HUMAN ANTIBODIES TO FEL D1 AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention is related to human antibodies and antigen-binding fragments of human antibodies that specifically bind to the cat allergen Fel d1, therapeutic compositions comprising the antibodies and methods of using those antibodies.

STATEMENT OF RELATED ART

[0002] The Fel d1 protein is a secreted cat protein, which belongs to the secretoglobin family of small disulfide linked heterodimeric proteins found only in mammals (Klug, J. *et al.* (2000), Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 923:348-354). It is the major cause of cat allergies in humans (Platts-Mills, T.A., *et al.* (1997), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 100:S2-S24). About 90-95% of patients allergic to cats have an IgE response to the Fel d 1 protein (van Ree, *et al.* (1999), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 104:1223-1230). The symptoms in a patient who experiences an allergic response to Fel d1 can range from mild rhinitis and conjunctivitis to life-threatening asthmatic responses. Fel d1 is produced by sebaceous glands and squamous glands and squamous epithelial cells and is transferred to the pelt by licking and grooming (Bartholome, K. *et al.* (1985), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 76:503-506; Charpin, C. *et al.* (1991), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 88:77-82; Dabrowski, A.J. (1990), *et al.* J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 86:462-465). It is also present in the salivary, perianal and lachrymal glands (Andersen, M.C., *et al.* (1985), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 76:563-569; van Milligen, F.J. (1992), *et al.,* Int. Arch. Allergy Appl. Immunol. 92(4):375-378) and the principal reservoirs appear to be the skin and the fur (Mata, P. *et al.* (1992), Ann. Allergy 69(4):321-322).

[0003] Natural Fel d1 is an approximately 18 kDa heterodimeric glycoprotein. Each heterodimer comprises two polypeptide chains, which are covalently linked by three inter-chain disulfide bonds and which are encoded by two separate genes (Duffort, OA, *et al.,* (1991), Mol. Immunol. 28:301-309; Morgenstern, JP, *et al.*, (1991), PNAS 88:9690-9694; Griffith, I.J., *et al.* (1992), Gene 113:263-268; Kristensen, A.K. *et al.* (1997), Biol. Chem. 378:899-908). Chain 1 comprises 70 amino acid residues and chain 2 comprises about 90-92 amino acid residues. Structurally the two chains are similar, but have only 10-15% sequence identity (Kaiser, L. *et al.* (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278(39):37730-37735). Although each chain is sometimes individually referred to as Fel d1, both chains are needed for the full protein allergen.

[0004] The Fel d1 protein is of an unknown function to the animal but causes an IgG or IgE reaction in sensitive humans (either as an allergic or asthmatic response). Although other cat allergens are known, including Fel d2 (albumin) and Fel d3 (cystatin), 60% to 90% of the anti-cat IgE produced is directed against Fel d1 (Leitermann, K. *et al.,* (1984), J Allergy Clin. Immunol. 74:147-153; Lowenstein, H. *et al.,* (1985), Allergy 40:430-441; van Ree, R. *et al.,* (1999), J. Allergy

Clin. Immunol. 104:1223-1230; Ichikawa, K. *et al.*, (2011), Clin. Exp. Allergy, 31:1279-1286).

[0005] Immunoglobulin E (IgE) is responsible for type 1 hypersensitivity, which manifests itself in allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, hay fever, allergic asthma, bee venom allergy, and food allergies. IgE circulates in the blood and binds to high-affinity FcεR1α receptors for IgE on basophils and mast cells. In most allergic responses, the allergens enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, or through the skin. The allergen then binds to preformed IgE already bound to the high affinity receptor on the surfaces of mast cells and basophils, resulting in cross-linking of several IgE molecules and triggering the release of histamine and other inflammatory mediators causing the various allergic symptoms.

[0006] The treatment for allergies includes steroids for suppressing the immune activity and bronchial dilators for relieving asthma symptoms. Desensitization therapy is also used for severely allergic patients. Peptide vaccine combinations have been tested for desensitizing individuals to particular allergens, *e.g.* Fel d1 (See US2010/0239599A1 and EP2380591A2). Antibodies have been proposed as a treatment for allergies, since they may be able to block the entry of allergenic molecules into the mucosal tissues, or may bind the allergen before it has the opportunity to bind to the IgE bound to the high affinity receptor on mast cells or basophils, thus preventing the release of histamine and other inflammatory mediators from these cells.

[0007] U.S. patent number 5,670,626 describes the use of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of IgE-mediated allergic diseases such as allergic rhinitis, allergic asthma, and allergic conjunctivitis by blocking the binding of allergens to the mucosal tissue. U.S. patent number 6,849,259 describes the use of allergen-specific antibodies to inhibit allergic inflammation in an *in vivo* mouse model of allergy. Milk-based and egg-based antibody systems have been described. For example, US20030003133A1 discloses using milk as a carrier for allergens for inducing oral tolerance to cat dander and other allergens. Compositions and methods for reducing an allergic response in an animal to an allergen in the environment through use of a molecule that inhibits the ability of the allergen to bind to mast cells was described in US2010/0143266. Other antibodies to Fel d1 were described by de Groot *et. al.* (de Groot *et. al.,* (1988), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 82:778-786).

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The invention provides fully human monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) and antigen-binding fragments thereof that bind specifically to the cat allergen, Fel d1. Such antibodies may be useful to bind the Fel d1 allergen *in vivo* following exposure of a sensitized patient to the cat allergen, and as such, may act to either promote clearance of Fel d1 or to block the binding of the allergen to pre-formed IgE on the surface of mast cells or basophils. By doing so, the antibodies of the invention may prevent the release of histamine or other inflammatory mediators from mast cells or basophils, thereby preventing or diminishing the untoward effects observed in patients sensitized to the cat

allergen. In certain embodiments, the antibodies may be capable of reducing, minimizing, or preventing at least one symptom in a patient sensitive to the Fel d1 cat allergen, such as sneezing, congestion, nasal blockage, coughing, wheezing, bronchoconstriction, rhinitis, or conjunctivitis. In certain embodiments, the antibodies may be capable of preventing even more serious *in vivo* complications associated with exposure to the cat allergen in sensitized individuals, such as asthmatic responses, anaphylaxis, or even death.

[0009] The antibodies of the invention can be full-length (for example, an IgG1 or IgG4 antibody) or may comprise only an antigen-binding portion (for example, a Fab, $F(ab')_2$ or scFv fragment), and may be modified to affect functionality, *e.g.,* to eliminate residual effector functions (Reddy *et al.,* (2000), J. Immunol. 164:1925-1933).

[0010] A first aspect of the invention provides an isolated human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1.

[0011] In one embodiment, the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof is an isotype other than an IgA isotype.

[0012] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof has an isotype selected from the group consisting of an IgG1, an IgG2 and an IgG4.

[0013] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds specifically to Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 10^{-6} M. In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds specifically to Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 1.8 nM.

[0014] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises the three heavy chain CDRs (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) contained within any one of the heavy chain variable region (HCVR) sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354, 370 and 460; and the three light chain CDRs (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) contained within any one of the light chain variable region (LCVR) sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468. Methods and techniques for identifying CDRs within HCVR and LCVR amino acid sequences are well known in the art and can be used to identify CDRs within the specified HCVR and/or LCVR amino acid sequences disclosed herein. Exemplary conventions that can be used to identify the boundaries of CDRs include, *e.g.*, the Kabat definition, the Chothia definition, and the AbM definition. In general terms, the Kabat definition is based on sequence variability, the Chothia definition is based on the location of the structural loop regions, and the AbM definition is a compromise between the Kabat and Chothia approaches. *See*, *e.g.*, Kabat, "Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest," National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991); Al-Lazikani *et al.*, (1997), *J. Mol. Biol. 273*:927-948; and

Martin *et al.*, (1989), *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86*:9268-9272. Public databases are also available for identifying CDR sequences within an antibody.

[0015] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises the three heavy chain CDRs (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) contained within any one of the heavy chain variable region (HCVR) sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460; and the three light chain CDRs (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) contained within any one of the light chain variable region (LCVR) sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 26, 74, 138, 170, 250, 314, 330, 378 and 468.

[0016] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354, 370 and 460.

[0017] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460.

[0018] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468.

[0019] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 26, 74, 138, 170, 250, 314, 330, 378 and 468.

[0020] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises: (a) a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354, 370 and 460; and (b) a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468.

[0021] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises: (a) a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460; and (b) a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 26, 74, 138, 170, 250, 314, 330, 378 and 468.

[0022] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises:

(a) a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 20, 36, 52, 68, 84, 100, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180, 196, 212, 228, 244, 260, 276, 292, 308, 324, 340, 356, 372 and 462;

(b) a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 22, 38, 54, 70, 86, 102, 118, 134, 150, 166, 182, 198, 214, 230, 246, 262, 278, 294, 310, 326, 342, 358, 374 and 464;

(c) a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 152, 168, 184, 200, 216, 232,248, 264, 280, 296, 312, 328, 344, 360, 376 and 466;

(d) a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 12, 28, 44, 60, 76, 92, 108, 124, 140, 156, 172, 188, 204, 220, 236, 252, 268, 284, 300, 316, 332, 348, 364, 380 and 470;

(e) a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 126, 142, 158, 174, 190, 206, 222, 238, 254, 270, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366, 382 and 472; and

(f) a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 240, 256, 272, 288, 304, 320, 336, 352, 368, 384 and 474.

[0023] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises:

(a) a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 20, 68, 132, 164, 244,308, 324, 372 and 462;

(b) a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 22, 70, 134, 166, 246, 310, 326, 374 and 464;

(c) a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 24, 72, 136, 168, 248, 312, 328, 376 and 466;

(d) a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 28, 76, 140, 172, 252, 316, 332, 380 and 470;

(e) a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 30, 78, 142, 174, 254, 318, 334, 382 and 472; and

(f) a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 32, 80, 144, 176, 256, 320, 336, 384 and 474.

[0024] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2/10, 18/26, 34/42, 50/58, 66/74, 82/90, 98/106, 114/122, 130/138, 146/154, 162/170,

178/186, 194/202, 210/218, 226/234, 242/250, 258/266, 274/282, 290/298, 306/314, 322/330, 338/346, 354/362, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0025] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 242/250, 306/314, 322/330, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0026] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138 and 162/170.

[0027] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26 and 322/330.

[0028] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26 and 306/314.

[0029] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26 and 370/378.

[0030] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 242/250 and 306/314.

[0031] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 242/250 and 322/330.

[0032] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds specifically to Fel d1 interacts with at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues ranging from about position 15 to about position 24 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 103 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 104 of SEQ ID NO: 396; and amino acid residues ranging from about position 113 to about position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

[0033] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with amino acid residues ranging from about position 15 to about position 24 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

[0034] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 103 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

[0035] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 104 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

[0036] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with amino acid residues ranging from about position 113 to about position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

[0037] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 402, 403, 404 and 412.

[0038] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with SEQ ID NO: 402.

[0039] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with SEQ ID NO: 403.

[0040] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with SEQ ID NO: 404.

[0041] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with SEQ ID NO: 426.

[0042] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which binds to Fel d1 interacts with SEQ ID NO: 412.

[0043] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that interacts with SEQ ID NOs: 402, 403, 404 and/or 426, comprises the three HCDRs contained in the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 18 and the three LCDRs contained in the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 26.

[0044] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that interacts with SEQ ID NOs: 402, 403, 404 and/or 426, comprises a HCDR1 of SEQ ID NO: 20; a HCDR2 of SEQ ID NO: 22; a HCDR3 of SEQ ID NO: 24; a LCDR1 of SEQ ID NO: 28; a LCDR2 of SEQ ID NO: 30 and a LCDR3 of SEQ ID NO: 32.

[0045] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that interacts with SEQ ID NO: 412 comprises the three HCDRs contained in the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 306 and the three LCDRs contained in the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 314.

[0046] In one embodiment, the isolated human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that interacts with SEQ ID NO: 412 comprises a HCDR1 of SEQ ID NO: 308; a HCDR2 of SEQ ID NO: 310; a HCDR3 of SEQ ID NO: 312; a LCDR1 of SEQ ID NO: 316; a LCDR2 of SEQ ID NO: 318 and a LCDR3 of SEQ ID NO: 320.

[0047] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 20, 22 and 24, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 28, 30 and 32, respectively.

[0048] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 68, 70 and 72, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 76, 78 and 80, respectively.

[0049] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 132, 134 and 136, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 140, 142 and 144, respectively.

[0050] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 164, 166 and 168, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 172, 174 and 176, respectively.

[0051] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 244, 246 and 248, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 252, 254 and 256, respectively.

[0052] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 308, 310 and 312, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 316, 318 and 320, respectively.

[0053] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 324, 326 and 328, respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 332, 334 and 336, respectively.

[0054] In one embodiment, the human antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 372, 374 and 376 respectively and LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 380, 382 and 384, respectively.

[0055] In one embodiment, the invention provides a fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: (i) comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460,

or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (ii) comprises a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 26, 74, 138, 170, 250, 314, 330, 378 and 468, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iii) comprises a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 24, 72, 136, 168, 248, 312, 328, 376 and 466, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 32, 80, 144, 176, 256, 320, 336, 384 and 474, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iv) comprises a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 20, 68, 132, 164, 244, 308, 324, 372 and 462, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 22, 70, 134, 166, 246, 310, 326, 374 and 464, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 28, 76, 140, 172, 252, 316, 332, 380 and 470, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 30, 78, 142, 174, 254, 318, 334, 382 and 472, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (v) binds to Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 10^{-6} and preferably equal to or less than 10^{-9}; (vi) demonstrates efficacy in at least one animal model of anaphylaxis or inflammation; or (vii) competes with a reference antibody for binding to Fel d1.

[0056] In one embodiment, a "reference antibody" may include, for example, antibodies having a combination of heavy chain and light chain amino acid sequence pairs selected from the group consisting of 18/26, 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 242/250, 306/314, 322/330, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0057] In one embodiment, the fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof that binds to Fel d1 comprises a HCDR1 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3 – X^4 – X^5 – X^6 – X^7 – X^8$ (SEQ ID NO:386) wherein X^1 is Gly, X^2 is Phe, Tyr or Gly, X^3 is Thr or Ser, X^4 is Phe or Ile, X^5 is Ser, Arg, Thr, or Asn, X^6 is Asn, Thr, Asp, or Ser, X^7 is Tyr, and X^8 is Asn, Tyr, or Ala; a HCDR2 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3 – X^4 – X^5 – X^6 – X^7 – X^8$ (SEQ ID NO: 387), wherein X^1 is Ile, X^2 is Tyr, Ser, or Asn, X^3 is Tyr, Ser, Gly, Pro, or Asp, X^4 is Asp, Arg, or Ser, X^5 is Gly, Val, or Ser, X^6 is Ser, Gly, Arg, or Tyr, X^7 is Tyr, Arg, Thr, Ser, or Asn, and X^8 is Ile, Thr, Ala, Ser, or absent; a HCDR3 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3 – X^4 –$

$X^5 – X^6 – X^7 – X^8 – X^9 – X^{10} – X^{11}$ - $X^{12} – X^{13} – X^{14} – X^{15} – X^{16}$ (SEQ ID NO: 388), wherein X^1 is Ala, X^2 is Lys or Arg, X^3 is Arg, Gly, His, Ser, Asp, Leu, or Thr, X^4 is Thr, Pro, Arg, Gly, or Glu, X^5 is Leu, Val, Gly, Lys, Tyr, or Asn, X^6 is Ser, Arg, Thr, Ala, Tyr, Phe, or Trp, X^7 is Tyr, Gly, Arg, Ala, Asn, Asp, His, or Asn, X^8 is Tyr, Thr, Ser, or His, X^9 is Val, Ser, Ala, Phe, Pro, or absent, X^{10} is Met, Gly, Asp, Pro, Val, or absent, X^{11} is Asp, Tyr, Ser, Gly, Phe, or absent, X^{12} is Val, Asp, Phe, or absent, X^{13} is Phe, Asp, or absent, X^{14} is Phe, Tyr, or absent, X^{15} is Asp or absent, X^{16} is Tyr or absent; a LCDR1 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3 – X^4 – X^5 – X^6 – X^7 – X^8 – X^9 – X^{10} – X^{11}$ - X^{12} (SEQ ID NO: 389), wherein X^1 is Gln, X^2 is Gly, Ser, or Asp, X^3 is Ile or Val, X^4 is Ser, Leu, Asn, or Gly, X^5 is Asn, Tyr, Gly, or Ser, X^6 is Tyr, Ser, Phe, or Trp, X^7 is Ser or absent, X^8 is Asn or absent, X^9 is Asn or absent, X^{10} is Lys or absent, X^{11} is Gln or absent, X^{12} is Tyr or absent; a LCDR2 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3$ (SEQ ID NO: 390), wherein X^1 is Ala, Trp, Asp, Tyr, Lys, Gly, or Ser, X^2 is Ala or Thr, and X^3 is Ser; and a LCDR3 sequence comprising the formula $X^1 – X^2 – X^3 – X^4 – X^5 – X^6 – X^7 – X^8 – X^9$ (SEQ ID NO: 391), wherein X^1 is Gln, Leu, or His, X^2 is Lys, Gln, or His, X^3 is Tyr, Ser, or Leu, X^4 is Tyr, Asn, Gly, Asp, or Ser, X^5 is Ser, Asp, or Asn, X^6 is Leu, Ala, Tyr, Thr, or Phe, X^7 is Pro or Arg, X^8 is Leu, Phe, Tyr, or Thr and X^9 is Thr or absent.

[0058] In one embodiment, the invention features a human antibody or antigen-binding fragment specific for Fel d1, comprising a HCVR encoded by nucleotide sequence segments derived from V_H, D_H and J_H germline sequences, and a LCVR encoded by nucleotide sequence segments derived from V_K and J_K germline sequences, with combinations as shown in Table 2.

[0059] The invention encompasses antibodies having a modified glycosylation pattern. In some applications, modification to remove undesirable glycosylation sites may be useful, or e.g., removal of a fucose moiety to increase antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) function (see Shield *et al*. (2002) JBC 277:26733). In other applications, modification of galactosylation can be made in order to modify complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC).

[0060] A second aspect provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competes for specific binding to Fel d1 with an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (HCVR), wherein the HCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354, 370 and 460; and the CDRs of a light chain variable region (LCVR), wherein the LCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468.

[0061] One embodiment provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competes for specific binding to Fel d1 with an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising

the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (HCVR), wherein the HCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460; and the CDRs of a light chain variable region (LCVR), wherein the LCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 26, 74, 138, 170, 250, 314, 330, 378 and 468.

[0062] In a related embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competes for specific binding to Fel d1 with an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising the heavy and light chain CDRs contained within heavy and light chain sequence pairs selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 242/250, 306/314, 322/330, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0063] A third aspect provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds the same epitope on Feld 1 as an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (HCVR), wherein the HCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354, 370 and 460; and the CDRs of a light chain variable region (LCVR), wherein the LCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468.

[0064] One embodiment provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds the same epitope on Fel d1 as an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of a heavy chain variable region (HCVR), wherein the HCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18, 66, 130, 162, 242, 306, 322, 370 and 460; and the CDRs of a light chain variable region (LCVR), wherein the LCVR has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362, 378 and 468.

[0065] In a related embodiment, the invention provides an isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds the same epitope on Fel d1 as an antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprising the heavy and light chain CDRs contained within heavy and light chain sequence pairs selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 242/250, 306/314, 322/330, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0066] A fourth aspect provides for a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule that specifically binds Fel d1, which comprises two antigen-binding domains (two arms) that comprise an HCVR amino acid sequence and a LCVR amino acid sequence from any two or more antibodies described herein.

[0067] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule comprises a first antigen-binding domain that comprises a HCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 370 and a LCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 378, and a second antigen-binding domain that comprises a HCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 and a LCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 378.

[0068] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule comprises a first antigen-binding domain that comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 372, 374 and 376, respectively, and three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 380, 382 and 384, respectively; and wherein the second antigen-binding domain comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 20, 22 and 24, respectively, and three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 380, 382 and 384, respectively.

[0069] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule comprises a first antigen-binding domain that comprises a HCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 306 and a LCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314, and a second antigen-binding domain that comprises a HCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 and a LCVR amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314.

[0070] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 308, 310 and 312, respectively, and three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 316, 318 and 320, respectively; and wherein the second antigen-binding domain comprises three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 20, 22 and 24, respectively, and three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 316, 318 and 320, respectively.

[0071] In one embodiment, the invention provides for an isolated antibody specific for Fel d1, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof that competes for binding to Fel d1 with any one of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention.

[0072] In one embodiment, the invention provides for an isolated antibody specific for Fel d1, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to the same epitope on Fel d1 as any of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention.

[0073] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule is an isolated human monoclonal antibody that binds specifically to Fel d1.

[0074] In one embodiment, the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule is an isolated human monoclonal antibody that binds specifically to Fel d1, wherein the human monoclonal antibody is a mono-specific antibody or a bi-specific antibody.

[0075] In one embodiment, the invention provides for a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one bi-specific antigen-binding molecule as described herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

[0076] In one embodiment, the invention provides for a method for treating a patient who demonstrates a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein, or for treating at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention, to a patient in need thereof, wherein the patient demonstrates a reduced sensitivity to, or a diminished allergic reaction against a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein, or does not experience any sensitivity to, or allergic reaction to a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein, or wherein the patient demonstrates a reduction in at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein, or a reduction in the frequency and/or duration of at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof, or to Fel d1 protein following administration of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules or a composition comprising the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention.

[0077] In one embodiment, the invention provides for administering an effective amount of a second therapeutic agent along with at least one bi-specific antigen-binding molecule of the invention useful for diminishing an allergic reaction to a cat, cat dander, or to Fel d1 protein. The second therapeutic agent may be selected from the group consisting of a corticosteroid, a bronchial dilator, an antihistamine, epinephrine, a decongestant, a corticosteroid, another different antibody to Fel d1 and a peptide vaccine.

