# The antibody revolution: turning inventions into medicines and companies









Foundation Lecture, Royal Society 7 March 2011

# Therapeutic antibodies today

#### **Used for treatment of:**

**Cancer**. Breast, bowel, head and neck cancer, bone, leukaemias (NHL, AML, CLL).

**Immune disorders**. Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH), transplantation rejection, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, ankylosing spondylitis, asthma, multiple sclerosis.

Others. Acute macular degeneration

**Infections**. Respiratory syncytial virus.

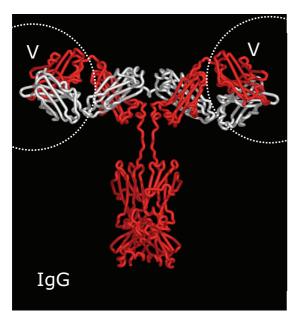
# Pharmaceuticals 2010

Brand name	Systematic name	<sup>2</sup> Sales (USD\$)
Lipitor	atorva <u>statin</u>	10.7
(Lantus, Humulin)	insulins	9.7
Àdvair	fluticasone/salmeterol	7.9
<sup>1</sup> Enbrel	etanercept	6.8
¹Humira	adalimumab	6.5
Avastin	bevacizumab	6.2
Rituxan	rituximab	6.1
<sup>1</sup> Remicade	infliximab	5.8
Crestor	rosuva <u>statin</u>	5.7
Herceptin	trastuzumab	5.2

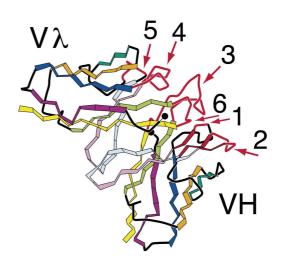
¹anti-TNF mAbs. ²mAbs were \$41 bn market, CAGR 11%, 6 mAbs in top 10, each >\$USD 5 bn pa.

**Cancer**. Breast, bowel, head, neck and bone cancer, leukaemias (NHL, AML, CLL). **Immune disorders**. PNH, transplantation rejection, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, ankylosing spondylitis, asthma, multiple sclerosis. **Others**. Acute macular degeneration, osteoporosis. **Viral infections**. Respiratory syncytial virus.

# Structure of antibodies

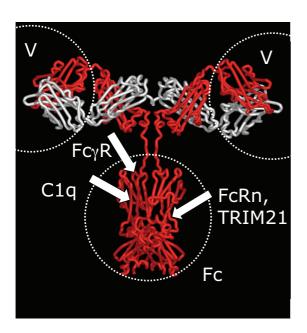


Four chains, two heavy and two light; domain structure, variable and constant domains



Variable domains provide scaffold with Ag-binding loops

### Mode of action of antibodies

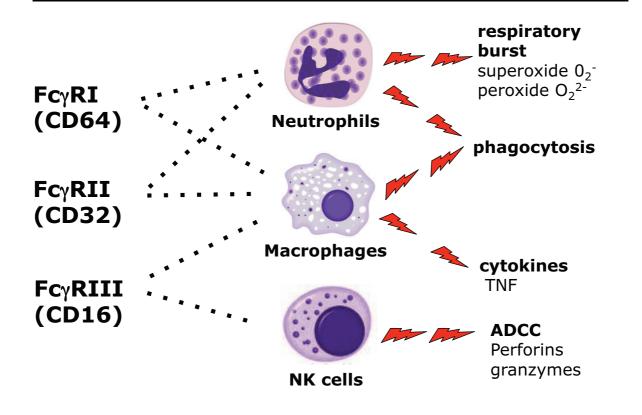


**Binds antigen**. Variable domains bind antigen, blocking its action; may also lead to apoptosis of cells.

**Long serum half-life** (PK), Ab escapes filtration (150 kD) and pinocytosis (recycling FcRn).

**Killing.** The other end (Fc) acts as flag to the immune system leading to killing (Fc receptors on neutrophils, macrophages & NK cells; serum C1q; TRIM21).

