably associated with a separate promoter.

78. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13, comprising culturing the host cell of the composition of claim 72, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

79. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13, comprising co-culturing the separate host cells of the composition of claim 73, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

80. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13, comprising separately culturing the separate host cells of the composition of claim 73, combining said VH and VL encoding polypeptides, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

81. An antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds human, murine, and cynomolgus monkey CXCL13, produced by the method of any one of claims 78 to 80.

82. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for neutralizing CXCL13 in an animal.

83. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an autoimmune disease or an inflammatory disease in an animal in need of treatment.

84. The use of claim 83, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is multiple sclerosis.

85. The use of claim 83, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is Systemic Lupus Erythematosis (SLE).

86. The use of claim 83, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is arthritis.

87. The use of claim 86, wherein said arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

88. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a cancer in an animal in need of treatment.

89. The use of claim 88, wherein said cancer is prostate or colon cancer.

90. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting gastric lymphoid follicles in an animal.

91. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma in an animal in need of prevention or treatment.

92. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating a gastric or duodenal ulcer in an animal in need of prevention or treatment.

93. The use of any one of claims 90 to 92, wherein said animal has been infected with a *Heliobacter* bacterium.

94. The use of any one of claims 82 to 93, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits CXCL13 binding to a CXCL13 receptor.

95. The use of claim 94, wherein said CXCL13 receptor is CXCR5.

96. The use of claim 95, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits CXCR5 receptor internalization.

97. The use of any one of claims 82 to 96, wherein said animal is a mammal.

98. The use of claim 97, wherein said mammal is a human.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to CXCL13, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding fragment is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof wherein the heavy chain variable region (VH) of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises a Chothia-Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-1 (VH-CDR1) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, a Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-2 (VH-CDR2) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 5, and a Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-3 (VH-CDR3) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 6; and wherein the light chain variable region (VL) of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises a Kabat light chain complementarity determining region-1 (VL-CDR1) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 16 or 9, a Kabat light chain complementarity determining region-2 (VL-CDR2) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 10, and a Kabat light chain complementarity determining region-3 (VL-CDR3) amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 11;

b) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to the same CXCL13 epitope as the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of a); and

c) an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competitively inhibits the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of a) from specifically binding to CXCL13.

2. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH comprises a VH-CDR1 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, a VH-CDR2 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 5, and a VH-CDR3 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 6, and wherein the VL comprises a VL-CDR1 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 16 or 9, a VL-CDR2 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 10, and a VL-CDR3 amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: 11.

3. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the heavy chain variable region (VH) of said antibody or fragment

thereof comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

4. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 3, wherein the VH of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

6. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 3 or 5, wherein the VH framework regions have five or fewer amino acid substitutions.

7. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the light chain variable region (VL) of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

8. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 7, wherein the VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

9. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

10. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 7 or 9, wherein the VL framework regions have five or fewer amino acid substitutions.

11. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences at least 90% identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

12. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 11, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

13. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 12, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical to SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively.

14. The isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the VH and VL of said antibody or fragment thereof comprise amino acid sequences identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions each, to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

15. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the VL-CDR1, VL-CDR2, and VL-CDR3 amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 16, 10, and 11, respectively.

16. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the VL-CDR1, VL-CDR2, and VL-CDR3 amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 9, 10, and 11, respectively.

17. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 16, which binds to a linear epitope.

18. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 16, which binds to a non-linear conformational epitope.

19. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 18, which is multispecific.

20. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 19, which is bispecific.

21. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an Fab fragment.

22. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an $F(ab)_2$ fragment.

23. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is an Fv fragment.

24. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is a single chain antibody.

25. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, which is multivalent and comprises at least two heavy chains and at least two light chains.

26. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20, 24 and 25, which comprises a light chain constant region selected from the group consisting of a human kappa constant region and a human lambda constant region.

27. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 20 and 24 to 26, which comprises a heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof.

28. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein said heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof is human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgM, IgA1, IgA2, IgE or IgD.

29. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 28, which specifically binds to a CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide with an affinity characterized by a dissociation constant (K_D) no greater than 5×10^{-2} M, 10^{-2} M, 5×10^{-3} M, 10^{-3} M, 5×10^{-4} M, 10^{-4} M, 5×10^{-5} M, 10^{-5} M, 5×10^{-6} M, 10^{-6} M, 5×10^{-7} M, 10^{-7} M, 5×10^{-8} M, 10^{-8} M, 5×10^{-9} M, 10^{-9} M, 5×10^{-10} M, 10^{-10} M, 5×10^{-11} M, 10^{-11} M, 5×10^{-12} M, 5.7×10^{-12} M, 8.4×10^{-12} M, 10^{-12} M, 5×10^{-13} M, 10^{-13} M, 5×10^{-14} M, 10^{-14} M, 5×10^{-15} M, or 10^{-15} M.

30. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 29, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is human or murine.

31. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 30, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is human and said $K_{D\ is}$ is about 5×10^{-8} to about 5×10^{-10}.

32. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 30, wherein said CXCL13 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or a CXCL13 variant polypeptide is murine and said K_D is about 5 x 10^{-8} to about 5 x 10^{-10}.

33. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 32, which inhibits CXCL13 from binding to a CXCL13 receptor.

34. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 33, wherein said CXCL13 receptor is CXCR5.

35. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 34, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is humanized, primatized or chimeric.

36. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 35, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is humanized.

37. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 36, further comprising a heterologous polypeptide fused thereto.

38. The antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 37, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is conjugated to an agent selected from the group consisting of a cytotoxic agent, a therapeutic agent, a cytostatic agent, a biological toxin, a prodrug, a peptide, a protein, an enzyme, a virus, a lipid, a biological response modifier, a pharmaceutical agent, a lymphokine, a heterologous antibody or fragment thereof, a detectable label, polyethylene glycol (PEG), and a combination of two or more of any said agents.

39. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 38, wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of a radionuclide, a biotoxin, an enzymatically active toxin, or a combination of two or more of any said cytotoxic agents.

40. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 38, wherein said detectable label is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a bioluminescent label, a radioactive label, or a combination of two or more of any said detectable labels.

41. A composition comprising the antibody or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 40, and a carrier.

42. A composition of claim 41, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, and combinations thereof.

43. A composition comprising an isolated heavy chain variable region (VH) encoding polynucleotide and an isolated light chain variable region (VL) encoding polynucleotide, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide encodes a VH polypeptide comprising Chothia-Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-1 (VH-CDR1), Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-2 (VH-CDR2), and Kabat heavy chain complementarity determining region-3 (VH-CDR3) amino acid sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, and 6, respectively; wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide encodes a VL polypeptide comprising Kabat light chain comlementarity determining region-1 (VL-CDR1), Kabat light chain complementarity determining region-2 (VL-CDR2), and Kabat light chain complementarity determining region-3 (VL-CDR3) amino acid sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 9 or 16, 10, and 11, respectively; and wherein an antibody or fragment thereof encoded by said VH and VL encoding polynucleotides specifically binds CXCL13.

44. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VH polypeptide is at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

45. The composition of claim 44, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. The composition of claim 45, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

47. The composition of claim 44, wherein at least one of the VH encoding polynucleotide and the VL encoding polynucleotide is optimized for increased expression without changing the amino acid sequence of said VH or VL polypeptide.

48. The composition of claim 47, wherein said optimization comprises identification and removal of splice donor and splice acceptor sites.

49. The composition of claim 47, wherein said optimization comprises optimization of codon usage for the cells expressing said polynucleotide.

50. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VH polypeptide is identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

51. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VL polypeptide is at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 15, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

52. The composition of claim 51, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, and SEQ ID NO: 18.

53. The composition of claim 52, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, and SEQ ID NO:18.

54. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the amino acid sequence of said VL polypeptide is identical, except for 20 or fewer conservative amino acid substitutions, to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 15, and SEQ ID NO: 17.