[0078] In one embodiment, the treatment with one or more bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the invention alone, or in combination with a second therapeutic agent, may result in a reduction in allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, allergic asthma, or an anaphylactic response following exposure of the patient to a cat, cat dander or to Fel d1 protein.

[0079] In a fifth aspect, the invention provides nucleic acid molecules encoding Fel d1 antibodies or fragments thereof. Recombinant expression vectors carrying the nucleic acids of the invention, and host cells into which such vectors have been introduced, are also encompassed by the invention, as are methods of producing the antibodies by culturing the host cells under conditions permitting production of the antibodies, and recovering the antibodies produced.

[0080] In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a HCVR encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 17, 33, 49, 65, 81, 97, 113, 129, 145, 161, 177, 193, 209, 225, 241, 257, 273, 289, 305, 321, 337, 353, 369 and 459, or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0081] In one embodiment, the HCVR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 17, 65, 129, 161, 241, 305, 321, 369 and 459.

[0082] In one embodiment, the antibody or fragment thereof further comprises a LCVR encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, 25, 41, 57, 73, 89, 105, 121, 137, 153, 169, 185, 201, 217, 233, 249, 265, 281, 297, 313, 329, 345, 361, 377 and 467 or a substantially identical sequence having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98%, or at least 99% homology thereof.

[0083] In one embodiment, the LCVR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 25, 73, 137, 169, 249, 313, 329, 377 and 467.

[0084] In one embodiment, the invention also provides an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody comprising a HCDR3 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, 23, 39, 55, 71, 87, 103, 119, 135, 151, 167, 183, 199, 215, 231, 247, 263, 279, 295, 311, 327, 343, 359, 375 and 465, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR3 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, 31, 47, 63, 79, 95, 111, 127, 143, 159, 175, 191, 207, 223, 239, 255, 271, 287, 303, 319, 335, 351, 367, 383 and 473, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0085] In one embodiment, the invention provides an antibody or fragment thereof further comprising a HCDR1 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, 19, 35, 51, 67, 83, 99, 115, 131, 147, 163, 179, 195, 211, 227, 243, 259, 275, 291, 307, 323, 339, 355, 371 and 461, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a HCDR2 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, 21, 37, 53, 69, 85, 101, 117, 133, 149, 165, 181, 197, 213, 229, 245, 261, 277, 293, 309, 325, 341, 357, 373 and 463, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least

98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a LCDR1 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 11, 27, 43, 59, 75, 91, 107, 123, 139, 155, 171, 187, 203, 219, 235, 251, 267, 283, 299, 315, 331, 347, 363, 379 and 469, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR2 domain encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 13, 29, 45, 61, 77, 93, 109, 125, 141, 157, 173, 189, 205, 221, 237, 253, 269, 285, 301, 317, 333, 349, 365, 381 and 471, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity.

[0086] A sixth aspect provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of one or more isolated human antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind Fel d1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

[0087] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of two or more isolated human antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that specifically bind Fel d1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

[0088] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first fully human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, which comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence as set forth is SEQ ID NO: 18; and a LCVR having an amino acid sequence as set forth is SEQ ID NO: 26; and

b) an isolated second fully human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, which comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 66, 130, 162, 306, 322, 370 and 460; and a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 74, 138, 170, 314, 330, 378 and 468.

[0089] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first fully human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, which comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence as set forth is SEQ ID NO: 242; and a LCVR having an amino acid sequence as set forth is SEQ ID NO: 250; and

b) an isolated second fully human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, which comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 306, 322 and 460; and a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 314, 330 and 468.

[0090] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) an isolated second fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 306/314, 322/330 370/378 and 460/468.

[0091] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 130/138.

[0092] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 322/330.

[0093] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 306/314.

[0094] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 370/378.

[0095] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

a) an isolated first fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 242/250; and

b) an isolated second fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that specifically binds Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 306/314 and 322/330.

[0096] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 242/250; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 306/314.

[0097] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises

a) an isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 242/250; and

b) an isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprising a HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 322/330.

[0098] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises two or more isolated human monoclonal antibodies that bind specifically to Fel d1, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, comprising HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pairs selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138, 162/170, 242/250, 306/314, 322/330, 370/378 and 460/468.

[0099] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises four isolated human monoclonal antibodies that bind specifically to Fel d1, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, wherein the human antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof comprise the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pairs of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, 66/74, 130/138 and 162/170.

[0100] In one embodiment, the invention features a composition, which is a combination of a therapeutically effective amount of one or more anti-Fel d1 antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof of the invention, and a therapeutically effective amount of a second therapeutic agent.

[0101] The second therapeutic agent may be a small molecule drug, a protein/polypeptide, an antibody, a nucleic acid molecule, such as an anti-sense molecule, or a siRNA. The second therapeutic agent may be synthetic or naturally derived.

[0102] The second therapeutic agent may be any agent that is advantageously combined with an antibody or fragment thereof of the invention, for example, a second antibody other than those described herein that is capable of blocking the binding of Fel d1 to IgE present on mast cells or basophils. A second therapeutic agent may also be any agent that is used as standard of care in treating an allergic response to any allergen. Such second therapeutic agent may be an

antihistamine, epinephrine, a decongestant, a corticosteroid, or a peptide vaccine.

[0103] In certain embodiments, the second therapeutic agent may be an agent that helps to counteract or reduce any possible side effect(s) associated with the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the invention, if such side effect(s) should occur.

[0104] It will also be appreciated that the antibodies and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions of the present invention can be employed in combination therapies, that is, the antibodies and pharmaceutically acceptable compositions can be administered concurrently with, prior to, or subsequent to, one or more other desired therapeutics or medical procedures. The particular combination of therapies (therapeutics or procedures) to employ in a combination regimen will take into account compatibility of the desired therapeutics and/or procedures and the desired therapeutic effect to be achieved. It will also be appreciated that the therapies employed may achieve a desired effect for the same disorder (for example, an antibody may be administered concurrently with another agent used to treat the same disorder), or they may achieve different effects (*e.g.,* control of any adverse effects). As used herein, additional therapeutic agents that are normally administered to treat or prevent a particular disease, or condition, are appropriate for the disease, or condition, being treated.

[0105] When multiple therapeutics are co-administered, dosages may be adjusted accordingly, as is recognized in the pertinent art.

[0106] A seventh aspect provides a method for treating a patient who demonstrates a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, or for treating at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more isolated human monoclonal antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof that bind specifically to Fel d1, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of one or more isolated human monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, or an effective amount of one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that specifically binds Fel d1, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that specifically binds to Fel d1, to a patient in need thereof, wherein the sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is either prevented, or lessened in severity and/or duration, or at least one symptom or complication associated with the sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is prevented, or ameliorated, or that the frequency and/or duration of, or the severity of the sensitivity to or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is reduced following administration of one or more of the isolated human monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof that bind specifically to Fel d1, or following administration of one or more of the bi-specific antigen-

binding molecules that specifically binds Fel d1, or following administration of a composition comprising any one or more of the foregoing antibodies or bi-specific antigen-binding molecules.

[0107] In one embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of the antibodies of the invention, or one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that binds specifically to Fel d1 for use in treating a patient who demonstrates a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, or for treating at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, wherein the sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is either prevented, or lessened in severity and/or duration, or at least one symptom or complication associated with the sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is prevented, or ameliorated, or that the frequency and/or duration of, or the severity of the sensitivity to or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is reduced.

[0108] In one embodiment, the invention provides for use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of the antibodies of the invention, or one or more of the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that binds specifically to Fel d1 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in treating a patient who demonstrates a sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, or for treating at least one symptom or complication associated with a sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein, wherein the sensitivity to, or an allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is either prevented, or lessened in severity and/or duration, or at least one symptom or complication associated with the sensitivity to, or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is prevented, or ameliorated, or that the frequency and/or duration of, or the severity of the sensitivity to or allergic reaction against, a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein is reduced.

[0109] In one embodiment, the invention provides use of a pharmaceutical composition as described above, wherein the composition is administered in combination with a second therapeutic agent useful for diminishing an allergic reaction to a cat, cat dander, cat hair extract, or to Fel d1 protein. In one embodiment, the invention provides for use of the pharmaceutical composition as described above, wherein the second therapeutic agent is selected from a corticosteroid, a bronchial dilator, an antihistamine, epinephrine, a decongestant, another different antibody to Fel d1 and a peptide vaccine.

[0110] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the invention, or the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that bind specifically to Fel d1 may be capable of reducing, minimizing, or preventing at least one symptom in a patient sensitive to the Fel d1 cat allergen, such as sneezing, congestion, nasal blockage, coughing, wheezing, bronchoconstriction, rhinitis, or conjunctivitis.

[0111] In one embodiment, the antibodies of the invention, or the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules that bind specifically to Fel d1, or a composition comprising one or more antibodies of the invention or one or more of the antigen-binding molecules that bind specifically to Fel d1 may be used to prevent more serious *in vivo* complications associated with an allergy to Fel d1, including asthmatic responses, anaphylactic shock, or even death resulting from anaphylaxis.

[0112] In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is administered to the patient in combination with a second therapeutic agent.

[0113] In another embodiment, the second therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of an antihistamine, epinephrine, a decongestant, a corticosteroid, another different antibody to Fel d1, a peptide vaccine and any other palliative therapy useful for reducing the severity of the allergic reaction or for ameliorating at least one symptom associated with the allergic reaction.

[0114] Other embodiments will become apparent from a review of the ensuing detailed description.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0115] Before the present methods are described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to particular methods, and experimental conditions described, as such methods and conditions may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting, since the scope of the present invention will be limited only by the appended claims.

[0116] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. As used herein, the term "about," when used in reference to a particular recited numerical value, means that the value may vary from the recited value by no more than 1%. For example, as used herein, the expression "about 100" includes 99 and 101 and all values in between (*e.g.*, 99.1, 99.2, 99.3, 99.4, etc.).

[0117] Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present invention, preferred methods and materials are now described.

Definitions

[0118] The term "Fel d1" or “FELD1”, as used herein, refers to at least one Fel d1 protein, either in natural/native form, or recombinantly produced. The Fel d1 protein comprises, or alternatively consists of, chain 1 (also referred to as chain A) of Fel d1 (SEQ ID NO: 392) and chain 2 (also referred to as chain B) of Fel d1 (SEQ ID NO: 393). The natural Fel d1 protein is an approximately 18 kDa heterodimeric glycoprotein composed of two chains derived from two independent genes (See Duffort, O.A. *et al.,* (1991), Mol. Immunol. 28:301-309; Kristensen, A.K. *et al.,* (1997), Biol. Chem. 378:899-908; Kaiser L. et al. (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278(39):37730-37735). A recombinantly

produced Fel d1 protein is also shown as SEQ ID NO: 396, wherein this sequence contains amino acid residues 18 through 109 of Fel d1 chain B from GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1 (without the signal sequence) fused in line with amino acid residues 19-88 of chain A of Fel d1 from GenBank accession number NP_001041618.1 (without the signal sequence and with a D27G mutation, which corresponds to the glycine at position 101 of SEQ ID NO: 396). Other recombinantly produced Fel d1 constructs of the invention are exemplified in SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395 and 397.

[0119] "Chain 1", or "chain A" of Fel d1 is a polypeptide comprising, or alternatively consisting of, an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 392, or a homologous sequence thereof. The term homologous sequence of SEQ ID NO:392, as used herein, refers to a polypeptide that has an identity to SEQ ID NO:392 which is greater than 70%, preferably greater than 80%, more preferably greater than 90%, and even more preferably greater than 95%. The amino acid sequence of chain 1 of Fel d1 is also provided in GenBank as accession number P30438, or as accession number NP_001041618.1, which also include the signal peptide which is removed in the mature protein.

[0120] "Chain 2", or "chain B" of Fel d1 is a polypeptide comprising, or alternatively consisting of, an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 393, or a homologous sequence thereof. The term homologous sequence of SEQ ID NO: 393, as used herein, refers to a polypeptide that has an identity to SEQ ID NO:393 which is greater than 70%, preferably greater than 80%, more preferably greater than 90%, and even more preferably greater than 95%. The amino acid sequence of chain 2 of Fel d1 is also provided in GenBank as accession number P30440, or as accession number NP_001041619.1, which include the signal peptide which is removed in the mature protein.

[0121] The term "Fel d1 fragment" as used herein, refers to a polypeptide comprising or alternatively consisting of, at least one antigenic site of Fel d1. In one embodiment, the term "Fel d1 fragment" as used herein, refers to a polypeptide comprising or alternatively consisting of at least two antigenic sites of Fel d1. In one embodiment, the antigenic sites are covalently linked. In one embodiment, the antigenic sites are linked by at least one peptide bond. In one embodiment, the two antigenic sites are linked by at least one peptide bond and a spacer between the antigenic sites. In one embodiment, the at least two antigenic sites derive from both chain 1 of Fel d1 and from chain 2 of Fel d1. In one embodiment, the at least two antigenic sites comprise amino acid sequences 23-92 of GenBank accession number P30438 and amino acid sequences 18-109 of GenBank accession number P30440. In one embodiment, the at least two antigenic sites derive from both chain 1 of Fel d1 and from chain 2 of Fel d1. In one embodiment, the at least two antigenic sites comprise amino acid sequences 19-88 of GenBank accession number NP_001041618.1 and amino acid sequences 18-109 of GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1. In one embodiment, the at least two antigenic sites comprise an amino acid sequence within any of SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395, 396 or 397. In one embodiment, any of the

Fel d1 fragments are capable of inducing the production of antibodies *in vivo* that specifically bind to naturally occurring Fel d1, or to recombinantly produced Fel d1.

[0122] The term "antibody", as used herein, means any antigen-binding molecule or molecular complex comprising at least one complementarity determining region (CDR) that specifically binds to or interacts with a particular antigen (*e.g.*, Fel d1). The term "antibody", as used herein, is intended to refer to immunoglobulin molecules comprised of four polypeptide chains, two heavy (H) chains and two light (L) chains inter-connected by disulfide bonds (*i.e.*, "full antibody molecules"), as well as multimers thereof (*e.g.* IgM) or antigen-binding fragments thereof. Each heavy chain is comprised of a heavy chain variable region ("HCVR" or "V_H") and a heavy chain constant region (comprised of domains C_H1, C_H2 and C_H3). Each light chain is comprised of a light chain variable region ("LCVR or "V_L") and a light chain constant region (C_L). The V_H and V_L regions can be further subdivided into regions of hypervariability, termed complementarity determining regions (CDR), interspersed with regions that are more conserved, termed framework regions (FR). Each V_H and V_L is composed of three CDRs and four FRs, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus in the following order: FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3, FR4. In certain embodiments of the invention, the FRs of the antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) may be identical to the human germline sequences, or may be naturally or artificially modified. An amino acid consensus sequence may be defined based on a side-by-side analysis of two or more CDRs.

[0123] Substitution of one or more CDR residues or omission of one or more CDRs is also possible. Antibodies have been described in the scientific literature in which one or two CDRs can be dispensed with for binding. Padlan *et al.* (1995 FASEB J. 9:133-139) analyzed the contact regions between antibodies and their antigens, based on published crystal structures, and concluded that only about one fifth to one third of CDR residues actually contact the antigen. Padlan also found many antibodies in which one or two CDRs had no amino acids in contact with an antigen (see also, Vajdos *et al.* (2002), J Mol Biol 320:415-428).

[0124] CDR residues not contacting antigen can be identified based on previous studies (for example residues H60-H65 in CDRH2 are often not required), from regions of Kabat CDRs lying outside Chothia CDRs, by molecular modeling and/or empirically. If a CDR or residue(s) thereof is omitted, it is usually substituted with an amino acid occupying the corresponding position in another human antibody sequence or a consensus of such sequences. Positions for substitution within CDRs and amino acids to substitute can also be selected empirically. Empirical substitutions can be conservative or non-conservative substitutions.

[0125] The fully human monoclonal antibodies that specifically bind to Fel d1, as disclosed herein, may comprise one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions and/or deletions in the framework and/or CDR regions of the heavy and light chain variable domains as compared to the corresponding germline sequences. Such mutations can be readily ascertained by comparing the

amino acid sequences disclosed herein to germline sequences available from, for example, public antibody sequence databases. The present invention includes antibodies, and antigen-binding fragments thereof, which are derived from any of the amino acid sequences disclosed herein, wherein one or more amino acids within one or more framework and/or CDR regions are mutated to the corresponding residue(s) of the germline sequence from which the antibody was derived, or to the corresponding residue(s) of another human germline sequence, or to a conservative amino acid substitution of the corresponding germline residue(s) (such sequence changes are referred to herein collectively as "germline mutations"). A person of ordinary skill in the art, starting with the heavy and light chain variable region sequences disclosed herein, can easily produce numerous antibodies and antigen-binding fragments which comprise one or more individual germline mutations or combinations thereof. In certain embodiments, all of the framework and/or CDR residues within the V_H and/or V_L domains are mutated back to the residues found in the original germline sequence from which the antibody was derived. In other embodiments, only certain residues are mutated back to the original germline sequence, *e.g.*, only the mutated residues found within the first 8 amino acids of FR1 or within the last 8 amino acids of FR4, or only the mutated residues found within CDR1, CDR2 or CDR3. In other embodiments, one or more of the framework and/or CDR residue(s) are mutated to the corresponding residue(s) of a different germline sequence (*i.e.*, a germline sequence that is different from the germline sequence from which the antibody was originally derived). Furthermore, the antibodies of the present invention may contain any combination of two or more germline mutations within the framework and/or CDR regions, *e.g.*, wherein certain individual residues are mutated to the corresponding residue of a particular germline sequence while certain other residues that differ from the original germline sequence are maintained or are mutated to the corresponding residue of a different germline sequence. Once obtained, antibodies and antigen-binding fragments that contain one or more germline mutations can be easily tested for one or more desired property such as, improved binding specificity, increased binding affinity, improved or enhanced antagonistic or agonistic biological properties (as the case may be), reduced immunogenicity, etc. Antibodies and antigen-binding fragments obtained in this general manner are encompassed within the present invention.

[0126] The present invention also includes fully human monoclonal antibodies comprising variants of any of the HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences disclosed herein having one or more conservative substitutions. For example, the present invention includes antibodies having HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences with, *e.g.*, 10 or fewer, 8 or fewer, 6 or fewer, 4 or fewer, etc. conservative amino acid substitutions relative to any of the HCVR, LCVR, and/or CDR amino acid sequences disclosed herein.

[0127] The term "human antibody", as used herein, is intended to include antibodies having variable and constant regions derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. The

human mAbs of the invention may include amino acid residues not encoded by human germline immunoglobulin sequences (*e.g.,* mutations introduced by random or site-specific mutagenesis *in vitro* or by somatic mutation *in vivo*), for example in the CDRs and in particular CDR3. However, the term "human antibody", as used herein, is not intended to include mAbs in which CDR sequences derived from the germline of another mammalian species (e.g., mouse), have been grafted onto human FR sequences.

[0128] As used herein, the expression "antigen-binding molecule" means a protein, polypeptide or molecular complex comprising or consisting of at least one complementarity determining region (CDR) that alone, or in combination with one or more additional CDRs and/or framework regions (FRs), specifically binds to a particular antigen. In certain embodiments, an antigen-binding molecule is an antibody or a fragment of an antibody, as those terms are defined elsewhere herein.

[0129] As used herein, the expression "bi-specific antigen-binding molecule" means a protein, polypeptide or molecular complex comprising at least a first antigen-binding domain and a second antigen-binding domain (i.e. two arms). Each antigen-binding domain within the bi-specific antigen-binding molecule comprises at least one CDR that alone, or in combination with one or more additional CDRs and/or FRs, specifically binds to a particular antigen. In the context of the present invention, the first antigen-binding domain specifically binds a first antigen on Fel d1 and the second antigen-binding domain specifically binds a second, distinct antigen on Fel d1.

[0130] The term "specifically binds," or “binds specifically to”, or the like, means that an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof forms a complex with an antigen that is relatively stable under physiologic conditions. Specific binding can be characterized by an equilibrium dissociation constant of at least about $1x10^{-6}$ M or less (*e.g.*, a smaller K_D denotes a tighter binding). Methods for determining whether two molecules specifically bind are well known in the art and include, for example, equilibrium dialysis, surface plasmon resonance, and the like. As described herein, antibodies have been identified by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, BIACORE™, which bind specifically to Fel d1. Moreover, multi-specific antibodies that bind to Fel d1 and one or more additional antigens or a bi-specific that binds to two different regions of Fel d1 (for example, chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1) are nonetheless considered antibodies that “specifically bind”, as used herein.

[0131] The term “high affinity” antibody refers to those mAbs having a binding affinity to Fel d1, expressed as K_D, of at least 10^{-8} M; preferably 10^{-9} M; more preferably 10^{-10}M, even more preferably 10^{-11} M, even more preferably 10^{-12} M, as measured by surface plasmon resonance, e.g., BIACORE™ or solution-affinity ELISA.

[0132] By the term “slow off rate”, “Koff” or “kd” is meant an antibody that dissociates from Fel d1, with a rate constant of 1×10^{-3} s^{-1} or less, preferably 1×10^{-4} s^{-1} or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, *e.g.*, BIACORE™.

[0133] The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody, and the like, as used herein, include any naturally occurring, enzymatically obtainable, synthetic, or genetically engineered polypeptide or glycoprotein that specifically binds an antigen to form a complex. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, or "antibody fragment", as used herein, refers to one or more fragments of an antibody that retain the ability to bind to Fel d1.

[0134] The specific embodiments, antibody or antibody fragments of the invention may be conjugated to a therapeutic moiety ("immunoconjugate"), such as a corticosteroid, a second anti-Fel d1 antibody, or epinephrine, a vaccine, or any other therapeutic moiety useful for treating an allergic response to Fel d1.