# FcyR effector mechanisms



# Campath-1H on non-Hodgkin lymphoma





Hale G., Dyer M.J., Clark M.R., Phillips J.M., Marcus R., Riechmann L., Winter G. & Waldmann H. (1988). Remission induction in non-Hodgkin lymphoma with reshaped human monoclonal antibody CAMPATH-1H. *Lancet* 2, (8625) 1394-1399.

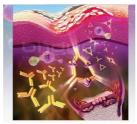
### Mode of action of therapeutic mAbs



**Bevacizumab** (Avastin –Genentech/Roche)

IgG1 Target: VEGF. Treat: colorectal cancer

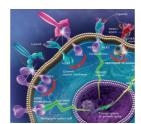
Blocking



Adalimumab (Humira-Abbott)

IgG1 Target: TNF Treat: rheumatoid arthritis

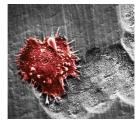
Blocking>>killing



**Trastuzumab** (Herceptin-Genentech/Roche)

IgG1 Target: HER2 Treat: HER2+ breast cancer

Killing>> blocking



**Denosumab** (Prolia-Amgen/GSK)

IgG2

Target: RankL Treat: Osteoporosis

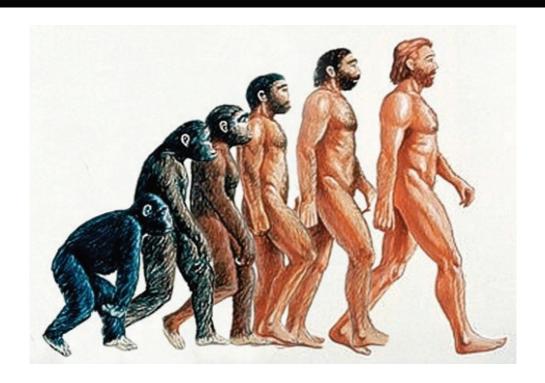
Blocking

# Pharmaceutical drug classes

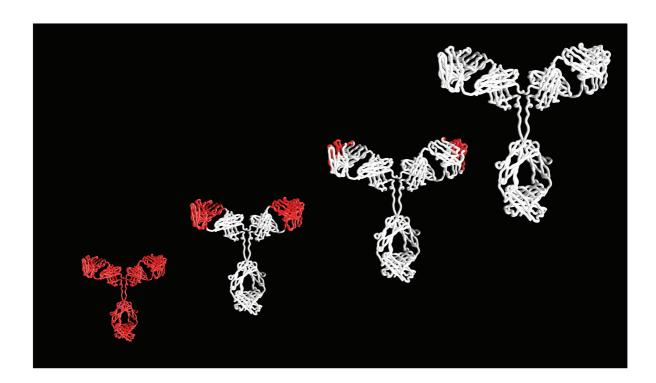
High target affinity		
High target specificity		
Low off-target toxicity		
Blocks protein-protein		
Long serum half-life		
Killing mechanisms		
Access to small sites		
Extravascular targets		
Intracellular targets		
Oral route		
Immunogenicity		

Antibodies	Chemicals
	High target affinity
	High target specificity
	Low toxicity
	Blocks protein-protein
	Long serum half-life
	Effector mechanisms
Access to small sites	
Extravascular targets	
Intracellular targets	
Oral route	
immunogenic	

# The ascent of Man



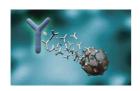
# The ascent of the human therapeutic antibody



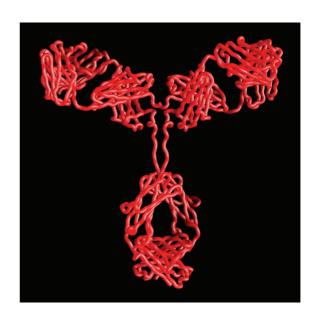
# **Rodent monoclonal antibodies**

#### 1975. Milstein and Kohler (MRC)

Immunize mice with antigen (Ag), fuse antibodyproducing cells from spleen (mortal) with myeloma cell line (immortal) to give a cell line hybridomas (immortal and produces a monoclonal antibody (mAb).



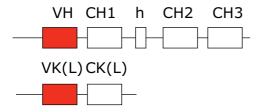
**PLUS.** Magic bullets: immunize mice with human tumours, find mAbs that kill Tu but not normal cells. **MINUS.** Poor killing activities in humans **MINUS.** Immunogenic, blocking of therapy / anaphylaxis with prolonged treatment.