55. The composition according to claim 43, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences at least 90% identical to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

56. The composition of claim 55, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences consisting of VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

57. The composition according to claim 43, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide comprise nucleic acids encoding amino acid sequences identical, except for less than 20 conservative amino acid substitutions, to VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively;

(b) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 15, respectively; and

(c) SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 17, respectively.

58. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 57, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a signal peptide fused to said antibody VH polypeptide.

59. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 58, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a signal peptide fused to said antibody VL polypeptide.

60. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 59, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH1 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

61. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 60, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH2 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

62. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 61, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain constant region CH3 domain fused to said VH polypeptide.

63. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 62, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain hinge region fused to said VH polypeptide.

64. The composition of claim 62 or 63, wherein said heavy chain constant region is human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgM, IgA1, IgA2, IgE or IgD.

65. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 64, wherein said VL encoding polynucleotide further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a light chain constant region domain fused to said VL polypeptide.

66. The composition of claim 65, wherein said light chain constant region is human kappa.

67. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 66 wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are contained on a single vector.

68. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 66, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide is contained on a first vector and said VL encoding polynucleotide is contained on a second vector which is non-identical to said first vector.

69. The composition of claim 67 or 68, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide is operably associated with a first promoter and said VL encoding polynucleotide is operably associated with a second promoter.

70. The composition of claim 69, wherein said first and second promoters are copies of the same promoter.

71. The composition of claim 69, wherein said first and second promoters non-identical.

72. The composition of any one of claims 68 to 71, wherein said first vector and said second vector are contained in a single host cell.

73. The composition of any one of claims 68 to 71, wherein said first vector and said second vector are contained in separate host cells.

74. The composition of any one of claims 43 to 73, wherein said antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof specifically binds to human and murine CXCL13.

75. The composition of claim 67, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are fused in frame, are co-transcribed from a single promoter operably associated therewith, and are cotranslated into a single chain antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

76. The composition of claim 67, wherein said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide are co-transcribed from a single promoter operably associated therewith, but are separately translated.

77. The composition of claim 67, further comprising an IRES sequence disposed between said VH encoding polynucleotide and said VL encoding polynucleotide.

78. The composition of claim 67, wherein said polynucleotide encoding a VH and said polynucleotide encoding a VL are separately transcribed, each being operably associated with a separate promoter.

79. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds CXCL13, comprising culturing the host cell of the composition of claim 72, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

80. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds CXCL13, comprising co-culturing the separate host cells of the composition of claim 73, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

81. A method of producing an antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds CXCL13, comprising separately culturing the separate host cells of the composition of claim 73, combining said VH and VL encoding polypeptides, and recovering said antibody, or fragment thereof.

82. An antibody or fragment thereof which specifically binds CXCL13, produced by the method of any one of claims 79 to 81.

83. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for neutralizing CXCL13 in an animal.

84. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an autoimmune disease or an inflammatory disease in an animal in need of treatment.

85. The use of claim 84, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is multiple sclerosis.

86. The use of claim 84, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is Systemic Lupus Erythematosis (SLE).

87. The use of claim 84, wherein said autoimmune disease or said inflammatory disease is arthritis.

88. The use of claim 87, wherein said arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

89. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a cancer in an animal in need of treatment.

90. The use of claim 89, wherein said cancer is prostate or colon cancer.

91. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting gastric lymphoid follicles in an animal.

92. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma in an animal in need of prevention or treatment.

93. Use of a composition comprising:

(a) the isolated antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 40 or the composition of claim 41 or 42; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating a gastric or duodenal ulcer in an animal in need of prevention or treatment.

94. The use of any one of claims 91 to 93, wherein said animal has been infected with a *Heliobacter* bacterium.

95. The use of any one of claims 83 to 94, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits CXCL13 binding to a CXCL13 receptor.

96. The use of claim 95, wherein said CXCL13 receptor is CXCR5.

97. The use of claim 96, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits CXCR5 receptor internalization.

98. The use of any one of claims 83 to 97, wherein said animal is a mammal.

99. The use of claim 98, wherein said mammal is a human.