[0135] An "isolated antibody", as used herein, is intended to refer to an antibody that is substantially free of other antibodies (Abs) having different antigenic specificities (*e.g.,* an isolated antibody that specifically binds Fel d1, or a fragment thereof, is substantially free of Abs that specifically bind antigens other than Fel d1.

[0136] A "blocking antibody" or a "neutralizing antibody", as used herein (or an "antibody that neutralizes Fel d1 activity"), is intended to refer to an antibody, or an antigen binding portion thereof, whose binding to Fel d1 results in inhibition of at least one biological activity of Fel d1. For example, an antibody of the invention may aid in preventing the primary allergic response to Fel d1. Alternatively, an antibody of the invention may demonstrate the ability to prevent a secondary allergic response to Fel d1, or at least one symptom of an allergic response to Fel d1, including sneezing, coughing, an asthmatic condition, or an anaphylactic response caused by Fel d1. This inhibition of the biological activity of Fel d1 can be assessed by measuring one or more indicators of Fel d1 biological activity by one or more of several standard *in vitro* or *in vivo* assays (such as a passive cutaneous anaphylaxis assay, as described herein) or other *in vivo* assays known in the art (for example, other animal models to look at protection from challenge with Fel d1 following administration of one or more of the antibodies described herein).

[0137] The term "surface plasmon resonance", as used herein, refers to an optical phenomenon that allows for the analysis of real-time biomolecular interactions by detection of alterations in protein concentrations within a biosensor matrix, for example using the BIACORE™ system (Pharmacia Biosensor AB, Uppsala, Sweden and Piscataway, N.J.).

[0138] The term "K_D ", as used herein, is intended to refer to the equilibrium dissociation constant of a particular antibody-antigen interaction.

[0139] The term "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant that interacts with a specific antigen binding site in the variable region of an antibody molecule known as a paratope. A single antigen may have more than one epitope. Thus, different antibodies may bind to different areas on an antigen and may have different biological effects. The term "epitope" also refers to a site on an antigen to which B and/or T cells respond. It also refers to a region of an antigen that is bound by

an antibody. Epitopes may be either linear or conformational. A linear epitope is one produced by adjacent amino acid residues in a polypeptide chain. A conformational epitope is produced by spatially juxtaposed amino acids from different segments of the linear polypeptide chain. In certain embodiments, epitopes may include determinants that are chemically active surface groupings of molecules such as amino acids, sugar side chains, phosphoryl groups, or sulfonyl groups, and, in certain embodiments, may have specific three-dimensional structural characteristics, and/or specific charge characteristics. Epitopes may also be defined as structural or functional. Functional epitopes are generally a subset of the structural epitopes and have those residues that directly contribute to the affinity of the interaction. Epitopes formed from contiguous amino acids are typically retained on exposure to denaturing solvents, whereas epitopes formed by tertiary folding are typically lost on treatment with denaturing solvents. An epitope typically includes at least 3, and more usually, at least 5 or 8-10 amino acids in a unique spatial conformation.

[0140] The term "substantial identity" or "substantially identical," when referring to a nucleic acid or fragment thereof, indicates that, when optimally aligned with appropriate nucleotide insertions or deletions with another nucleic acid (or its complementary strand), there is nucleotide sequence identity in at least about 90%, and more preferably at least about 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% of the nucleotide bases, as measured by any well-known algorithm of sequence identity, such as FASTA, BLAST or GAP, as discussed below. A nucleic acid molecule having substantial identity to a reference nucleic acid molecule may, in certain instances, encode a polypeptide having the same or substantially similar amino acid sequence as the polypeptide encoded by the reference nucleic acid molecule.

[0141] As applied to polypeptides, the term "substantial similarity" or “substantially similar” means that two peptide sequences, when optimally aligned, such as by the programs GAP or BESTFIT using default gap weights, share at least 90% sequence identity, even more preferably at least 95%, 98% or 99% sequence identity. Preferably, residue positions, which are not identical, differ by conservative amino acid substitutions. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which an amino acid residue is substituted by another amino acid residue having a side chain (R group) with similar chemical properties (e.g., charge or hydrophobicity). In general, a conservative amino acid substitution will not substantially change the functional properties of a protein. In cases where two or more amino acid sequences differ from each other by conservative substitutions, the percent or degree of similarity may be adjusted upwards to correct for the conservative nature of the substitution. Means for making this adjustment are well known to those of skill in the art. (See, *e.g.*, Pearson (1994) Methods Mol. Biol. 24: 307-331). Examples of groups of amino acids that have side chains with similar chemical properties include 1) aliphatic side chains: glycine, alanine, valine, leucine and isoleucine; 2) aliphatic-hydroxyl side chains: serine and threonine; 3) amide-containing side chains: asparagine and glutamine; 4) aromatic side chains: phenylalanine, tyrosine,

and tryptophan; 5) basic side chains: lysine, arginine, and histidine; 6) acidic side chains: aspartate and glutamate, and 7) sulfur-containing side chains: cysteine and methionine. Preferred conservative amino acids substitution groups are: valine-leucine-isoleucine, phenylalanine-tyrosine, lysine-arginine, alanine-valine, glutamate-aspartate, and asparagine-glutamine. Alternatively, a conservative replacement is any change having a positive value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix disclosed in Gonnet *et al.* ((1992) Science 256: 1443 45). A "moderately conservative" replacement is any change having a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix.

[0142] Sequence similarity for polypeptides is typically measured using sequence analysis software. Protein analysis software matches similar sequences using measures of similarity assigned to various substitutions, deletions and other modifications, including conservative amino acid substitutions. For instance, GCG software contains programs such as GAP and BESTFIT which can be used with default parameters to determine sequence homology or sequence identity between closely related polypeptides, such as homologous polypeptides from different species of organisms or between a wild type protein and a mutein thereof. See, *e.g.,* GCG Version 6.1. Polypeptide sequences also can be compared using FASTA with default or recommended parameters; a program in GCG Version 6.1. FASTA (*e.g.,* FASTA2 and FASTA3) provides alignments and percent sequence identity of the regions of the best overlap between the query and search sequences (Pearson (2000) *supra*). Another preferred algorithm when comparing a sequence of the invention to a database containing a large number of sequences from different organisms is the computer program BLAST, especially BLASTP or TBLASTN, using default parameters. (See, *e.g.,* Altschul *et al.* (1990) J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403 410 and (1997) Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389 402).

[0143] In specific embodiments, the antibody or antibody fragment for use in the method of the invention may be mono-specific, bi-specific, or multi-specific. Multi-specific antibodies may be specific for different epitopes of one target polypeptide or may contain antigen-binding domains specific for epitopes of more than one target polypeptide. An exemplary bi-specific antibody format that can be used in the context of the present invention involves the use of a first immunoglobulin (Ig) C_H3 domain and a second Ig C_H3 domain, wherein the first and second Ig C_H3 domains differ from one another by at least one amino acid, and wherein at least one amino acid difference reduces binding of the bi-specific antibody to Protein A as compared to a bi-specific antibody lacking the amino acid difference. In one embodiment, the first Ig C_H3 domain binds Protein A and the second Ig C_H3 domain contains a mutation that reduces or abolishes Protein A binding such as an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). The second C_H3 may further comprise an Y96F modification (by IMGT; Y436F by EU). Further modifications that may be found within the second C_H3 include: D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (by IMGT; D356E, L358M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG1 mAbs; N44S, K52N,

and V82I (IMGT; N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG2 mAbs; and Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (by IMGT; Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG4 mAbs. Variations on the bi-specific antibody format described above are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

[0144] By the phrase "therapeutically effective amount" is meant an amount that produces the desired effect for which it is administered. The exact amount will depend on the purpose of the treatment, and will be ascertainable by one skilled in the art using known techniques (see, for example, Lloyd (1999) The Art, Science and Technology of Pharmaceutical Compounding).

[0145] The antibodies of the invention may be used to "desensitize" a cat-sensitive individual. The term to "desensitize" is defined herein as to decrease the allergic-reactivity of a cat-sensitive individual to exposure to cats, cat dander or products thereof, *e.g.* Fel d1 (to a level less than that which the cat-sensitive individual would otherwise experience).

General Description

[0146] The domestic cat is a source of many indoor allergens and the severity of the symptoms in individuals who demonstrate a sensitivity to cat allergens ranges from a relatively mild rhinitis and conjunctivitis to a potentially life-threatening asthmatic condition (Lau, S. *et al.* (2000), Lancet 356:1392-1397). While patients who demonstrate such a sensitivity to cats appear to be responsive to different molecules found in cat dander and pelts, the major allergen appears to be Fel d1 (*Felis domesticus* allergen 1). It has been shown that greater than 80% of patients who are allergic to cats have IgE antibodies to this allergen (van Ree, R. *et al.* (1999), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol 104:1223-1230).

[0147] The Fel d1 protein is an approximately 18 kDa heterodimeric acidic glycoprotein that contains about 10-20% of N-linked carbohydrates. Each heterodimer comprises two polypeptide chains that are encoded by two separate genes (Duffort, OA, *et al.,* (1991), Mol. Immunol. 28:301-309; Morgenstern, JP, *et al*., (1991), PNAS 88:9690-9694; Griffith, I.J., *et al.* (1992), Gene 113:263-268). Chain 1 comprises about 70 amino acid residues and chain 2 comprises about 90-92 amino acid residues. Three interchain disulfide bonds linking the two chains in natural Fel d1 have been proposed (Kristensen, A.K. *et al.* (1997), Biol. Chem. 378:899-908) and confirmed for recombinant Fel d1 in the crystal structure (Kaiser, L. et al. (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278:37730-37735; Kaiser, L. et al., (2007), J. Mol. Biol. 370:714-727). Although each chain is sometimes individually referred to as "Fel d 1", both chains are needed for the full protein allergen.

[0148] Fel d1 is produced by sebaceous glands, squamous glands and squamous epithelial cells and is transferred to the pelt by licking and grooming (Bartholome, K. *et al.* (1985), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 76:503-506; Charpin, C. *et al.* (1991), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 88:77-82; Dabrowski, A.J. (1990), *et al.* J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 86:462-465). It is also present in the salivary, perianal and

lachrymal glands (Andersen, M.C., *et al.* (1985), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 76:563-569; van Milligen, F.J. *et al.,* (1992), Int. Arch. Allergy Appl. Immunol. 92:375-378) and the principal reservoirs appear to be the skin and the fur (Mata, P. *et al.* (1992), Ann. Allergy 69(4):321-322).

[0149] The Fel d1 protein is of an unknown function to the animal but causes an IgG or IgE reaction in sensitive humans (either as an allergic or asthmatic response). Although other cat allergens are known, including Fel d2 (albumin) and Fel d3 (cystatin), 60% to 90% of the anti-cat IgE produced is directed against Fel d1 (Leitermann, K. *et al.,* (1984), J Allergy Clin. Immunol. 74:147-153; Lowenstein, H. *et al.,* (1985), Allergy 40:430-441; van Ree, R. *et al.*, (1999), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 104:1223-1230; Ichikawa, K. *et al.,* (2011), Clin. Exp. Allergy, 31:1279-1286).

[0150] Immunoglobulin E (IgE) is responsible for type 1 hypersensitivity, which manifests itself in allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, hay fever, allergic asthma, bee venom allergy, and food allergies. IgE circulates in the blood and binds to high-affinity Fc receptors for IgE on basophils and mast cells. In most allergic responses, the allergens enter the body through inhalation, ingestion, or through the skin. The allergen then binds to preformed IgE already bound to the high affinity receptor on the surfaces of mast cells and basophils, resulting in cross-linking of several IgE molecules and triggering the release of histamine and other inflammatory mediators causing the various allergic symptoms.

[0151] The treatment for cat allergies includes desensitization therapy, which involves repeated injections with increasing dosages of either a crude cat dander extract, or short peptides derived from Fel d1. Using the crude extract of cat dander, Lilja *et. al.* demonstrated that after three years of such treatment, patients allergic to cats still exhibited systemic symptoms (Lilja, Q. *et al.* (1989), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 83:37-44 and Hedlin, *et al.* (1991), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 87:955-964). Using short peptides derived from Fel d1 for desensitization resulted in a non-significant difference between the peptide group and the placebo control group (Oldfield, W.L. *et al.,* (2002), Lancet, 360:47-53). Efficacy was only observed when large amounts (750 ug) of the short peptide were administered to patients (Norman, P.S. *et al.* (1996), Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med. 154:1623-1628). Furthermore, asthmatic reactions have been reported in patients given both crude extracts from cat dander, as well as in patients given short Fel d1 peptide treatment. Accordingly, there is a need in the field of cat allergy treatment for alternative strategies for treating patients sensitive to cat allergens, in particular Fel d1.

[0152] Antibodies have been proposed as a general treatment strategy for allergies, since they may be able to block the entry of allergenic molecules into the mucosal tissues, or may bind the allergen before it has the opportunity to bind to the IgE bound to the high affinity receptor on mast cells or basophils, thus preventing the release of histamine and other inflammatory mediators from these cells. U.S. patent number 5,670,626 describes the use of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of IgE-mediated allergic diseases such as allergic rhinitis, allergic asthma, and allergic

conjunctivitis by blocking the binding of allergens to the mucosal tissue. U.S. patent number 6,849,259 describes the use of allergen-specific antibodies to inhibit allergic inflammation in an *in vivo* mouse model of allergy. Milk-based and egg-based antibody systems have been described. For example, US20030003133A1 discloses using milk as a carrier for allergens for inducing oral tolerance to cat dander and other allergens. Compositions and methods for reducing an allergic response in an animal to an allergen in the environment through use of a molecule that inhibits the ability of the allergen to bind to mast cells was described in US2010/0143266. Other antibodies to Fel d1 were described by de Groot *et. al.* (de Groot *et. al.,* (1988), J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 82:778-786).

[0153] The fully human antibodies described herein demonstrate specific binding to Fel d1 and may be useful for treating patients suffering from cat allergies, in particular, in patients who demonstrate sensitivity to the Fel d1 allergen. The use of such antibodies may be an effective means of treating patients suffering from allergies to cat dander, or they may be used to prevent a heightened response to Fel d1 upon secondary exposure, or the accompanying symptoms associated with the allergy, or may be used to lessen the severity and/or the duration of the allergic response associated with a primary exposure to a cat harboring the Fel d1 allergen or with the recurrence of the symptoms upon secondary exposure. They may be used alone or as adjunct therapy with other therapeutic moieties or modalities known in the art for treating such allergies, such as, but not limited to, treatment with corticosteroids or epinephrine. They may be used in conjunction with a second or third different antibody specific for Fel d1. They may be used with allergen-specific immunotherapy (SIT).

[0154] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the invention are obtained from mice immunized with a primary immunogen, such as natural Fel d1, which may be purchased commercially (See, for example, Indoor Biotech, #NA-FD1-2), or may be produced recombinantly. In certain embodiments, the immunogen may be either chain 1 of Fel d1, or chain 2 of Fel d1, or may be a combination of both chain 1 and chain 2 administered sequentially, or concurrently. The full-length amino acid sequence of chain 1 (also referred to as FELD1 A) is shown as SEQ ID NO: 392. Full-length amino acid sequences for chain 1 may also be found in GenBank accession numbers P30438 and NP_001041618.1. The full-length amino acid sequence of chain 2 (also referred to as FELD1 B) is shown as SEQ ID NO: 393. Full-length amino acid sequences for chain 2 may also be found in GenBank accession numbers PP30440 and NP_001041619.1.

[0155] In certain embodiments, the recombinantly produced Fel d1 immunogen may be made by direct fusion of the two chains of Fel d1, as described in Kaiser *et. al.*, to produce a fusion product that has a similar refolding pattern to that of natural Fel d1 (Kaiser, L. et al., (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278(39):37730-37735). In certain embodiments, the immunogen may be a fusion protein such as that shown in the constructs of SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395, 396 or 397, followed by immunization

with a secondary immunogen, or with an immunogenically active fragment of the natural or recombinantly produced Fel d1.

[0156] The immunogen may be a biologically active and/or immunogenic fragment of natural or recombinantly produced Fel d1, or DNA encoding the active fragment thereof. The fragment may be derived from either the N-terminal or C-terminal of either chain 1 or chain 2, or from the N terminal or the C terminal of both chain 1 and chain 2. Fragments may be obtained from any site within chain 1 or chain 2 to be used as an immunogen for preparing antibodies to Fel d1.

[0157] In certain embodiments, the immunogen may be a fusion protein comprising any one or more of the following: i) amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30440 and also SEQ ID NO: 393) fused via the C terminus directly with the N terminus of amino acid residues 23-92 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30438 and also SEQ ID NO: 392); ii) amino acid residues 23-92 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30438 and also SEQ ID NO: 392) fused via the C terminus to the N terminus of amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30440 and also SEQ ID NO: 393); iii) amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1) fused via the C terminus directly with the N terminus of amino acid residues 19-88 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041618.1), such as the construct shown in SEQ ID NO: 394 or 396; iv) amino acid residues 19-88 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041618.1) fused via the C terminus to the N terminus of amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1). See also SEQ ID NO: 395. In certain embodiments, the fusion protein may have a tag at the C terminal end of the construct, such as a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (See SEQ ID NOs: 385, 396 or 397 for such constructs.). In related embodiments, the fusion protein may have a mouse antibody Fc region coupled at the C terminal end of the construct (See SEQ ID NOs: 394 or 395 for such constructs.). In certain embodiments, chains 1 and 2 are coupled via a linker known to those skilled in the art, *e.g.* $(G_4S)_3$ (See SEQ ID NOs: 395 and 397 for such a construct.).

[0158] In certain embodiments, antibodies that bind specifically to Fel d1 may be prepared using fragments of the above-noted regions, or peptides that extend beyond the designated regions by about 5 to about 20 amino acid residues from either, or both, the N or C terminal ends of the regions described herein. In certain embodiments, any combination of the above-noted regions or fragments thereof may be used in the preparation Fel d1 specific antibodies. In certain embodiments, any one or more of the above-noted regions of Fel d1, or fragments thereof may be used for preparing monospecific, bispecific, or multispecific antibodies.

Antigen-Binding Fragments of Antibodies

[0159] Unless specifically indicated otherwise, the term "antibody," as used herein, shall be

understood to encompass antibody molecules comprising two immunoglobulin heavy chains and two immunoglobulin light chains (*i.e.*, "full antibody molecules") as well as antigen-binding fragments thereof. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody, and the like, as used herein, include any naturally occurring, enzymatically obtainable, synthetic, or genetically engineered polypeptide or glycoprotein that specifically binds an antigen to form a complex. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, or "antibody fragment", as used herein, refers to one or more fragments of an antibody that retain the ability to specifically bind to either chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1. An antibody fragment may include a Fab fragment, a $F(ab')_2$ fragment, a Fv fragment, a dAb fragment, a fragment containing a CDR, or an isolated CDR. Antigen-binding fragments of an antibody may be derived, *e.g.*, from full antibody molecules using any suitable standard techniques such as proteolytic digestion or recombinant genetic engineering techniques involving the manipulation and expression of DNA encoding antibody variable and (optionally) constant domains. Such DNA is known and/or is readily available from, *e.g.*, commercial sources, DNA libraries (including, *e.g.*, phage-antibody libraries), or can be synthesized. The DNA may be sequenced and manipulated chemically or by using molecular biology techniques, for example, to arrange one or more variable and/or constant domains into a suitable configuration, or to introduce codons, create cysteine residues, modify, add or delete amino acids, etc.

[0160] Non-limiting examples of antigen-binding fragments include: (i) Fab fragments; (ii) F(ab')2 fragments; (iii) Fd fragments; (iv) Fv fragments; (v) single-chain Fv (scFv) molecules; (vi) dAb fragments; and (vii) minimal recognition units consisting of the amino acid residues that mimic the hypervariable region of an antibody (*e.g.*, an isolated complementarity determining region (CDR) such as a CDR3 peptide), or a constrained FR3-CDR3-FR4 peptide. Other engineered molecules, such as domain-specific antibodies, single domain antibodies, domain-deleted antibodies, chimeric antibodies, CDR-grafted antibodies, diabodies, triabodies, tetrabodies, minibodies, nanobodies (*e.g.* monovalent nanobodies, bivalent nanobodies, etc.), small modular immunopharmaceuticals (SMIPs), and shark variable IgNAR domains, are also encompassed within the expression "antigen-binding fragment," as used herein.

[0161] An antigen-binding fragment of an antibody will typically comprise at least one variable domain. The variable domain may be of any size or amino acid composition and will generally comprise at least one CDR, which is adjacent to or in frame with one or more framework sequences. In antigen-binding fragments having a V_H domain associated with a V_L domain, the V_H and V_L domains may be situated relative to one another in any suitable arrangement. For example, the variable region may be dimeric and contain V_H - V_H, V_H - V_L or V_L - V_L dimers. Alternatively, the antigen-binding fragment of an antibody may contain a monomeric V_H or V_L domain.

[0162] In certain embodiments, an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody may contain at least one variable domain covalently linked to at least one constant domain. Non-limiting, exemplary configurations of variable and constant domains that may be found within an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention include: (i) V_H -C_H1; (ii) V_H -C_H2; (iii) V_H -C_H3; (iv) V_H -C_H1-C_H2; (v) V_H -C_H1-C_H2-C_H3; (vi) V_H -C_H2-C_H3; (vii) V_H -C_L; (viii) V_L -C_H1; (ix) V_L -C_H2; (x) V_L -C_H3; (xi) V_L -C_H1-C_H2; (xii) V_L -C_H1-C_H2-C_H3; (xiii) V_L -C_H2-C_H3; and (xiv) V_L -C_L. In any configuration of variable and constant domains, including any of the exemplary configurations listed above, the variable and constant domains may be either directly linked to one another or may be linked by a full or partial hinge or linker region. A hinge region may consist of at least 2 (*e.g.*, 5, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60 or more) amino acids, which result in a flexible or semi-flexible linkage between adjacent variable and/or constant domains in a single polypeptide molecule. Moreover, an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention may comprise a homo-dimer or hetero-dimer (or other multimer) of any of the variable and constant domain configurations listed above in non-covalent association with one another and/or with one or more monomeric V_H or V_L domain (*e.g.*, by disulfide bond(s)).