### Mouse-human chimaeric antibodies

1983. Cabilly 1984. Morrison and Oi.

Protein engineering; join mouse variable region genes (will bind Ag) to human constant region genes (will trigger human effector functions)

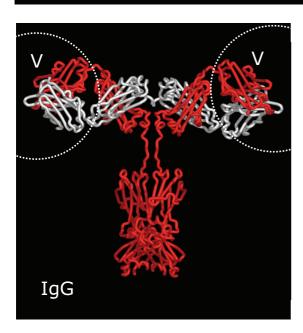


**PLUS.** 2/3 human and less immunogenic than rodent mAbs

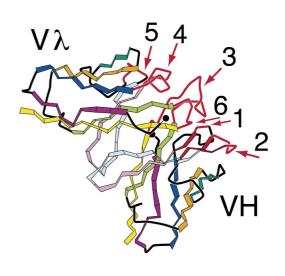
PLUS. powerful human effector functions



# Structure of antibodies



Four chains, two heavy and two light; domain structure, variable and constant domains

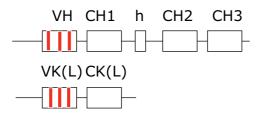


Variable domains provide scaffold with Ag-binding loops

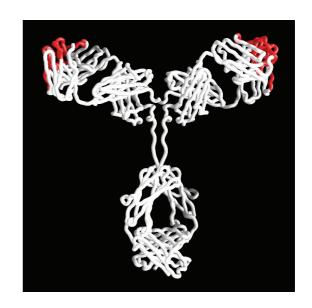
### **Humanized antibodies**

#### 1986. Winter (MRC).

Protein engineering; transfer only the Ag-binding loops into human antibody



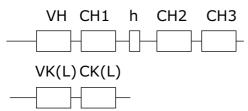
**PLUS.** Humanized mAbs 95% human and less immunogenic than rodent mAbs **PLUS.** Powerful human effector functions and killing.



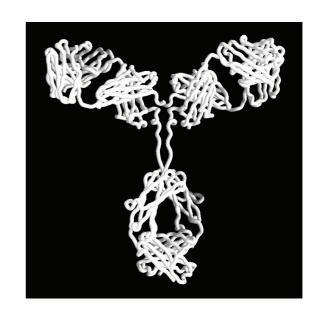
# **Human antibodies – from repertoires**

# 1989. Winter (MRC)/Lerner (Scripps).

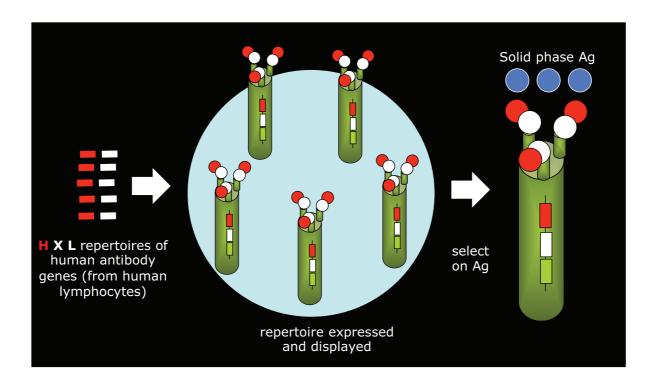
Protein engineering; repertoires of human antibody genes/phage display to build human antibodies directly.



PLUS. Fully human antibodies



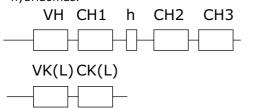
# **Human antibodies – reduction to practice**