[0163] As with full antibody molecules, antigen-binding fragments may be mono-specific or multi-specific (*e.g.*, bi-specific). A multi-specific antigen-binding fragment of an antibody will typically comprise at least two different variable domains, wherein each variable domain is capable of specifically binding to a separate antigen or to a different epitope on the same antigen. Any multi-specific antibody format, including the exemplary bi-specific antibody formats disclosed herein, may be adapted for use in the context of an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody of the present invention using routine techniques available in the art.

Preparation of Human Antibodies

[0164] Methods for generating human antibodies in transgenic mice are known in the art. Any such known methods can be used in the context of the present invention to make human antibodies that specifically bind to Fel d1.

[0165] Using VELOCIMMUNE™ technology (see, for example, US 6,596,541, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, VELOCIMMUNE®) or any other known method for generating monoclonal antibodies, high affinity chimeric antibodies to Fel d1 are initially isolated having a human variable region and a mouse constant region. The VELOCIMMUNE® technology involves generation of a transgenic mouse having a genome comprising human heavy and light chain variable regions operably linked to endogenous mouse constant region loci such that the mouse produces an antibody comprising a human variable region and a mouse constant region in response to antigenic stimulation. The DNA encoding the variable regions of the heavy and light chains of the antibody are isolated and operably linked to DNA encoding the human heavy and light chain constant

regions. The DNA is then expressed in a cell capable of expressing the fully human antibody.

[0166] Generally, a VELOCIMMUNE® mouse is challenged with the antigen of interest, and lymphatic cells (such as B-cells) are recovered from the mice that express antibodies. The lymphatic cells may be fused with a myeloma cell line to prepare immortal hybridoma cell lines, and such hybridoma cell lines are screened and selected to identify hybridoma cell lines that produce antibodies specific to the antigen of interest. DNA encoding the variable regions of the heavy chain and light chain may be isolated and linked to desirable isotypic constant regions of the heavy chain and light chain. Such an antibody protein may be produced in a cell, such as a CHO cell. Alternatively, DNA encoding the antigen-specific chimeric antibodies or the variable domains of the light and heavy chains may be isolated directly from antigen-specific lymphocytes.

[0167] Initially, high affinity chimeric antibodies are isolated having a human variable region and a mouse constant region. As in the experimental section below, the antibodies are characterized and selected for desirable characteristics, including affinity, selectivity, epitope, etc. The mouse constant regions are replaced with a desired human constant region to generate the fully human antibody of the invention, for example wild-type or modified IgG1 or IgG4. While the constant region selected may vary according to specific use, high affinity antigen-binding and target specificity characteristics reside in the variable region.

[0168] In general, the antibodies of the instant invention possess very high affinities, typically possessing K_D of from about 10^{-12} through about 10^{-9} M, when measured by binding to antigen either immobilized on solid phase or in solution phase. The mouse constant regions are replaced with desired human constant regions to generate the fully human antibodies of the invention. While the constant region selected may vary according to specific use, high affinity antigen-binding and target specificity characteristics reside in the variable region.

Bioequivalents

[0169] The anti-Fel d1 antibodies and antibody fragments of the present invention encompass proteins having amino acid sequences that vary from those of the described antibodies, but that retain the ability to bind Fel d1. Such variant antibodies and antibody fragments comprise one or more additions, deletions, or substitutions of amino acids when compared to parent sequence, but exhibit biological activity that is essentially equivalent to that of the described antibodies. Likewise, the antibody-encoding DNA sequences of the present invention encompass sequences that comprise one or more additions, deletions, or substitutions of nucleotides when compared to the disclosed sequence, but that encode an antibody or antibody fragment that is essentially bioequivalent to an antibody or antibody fragment of the invention.

[0170] Two antigen-binding proteins, or antibodies, are considered bioequivalent if, for example, they are pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives whose rate and extent of

absorption do not show a significant difference when administered at the same molar dose under similar experimental conditions, either single does or multiple dose. Some antibodies will be considered equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives if they are equivalent in the extent of their absorption but not in their rate of absorption and yet may be considered bioequivalent because such differences in the rate of absorption are intentional and are reflected in the labeling, are not essential to the attainment of effective body drug concentrations on, *e.g.*, chronic use, and are considered medically insignificant for the particular drug product studied.

[0171] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if there are no clinically meaningful differences in their safety, purity, and potency.

[0172] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if a patient can be switched one or more times between the reference product and the biological product without an expected increase in the risk of adverse effects, including a clinically significant change in immunogenicity, or diminished effectiveness, as compared to continued therapy without such switching.

[0173] In one embodiment, two antigen-binding proteins are bioequivalent if they both act by a common mechanism or mechanisms of action for the condition or conditions of use, to the extent that such mechanisms are known.

[0174] Bioequivalence may be demonstrated by *in vivo* and/or *in vitro* methods. Bioequivalence measures include, *e.g.*, (a) an *in vivo* test in humans or other mammals, in which the concentration of the antibody or its metabolites is measured in blood, plasma, serum, or other biological fluid as a function of time; (b) an *in vitro* test that has been correlated with and is reasonably predictive of human *in vivo* bioavailability data; (c) an *in vivo* test in humans or other mammals in which the appropriate acute pharmacological effect of the antibody (or its target) is measured as a function of time; and (d) in a well-controlled clinical trial that establishes safety, efficacy, or bioavailability or bioequivalence of an antibody.

[0175] Bioequivalent variants of the antibodies of the invention may be constructed by, for example, making various substitutions of residues or sequences or deleting terminal or internal residues or sequences not needed for biological activity. For example, cysteine residues not essential for biological activity can be deleted or replaced with other amino acids to prevent formation of unnecessary or incorrect intramolecular disulfide bridges upon renaturation. In other contexts, bioequivalent antibodies may include antibody variants comprising amino acid changes, which modify the glycosylation characteristics of the antibodies, *e.g.*, mutations that eliminate or remove glycosylation.

Biological Characteristics of the Antibodies

[0176] In general, the antibodies of the present invention may function by binding to either chain 1

or to chain 2 of Fel d1, or to both chain 1 and chain 2 of Fel d1 or to a fragment of either chain 1 or chain 2.

[0177] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the present invention may bind to an epitope located in at least the C-terminal region of either chain 1 or chain 2 of Fel d1. In one embodiment, the antibodies may bind to an epitope within the N-terminal region of either chain 1 or chain 2 of Fel d1.

[0178] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the present invention may function by blocking or inhibiting the binding of IgE to mast cells or basophils in a patient sensitive to the fel d1 allergen.

[0179] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the present invention may function by binding to any other region or fragment of the full length chain 1 or chain 2 of the natural Fel d1 protein, the amino acid sequence of which is shown in SEQ ID NO: 392 (chain 1) and SEQ ID NO: 393 (chain 2).

[0180] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the present invention may be bi-specific antibodies. The bi-specific antibodies of the invention may bind one epitope in chain 1 and may also bind one epitope in chain 2. In certain embodiments, the bi-specific antibodies of the invention may bind two different epitopes in chain 1. In certain embodiments, the bi-specific antibodies of the invention may bind two different epitopes in chain 2. In certain embodiments, the bi-specific antibodies of the invention may bind to two different sites within the same helix on either one of chain 1 or chain 2, or may bind to the same helix on both chain 1 and chain 2. The structure of Fel d1 is described in greater detail in Kaiser *et. al*. (Kaiser, L. *et. al.* (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278 (39):37730-37735), whereby the authors note that Fel d1 consists of eight helices, H1-H4 and H5-H8, which correspond to chains 2 and 1, respectively, in natural Fel d1.

[0181] In one embodiment, the invention provides a fully human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: (i) comprises a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354 and 370, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (ii) comprises a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362 and 378, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iii) comprises a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 152, 168, 184, 200, 216, 232,248, 264, 280, 296, 312, 328, 344, 360 and 376, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence

selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 240, 256, 272, 288, 304, 320, 336, 352, 368 and 384, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iv) comprises a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 20, 36, 52, 68, 84, 100, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180, 196, 212, 228, 244, 260, 276, 292, 308, 324, 340, 356 and 372, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, 22, 38, 54, 70, 86, 102, 118, 134, 150, 166, 182, 198, 214, 230, 246, 262, 278, 294, 310, 326, 342, 358 and 374, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12, 28, 44, 60, 76, 92, 108, 124, 140, 156, 172, 188, 204, 220, 236, 252, 268, 284, 300, 316, 332, 348, 364 and 380, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 126, 142, 158, 174, 190, 206, 222, 238, 254, 270, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366 and 382, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (v) binds to chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 10^{-9}; (vi) does not cross-react with, or bind to, uteroglobin; or (vii) blocks dye extravasation *in vivo* in a passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (PCA) mouse model using Fel d1 specific mouse IgE.

[0182] In one embodiment, the invention provides for the use of a combination of two or more fully human antibodies of the invention, or fragments thereof, for preparation of a composition, wherein the antibodies bind to chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1, and wherein each antibody or fragment thereof contained within the composition exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: (i) comprise a HCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 18, 34, 50, 66, 82, 98, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 194, 210, 226, 242, 258, 274, 290, 306, 322, 338, 354 and 370, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (ii) comprises a LCVR having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 26, 42, 58, 74, 90, 106, 122, 138, 154, 170, 186, 202, 218, 234, 250, 266, 282, 298, 314, 330, 346, 362 and 378, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iii) comprises a HCDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 88, 104, 120, 136, 152, 168, 184, 200, 216, 232,248, 264, 280, 296, 312, 328, 344, 360 and 376, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR3 domain

having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 240, 256, 272, 288, 304, 320, 336, 352, 368 and 384, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (iv) comprises a HCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 20, 36, 52, 68, 84, 100, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180, 196, 212, 228, 244, 260, 276, 292, 308, 324, 340, 356 and 372, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a HCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, 22, 38, 54, 70, 86, 102, 118, 134, 150, 166, 182, 198, 214, 230, 246, 262, 278, 294, 310, 326, 342, 358 and 374, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; a LCDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12, 28, 44, 60, 76, 92, 108, 124, 140, 156, 172, 188, 204, 220, 236, 252, 268, 284, 300, 316, 332, 348, 364 and 380, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; and a LCDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 126, 142, 158, 174, 190, 206, 222, 238, 254, 270, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366 and 382, or a substantially similar sequence thereof having at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% sequence identity; (v) binds to chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 10^{-9}; (vi) does not cross-react with, or bind to, uteroglobin; (vii) blocks dye extravasation *in vivo* in a passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (PCA) mouse model using Fel d1 specific mouse IgE; or (viii) when combined with a second antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof of the invention, decreases the frequency of mucous secreting cells in the lungs of Fel d1 challenged animals.

[0183] Certain Fel d1 antibodies of the present invention, when used alone, or in combination, are able to bind to and neutralize at least one biological effect of Fel d1, as determined by *in vitro* or *in vivo* assays. The ability of the antibodies of the invention to bind to and neutralize the activity of Fel d1 may be measured using any standard method known to those skilled in the art, including binding assays, or neutralization of activity (*e.g.*, protection from anaphylaxis) assays, as described herein.

[0184] Non-limiting, exemplary *in vitro* assays for measuring binding activity are illustrated in Examples 4, herein. In Examples 4, the binding affinities and kinetic constants of human anti-Fel d1 antibodies were determined by surface plasmon resonance and the measurements were conducted on a T200 Biacore instrument.

[0185] The Fel d1 proteins or peptides may be modified to include addition or substitution of certain residues for tagging or for purposes of conjugation to carrier molecules, such as, KLH. For example, a cysteine may be added at either the N terminal or C terminal end of a peptide, or a linker sequence may be added to prepare the peptide for conjugation to, for example, KLH for

immunization. The antibodies specific for Fel d1 may contain no additional labels or moieties, or they may contain an N-terminal or C-terminal label or moiety. In one embodiment, the label or moiety is biotin. In a binding assay, the location of a label (if any) may determine the orientation of the peptide relative to the surface upon which the peptide is bound. For example, if a surface is coated with avidin, a peptide containing an N-terminal biotin will be oriented such that the C-terminal portion of the peptide will be distal to the surface.

Epitope Mapping and Related Technologies

[0186] The term "epitope," as used herein, refers to an antigenic determinant that interacts with a specific antigen binding site in the variable region of an antibody molecule known as a paratope. A single antigen may have more than one epitope. Thus, different antibodies may bind to different areas on an antigen and may have different biological effects. Epitopes may be either conformational or linear. A conformational epitope is produced by spatially juxtaposed amino acids from different segments of the linear polypeptide chain. A linear epitope is one produced by adjacent amino acid residues in a polypeptide chain. In certain circumstance, an epitope may include moieties of saccharides, phosphoryl groups, or sulfonyl groups on the antigen.

[0187] The present invention includes anti-Fel d1 antibodies which interact with one or more amino acids found within one or more regions of chain 1 or chain 2 of the Fel d1 molecule including, *e.g.*, chain 1 (chain A) as shown in SEQ ID NO: 392, or chain 2 (chain B) as shown in SEQ ID NO: 393, or within comparable regions of a recombinantly produced Fel d1 protein, as shown in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395, 396 or 397. The epitope to which the antibodies bind may consist of a single contiguous sequence of 3 or more (*e.g.*, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more) amino acids located within any of the aforementioned regions or segments of the Fel d1 molecule (*e.g.* a linear epitope in either chain 1 or chain 2, or in a region that spans both chain 1 and chain 2). Alternatively, the epitope may consist of a plurality of non-contiguous amino acids (or amino acid sequences) located within either or both of the aforementioned regions or segments of the Fel d1 molecule (*e.g.* a conformational epitope).

[0188] Various techniques known to persons of ordinary skill in the art can be used to determine whether an antibody "interacts with one or more amino acids" within a polypeptide or protein. Exemplary techniques include, for example, routine cross-blocking assays, such as that described in Antibodies, Harlow and Lane (Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harb., NY). Other methods include alanine scanning mutational analysis, peptide blot analysis (Reineke (2004) Methods Mol Biol 248:443-63), peptide cleavage analysis crystallographic studies and NMR analysis. In addition, methods such as epitope excision, epitope extraction and chemical modification of antigens can be employed (Tomer (2000) Protein Science 9: 487-496). Another method that can be used to identify the amino acids within a polypeptide with which an antibody

interacts is hydrogen/deuterium exchange detected by mass spectrometry. In general terms, the hydrogen/deuterium exchange method involves deuterium-labeling the protein of interest, followed by binding the antibody to the deuterium-labeled protein. Next, the protein/antibody complex is transferred to water and exchangeable protons within amino acids that are protected by the antibody complex undergo deuterium-to-hydrogen back-exchange at a slower rate than exchangeable protons within amino acids that are not part of the interface. As a result, amino acids that form part of the protein/antibody interface may retain deuterium and therefore exhibit relatively higher mass compared to amino acids not included in the interface. After dissociation of the antibody, the target protein is subjected to protease cleavage and mass spectrometry analysis, thereby revealing the deuterium-labeled residues which correspond to the specific amino acids with which the antibody interacts. *See, e.g.*, Ehring (1999) *Analytical Biochemistry* 267(2):252-259; Engen and Smith (2001) *Anal. Chem. 73*:256A-265A. X-ray crystallography of the antigen/antibody complex may also be used for epitope mapping purposes.

[0189] Modification-Assisted Profiling (MAP), also known as Antigen Structure-based Antibody Profiling (ASAP) is a method that categorizes large numbers of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) directed against the same antigen according to the similarities of the binding profile of each antibody to chemically or enzymatically modified antigen surfaces (US 2004/0101920). Each category may reflect a unique epitope either distinctly different from or partially overlapping with epitope represented by another category. This technology allows rapid filtering of genetically identical antibodies, such that characterization can be focused on genetically distinct antibodies. When applied to hybridoma screening, MAP may facilitate identification of rare hybridoma clones that produce mAbs having the desired characteristics. MAP may be used to sort the antibodies of the invention into groups of antibodies binding different epitopes.

[0190] In certain embodiments, the anti-Fel d1 antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof bind an epitope within any one or more of the regions exemplified in chain 1 or chain 2 of Fel d1, either in natural form, as exemplified in SEQ ID NO: 392 (chain 1) and SEQ ID NO: 393 (chain 2), or recombinantly produced, as exemplified in any of SEQ ID NOS: 385, 394, 395, 396, and 397, or to a fragment thereof. In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the invention, as shown in Table 1, interact with at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues ranging from about position 15 to about position 24 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 103 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from about position 85 to about position 104 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from about position 113 to about position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 396. These regions are further exemplified in SEQ ID NOs: 402, 403, 404, 412 and 426.

[0191] The present invention also includes anti-Fel d1 antibodies that bind to the same epitope, or a portion of the epitope, as any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein in Table 1, or

an antibody having the CDR sequences of any of the exemplary antibodies described in Table 1. Likewise, the present invention also includes anti-Fel d1 antibodies that compete for binding to Fel d1 or a Fel d1 fragment with any of the specific exemplary antibodies described herein in Table 1, or an antibody having the CDR sequences of any of the exemplary antibodies described in Table 1.

[0192] One can easily determine whether an antibody binds to the same epitope as, or competes for binding with, a reference anti-Fel d1 antibody by using routine methods known in the art. For example, to determine if a test antibody binds to the same epitope as a reference anti-Fel d1 antibody of the invention, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to a Fel d1 protein or peptide under saturating conditions. Next, the ability of a test antibody to bind to the Fel d1 molecule is assessed. If the test antibody is able to bind to Fel d1 following saturation binding with the reference anti-Fel d1 antibody, it can be concluded that the test antibody binds to a different epitope than the reference anti-Fel d1 antibody. On the other hand, if the test antibody is not able to bind to the Fel d1 molecule following saturation binding with the reference anti-Fel d1 antibody, then the test antibody may bind to the same epitope as the epitope bound by the reference anti-Fel d1 antibody of the invention.

[0193] To determine if an antibody competes for binding with a reference anti- Fel d1 antibody, the above-described binding methodology is performed in two orientations: In a first orientation, the reference antibody is allowed to bind to a Fel d1 molecule under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the test antibody to the Fel d1 molecule. In a second orientation, the test antibody is allowed to bind to a Fel d1 molecule under saturating conditions followed by assessment of binding of the reference antibody to the Fel d1 molecule. If, in both orientations, only the first (saturating) antibody is capable of binding to the Fel d1 molecule, then it is concluded that the test antibody and the reference antibody compete for binding to Fel d1. As will be appreciated by a person of ordinary skill in the art, an antibody that competes for binding with a reference antibody may not necessarily bind to the identical epitope as the reference antibody, but may sterically block binding of the reference antibody by binding an overlapping or adjacent epitope.

[0194] Two antibodies bind to the same or overlapping epitope if each competitively inhibits (blocks) binding of the other to the antigen. That is, a 1-, 5-, 10-, 20- or 100-fold excess of one antibody inhibits binding of the other by at least 50% but preferably 75%, 90% or even 99% as measured in a competitive binding assay (see, *e.g.,* Junghans *et al.*, Cancer Res. 1990 50:1495-1502). Alternatively, two antibodies have the same epitope if essentially all amino acid mutations in the antigen that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other. Two antibodies have overlapping epitopes if some amino acid mutations that reduce or eliminate binding of one antibody reduce or eliminate binding of the other.

[0195] Additional routine experimentation (*e.g.*, peptide mutation and binding analyses) can then

be carried out to confirm whether the observed lack of binding of the test antibody is in fact due to binding to the same epitope as the reference antibody or if steric blocking (or another phenomenon) is responsible for the lack of observed binding. Experiments of this sort can be performed using ELISA, RIA, surface plasmon resonance, flow cytometry or any other quantitative or qualitative antibody-binding assay available in the art.

Immunoconjugates

[0196] The invention encompasses a human anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibody conjugated to a therapeutic moiety ("immunoconjugate"), such as an agent that is capable of reducing the severity of an allergic response to the Fel d1 allergen present in cat dander or on cats, or in an area of the environment where cats may reside, or to ameliorate at least one symptom associated with exposure to cats, cat dander or to the Fel d1 allergen, including rhinitis, conjunctivitis, or breathing difficulties, or the severity thereof. Such an agent may be a corticosteroid, a second different antibody to Fel d1, or a vaccine. The type of therapeutic moiety that may be conjugated to the Fel d1 antibody will take into account the condition to be treated and the desired therapeutic effect to be achieved. Alternatively, if the desired therapeutic effect is to treat the sequelae or symptoms associated with exposure to the Fel d1 allergen, or any other condition resulting from such exposure, such as, but not limited to, rhinitis or conjunctivitis, it may be advantageous to conjugate an agent appropriate to treat the sequelae or symptoms of the condition, or to alleviate any side effects of the antibodies of the invention. Examples of suitable agents for forming immunoconjugates are known in the art, see for example, WO 05/103081.

Multi-specific Antibodies

[0197] The antibodies of the present invention may be mono-specific, bi-specific, or multi-specific. Multi-specific antibodies may be specific for different epitopes of one target polypeptide or may contain antigen-binding domains specific for more than one target polypeptide. See, *e.g.,* Tutt *et al.,* 1991, J. Immunol. 147:60-69; Kufer *et al*., 2004, Trends Biotechnol. 22:238-244. The antibodies of the present invention can be linked to or co-expressed with another functional molecule, *e.g*., another peptide or protein. For example, an antibody or fragment thereof can be functionally linked (*e.g.,* by chemical coupling, genetic fusion, noncovalent association or otherwise) to one or more other molecular entities, such as another antibody or antibody fragment to produce a bi-specific or a multi-specific antibody with a second binding specificity. For example, the present invention includes bi-specific antibodies wherein one arm of an immunoglobulin may be specific for chain 1 of Fel d1, or a fragment thereof, and the other arm of the immunoglobulin may be specific for chain 2 of Fel d1, or a second therapeutic target, or may be conjugated to a therapeutic moiety.