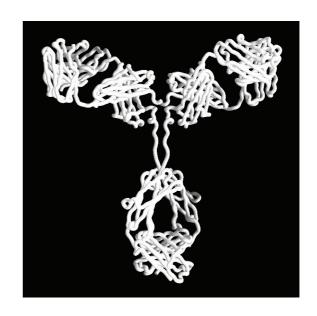
# **Human antibodies - from mice**

# 1989. Neuberger/Bruggemann (MRC/AFRC).

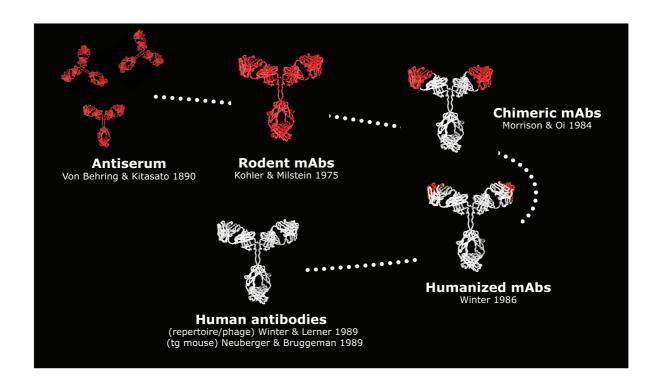
Mouse engineering, transgenic mice with human antibody genes, then immunize and make hybridomas.



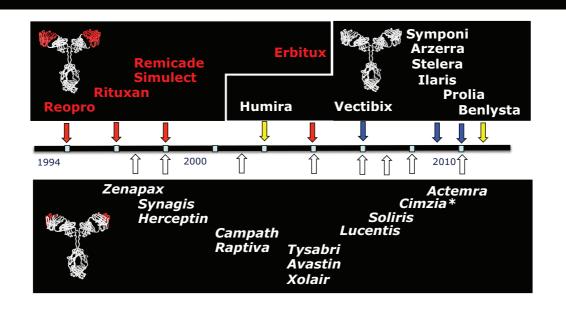
PLUS. Fully human antibodies



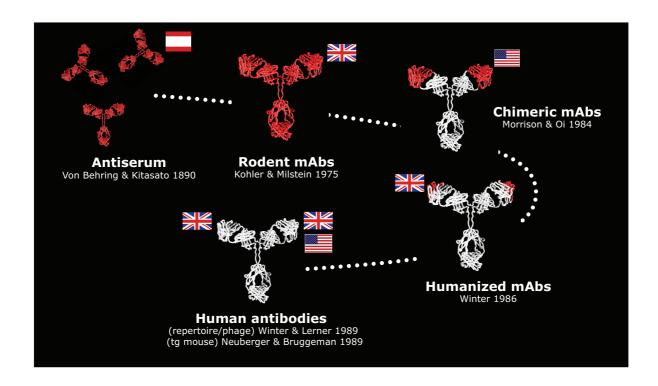
# **Antibody technology**



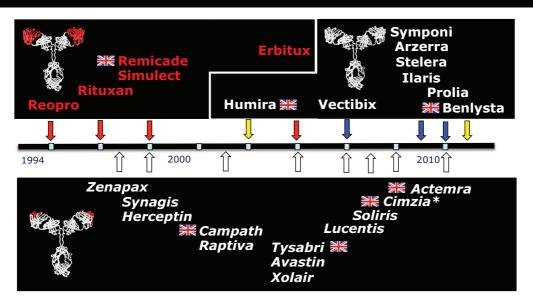
# **Antibody products**



### Antibody technology - UK role



# Antibody products - UK role



\*Remicade; Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology> Centocor/J&J

\*Campath: Cambridge University/MRC-LMB > Wellcome Biotech > LeukoSite >

Millenium> Genzyme >Sanofi
Tysabri: MRCT > Biogen/IDEC
Cimzia: Celltech > UCB-Celltech
Actemra: MRCT > Chugai
Humira: CAT > Abbott
Benlysta: CAT > HGS [GSK]

# **Translation process**

#### **Patents**

None

Single

Multiple

Improvements

#### Licensing strategy

Exclusive

Non-exclusive

Co-licensing

Rights to future IP

#### **Commercial exploitation**

Research collaboration

Development

Start-up

Biotech

Pharma

#### **Outcomes**

Research impact

Clinical impact

UK impact (companies/jobs)

Royalties

Sales

# **Translation process (MRC) - mouse mAbs**

Patents
None X NRDC
Single

Multiple

Improvements X Rat hybridomas/BTG

**Licensing strategy** 

Exclusive Non-exclusive Co-licensing

Rights to future IP X MRC/Celltech

**Commercial exploitation** 

Research collaboration

Development X Blood group reagents

Start-up

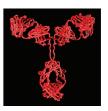
Biotech X Celltech

Pharma

OutcomesResearch impactXresearch reagentsClinical impactXdiagnostic testsUK impact (companies/jobs)XCelltech, Unipath