[0198] Certain exemplary embodiments of the present invention include a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule, which is a bi-specific antibody. Each antigen-binding domain of a bi-specific antibody comprises a heavy chain variable domain (HCVR) and a light chain variable domain (LCVR). The HCVR may also be referred to as a V_H region, and the LCVR may also be referred to as a V_L region. Typically, each HCVR and LCVR comprises three CDRs interspersed with four FRs, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus in the following order: FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3, FR4. The three CDRs within an HCVR may be referred to herein as HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3; while the three CDRs within an LCVR may be referred to herein as LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3.

[0199] In the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the present invention, each antigen-binding domain may comprise or consist of a full antibody molecule or an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody. The terms "antigen-binding portion" of an antibody, "antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody, and the like, as used herein, include any naturally occurring, enzymatically obtainable, synthetic, or genetically engineered polypeptide or glycoprotein that specifically binds an antigen to form a complex. Antigen-binding fragments of an antibody may be derived, *e.g.*, from full antibody molecules using any suitable standard techniques such as proteolytic digestion or recombinant genetic engineering techniques involving the manipulation and expression of DNA encoding antibody variable and optionally constant domains. Such DNA is known and/or is readily available from, *e.g.*, commercial sources, DNA libraries (including, *e.g.*, phage-antibody libraries), or can be synthesized. The DNA may be sequenced and manipulated chemically or by using molecular biology techniques, for example, to arrange one or more variable and/or constant domains into a suitable configuration, or to introduce codons, create cysteine residues, modify, add or delete amino acids, etc.

[0200] Non-limiting examples of antigen-binding fragments that may be included in the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the present invention include: (i) Fab fragments; (ii) F(ab')2 fragments; (iii) Fd fragments; (iv) Fv fragments; (v) single-chain Fv (scFv) molecules; (vi) dAb fragments; and (vii) minimal recognition units consisting of the amino acid residues that mimic the hypervariable region of an antibody. Other engineered molecules, such as domain-specific antibodies, single domain antibodies, domain-deleted antibodies, chimeric antibodies, CDR-grafted antibodies, diabodies, triabodies, tetrabodies, minibodies, nanobodies (*e.g.* monovalent nanobodies, bivalent nanobodies, etc.), small modular immunopharmaceuticals (SMIPs), and shark variable IgNAR domains, are also encompassed within the expression "antigen-binding fragment," as used herein.

[0201] An antigen-binding fragment of an antibody will typically comprise at least one variable domain. The variable domain may be of any size or amino acid composition and will generally comprise at least one CDR, which is adjacent to or in frame with one or more framework

sequences. In antigen-binding fragments having a V_H domain associated with a V_L domain, the V_H and V_L domains may be situated relative to one another in any suitable arrangement. For example, the variable region may be dimeric and contain V_H-V_H, V_H-V_L or V_L-V_L dimers. Alternatively, the antigen-binding fragment of an antibody may contain a monomeric V_H or V_L domain.

[0202] In certain embodiments, an antigen-binding fragment of a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule may contain at least one variable domain covalently linked to at least one constant domain. Non-limiting, exemplary configurations of variable and constant domains that may be found within an antigen-binding domain of a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule may include: (i) V_H-C_H1; (ii) V_H-C_H2; (iii) V_H-C_H3; (iv) V_H-C_H1-C_H2; (v) V_H-C_H1-C_H2-C_H3; (vi) V_H-C_H2-C_H3; (vii) V_H-C_L; (viii) V_L-C_H1; (ix) V_L-C_H2; (x) V_L-C_H3; (xi) V_L-C_H1-C_H2; (xii) V_L-C_H1-C_H2-C_H3; (xiii) V_L-C_H2-C_H3; and (xiv) V_L-C_L. In any configuration of variable and constant domains, including any of the exemplary configurations listed above, the variable and constant domains may be either directly linked to one another or may be linked by a full or partial hinge or linker region. A hinge region may consist of at least 2 (*e.g.*, 5, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60 or more) amino acids, which result in a flexible or semi-flexible linkage between adjacent variable and/or constant domains in a single polypeptide molecule. Moreover, an antigen-binding domain of a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule may comprise a homo-dimer or hetero-dimer (or other multimer) of any of the variable and constant domain configurations listed above in non-covalent association with one another and/or with one or more monomeric V_H or V_L domain (*e.g.*, by disulfide bond(s)).

[0203] The first antigen-binding domain and the second antigen-binding domain may be directly or indirectly connected to one another to form a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule. Alternatively, the first antigen-binding domain and the second antigen-binding domain may each be connected to a separate multimerizing domain. The association of one multimerizing domain with another multimerizing domain facilitates the association between the two antigen-binding domains, thereby forming a bispecific antigen-binding molecule. As used herein, a "multimerizing domain" is any macromolecule, protein, polypeptide, peptide, or amino acid that has the ability to associate with a second multimerizing domain of the same or similar structure or constitution. For example, a multimerizing domain may be a polypeptide comprising an immunoglobulin C_H3 domain. A non-limiting example of a multimerizing component is an Fc portion of an immunoglobulin, *e.g.*, an Fc domain of an IgG selected from the isotypes IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4, as well as any allotype within each isotype group. In certain embodiments, the multimerizing domain may be an Fc fragment or an amino acid sequence of 1 to about 200 amino acids in length containing at least one cysteine residues. In other embodiments, the multimerizing domain may be a cysteine residue, or a short cysteine-containing peptide. Other multimerizing domains include peptides or polypeptides comprising or consisting of a leucine zipper, a helix-loop motif, or a coiled-coil motif.

[0204] Any bi-specific antibody format or technology may be used to make the bi-specific antigen-binding molecules of the present invention. For example, an antibody or fragment thereof having a first antigen binding specificity can be functionally linked (e.g., by chemical coupling, genetic fusion, noncovalent association or otherwise) to one or more other molecular entities, such as another antibody or antibody fragment having a second antigen-binding specificity to produce a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule.

[0205] An exemplary bi-specific antibody format that can be used in the context of the present invention involves the use of a first immunoglobulin (Ig) C_{H3} domain and a second Ig C_{H3} domain, wherein the first and second Ig C_{H3} domains differ from one another by at least one amino acid, and wherein at least one amino acid difference reduces binding of the bi-specific antibody to Protein A as compared to a bi-specific antibody lacking the amino acid difference. In one embodiment, the first Ig C_{H3} domain binds Protein A and the second Ig C_{H3} domain contains a mutation that reduces or abolishes Protein A binding such as an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). The second C_{H3} may further comprise a Y96F modification (by IMGT; Y436F by EU). Further modifications that may be found within the second C_{H3} include: D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (by IMGT; D356E, L358M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG1 antibodies; N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT; N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG2 antibodies; and Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (by IMGT; Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU) in the case of IgG4 antibodies. Variations on the bi-specific antibody format described above are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

[0206] Other exemplary bi-specific formats that can be used in the context of the present invention include, without limitation, *e.g.*, scFv-based or diabody bispecific formats, IgG-scFv fusions, dual variable domain (DVD)-Ig, Quadroma, knobs-into-holes, common light chain (*e.g.*, common light chain with knobs-into-holes, etc.), CrossMab, CrossFab, (SEED)body, leucine zipper, Duobody, IgG1/IgG2, dual acting Fab (DAF)-IgG, and Mab^2 bispecific formats (*see*, *e.g.*, Klein *et al*. 2012, mAbs 4:6, 1-11, and references cited therein, for a review of the foregoing formats). Bi-specific antibodies can also be constructed using peptide/nucleic acid conjugation, *e.g.*, wherein unnatural amino acids with orthogonal chemical reactivity are used to generate site-specific antibody-oligonucleotide conjugates which then self-assemble into multimeric complexes with defined composition, valency and geometry. (*See*, *e.g.*, Kazane *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* [*Epub*: *Dec. 4, 2012*]).

Therapeutic Administration and Formulations

[0207] The invention provides therapeutic compositions comprising the anti-Fel d1 antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof of the present invention. The administration of therapeutic

compositions in accordance with the invention will be administered via a suitable route including, but not limited to, intravenously, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intranasally, with suitable carriers, excipients, and other agents that are incorporated into formulations to provide improved transfer, delivery, tolerance, and the like. A multitude of appropriate formulations can be found in the formulary known to all pharmaceutical chemists: Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, PA. These formulations include, for example, powders, pastes, ointments, jellies, waxes, oils, lipids, lipid (cationic or anionic) containing vesicles (such as LIPOFECTIN™), DNA conjugates, anhydrous absorption pastes, oil-in-water and water-in-oil emulsions, emulsions carbowax (polyethylene glycols of various molecular weights), semi-solid gels, and semi-solid mixtures containing carbowax. See also Powell *et al.* "Compendium of excipients for parenteral formulations" PDA (1998) J Pharm Sci Technol 52:238-311.

[0208] The dose of antibody may vary depending upon the age and the size of a subject to be administered, target disease, conditions, route of administration, and the like. When the antibody of the present invention is used for treating the rhinitis or conjunctivitis associated with exposure to a cat, or to cat dander in an individual having a sensitivity to Fel d1, or for preventing an anaphylactic response to the cat allergen, or for lessening the severity of the allergic response, it is advantageous to intravenously administer the antibody of the present invention normally at a single dose of about 0.01 to about 30 mg/kg body weight, more preferably about 0.02 to about 7, about 0.03 to about 5, or about 0.05 to about 3 mg/kg body weight. Depending on the severity of the condition, the frequency and the duration of the treatment can be adjusted. In certain embodiments, the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of the invention can be administered as an initial dose of at least about 0.1 mg to about 800 mg, about 1 to about 500 mg, about 5 to about 300 mg, or about 10 to about 200 mg, to about 100 mg, or to about 50 mg. In certain embodiments, the initial dose may be followed by administration of a second or a plurality of subsequent doses of the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof in an amount that can be approximately the same or less than that of the initial dose, wherein the subsequent doses are separated by at least 1 day to 3 days; at least one week, at least 2 weeks; at least 3 weeks; at least 4 weeks; at least 5 weeks; at least 6 weeks; at least 7 weeks; at least 8 weeks; at least 9 weeks; at least 10 weeks; at least 12 weeks; or at least 14 weeks.

[0209] Various delivery systems are known and can be used to administer the pharmaceutical composition of the invention, *e.g.,* encapsulation in liposomes, microparticles, microcapsules, recombinant cells capable of expressing the mutant viruses, receptor mediated endocytosis (see, *e.g.*, Wu *et al.* (1987) J. Biol. Chem. 262:4429-4432). Methods of introduction include, but are not limited to, intradermal, transdermal, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravenous, subcutaneous, intranasal, epidural and oral routes. The composition may be administered by any convenient route, for example by infusion or bolus injection, by absorption through epithelial or mucocutaneous

linings (*e.g.,* oral mucosa, rectal and intestinal mucosa, etc.) and may be administered together with other biologically active agents. Administration can be systemic or local.

[0210] The pharmaceutical composition can be also delivered in a vesicle, in particular a liposome (see, for example, Langer (1990) Science 249:1527-1533).

[0211] In certain situations, the pharmaceutical composition can be delivered in a controlled release system. In one embodiment, a pump may be used. In another embodiment, polymeric materials can be used. In yet another embodiment, a controlled release system can be placed in proximity of the composition's target, thus requiring only a fraction of the systemic dose.

[0212] The injectable preparations may include dosage forms for intravenous, subcutaneous, intracutaneous and intramuscular injections, drip infusions, etc. These injectable preparations may be prepared by methods publicly known. For example, the injectable preparations may be prepared, *e.g.*, by dissolving, suspending or emulsifying the antibody or its salt described above in a sterile aqueous medium or an oily medium conventionally used for injections. As the aqueous medium for injections, there are, for example, physiological saline, an isotonic solution containing glucose and other auxiliary agents, etc., which may be used in combination with an appropriate solubilizing agent such as an alcohol (*e.g.*, ethanol), a polyalcohol (e.g., propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol), a nonionic surfactant [e.g., polysorbate 80, HCO-50 (polyoxyethylene (50 mol) adduct of hydrogenated castor oil)], etc. As the oily medium, there are employed, *e.g.*, sesame oil, soybean oil, etc., which may be used in combination with a solubilizing agent such as benzyl benzoate, benzyl alcohol, etc. The injection thus prepared is preferably filled in an appropriate ampoule.

[0213] A pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can be delivered subcutaneously or intravenously with a standard needle and syringe. In addition, with respect to subcutaneous delivery, a pen delivery device readily has applications in delivering a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. Such a pen delivery device can be reusable or disposable. A reusable pen delivery device generally utilizes a replaceable cartridge that contains a pharmaceutical composition. Once all of the pharmaceutical composition within the cartridge has been administered and the cartridge is empty, the empty cartridge can readily be discarded and replaced with a new cartridge that contains the pharmaceutical composition. The pen delivery device can then be reused. In a disposable pen delivery device, there is no replaceable cartridge. Rather, the disposable pen delivery device comes prefilled with the pharmaceutical composition held in a reservoir within the device. Once the reservoir is emptied of the pharmaceutical composition, the entire device is discarded.

[0214] Numerous reusable pen and autoinjector delivery devices have applications in the subcutaneous delivery of a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. Examples include, but certainly are not limited to AUTOPEN™ (Owen Mumford, Inc., Woodstock, UK),

DISETRONIC™ pen (Disetronic Medical Systems, Burghdorf, Switzerland), HUMALOG MIX 75/25™ pen, HUMALOG™ pen, HUMALIN 70/30™ pen (Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, IN), NOVOPEN™ I, II and III (Novo Nordisk, Copenhagen, Denmark), NOVOPEN JUNIOR™ (Novo Nordisk, Copenhagen, Denmark), BD™ pen (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ), OPTIPEN™, OPTIPEN PRO™, OPTIPEN STARLET™, and OPTICLIK™ (sanofi-aventis, Frankfurt, Germany), to name only a few. Examples of disposable pen delivery devices having applications in subcutaneous delivery of a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention include, but certainly are not limited to the SOLOSTAR™ pen (sanofi-aventis), the FLEXPEN™ (Novo Nordisk), and the KWIKPEN™ (Eli Lilly), the SURECLICK ™ Autoinjector (Amgen, Thousands Oaks, CA), the PENLET ™ (Haselmeier, Stuttgart, Germany), the EPIPEN (Dey, L.P.) and the HUMIRA ™ Pen (Abbott Labs, Abbott Park, IL), to name only a few.

[0215] Advantageously, the pharmaceutical compositions for oral or parenteral use described above are prepared into dosage forms in a unit dose suited to fit a dose of the active ingredients. Such dosage forms in a unit dose include, for example, tablets, pills, capsules, injections (ampoules), suppositories, etc. The amount of the aforesaid antibody contained is generally about 5 to about 500 mg per dosage form in a unit dose; especially in the form of injection, it is preferred that the aforesaid antibody is contained in about 5 to about 100 mg and in about 10 to about 250 mg for the other dosage forms.

Therapeutic Uses of the Antibodies

[0216] Due to their interaction with Fel d1, the present antibodies are useful for treating the primary response following exposure of an individual to a cat, cat dander or to an environment containing the Fel d1 protein, or at least one symptom associated with the allergic response, such as itchy eyes, conjunctivitis, rhinitis, wheezing, breathing difficulties, or for preventing a secondary response to the Fel d1 allergen, including a more serious anaphylactic response, or for lessening the severity, duration, and/or frequency of symptoms following reexposure to the cat allergen. Accordingly, it is envisioned that the antibodies of the present invention may be used prophylactically or therapeutically.

[0217] In yet a further embodiment of the invention the present antibodies are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating patients suffering from a sensitivity to cats, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof and/or the Fel d1 protein. In yet another embodiment of the invention the present antibodies are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for reducing the severity of primary exposure to Fel d1, or for reducing the severity, duration of, and/or number of allergic responses to Fel d1. In a further embodiment of the invention the present antibodies are used as adjunct therapy with any other agent useful for treating cat allergens, including corticosteroids, vaccines, allergen specific immunotherapy (SIT), or any other palliative

therapy known to those skilled in the art.

Combination Therapies

[0218] Combination therapies may include an anti-Fel d1 antibody of the invention and any additional therapeutic agent that may be advantageously combined with an antibody of the invention, or with a biologically active fragment of an antibody of the invention.

[0219] For example, a second therapeutic agent may be employed to aid in reducing the allergic symptoms following exposure to a cat, cat dander, cat hair or an extract thereof or Fel d1, or being exposed to an environment in which a cat resides, such as a corticosteroid. The antibodies may also be used in conjunction with other therapies, such as a vaccine specific for the Fel d1 allergen. The additional therapeutically active component(s) may be administered prior to, concurrent with, or after the administration of the anti-Fel d1 antibody of the present invention. For purposes of the present disclosure, such administration regimens are considered the administration of an anti-Fel d1 antibody "in combination with" a second therapeutically active component.

Administration Regimens

[0220] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, multiple doses of one or more anti-Fel d1 antibodies (an antibody combination) or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule may be administered to a subject over a defined time course. The methods according to this aspect of the invention comprise sequentially administering to a subject multiple doses of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule of the invention. As used herein, "sequentially administering" means that each dose of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule is administered to the subject at a different point in time, *e.g.*, on different days separated by a predetermined interval (*e.g.*, hours, days, weeks or months). The present invention includes methods, which comprise sequentially administering to the patient a single initial dose of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule, followed by one or more secondary doses of the antibody, and optionally followed by one or more tertiary doses of the antibody.

[0221] The terms "initial dose," "secondary doses," and "tertiary doses," refer to the temporal sequence of administration of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule of the invention. Thus, the "initial dose" is the dose which is administered at the beginning of the treatment regimen (also referred to as the "baseline dose"); the "secondary doses" are the doses which are administered after the initial dose; and the "tertiary doses" are the doses which are administered after the secondary doses. The initial, secondary, and tertiary doses may all contain the same amount of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule, but generally may differ from one another in terms of frequency of administration. In

certain embodiments, however, the amount of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule contained in the initial, secondary and/or tertiary doses varies from one another (*e.g.*, adjusted up or down as appropriate) during the course of treatment. In certain embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, or 5) doses are administered at the beginning of the treatment regimen as "loading doses" followed by subsequent doses that are administered on a less frequent basis (*e.g.*, "maintenance doses").

[0222] In one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, each secondary and/or tertiary dose is administered 1 to 26 (*e.g.*, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 4, 4½, 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, 11½, 12, 12½, 13, 13½, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, 16½, 17, 17½, 18, 18½, 19, 19½, 20, 20½, 21, 21½, 22, 22½, 23, 23½, 24, 24½, 25, 25½, 26, 26½, or more) weeks after the immediately preceding dose. The phrase "the immediately preceding dose," as used herein, means, in a sequence of multiple administrations, the dose of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule, which is administered to a patient prior to the administration of the very next dose in the sequence with no intervening doses.

[0223] The methods according to this aspect of the invention may comprise administering to a patient any number of secondary and/or tertiary doses of an antibody, antibody combination, or a bi-specific antigen-binding molecule that specifically binds Fel d1. For example, in certain embodiments, only a single secondary dose is administered to the patient. In other embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or more) secondary doses are administered to the patient. Likewise, in certain embodiments, only a single tertiary dose is administered to the patient. In other embodiments, two or more (*e.g.*, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or more) tertiary doses are administered to the patient.

[0224] In embodiments involving multiple secondary doses, each secondary dose may be administered at the same frequency as the other secondary doses. For example, each secondary dose may be administered to the patient 1 to 2 weeks after the immediately preceding dose. Similarly, in embodiments involving multiple tertiary doses, each tertiary dose may be administered at the same frequency as the other tertiary doses. For example, each tertiary dose may be administered to the patient 2 to 4 weeks after the immediately preceding dose. Alternatively, the frequency at which the secondary and/or tertiary doses are administered to a patient can vary over the course of the treatment regimen. The frequency of administration may also be adjusted during the course of treatment by a physician depending on the needs of the individual patient following clinical examination.

Diagnostic Uses of the Antibodies

[0225] The anti-Fel d1 antibodies of the present invention may also be used to detect and/or measure Fel d1 in a sample, *e.g.*, for diagnostic purposes. It is envisioned that confirmation of an

allergic response thought to be caused by Fel d1 may be made by measuring the presence of either Fel d1 through use of any one or more of the antibodies of the invention. Exemplary diagnostic assays for Fel d1 may comprise, *e.g.*, contacting a sample, obtained from a patient, with an anti-Fel d1 antibody of the invention, wherein the anti-Fel d1 antibody is labeled with a detectable label or reporter molecule or used as a capture ligand to selectively isolate Fel d1 protein from patient samples. Alternatively, an unlabeled anti-Fel d1 antibody can be used in diagnostic applications in combination with a secondary antibody which is itself detectably labeled. The detectable label or reporter molecule can be a radioisotope, such as ^{3}H, ^{14}C, ^{32}P, ^{35}S, or ^{125}I; a fluorescent or chemiluminescent moiety such as fluorescein isothiocyanate, or rhodamine; or an enzyme such as alkaline phosphatase, β-galactosidase, horseradish peroxidase, or luciferase. Specific exemplary assays that can be used to detect or measure Fel d1 in a sample include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS).

[0226] Samples that can be used in Fel d1 diagnostic assays according to the present invention include any tissue or fluid sample obtainable from a patient, which contains detectable quantities of Fel d1 protein, or fragments thereof, under normal or pathological conditions. Generally, levels of Fel d1 in a particular sample obtained from a healthy/non-allergic patient (*e.g.*, a patient not afflicted with a sensitivity associated with the presence of Fel d1) will be measured to initially establish a baseline, or standard, level of Fel d1. This baseline level of Fel d1 can then be compared against the levels of Fel d1 measured in samples obtained from individuals suspected of having a sensitivity to Fel d1 in cat dander, or symptoms associated with such condition.