Royalties

Sales X >\$10 bn pa worldwide [2008]



# Failure to patent mouse mAbs

#### **Letter from NRDC to MRC**

"It is certainly difficult for us to identify any immediate practical applications which could be pursued as a commercial venture...and it is not immediately obvious what patentable features are at present disclosed in the Nature paper"

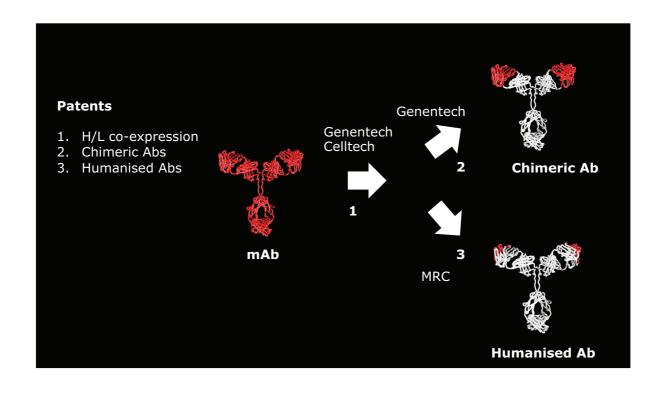
# **Translation process (MRC) - mouse mAbs**

Patents		
None	Χ	NRDC
Single		
Multiple		
Improvements	Χ	Rat hybridomas/NRDC
<b>Licensing strategy</b> Exclusive		
Non-exclusive		
Co-licensing		
Rights to future IP	Χ	Celltech
Commercial exploitation		
Research collaboration		
Development	Χ	Blood group reagents
Start-up		
Biotech	Χ	Celltech
Pharma		
Outcomes		
Research impact	Χ	research reagents
Clinical impact	Χ	diagnostic tests
UK impact (companies/jobs) Royalties	X	Celltech, Unipath
Sales	Χ	>\$10 bn pa worldwide [2008]

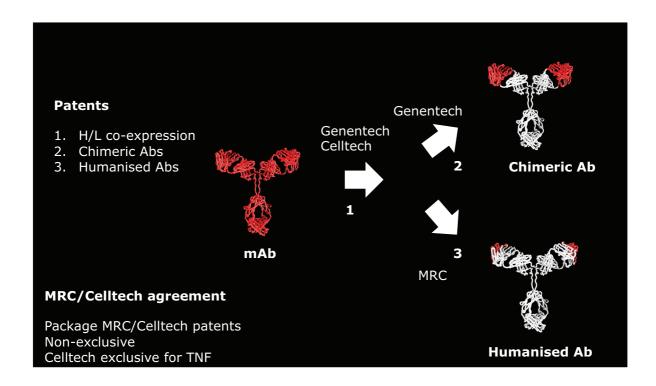
# **Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs**

#### **Patents** None Χ Single Multiple Improvements Χ Licensing strategy Χ TNF exclusive to Celltech Exclusive Non-exclusive Χ >40 companies licensed Χ with key patent from Celltech Co-licensing Rights to future IP **Commercial exploitation** Research collaboration Celltech, Behringwerke Χ Development MRCC [Chugai, Elan, LeukoSite] Start-up Χ Scotgen, Protein Design Laboratories Χ Celltech, Genentech Biotech Χ Pharma Wellcome **Outcomes** Research impact Clinical impact several diseases UK impact (companies/jobs) Celltech Royalties Χ >\$500M Sales >\$20 bn pa worldwide [2010]