EXAMPLES

[0227] The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure and description of how to make and use the methods and compositions of the invention, and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (e.g., amounts, temperature, etc.) but some experimental errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, molecular weight is average molecular weight, temperature is in degrees Centigrade, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1. Generation of Human Antibodies to Fel d1

[0228] An immunogen comprising any one of the following can be used to generate antibodies to Fel d1. In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the invention are obtained from mice immunized with a primary immunogen, such as full length natural Fel d1 (nFel d1), which may be purchased commercially (*e.g.,* from Indoor Biotechnologies, # LTN-FD1-1), or isolated from cat hair or dander

by multi-step column chromatography (See, for example, Chapman MD, *et al.* (1988), J. Immunol. 140:812-818), or which may be produced recombinantly (See GenBank accession numbers P30438, or NP_001041618.1 for the full length amino acid sequence of chain 1 of Fel d1 (also referred to as chain A or FELD1 A; also see SEQ ID NO: 392) and GenBank accession number P30440, or NP_001041619.1 for the full length amino acid sequence of chain 2 of Fel d1 (also referred to as chain B or FELD B; also see SEQ ID NO: 393), or fragments of either chain 1 or chain 2, or fragments from both chain 1 and chain 2 of the Fel d1 protein, followed by immunization with a secondary immunogen, or with an immunogenically active fragment of the natural protein. Animals may be immunized with either chain 1 protein alone or chain 2 protein alone, or with both chain 1 and chain 2 proteins, administered sequentially, or concurrently. Various constructs may be prepared using portions of chain 1 and chain 2 along with various linking or spacer strategies known to those skilled in the art. These constructs may be used alone, or in various combinations to elicit antibody responses *in vivo*. For example, recombinant Fel d1 constructs, such as those exemplified in SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395, 396 or 397, or fragments thereof, may be used as immunogens.

[0229] In certain embodiments, the antibodies of the invention are obtained from mice immunized with a primary immunogen, such as a biologically active and/or immunogenic fragment of natural Fel d1, or DNA encoding the active fragment thereof. The fragment may be derived from the N-terminal or C-terminal domain of either chain 1 and/or chain 2 of Fel d1.

[0230] In certain embodiments, the recombinantly produced Fel d1 immunogen may be made by direct fusion of the two chains of Fel d1, as described in Kaiser *et. al.*, to produce a fusion product that has a similar refolding pattern to that of natural Fel d1 (Kaiser, L. et al., (2003), J. Biol. Chem. 278(39):37730-37735). In certain embodiments, the immunogen may be a fusion protein such as that shown in the constructs of SEQ ID NOs: 385, 394, 395, 396 or 397, followed by immunization with a secondary immunogen, or with an immunogenically active fragment of the natural or recombinantly produced Fel d1.

[0231] In certain embodiments, the recombinant Fel d1 protein constructs used in the studies described herein are comprised of either i) Fel d1 B chain (chain 2) and Fel d1 A chain (chain 1) linked as a continuous, in-line fusion (with Fel d1 B chain at the N-terminus) or ii) a continuous, in-line fusion with Fel d1 A chain at the N-terminus followed by a flexible linker [$(Gly4Ser)_3$] followed by Fel d1 B. These constructs may also include a C-terminal tag (myc-myc-His6 or mouse IgG2a Fc region), as indicated below. The proteins were expressed in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells. An exogenous signal sequence used to promote expression in CHO cells is not included in the sequence listings.

[0232] In certain embodiments, the immunogen may be a fusion protein comprising any one or more of the following: i) amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession

number P30440 and also SEQ ID NO: 393) fused via the C terminus directly with the N terminus of amino acid residues 23-92 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30438 and also SEQ ID NO: 392); ii) amino acid residues 23-92 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30438 and also SEQ ID NO: 392) fused via the C terminus to the N terminus of amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number P30440 and also SEQ ID NO: 393); iii) amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1) fused via the C terminus directly with the N terminus of amino acid residues 19-88 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041618.), such as the construct shown in SEQ ID NO: 394 or 396; iv) amino acid residues 19-88 of chain 1 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041618.1) fused via the C terminus to the N terminus of amino acid residues 18-109 of chain 2 of Fel d1 (See GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1). See also SEQ ID NO: 395). In certain embodiments, the fusion protein may have a tag at the C terminal end of the construct, such as a myc-myc-hexahistidine tag (See SEQ ID NOs: 385, 396 or 397 for such constructs.). In related embodiments, the fusion protein may have a mouse Fc coupled at the C terminal end of the construct (See SEQ ID NOs: 394 or 395 for such constructs.). In certain embodiments, chains 1 and 2 are coupled via a linker known to those skilled in the art, *e.g.* $(G_4S)_3$ (See SEQ ID NOs: 395 and 397 for such a construct.).

[0233] In certain embodiments, antibodies that bind specifically to Fel d1 may be prepared using fragments of the above-noted regions, or peptides that extend beyond the designated regions by about 5 to about 20 amino acid residues from either, or both, the N or C terminal ends of the regions described herein. In certain embodiments, any combination of the above-noted regions or fragments thereof may be used in the preparation of Fel d1 specific antibodies. In certain embodiments, any one or more of the above-noted regions of Fel d1, or fragments thereof may be used for preparing monospecific, bispecific, or multispecific antibodies.

[0234] The full length proteins, or fragments thereof, that were used as immunogens, as noted above, were administered directly, with an adjuvant to stimulate the immune response, to a VELOCIMMUNE® mouse comprising DNA encoding human Immunoglobulin heavy and kappa light chain variable regions. The antibody immune response was monitored by a Fel d1-specific immunoassay. When a desired immune response was achieved splenocytes were harvested and fused with mouse myeloma cells to preserve their viability and form hybridoma cell lines. The hybridoma cell lines were screened and selected to identify cell lines that produce Fel d1 specific antibodies. Using this technique, and the various immunogens described above, several anti-Fel d1, chimeric antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies possessing human variable domains and mouse constant domains) were obtained; certain exemplary antibodies generated in this manner were designated as H1M1230N, H1M1234N, H1M1241N, H2M1233N, H2M1236N, H2M1237N, and H2M1242N.

[0235] Anti-Fel d1 antibodies were also isolated directly from antigen-positive B cells without fusion to myeloma cells, as described in U.S. 2007/0280945A1. Using this method, several fully human anti-Fel d1antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies possessing human variable domains and human constant domains) were obtained; exemplary antibodies generated in this manner were designated as follows: H4H2574P, H4H2590S, H4H2592B, H4H2594S, H4H2597P, H4H2606B, H4H2607B, H4H2608B, H4H2636P, H4H2645P, H4H2793P, H4H2797P and H4H2864P.

[0236] The biological properties of the exemplary antibodies generated in accordance with the methods of this Example are described in detail in the Examples set forth below.

Example 2. Heavy and Light Chain Variable Region Amino Acid Sequences

[0237] Table 1 sets forth the heavy and light chain variable region amino acid sequence pairs of selected antibodies specific for Fel d1 and their corresponding antibody identifiers. Antibodies are typically referred to herein according to the following nomenclature: Fc prefix (e.g. "H4H", "H1M, "H2M"), followed by a numerical identifier (e.g. "1232" as shown in Table 1), followed by a "P" or "N" suffix. Thus, according to this nomenclature, an antibody may be referred to as, e.g. "H1M1232N". The H4H, H1M, and H2M prefixes on the antibody designations used herein indicate the particular Fc region of the antibody. For example, an "H2M" antibody has a mouse IgG2 Fc, whereas an "H4H" antibody has a human IgG4 Fc. As will be appreciated by a person of ordinary skill in the art, an H1M or H2M antibody can be converted to an H4H antibody, and vice versa, but in any event, the variable domains (including the CDRs), which are indicated by the numerical identifiers shown in Table 1, will remain the same. Antibodies having the same numerical antibody designation, but differing by a letter suffix of N, B, S or P refer to antibodies having heavy and light chains with identical CDR sequences but with sequence variations in regions that fall outside of the CDR sequences (*i.e.,* in the framework regions). Thus, N, B, S and P variants of a particular antibody have identical CDR sequences within their heavy and light chain variable regions but differ from one another within their framework regions.

Table 1

	AMINO ACID SEQ ID NOs:							
Antibody Designation	**HCVR**	**HCDR1**	**HCDR2**	**HCDR3**	**LCVR**	**LCDR1**	**LCDR2**	**LCDR3**
H1M1230N	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
H4H1232N	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
H1M1234N	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48

H1M1241N	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64
H4H1300N	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
H2M1233N	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96
H2M1236N	98	100	102	104	106	108	110	112
H2M1237N	114	116	118	120	122	124	126	128
H4H1238N	130	132	134	136	138	140	142	144
H2M1242N	146	148	150	152	154	156	158	160
H4H1616N	162	164	166	168	170	172	174	176
H4H2574P	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192
H4H2590S	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208
H4H2592B	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224
H4H2594S	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240
H4H2597P	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256
H4H2606B	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272
H4H2607B	274	276	278	280	282	284	286	288
H4H2608B	290	292	294	296	298	300	302	304
H4H2636P	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320
H4H2645P	322	324	326	328	330	332	334	336
H4H2793P	338	340	342	344	346	348	350	352
H4H2797P	354	356	358	360	362	364	366	368
H4H2864P	370	372	374	376	378	380	382	384
H4H2574B	428	430	432	434	436	438	440	442
H4H2597B	444	446	448	450	452	454	456	458
H4H2636B	460	462	464	466	468	470	472	474
H4H2645B	476	478	480	482	484	486	488	490

Example 3. Variable Gene Utilization Analysis

[0238] To analyze the structure of antibodies produced, the nucleic acids encoding antibody variable regions were cloned and sequenced. From the nucleic acid sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of the antibodies, gene usage (V_H, D, J_H, V_K, or J_K) was identified for each Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR). Table 2 sets forth the gene usage for selected antibodies in accordance with the invention.

Table 2

Antibody PID	Antibody ID	HCVR			LCVR	
	HCVR/LCVR	V_H	D	J_H	V_K	J_K
H1M1230N	2/10	3-7	6-13	6	1-12	5
H4H1232N	18/26	3-21	2-15	6	1-27	2
H1M1234N	34/42	6-1	1-7	4	4-1	4
H1M1241N	50/58	3-21	2-2	6	1-17	4
H4H1300N	66/74	1-2	5-12	4	4-1	2
H2M1233N	82/90	3-33	6-19	4	1-5	1
H2M1236N	98/105	4-59	1-7	4	1-33	2
H2M1237N	114/122	3-33	6-19	4	1-5	1
H4H1238N	130/138	4-59	1-7	4	1-33	2
H2M1242N	146/154	3-21	5-12	4	1-5	1
H4H1616N	162/170	3-23	6-13	4	1-33	3
H4H2574P	178/186	4-39	6-19	3	3-20	2
H4H2590S	194/202	3-11	6-6	4	6-21	1
H4H2592B	210/218	3-11	1-26	4	6-21	1
H4H2594S	226/234	3-11	6-6	4	1-16	4
H4H2597P	242/250	3-11	6-6	4	6-21	1
H4H2606B	258/266	3-11	3-9	4	6-21	1
H4H2607B	274/282	3-11	1-26	4	1-17	2
H4H2608B	290/298	3-11	1-26	4	6-21	1
H4H2636P	306/314	3-23	1-1	4	1-5	4
H4H2645P	322/330	3-23	ND	1	1-16	3
H4H2793P	338/346	3-7	3-16	4	1-12	1
H4H2797P	354/362	3-33	5-12	3	1-16	3
H4H2864P	370/378	3-23	1-7	4	1-9	3

Example 4. Antibody Binding to Fel d1 as Determined by Surface Plasmon Resonance

[0239] Binding associative and dissociative rate constants (k_a and k_d, respectively) and calculated equilibrium dissociation constants and dissociative half-lives (K_D and $t_{1/2}$, respectively) for antigen binding to anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibodies were determined using a real-time surface plasmon resonance biosensor (Biacore T200 or Biacore 2000) assay. The Biacore sensor surface was derivatized with either polyclonal rabbit anti-mouse antibody (GE Healthcare, # BR-1008-38) or with monoclonal mouse anti-human Fc antibody (GE Healthcare, # BR-1008-39) to capture anti-Fel d1

antibodies, expressed with mouse Fc (antibody ID prefix H1M, H2M, H2aM, H2bM) or human IgG4 Fc (antibody ID prefix H4H), respectively. For kinetic fits, at least two different concentrations (ranging from 390 pM to 67nM) of natural Fel d1 (Indoor Biotech, # NA-FD1-2) or a recombinant version of the protein, Fel d1 (B-A)-mmH (SEQ ID NO: 396) were injected over the anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibody-captured surface at 25°C at a flow rate of 50µl/min in running buffer (10mM HEPES, 150mM NaCl, 0.05% P20, 3mM $MgCl_2$, 3mM $CaCl_2$). Fel d1 (B-A)-mmH was expressed in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells and is comprised of amino acids 18-109 of Fel d1 B (accession #P30440) fused in-line with amino acids 23-92 of Fel d1 A (accession #P30438) with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag. Antibody-antigen association was monitored for 3 to 5 minutes, and the dissociation of antigen from the captured monoclonal antibody (in running buffer alone at 25°C) was monitored for 10 or 15 minutes. Kinetic association (k_a) and dissociation (k_d) rate constants were determined by processing and fitting the data to a 1:1 binding model using Scrubber 2.0 curve fitting software. Binding dissociation equilibrium constants (K_D) and dissociative half-lives ($t_{1/2}$) were calculated from the kinetic rate constants as: $K_D = k_d/k_a$ and $t_{1/2} = \ln(2)/k_d$. Binding parameters for different anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibodies are tabulated in Table 3 and Table 4. Table 3 shows the Biacore affinities at 25°C for natural Fel d1 binding to captured anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibodies and Table 4 shows the Biacore affinities at 25°C for recombinant Fel d1 binding to captured anti-Fel d1 monoclonal antibodies.

[0240] As shown in Table 3, 10 of the 25 antibodies tested exhibited K_D values below 1nM for binding to natural Fel d1, ranging from 207 pM to 982 pM. As shown in Table 4, 17 of the 25 antibodies tested exhibited K_D values below 1nM for binding to recombinant Fel d1, ranging from 144 pM to 924 pM. Two of the antibodies, H4H2574B and H4H2793P, bound to recombinant, but not natural Fel d1 under these experimental conditions.

Table 3

mAb Captured	k_a(1/Ms)	k_d(1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{½}$ (min)
H4H1232N	1.60E+06	3.31E-04	2.07E-10	35
H4H1238N	3.83E+05	1.67E-03	4.37E-09	7
H4H1300N*	4.40E+04	2.11E-01	4.80E-06	0.05
H4H1616N	2.41E+05	1.24E-03	5.14E-09	9
H1M1230N	2.58E+05	8.69E-04	3.37E-09	13
H1M1234N	3.71E+05	6.79E-03	1.83E-08	2
H2M1233N	2.53E+05	3.53E-04	1.40E-09	33
H2M1236N	3.12E+05	1.42E-03	4.55E-09	8

H2M1237N	2.81E+05	2.76E-04	9.82E-10	42
H1M1241N	1.82E+05	6.62E-04	3.63E-09	17
H2M1242N	1.92E+05	6.04E-04	3.14E-09	19
H4H2574B	NB	NB	NB	NB
H4H2590S	1.23E+06	8.02E-04	6.55E-10	14
H4H2592B	1.14E+06	7.28E-04	6.41E-10	16
H4H2594S	1.10E+06	9.65E-04	8.78E-10	12
H4H2597B	2.31E+06	1.50E-03	6.50E-10	8
H4H2606B	9.24E+05	7.07E-04	7.65E-10	16
H4H2607B	2.97E+06	9.10E-04	3.07E-10	13
H4H2608B	5.16E+05	1.06E-03	2.05E-09	11
H4H2636B	2.24E+05	3.95E-04	1.77E-09	29
H4H2793P	NB	NB	NB	NB
H4H2797P	2.02E+05	7.13E-03	3.54E-08	2
H4H2864P	1.68E+06	1.35E-03	8.01E-10	9
H4H2645P	5.69E+05	2.61E-04	4.59E-10	44
H4H2636P	4.31E+05	4.48E-04	1.04E-09	26

*Because of the lower observed binding affinity, higher injected concentrations of natural Fel d1 (67nM, 200nM, and 600nM) were used for this sample.

Table 4

Ab Captured	k_a(1/Ms)	k_d(1/s)	K_D (M)	$t_{½}$ (min)
H4H1232N	1.79E+06	2.58E-04	1.44E-10	45
H4H1238N	7.35E+05	9.74E-04	1.33E-09	12
H4H1300N*	1.68E+05	2.28E-01	1.36E-06	0.05
H4H1616N	2.29E+05	1.88E-03	8.21E-09	6
H1M1230N	3.88E+05	5.10E-04	1.31E-09	23
H1M1234N	2.54E+05	1.42E-03	5.58E-09	8
H2M1233N	3.05E+05	1.66E-04	5.44E-10	70
H2M1236N	4.15E+05	2.32E-04	5.58E-10	50
H2M1237N	3.59E+05	1.65E-04	4.58E-10	70
H1M1241N	3.37E+05	1.12E-04	3.31E-10	104
H2M1242N	2.72E+05	1.22E-04	4.49E-10	94
H4H2574B	1.25E+05	3.73E-04	2.98E-09	31

H4H2590S	1.31E+06	4.16E-04	3.18E-10	28
H4H2592B	1.55E+06	5.56E-04	3.58E-10	21
H4H2594S	1.30E+06	5.21E-04	4.02E-10	22
H4H2597B	1.12E+06	5.58E-04	5.01E-10	21
H4H2606B	1.26E+06	4.86E-04	3.88E-10	24
H4H2607B	1.55E+06	5.63E-04	3.64E-10	21
H4H2608B	9.70E+05	5.89E-04	6.07E-10	20
H4H2636B	2.47E+05	2.28E-04	9.24E-10	51
H4H2793P	1.52E+05	1.95E-04	1.28E-09	59
H4H2797P	4.37E+05	2.05E-03	4.69E-09	6
H4H2864P	5.37E+05	3.09E-04	5.76E-10	37
H4H2645P	4.87E+05	1.79E-04	3.68E-10	65
H4H2636P	2.57E+05	2.35E-04	9.12E-10	49

*Because of the lower observed binding affinity, higher injected concentrations of recombinant Fel d1 (67nM, 200nM, and 600nM) were used for this sample

Example 5. Cross Competition of anti-Fel d1 Antibodies for Binding to Natural (n) Fel d1

[0241] A binding experiment was performed using an Octet Red biosensor system (Fortebio Inc.) to determine cross-competition for a panel of 8 anti-Fel d1 antibodies binding to natural Fel d1 (nFel d1; Indoor Biotechnologies, #NA-FD1-2). The experiment was performed at 25°C in HBST buffer (0.01 M HEPES pH7.4, 0.15M NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, 0.05% v/v Surfactant P20) containing 0.1mg/mL BSA. A washing step with the HBST buffer was performed between each binding step, and plates were agitated during the binding and washing steps using an orbital plate shaker at 1000rpm. A first anti-Fel d1 antibody (mAb-1) was captured for 2 minutes onto the anti-hFc biosensor surface from stock solutions of antibody at 10ug/mL (final capture levels ~1.5nm response units). The coated sensor tips were then blocked for 5 minutes with a 100ug/mL solution of an irrelevant antibody. Sensor tips were then submerged into wells containing 500nM of nFel d1 for 5 minutes, and then into wells containing 50 ug/mL solutions of a second anti-Fel d1 antibody (mAb-2). The mAb-2 solutions were supplemented with 100ug/mL of an irrelevant antibody to minimize non-specific binding. The binding responses for mAb-2 binding to nFel d1 pre-complexed with mAb-1 were measured for the 8x8 antibody matrix (Table 5). Each binding value for mAb-2 binding to a different mAb-1/Fel d1 capture surface (down a column in Table 5) was subtracted by the mAb-1/Fel d1/mAb-2 self-competition value (where mAb-1 = mAb-2; across the diagonal in Table 5). Values below 0.10nm indicate cross-competition of mAb-1 and mAb-2 to a common binding site on Fel d1.

[0242] Four antibodies, H4H2636P, H4H1616N, H4H2645P, and H4H2864P, bi-directionally compete with each other for binding to nFel d1, but do not compete with any of the other anti- Fel d1 antibodies. Two antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2597P, bi-directionally compete with each other for binding to nFel d1. Both H4H1232N and H4H2597P uni-directionally compete with H4H1300N. Bi-directional competition with H4H1300N could not be determined because H4H1300N did not pre-complex with nFel d1. H4H1238N did not compete with any of the anti- Fel d1 antibodies for binding to nFel d1.

Table 5

			Response of mAb-2 Binding to nFel d1 pre-complexed with mAb-1 (nm)							
mAb Captured	Amount of mAb-1 Captured +/-Std dev (nm)	Amount of 500nM nFel d1 Bound +/-Std dev (nm)	H4H 2636 P	H4H 1616 N	H4H 2645 P	H4H 2864 P	H4H 2597 P	H4H 1232 N	H4H 1238 N	H4H 1300 N
H4H 2636P	**1.37 ± 0.07**	**0.09 ± 0.01**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.27**	**0.29**	**0.28**	**0.38**
H4H 1616N	**1.21 ± 0.08**	**0.09 ± 0.01**	**-0.01**	**0.00**	**-0.01**	**-0.01**	**0.18**	**0.18**	**0.21**	**0.20**
H4H 2645P	**1.31 ± 0.07**	**0.10 ± 0.01**	**0.00**	**0.01**	**0.00**	**-0.01**	**0.29**	**0.31**	**0.31**	**0.26**
H4H 2864P	**1.41 ± 0.09**	**0.08 ± 0.01**	**-0.01**	**0.01**	**-0.01**	**0.00**	**0.27**	**0.30**	**0.30**	**0.33**
H4H 2597P	**1.26 ± 0.08**	**0.06 ± 0.01**	**0.55**	**0.40**	**0.55**	**0.54**	**0.00**	**-0.03**	**0.56**	**-0.03**
H4H 1232N	**1.51 ± 0.09**	**0.08 ± 0.02**	**0.76**	**0.54**	**0.75**	**0.71**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.73**	**-0.02**
H4H 1238N	**1.28 ± 0.08**	**0.08 ± 0.01**	**0.63**	**0.43**	**0.62**	**0.62**	**0.65**	**0.76**	**0.00**	**0.60**
H4H 1300N	**1.29 ± 0.09**	**-0.02 ± 0.01**	**0.06**	**0.06**	**0.05**	**0.06**	**0.03**	**0.02**	**0.07**	**0.00**

Example 6. Effect of anti-Fel d1 Antibodies in a Passive Cutaneous Anaphylaxis (PCA) *in vivo* Model

[0243] The passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (PCA) *in vivo* model was used to assess *in vivo* mast cell degranulation. The model involves intradermal injection of an allergen-specific antiserum into a local area on the skin followed by intravenous injection of an antigen along with a dye. The allergic reaction causes capillary dilatation and increased vascular permeability at the site of sensitization, resulting in preferential accumulation of dye at this site. The dye can be extracted from the tissue and quantitated spectrophotometrically. Dye extravasation into tissue

sensitized with test antiserum is compared to extravasation into tissue sensitized with a non-relevant antiserum.

[0244] Antisera were generated by immunizing Balb/c mice with 5 µg natural Fel d1 protein purified from cat hair extract (Indoor Biotechnologies, # LTN-FD1-1), 5 µg of crude peanut allergen extract (Greer Laboratories, # XPF171D3A25), or 1250 of Bioequivalent allergy units (BAU) of standardized cat hair extract (Greer Laboratories, #GTE3A01) in a solution of 1mg/ml of alum (Pierce, # 77161) in 1X phosphate buffered saline. Two weeks later (day 14) sensitized mice were boosted with doses of allergen identical to those used for the initial immunization. Two weeks after the boost (day 28), mice were sacrificed and serum was collected. Total IgE concentration in the isolated antisera was determined by ELISA. The final concentration of antiserum was diluted to 2400ng/mL IgE in 1X phosphate buffered saline.

[0245] To determine the effect of anti-Fel d1 antibodies on mast cell degranulation in the PCA model, prior to ear sensitization with antiserum generated as described above, groups of Balb/c mice were first injected subcutaneously with either a human IgG4 isotype control antibody, an anti-Fel d1 antibody, or a combination of anti-Fel d1 antibodies at doses of 5mg/kg (total antibody dose, 2.5mg/kg of each antibody) for single point experiments unless otherwise indicated or at concentrations ranging from 0.06mg/kg to 2mg/kg for dose-ranging experiments. Three days after pre-treatment with antibodies, one group of mice ("natural Fel d1 group") was sensitized by intradermal injection with 10µl of natural Fel d1-derived antiserum or 10µl of peanut-derived antiserum (negative control) into the right and left ears, respectively, of each mouse. A second group of mice ("cat extract group") was sensitized with 20µL of cat hair extract-derived antiserum or 20µL of peanut-derived antiserum (negative control) into the right and left ears, respectively, of each mouse. Twenty-four hours after sensitization, mice in the natural Fel d1 group were challenged by intravenous injection (100 µL per mouse) of a solution of 0.25 µg/mL natural Fel d1 (Indoor Biotechnologies, # LTN-FD1-1) dissolved in 1X phosphate buffered saline containing 0.5% (w/v) Evan's blue dye (Sigma, # E2129). Similarly, 24 hours after sensitization, mice in the cat extract group were challenged with 250BAU of standardized cat hair extract [standardized cat hair extract (Greer Laboratories, #GTE3A01)] dissolved in 1X phosphate buffered saline containing 0.5% (w/v) Evan's blue dye (Sigma, # E2129). One hour after antigen challenge, mice were sacrificed, ears were excised and placed in 1 mL formamide and incubated for 3 days at 56°C to extract the Evan's blue dye from the tissue. Ear tissue was then removed from the formamide, blotted to remove excess liquid and weighed. Two hundred microliter aliquots of each formamide extract were transferred to 96 well plates in duplicate. Absorbance of the resulting supernatants was measured at 620nm. The OD was converted to Evan's blue dye concentration using a standard curve. The average concentration of Evan's blue dye extravasated into the tissue of the antisera-sensitized ear (normalized by ear tissue weight) was calculated for the group treated with

the isotype control antibody and defined as F(isotype,avg). The reduction in Evan's blue dye extravasation resulting from antibody pre-treatment was calculated per mouse by subtracting the amount of Evan's blue dye for the antibody-treated group's Fel d1 or extract sensitized ear, defined as F(mAb,i), from F(isotype,avg). This number was then divided by the difference between F(isotype,avg) and the dye amount for the antibody-treated group's peanut sensitized ear [P(mAb,i)] and multiplied by 100 to give the overall percent reduction in dye extravasation for each mouse (% Reduction).

[0246] % Reduction (per mouse) = 100*[F(isotype,avg) – F(mAb,i)]/[F(isotype,avg) – P(mAb,i)]

[0247] The average percent reduction in dye leakage was then calculated for each antibody group. Results, expressed as (mean ± SD) of percent Evan's blue reduction are shown in Table 6 and Table 7 for the natural Fel d1 group and in Table 8 for the cat hair extract group.

[0248] As shown in Table 6, seven groups of mice from the natural Fel d1 group, when treated with specific combinations of anti-Fel d1 antibodies at fixed concentrations, exhibited reductions in dye extravasations ranging from 79% to 103% compared to mice receiving control antibody. Mice treated with H4H2590S/H4H1238N, H4H2590S/H4H2574P, or H4H1232N/H4H1616N pairwise antibody combinations exhibited less than 3% reduction in dye extravasation compared to mice receiving control antibody, demonstrating that not all anti-Fel d1 antibodies tested in this model were efficacious.

[0249] In addition, dose-ranging experiments were performed with mice from the natural Fel d1 group, as shown in Table 7. Single antibodies were not as effective at reducing dye extravasation as the anti-Fel d1 antibody combinations at the tested doses.

[0250] A specific pair of anti-Fel d1 antibodies (H4H2636P and H4H1232N) at multiple dose levels, as well as each of these anti-Fel d1 antibodies alone at a single (highest) dose level, was further tested in the PCA model using mice that were sensitized and challenged with cat hair extract as shown in Table 8. At 2mg/kg, these single anti-Fel d1 antibodies alone were not as efficacious at reducing dye extravasation as a combination of the two antibodies. The combination of H4H2636P and H4H1232N at both 2mg/kg and 1mg/kg reduced dye extravasation by more than 90% as compared with the isotype control in the PCA model using cat hair extract as the antigen.

[0251] All reductions that were statistically significant ($p<0.05$) compared to isotype control as determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post-test are noted with an asterisk (*). The number of mice used per group (n) is noted within parentheses in the tables.

Table 6

Antibody	**% Reduction in Dye Extravasation**
H4H1232N + H4H1238N* (n=5)	87 ± 8

H4H1232N + H4H2645B* (n=5)	87 ± 29
H4H1232N + H4H2636B* (n=5)	89 ± 23
H4H1232N + H4H2864P* (n=5)	79 ± 27
H4H1232N + H4H1238N + H4H1300N + H4H1616N* (n=5)	103 ± 16
H4H1232N+H4H1616N (n=5)§	3±92
H4H2590S+H4H1238N (n=5)	0±74
H4H2597P+H4H2636P*,**(n=5)	89 ± 4
H4H2597P+H4H2645P*,**(n=5)	85 ± 36
H4H2590S+H4H2574P (n=5)	0±129

§10mg/kg total antibody concentration; **0.5mg/kg total antibody concentration

Table 7

	Percent Reduction in Dye Extravasation				
Antibodies used	1mg/kg	0.5mg/kg	0.25mg/kg	0.125mg/kg	0.06mg/kg
Study 1					
H4H1232N+H4H2636P	84±16* (n=15)	53±41* (n=15)	53±40* (n=15)	19±32 (n=15)	
H4H1232N	24±61 (n=15)				
H4H2636P	0±44 (n=15)				
Study 2					
H4H1232N+H4H2645P		66±29 (n=10)	49±37 (n=10)	22±36 (n=10)	0.26±0.28 (n=10)
H4H1232N		6±6 (n=10)			
H4H2645P		14±14 (n=10)			
Study 3					
H4H1232N+H4H2864P		93±10* (n=10)	50±33* (n=9)	49±42* (n=10)	11±28 (n=10)
H4H1232N		0±45 (n=10)			
H4H2864P		0±35 (n=10)			
Study 4					
H4H1232N+H4H1238N		46±46 (n=10)	60±19* (n=10)	48±53* (n=10)	0±47 (n=10)
H4H1232N		21±57 (n=10)			
H4H1238N		35±36 (n=10)			
Study 5					
H4H2597P+H4H2636P		90±8*	81±16*	43±21	14±32

			(n=5)	(n=5)	(n=5)
H4H2597P		0±49 (n=5)			
H4H2636P		28±51 (n=5)			
Study 6					
H4H2597P+H4H2645P		64±41* (n=10)	27±25 (n=5)	18±39 (n=5)	0±16 (n=5)
H4H2597P		7±31 (n=5)			
H4H2645P		0±26 (n=5)			

Table 8

	Percent Reduction in Dye Extravasation			
Antibodies used	2mg/kg	1mg/kg	0.5mg/kg	0.25mg/kg
H4H1232N+H4H2636P	93±4* (n=5)	97±2* (n=5)	85±13* (n=5)	40±51 (n=5)
H4H1232N	66±9* (n=5)			
H4H2636P	40±55 (n=5)			

Example 7. Effect of anti-Fel d1 antibodies in a lung inflammation *in vivo* model

[0252] The lung inflammation *in vivo* mouse model is used to assess allergen induced lung inflammation and mucus accumulation that could be associated with asthma or rhinoconjuctivitis. The model involves repeated intranasal administration of an allergen into previously allergen-sensitized mice. The allergen-associated inflammation can cause increases in lung mucus accumulation, eosinophil migration into the lung, serum total IgE, and allergen specific IgG1 levels.

[0253] Balb/c mice were intraperitoneally immunized with 1ug of natural Fel d 1 protein purified from cat hair extract (Indoor Biotechnologies, #LTN-FD1-1) in a solution of 1mg/mL of alum (Pierce, # 77161) in 1X phosphate buffered saline. Seven days later, sensitized mice were boosted intraperitoneally with 1 ug of natural Fel d 1 in a solution of 1mg/mL alum in 1X phosphate buffered saline. On days 17, 21, and 25, groups of mice (n=5) were injected subcutaneously with a human IgG4 isotype control antibody or a 1:1 combination of anti- Fel d 1 antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2636P, at 20mg/kg (total antibody dose). On days 20, 24, and 28, mice were intranasally challenged with 0.05 ug of natural Fel d 1 diluted in 20 uL of 1X phosphate buffered saline. Control mice were challenged with 20 uL of 1X phosphate buffered saline on the same days. On day 32, all mice were sacrificed and their lungs were harvested. Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for groups of mice are shown in Table 9.

[0254] To determine circulating total IgE and Fel d 1 specifc IgG1 in the serum of the mice, serum samples were collected for each mouse via terminal cardiac puncture using a 27G1/2 1 mL TB syringe (Becton Dickinson, #309306) with a needle attached. Blood samples were placed into BD microtainer® serum separator tubes (Becton Dickinson, #365956), centrifuged, and then the serum was transferred to a fresh tube for storage until analysis.

[0255] To determine the total IgE concentration in the serum samples for each mouse, a sandwich ELISA OPTEIA kit (BD Biosciences, #555248) was used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Serum samples were diluted and incubated with anti-IgE capture antibody coated on 96-well plates. Total IgE was detected by biotinylated anti-mouse IgE secondary antibody. Purified horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-labeled mouse IgE was used as a standard. The chromagen 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) (BD OPTEIA substrate reagent set, BD, #555214) was used to detect HRP activity. A stop solution of 1M sulfuric acid was then added, and absorbance at 450nm was measured on a Molecular Devices SpectraMax M5 plate reader. Data analysis was performed using Prism™ software. The mean amounts of circulating IgE levels in serum for each experimental group are expressed as ng/mL (± SEM) as shown in Table 10. Mice challenged with Fel d 1 intranasally when treated with the combination of anti- Fel d 1 antibodies exhibited a significant decrease in the amount of circulating IgE [6683 (±1394) ng/mL] compared to mice receiving isotype control antibody [14080 (±1505) ng/mL].

[0256] To determine the Fel d 1 specific IgG1 levels in the serum samples from each mouse, an ELISA was utilized. Fel d 1 coated plates were incubated with serially diluted mouse serum samples, followed by incubation with anti-mouse IgG1-HRP conjugated antibody (BD Biosciences, # 559626). All samples were developed with a TMB solution and analyzed as described above. Relative levels of circulating IgG1 in serum were represented as titer units (titer units were calculated by multiplying the measured OD by a dilution factor required to achieve OD450 that was greater than two times background). The mean circulating Fel d 1-specific IgG1 levels in serum for each experimental group are expressed as titer x 10^3 (±SEM) as shown in Table 11. Mice challenged with Fel d 1 intranasally when treated with the combination of anti- Fel d 1 antibodies exhibited a significant decrease in the amount of Fel d 1-specific IgG1 levels in serum [titer of 105.3 (±31.33) x10^3] when compared to mice receiving isotype control antibody [titer of 526.1 (±144.0) x10^3].

Lung harvest for cell infiltrate analysis:

[0257] After exsanguination, the right lung from each mouse was removed and placed into a small petri dish containing Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) (Irvine Scientific, #9033) and chopped into cubes that were approximately 2 to 3 mm in size. The cubes were then transferred to a tube containing a solution of 20 µg/mL DNAse (Roche, #10104159001) and 0.7 U/mL Liberase

TH (Roche, #05401151001) diluted in Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) (Gibco, #14025) and placed into a 37°C water bath for 20 minutes with vortexing every 5 minutes. This reaction was then stopped by adding ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) (Gibco, #15575) at a final concentration of 10mM. Each lung was mashed, filtered through a 70 µm filter, centrifuged, and then lung pellet was resuspended in 4 mL of ACK lysing buffer (Gibco, #10492) to remove red blood cells. After a 3 minute room temperature incubation, DMEM was added to deactivate the ACK buffer. The cell suspensions were centrifuged, and the cell pellets were then resuspended into 10 mL of MACS buffer solution [a mixture of Miltenyi auto MACS Rinsing Solution (Militenyi Biotec, #130-091-222) and MACS BSA (Militenyi Biotec, #130-091-376)]. The resuspended samples were filtered through a 70 µm filter and $1x10^6$ cells were plated into a 96-well V-bottom plate. Cells were then centrifuged and the pellets were resuspended in purified rat anti-mouse CD16/CD32 Fc Block, (BD Biosciences Clone: 2.4G2, #553142) diluted in MACS Buffer for 15 minutes at 40°C. The cells were washed twice and were then incubated in the appropriate antibody mixture (described in Table 12) diluted in MACS buffer for 30 minutes at 4°C protected from light. After antibody incubation, the cells were washed twice in MACS buffer and resuspended in BD cytofix (BD Biosciences, #554655) for 15 minutes at 4°C while being protected from light. The cells were washed, resuspended in MACS buffer and were then transferred to BD FACS tubes (BD Biosciences, #352235) for analysis of eosinophils by flow cytometry. Eosinophils were defined as cells that were $CD45^+$, $GR1^-$, $CD11c^{lo}$, $SiglecF^{hi}$. Data are expressed as frequency of eosinophils in $CD45^+$ cells (± SEM) in Table 13.

[0258] Mice challenged with Fel d 1 intranasally when treated with the combination of anti- Fel d 1 antibodies exhibited a significant decrease in the frequency of eosinophils in the $CD45^+$ cell population as compared to mice receiving no antibody (67% decrease) or receiving isotype control antibody (46% decrease) as shown in Table 13.

Lung harvest for histological analysis:

[0259] After exsanguination, the left lungs were removed and placed into tubes containing a 5 mL solution of 4% (w/v) paraformaldehyde (Boston Bioproducts, # BM-155) in 1X phosphate buffered saline and stored at room temperature for 3 days. Lung samples were then blotted dry and transferred to tubes containing 70% ethanol for histological analysis. The samples were sent to Histoserv, Inc (Germantown, MD) for sectioning and periodic acid Schiff (PAS) staining.

[0260] Approximately 35 digital images across the full area of each PAS-stained lung section were acquired using a Zeiss Axioplan 2 Imaging light microscope with a Zeiss AxioCam MRc camera. A whole lung image was then constructed from the smaller images and analyzed using ImageJ software with the aid of a color threshold plugin. The regions of mucus accumulation in the bronchial lumen were identified and quantitated through a user-chosen color threshold and

normalized to the total area of the lumen that was identified and quantitated by a separate color threshold setting. Percentage of the bronchial lumen occupied by mucus accumulation for each lung was expressed as [(mucus area/lumen area) x 100] and was calculated for each treatment group. Results, expressed as mean percent lung obstruction (± SEM) are shown in Table 14.

[0261] Mice treated with the combination of anti- Fel d 1 antibodies exhibited a trend towards reduced mucus accumulation in the lung bronchi (5.21+/-0.81 % mucus accumulation) compared to mice receiving control antibody (10.81+/-1.13% mucus accumulation) in the lung inflammation model as shown in Table 14.. No differences were observed in bronchial lumen size or overall lung size between the groups of mice.

Table 9: Experimental dosing and treatment protocol for groups of Balb/c mice

Group	Intraperitoneal Immunization (D0) and boost (D7)	Intranasal Challenge (D20, D24 & D28)	Subcutaneous antibody injection (D17, D21, D25)
1	1ug Fel d 1 in 1mg Alum	1X phosphate buffered saline	No antibody
2	1ug Fel d 1 in 1mg Alum	.05ug/20uL Fel d 1	No antibody
3	1ug Fel d 1 in 1mg Alum	.05ug/20uL Fel d 1	Human IgG4 isotype control
4	1ug Fel d 1 in 1mg Alum	.05ug/20uL Fel d 1	H4H1232N+H4H2636P

Table 10: Total Circulating IgE levels in Mouse Serum

Mouse group	Mean circulating IgE levels (ng/mL) (±SEM)
1. Saline Challenge, no antibody treatment (n=19)	2661 (±361)***
2. Fel d 1 challenge, no antibody treatment (n=20)	11711 (±1518)
3. Fel d 1 challenge, human IgG4 Isotype control treatment (n=20)	14080 (±1505)
4. Fel d 1 challenge, anti-Fel d 1 antibody treatment (n=20)	6683 (±1394)***
Note: Statistical significance compared to isotype control determined by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (***p<0.001). Outliers, defined as greater than 2 standard deviations from the mean, were removed from the study.	

Table 11: Circulating Fel d 1-specific IgG1 in Mouse Serum

Mouse group	Mean circulating Fel d 1- specific IgG1 levels (Titer x 10^3) (±SEM)
1. Saline Challenge, no antibody treatment (n=19)	81.79 (±22.07)***
2. Fel d 1 challenge, no antibody treatment (n=19)	720.1 (±102.8)
3. Fel d 1 challenge, human IgG4 Isotype control treatment (n=19)	526.1 (±144.0)
4. Fel d 1 challenge, anti-Fel d 1 antibody treatment (n=19)	105.3 (±31.33)**
Note: Statistical significance compared to isotype control determined by one-way ANOVA with Dunn's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (***p<0.001, **p<0.01). Outliers, defined as greater than 2 standard deviations from the mean, were removed from the study.	

Table 12: Antibodies Used for Flow Cytometry Analysis

Antibody	Fluorochrome	Company	Catalog Number	Concentration
CD11c	APC	BDBiosciences	550261	1/100
CD45	PerCP Cy5.5	BDBiosciences	552950	1/800
F4/80	Pacific Blue	eBiosciences	48-4801-82	1/200
Siglec-F	PE	BDBiosciences	552126	1/100
Ly6G (Gr-1)	APC-eFluor780	eBiosciences	47-5931-82	1/200

Table 13: Frequency of eosinophils in $CD45^+$ cells as determined by flow cytometry

Mouse group	Mean Frequency of Eosinophils in CD45+ cells (±SEM)
1. Saline Challenge, no antibody treatment (n=19)	1.05 (±0.10)***
2. Fel d 1 challenge, no antibody treatment (n=20)	6.28 (±0.59)**
3. Fel d 1 challenge, human IgG4 Isotype control treatment (n=19)	3.89 (±0.60)
4. Fel d 1 challenge, anti-Fel d 1 antibody treatment (n=19)	2.08 (±0.23)*
Note: Statistical significance compared to isotype control determined by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison post-hoc test is indicated (***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05). Outliers, defined as greater than 2 standard deviations from the mean, were removed from the analysis.	

Table 14: Lung Obstruction (mucus area/lumen area, %)

Mouse group	Lung Obstruction (±SEM)
1. Saline Challenge, no antibody treatment (n=19)	0.48 (±0.10)***
2. Fel d 1 challenge, no antibody treatment (n=20)	10.31 (±0.75)
3. Fel d 1 challenge, human IgG4 Isotype control treatment (n=19)	10.18 (±1.13)
4. Fel d 1 challenge, anti-Fel d 1 antibody treatment (n=20)	5.21 (±0.81)
Note: Statistical significance compared to isotype control determined by one-way ANOVA with Dunn's multiple comparison post-hoc test is indicated (***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05). Outliers, defined as greater than 2 standard deviations from the mean, were removed from the analysis.	