# Patent landscape late 1980s



# Patent landscape late 1980s



# **Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs**

Patents None		nie.
Single	Χ	
Multiple		
Improvements	Χ	
Licensing strategy		
Exclusive	Χ	TNF exclusive to Celltech
Non-exclusive	Χ	>40 companies licensed
Co-licensing	Χ	with key patent from Celltech
Rights to future IP		
Commercial exploitation		
Research collaboration	Χ	Celltech, Behringwerke
Development	Χ	MRCC [Chugai, Elan, LeukoSite]
Start-up	Χ	Scotgen, Protein Design Laboratories
Biotech	Χ	Celltech, Genentech
Pharma	Χ	Wellcome
Outcomes		
Research impact		
Clinical impact	Χ	several diseases
UK impact (companies/jobs)	Χ	Celltech
Royalties	Χ	>\$500M
Sales	X	>\$20 bn pa worldwide [2010]

### **MRC Collaborative Centre**

Antibody
Diseases treated
Company partners
Patients treated
Sales

Actemra (tocilizumab) Rheumatoid arthritis Chugai (Roche) >100,000 US \$435M (2010) Tysabri (natalizumab) MS, Crohn's disease Elan (Biogen-IDEC) 59,000 > US \$ 1000M





# **Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs**

#### **Patents**

None
Single X
Multiple
Improvements X
Licensing strategy
Exclusive X

Licensing strategyExclusiveXTNF exclusive to CelltechNon-exclusiveX>40 companies licensedCo-licensingXwith key patent from CelltechRights to future IP

**Commercial exploitation** 

Research collaboration X Celltech, Behringwerke

Development X MRCC [Chugai, Elan, LeukoSite]
Start-up X Scotgen, Protein Design Laboratories
Biotech X Celltech, Genentech

Pharma X Wellcome

**Outcomes** 

Research impact
Clinical impact
X several diseases

UK impact (companies/jobs) X Celltech Royalties X >\$500M

Sales X >\$20 bn pa worldwide [2010]



# **Translation process (MRC) - human mAbs**

#### **Patents**

None Single Multiple Χ Χ Improvements

Licensing strategy

CAT Χ Exclusive

Non-exclusive

Χ MRC/CAT/Scripps Co-licensing

Χ Rights to future IP

**Commercial exploitation** 

Research collaboration Χ CAT

Development

Start-up Χ CAT (HGS, BASF, Abbott, Pfizer, Genentech)

Biotech

Pharma

**Outcomes** 

Research impact Clinical impact several diseases

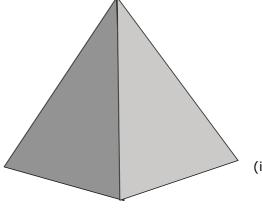
UK impact (companies/jobs) Χ GSK, Astrazeneca Royalties Χ >\$250M

Sales Χ >\$6 bn worldwide [2010]

### **Start-up companies**

#### **BUSINESS PLAN**

(for deals, pipeline of preclinical & clinical leads)



MONEY (investors, deal income)

**MANAGEMENT** 

(business and scientific)

**CORE SCIENCE & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY** (patents, know-how, licensing)

# **Cambridge Antibody Technology**

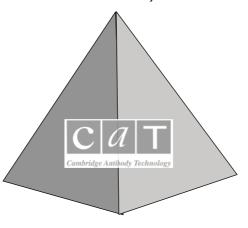
#### **BUSINESS PLAN**

(for deals, pipeline of preclinical & clinical leads)

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology & MRC Centre for Protein Engineering



CORE SCIENCE & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (patents, know-how, licensing)



**MONEY** (investors, deal income)





**MANAGEMENT** (business and scientific)

**Chiswell, Winter** 

# **Translation process (MRC) - human mAbs**

#### **Patents**

None
Single X
Multiple X
Improvements X

Licensing strategy

Exclusive X CAT

Non-exclusive

Co-licensing X MRC/CAT/Scripps

Rights to future IP X

**Commercial exploitation** 

Research collaboration X CAT

Development

Start-up X CAT (HGS, BASF, Abbott, Pfizer, Genentech)

Biotech Pharma

**Outcomes** 

Research impact
Clinical impact X several diseases
UK impact (companies/jobs) X GSK, Astrazeneca

Royalties X >\$250M

Sales X >\$6 bn worldwide [2010]

# **Summary & Comments**

#### **Translation**

Work emerged from blue skies research

Three different models of translation, mostly successful

Long times lines to product

Biggest value for UK captured by working the technology in association with industry

No VCs

No interactions with UK large pharma

Public/private money used for translation.