Example 8. Hydrogen-Deuterium Exchange Epitope Mapping

[0262] In order to determine the epitopes of Fel d1 (a heterodimeric protein comprised of Fel d1 chain A and FELD1 chain B) recognized by two anti-Fel d1 antibodies, hydrogen-deuterium (H/D) exchange studies were performed for each antibody co-complexed with Fel d1. Prior to the H/D exchange experiments, CHO cell-expressed recombinant Fel d1 comprised of amino acids 18-109 of Feld 1 chain B (GenBank accession number NP_001041619.1) fused in-line with amino acids 19-88 of FELD1 A (GenBank accession #NP_001041618.1) expressed with a C-terminal myc-myc-hexahistidine tag and with a D27G mutation (Fel d1B-A-mmH; SEQ ID: 396) was deglycosylated at 37°C for 4 hours under native conditions using PNGase F (New England BioLabs, #0704). For this study, two anti-FELD1 antibodies (H4H1232N and H4H2636P) were covalently attached to N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) agarose beads (GE Lifescience, #17-0906-01) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

[0263] To map the Fel d1B-A-mmH binding epitope recognized by H4H1232N, two sets of H/D exchange experiments were carried out (all binding and exchange reactions carried out at room temperature). The first experiment used an 'on-solution/off-beads' format (on-exchange in solution followed by off-exchange on beads). For the on-exchange, the deglycosylated Fel d1B-A-mmH protein was deuterated for 5 and 10 minutes (in two separate sub-experiments) in PBS buffer at pH 7.4 prepared with D_2O (PBS-D) and was then bound to the H4H1232N beads during a 2-minute incubation in PBS-D. The co-complex of Fel d1B-A-mmH-bound to H4H1232N beads was then washed with PBS buffer at pH 7.4 prepared with H_2O (PBS-H) and incubated in PBS-H for half of the on-exchange time (off-exchange), allowing only the epitopes on Fel d1B-A-mmH protected by the binding of the H4H1232N antibody to remain deuterated. After the off-exchange, the bound Fel d1B-A-mmH was eluted from the beads using an ice-cold 0.1% aqueous trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)

solution. The eluted Fel d1B-A-mmH was then digested with immobilized pepsin (Thermo Scientific, #20343) for 5 minutes at 4°C. The resulting peptides were desalted at 4°C using ZipTip chromatographic pipette tips (Millipore, #ZTC18S096) according to the manufacturer's protocol and then immediately analyzed on an UltrafleXtreme matrix assisted laser desorption ionization time of flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometer (MS).

[0264] The second experiment is referred to as the 'on-beads/off-beads' (on-exchange on beads followed by off-exchange on beads). For this experiment, the deglycosylated Fel d1B-A-mmH was first bound to the H4H1232N beads, and then incubated for 5 or 10 minutes (in separate sub-experiments) in PBS-D to allow on-exchange. The following steps (off-exchange, pepsin digestion, and MS analysis) were carried out as described for the 'on-solution/off-beads' procedure above. The centroid values or average mass-to-charge ratios (m/z) of all the detected peptides were calculated and compared between the on-solution/off-beads and on-beads/off-beads experiments. Peptides exhibiting increased mass after the on-solution/off-beads procedure compared to the on-beads/off-beads procedure include amino acids within the Fel d1 protein protected from exchange as a result of antibody binding and therefore reveal binding epitope regions.

[0265] The H/D exchange experiment for Fel d1B-A-mmH binding to the anti-Fel d1 antibody H4H2636P was performed using the same procedure described above for H4H1232N, but with H4H2636P beads replacing the H4H1232N beads.

[0266] A comparison of the centroid m/z values for all the peptides detected in the H/D exchange experiment of Fel d1B-A-mmH with H4H1232N are shown in Table 15. These peptides were identified by liquid chromatography-matrix assisted laser desorption ionization (LC-MALDI) MS. Most peptic peptides gave similar centroid values (differences < 0.3 m/z units) for both the on-solution/off-beads and on-beads/off-beads protocols, for each of two different on-exchange and off-exchange times. However, three peptides with amino acids spanning from 85-103, 85-104, and 113-127 of Fel d1B-A-mmH (SEQ ID NO: 396) had differences in m/z centroid values > 0.3 in both the 5 minute and 10 minute experiments. The differences between these centroid values from the on-solution/off-beads and on-beads/off-beads protocol are highlighted in bold in Table 15. Since another peptide, amino acids 117-127 of SEQ ID NO: 396, did not show deuteron retention after off-exchange, the region of protection from exchange in the 113-127 peptide can be reduced to residues 113-116 of SEQ ID NO: 396. The two regions, residues 85-104 (SEQ ID NO: 403) and 113-116 (SEQ ID NO: 426), are protected from full off-exchange as a result of H4H1232N binding to Fel d1B-A-mmH after on-exchange. Therefore, these two segments are defined by the H/D exchange method as a discontinuous epitope for antibody H4H1232N binding to the Fel d1B-A-mmH protein.

[0267] Comparisons of the centroid m/z values for the peptides detected in the H/D exchange experiment of Fel d1B-A-mmH complexed with H4H2636P are shown in Table 16. Only one

peptide, amino acids 15-24 of FELD1B-A-mmH, exhibited an increase in the centroid m/z values > 0.3 m/z for the on-solution/off-beads condition compared to the on-beads/off-beads condition, indicating that this segment was protected from full off-exchange by the binding of H4H2636P. The centroid value differences greater than 0.3 m/z are highlighted in bold in Table 16. Therefore, amino acids within this 15-24 region (SEQ ID NO: 412) based on the H/D exchange method include an epitope for antibody H4H2636P binding to the Fel d1B-A-mmH protein.

Table 15: The Effect on H/D Exchange of H4H1232N Binding to Fel d1B-A-mmH as Measured by Centroid m/z Values of Peptic Peptides

Residues of FELDB-A-MMH	Experiment I 5 min on-/2.5 min off-exchange			Experiment II 10 min on-/5 min off-exchange			
	on-solution/ off beads	on-beads/ off-beads	**D**	on-solution/ off beads	on-beads/ off-beads	**D**	Peptide
1-11	1318.37	1318.29	0.09	1318.27	1318.27	-0.01	VKMAETCPIFY (SEQ ID NO: 398)
55-61	759.89	759.83	0.06	759.87	759.86	0.01	ISRVLDG (SEQ ID NO: 399)
55-62	873.04	873.02	0.02	873.02	873	0.02	ISRVLDGL (SEQ ID NO: 400)
55-64	1103.37	1103.39	-0.03	1103.36	1103.36	-0.01	ISRVLDGLVM (SEQ ID NO: 401)
85-103	2084.38	2083.75	**0.63**	2084.28	2083.83	**0.45**	LKLNTLGREICP AVKRGVD (SEQ ID NO: 402)
85-104	2197.63	2196.99	**0.64**	2197.73	2197.21	**0.52**	LKLNTLGREICP AVKRGVDL (SEQ ID NO: 403)
113-127	1721.91	1721.33	**0.58**	1722.22	1721.53	**0.69**	YVEQVAQYKAL PVVL (SEQ ID NO: 404)
117-127	1201.47	1201.48	-0.01	1201.56	1201.46	0.1	VAQYKALPVVL (SEQ ID NO: 405)
128-141	1606.43	1606.26	0.16	1606.55	1606.29	0.26	ENARILKNCVDA KM (SEQ ID NO: 406)
153-170	1920.33	1920.25	0.09	1920.37	1920.38	-0.01	LDKIYTSPLCGP GGEQKL (SEQ ID NO: 407)
183-196	1672.54	1672.59	-0.04	1672.54	1672.51	0.03	ISEEDLSGHHHH HH (SEQ ID NO: 408)

183-199	1903.91	1903.95	-0.03	1903.95	1903.92	0.03	ISEEDLSGHHHHHHSSG (SEQ ID NO: 409)
186-199	1574.44	1574.44	0.01	1574.44	1574.47	-0.03	EDLSGHHHHHHSSG (SEQ ID NO: 410)

Table 16: The Effect on H/D Exchange of H4H2636P Binding to Fel d1B-A-mmH as Measured by Centroid m/z Values of Peptic Peptides

Residues of FELDB-A-MMH	Experiment I 5 min on-/2.5 min off-exchange			Experiment II 10 min on-/5 min off-exchange			
	on-solution/ off beads	on-beads/ off-beads	**D**	on-solution/ off beads	on-beads/ off-beads	**D**	Peptide
1-11	1318.47	1318.48	-0.01	1318.5	1318.47	0.03	VKMAETCPIFY (SEQ ID NO: 411)
15-24	1049.53	1048.6	**0.94**	1049.51	1048.71	**0.79**	FAVANGNELL (SEQ ID NO: 412)
55-61	759.85	759.89	-0.04	759.87	759.88	-0.01	ISRVLDG (SEQ ID NO: 413)
55-62	873.06	873.01	0.05	873.06	873.04	0.02	ISRVLDGL (SEQ ID NO: 414)
55-64	1103.39	1103.36	0.03	1103.42	1103.43	-0.01	ISRVLDGLVM (SEQ ID NO: 415)
85-103	2083.63	2083.63	0	2083.67	2083.62	0.04	LKLNTLGREICP AVKRGVD (SEQ ID NO: 416)
85-104	2196.67	2196.74	-0.07	2196.8	2196.78	0.02	LKLNTLGREICP AVKRGVDL (SEQ ID NO: 417)
113-127	1721.28	1721.27	0.01	1721.19	1721.21	-0.02	YVEQVAQYKAL PVVL (SEQ ID NO: 418)
117-127	1201.55	1201.53	0.02	1201.55	1201.59	-0.04	VAQYKALPVVL (SEQ ID NO: 419)
120-127	903.18	903.12	0.06	903.14	903.14	-0.01	YKALPVVL (SEQ ID NO: 420)
128-141	1606.41	1606.34	0.08	1606.57	1606.46	0.11	ENARILKNCVDA KM (SEQ ID NO: 421)
153-170	1920.29	1920.23	0.06	1920.24	1920.36	-0.13	LDKIYTSPLCGP GGEQKL (SEQ

							ID NO: 422)
183-196	1672.56	1672.59	-0.02	1672.58	1672.54	0.04	ISEEDLSGHHHHHH (SEQ ID NO: 423)
183-199	1903.9	1903.89	0.01	1903.94	1903.93	0.02	ISEEDLSGHHHHHHSSG (SEQ ID NO: 424)
186-199	1574.4	1574.37	0.03	1574.41	1574.37	0.04	EDLSGHHHHHHSSG (SEQ ID NO: 425)

Example 9. Generation of Bi-specific Antibodies

Description of the Fel d1 Bispecific Antibodies Produced

[0268] Bi-specific antibodies comprising heavy and light chain binding domains from pairs of certain of the anti-Fel d1 antibodies described in the present invention were constructed using standard methodologies. The ant-Fel d1 antibodies used to construct the bi-specific antibodies of this example were obtained by immunizing a VelocImmune® mouse with a primary immunogen, such as full length natural Fel d1, which may be purchased commercially (*e.g.,* from Indoor Biotechnologies, # LTN-FD1-1), or isolated from cat hair or dander by multi-step column chromatography (See, for example, Chapman MD, *et al.* (1988), J. Immunol. 140:812-818), or which may be produced recombinantly (See GenBank accession numbers P30438, or NP_001041618.1 for the full length amino acid sequence of chain 1 of Fel d1 (also referred to as chain A or FELD1 A; also see SEQ ID NO: 392) and GenBank accession number P30440, or NP_001041619.1 for the full length amino acid sequence of chain 2 of Fel d1 (also referred to as chain B or FELD B; also see SEQ ID NO: 393), or fragments of either chain 1 or chain 2, or fragments from both chain 1 and chain 2 of the Fel d1 protein, followed by immunization with a secondary immunogen, or with an immunogenically active fragment of the natural protein. In one embodiment, the immunogen used is exemplified in SEQ ID NO: 394 (in line fusion of Fel d1 Chain2 –Chain1-mFc) or SEQ ID NO: 395 (fusion of Fel d1 Chain 1 using a linker and Chain 2 –mFc).

[0269] The bi-specific antibodies produced in accordance with the present Example comprise two antigen-binding domains (i.e. “binding arms 1 and 2”).

[0270] One of the bi-specific antibodies, designated H4H3467D comprises a common kappa light chain on both Fab arms, derived from the antibody H4H2864P (SEQ ID NO: 378). One Fab arm of H4H3467D utilizes the heavy chain variable region (V_H) from the antibody H4H2864P (SEQ ID NO: 370), while the other Fab arm utilizes the V_H region from H4H1232N (SEQ ID NO: 18).

[0271] A second bi-specific antibody of the invention, designated H4H8751D, comprises a common kappa light chain on both Fab arms, derived from the antibody H4H2636P (SEQ ID NO:

314). One Fab arm of H4H8751D utilizes the V_H region from H4H2636P (SEQ ID NO: 306), while the other Fab arm utilizes the V_H region from H4H1232N (SEQ ID NO: 18).

[0272] Table 17 below provides the component parts of the antigen-binding domains of the two bi-specific antibodies made in accordance with Example 9. The amino acid sequence identifiers for the various heavy chain and light chain variable regions that were derived from the parental antibodies (used to prepare the bi-specific antibodies) are also provided in Table 17.

Table 17. Component parts of the two arms of the bi-specific antibodies produced

	Parental Antibody Identifier from which Bi-specific Sequence Derived			
Bispecific Identifier	Arm 1 Antigen Binding Domain		Arm 2 Antigen Binding Domain	
	HCVR	LCVR	HCVR	LCVR
H4H3467D	H4H2864P SEQ ID NO: 370	H4H2864P SEQ ID NO: 378	H4H1232N SEQ ID NO: 18	H4H2864P SEQ ID NO: 378
H4H8751D	H4H2636P SEQ ID NO: 306	H4H2636P SEQ ID NO: 314	H4H1232N SEQ ID NO: 18	H4H2636D SEQ ID NO: 314

[0273] Tables 18A and 18B below set forth the amino acid sequence identifiers for the various heavy chain variable regions (Table 18A) and the light chain variable regions (Table 18B) and their corresponding complementarity determining region sequences (CDRs) for the two bi-specific antibodies described herein.

Table 18A. HCVR and HCDR Sequence Identifiers for bi-specific antibodies produced

		SEQ ID NOs			
Bi-specific Ab Identifier	Parent Ab from which sequences derived	HCVR	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3
H4H3467D	H4H2864P (Arm 1)	370	372	374	376
	H4H1232N (Arm 2)	18	20	22	24
H4H8751D	H4H2636P (Arm 1)	306	308	310	312
	H4H1232N (Arm 2)	18	20	22	24

Table 18B. LCVR and LCDR Sequence Identifiers for bi-specific antibodies produced

		SEQ ID NOs			
Bi-specific Ab Identifier	**Parent Ab from which sequences derived**	**LCVR**	**LCDR1**	**LCDR2**	**LCDR3**
H4H3467D	H4H2864P (Arm 1)	378	380	382	384
	H4H2864P (Arm 2)	378	380	382	384
H4H8751D	H4H2636P (Arm 1)	314	316	318	320
	H4H2636P (Arm 2)	314	316	318	320

Biacore Analysis of Bi-specific Antibodies to Determine Association and Dissociation Values

[0274] Binding association and dissociation rate constants (k_a and k_d, respectively), equilibrium dissociation constants and dissociation half-lives (K_D and $t_{1/2}$, respectively) for natural Fel d 1 (subsequently referred to as nFel d 1) binding to purified anti-Fel d 1 monospecific and bispecific antibodies were determined using a real-time surface plasmon resonance biosensor assay on a Biacore 2000 instrument. On a CM5 chip, using the EDC-NHS chemistry, the Biacore sensor surface was derivatized with a monoclonal mouse anti-human Fc antibody (GE, # BR-1008-39) to capture anti-Fel d 1 monospecific and bispecific antibodies. All the Biacore binding studies were performed at 25°C in HBSP+ running buffer (0.01M HEPES pH 7.4, 0.15M NaCl, 3mM $CaCl_2$, 3mM $MgCl_2$, 0.05% v/v Surfactant P20). Different concentrations of nFel d 1 (Indoor Biotech, # NA-FD1-2) (ranging from 600nM to 2.34nM, 6-fold dilutions) prepared in HBSP+ running buffer were injected over the anti-Fel d 1 antibody captured surface at a flow rate of 50µL/min. Association of nFel d 1 to the captured monoclonal antibodies was monitored for 4 minutes and the dissociation of nFel d 1 in HBSP+ running buffer was monitored for 7 minutes. Kinetic association (k_a) and dissociation (k_d) rate constants were determined by fitting the real-time sensorgrams to a 1:1 binding model with mass transport limitation using Scrubber 2.0c curve fitting software. Binding dissociation equilibrium constants (K_D) and dissociative half-lives ($t_{1/2}$) were then calculated from the kinetic rate constants as: K_D (M) = k_d / k_a and $t_{½}$ (min) = [ln2/(60*k_d)].

[0275] Binding kinetics of nFel d1 binding to different anti-Fel d 1 mono-specific and bi-specific antibodies at 25°C are shown in Table 19. The three monospecific anti-Fel d 1 antibodies bound to

nFel d1 with K_D values ranging from 155pM to 1.6nM. The two bi-specific anti-Fel d1 antibodies, H4H3467D and H4H8751D, bound to nFel d1 with K_D values of 250pM and 347pM respectively.

Table 19: Binding Kinetics of anti-Fel d 1 mono-specific and bi-specific antibodies binding to nFel d 1 at 25°C.

AbPID	Amount of mAb Captured (RU)	600nM nFel d 1 Bound (RU)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	K_D (M)	t½ (min)
H4H2864N	277	48	9.16E+05	9.47E-04	1.03E-09	12
H4H2636N	280	54	3.14E+05	5.02E-04	1.60E-09	23
H4H1232N	259	42	3.05E+06	4.72E-04	1.55E-10	24
H4H3467D	278	35	2.85E+06	7.12E-04	2.50E-10	16
H4H8751D	300	30	1.79E+06	6.20E-04	3.47E-10	19

[0276] To determine the *in vivo* efficacy of the anti-Fel d 1 bi-specifics compared with their mono-specific parental antibodies, these antibodies along with an isotype control antibody were tested in the PCA *in vivo* model using natural Fel d 1 for both sensitization and challenging, which was previously described (see Example 6). Antibodies in this study were administered at a concentration of 1mg/kg total antibody (0.5mg/kg of each antibody was used when two antibodies were administered simultaneously) using 8 mice per experimental group. The data for each experimental group expressed as percent reduction in dye extravasation ± SD are shown in Table 20.

[0277] The mono-specific antibodies H4H1232N and H4H2864P caused a 67 (± 26)% and an 81 (± 26)% reduction in dye extravasation, respectively. The combination of the mono-specific antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2864P, caused a 98 (± 3.5)% reduction in dye extravasation, while the bi-specific, H4H3467D, composed of the mono-specific antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2864P, caused a 93 (± 11)% reduction in dye extravasation.

[0278] The mono-specific antibodies H4H1232N and H4H2636P caused a 64 (± 33)% and an 8.7 (± 79)% reduction in dye extravasation, respectively, in another experiment. The combination of the mono-specific antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2636P, caused a 90 (± 15)% reduction in dye extravasation, while the bi-specific, H4H8751D, composed of the mono-specific antibodies, H4H1232N and H4H2636P, caused a 77 (± 20)% reduction in dye extravasation.

Table 20: Effect of anti-Fel d 1 bispecific antibodies and their parental mono-specific antibodies in the passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (PCA) *in vivo* model

Antibody	**% Reduction in Dye Extravasation** ±SD
H4H1232N	67 ± 26 ****
H4H2864P	81 ± 26 ****
H4H3467D	93 ± 11 ****
H4H1232N+H4H2864P	98 ± 3.5 ****
H4H1232N[a]	64 ± 33 ***
H4H2636P[a]	8.7 ± 79
H4H8751D[a]	77 ± 20 ****
H4H1232N+H4H2636P[a]	90 ± 15 ****
[a]Experiments performed on a separate day Statistical significance compared to isotype control determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparison post-test is indicated (***=p<0.001 and ****=p<0.00001)	

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises the three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) contained within the heavy chain variable region (HCVR) sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18; and the three light chain complementarity determining regions (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) contained within the light chain variable region (LCVR) sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

2. The isolated human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1, wherein the human antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof binds specifically to Fel d1 with a K_D equal to or less than 10^{-6} M, as measured by surface plasmon resonance.

3. An isolated human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, wherein the antibody comprises: (a) the HCVR of SEQ ID NO: 18; and (b) the LCVR of SEQ ID NO: 26.

4. The isolated human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 3, wherein the HCVR and LCVR comprise the three heavy chain CDRs (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) and the three light chain CDRs (LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3) consisting of:

(a) the HCDR1 domain of SEQ ID NO: 20;
(b) the HCDR2 domain of SEQ ID NO: 22;
(c) the HCDR3 domain of SEQ ID NO: 24;
(d) the LCDR1 domain of SEQ ID NO: 28;
(e) the LCDR2 domain of SEQ ID NO: 30; and
(f) the LCDR3 domain of SEQ ID NO: 32.

5. The isolated human monoclonal antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof of claim 1, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof interacts with at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues ranging from position 85 to position 103 of SEQ ID NO: 396; amino acid residues ranging from position 85 to position 104 of SEQ ID NO: 396; and amino acid residues ranging from position 113 to position 127 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

6. The isolated human monoclonal antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof of claim 1, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof interacts with at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 402, 403, and 404.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the isolated human monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof of claim 1 that binds specifically to Fel d1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a first isolated human monoclonal antibody, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, of claim 1; and a second isolated human monoclonal antibody, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein:

a) the isolated first human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26; and

b) the isolated second human monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds specifically to Fel d1, comprises the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair of SEQ ID NOs: 306/314.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the human antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof having the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pair of SEQ ID NOs: 18/26, further comprising three or more isolated human monoclonal antibodies that bind specifically to Fel d1, or antigen-binding fragments thereof, comprising the HCVR/LCVR amino acid sequence pairs selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 66/74, 130/138, 306/314 and 162/170.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the isolated second human monoclonal antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, interacts with amino acid residues ranging from position 15 to position 24 of SEQ ID NO: 396.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the isolated second human monoclonal antibody, or an antigen binding fragment thereof, interacts with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 412.