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 | ${ }^{2}$ Sales (USD\$) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lipitor | atorvastatin | 10.7 |
| (Lantus, Humulin) | insulins | 9.7 |
| Advair | fluticasone/salmeterol | 7.9 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Enbrel | etanercept | 6.8 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Humira | adalimumab | 6.5 |
| Avastin | bevacizumab | 6.2 |
| Rituxan | rituximab | 6.1 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Remicade | infliximab | 5.8 |
| Crestor | rosuvastatin | 5.7 |
| Herceptin | trastuzumab | 5.2 |

${ }^{1}$ anti-TNF mAbs. ${ }^{2}$ mAbs 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.


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 nonHodgkin 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

|  | Antibodies |  | Chemicals |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |

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



Human antibodies
(repertoire/phage) Winter \& Lerner 1989
(tg mouse) Neuberger \& Bruggeman 1989

## 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<br>None<br>Single<br>Multiple<br>Improvements<br>Licensing strategy<br>Exclusive<br>Non-exclusive<br>Co-licensing<br>Rights to future IP<br>Commercial exploitation<br>Research collaboration<br>Development<br>Start-up<br>Biotech<br>Pharma<br>Outcomes<br>Research impact<br>Clinical impact<br>UK impact (companies/jobs)<br>Royalties<br>Sales

## Translation process (MRC) - mouse mAbs

## Patents

None
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Research impact
Clinical impact
UK impact (companies/jobs)
Royalties
Sales
X

X

NRDC

Rat hybridomas/BTG
Rathybridomas/BTG


MRC/Celltech

Blood group reagents
Celltech
research reagents
diagnostic tests
Celltech, Unipath
>\$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

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Single
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Improvements
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Rights to future IP
Commercial exploitation
Research collaboration
Development
Start-up
Biotech
Pharma
Outcomes

| Research impact | X | research reagents <br> diagnostic tests |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Clinical impact | $X$ | Celltech, Unipath |
| UK impact (companies/jobs) <br> Royalties | $X$ | $>\$ 10$ bn pa worldwide [2008] |
| Sales | $X$ |  |



Celltech

Blood group reagents
Celltech
>\$10 bn pa worldwide [2008]

## Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs



## Patent landscape late 1980s

## Patents

1. H/L co-expression
2. Chimeric Abs
3. Humanised Abs

mAb


Humanised Ab

## Patent landscape late 1980s



## Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs

| Patents |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| None |  |
| Single | X |
| Multiple |  |
| Improvements | X |
| Licensing strategy | X |
| Exclusive | X |
| Non-exclusive | X |
| Co-licensing |  |
| Rights to future IP |  |
| Commercial exploitation |  |
| Research collaboration | X |
| Development | X |
| Start-up | X |
| Biotech | X |
| Pharma |  |
| Outcomes | X |
| Research impact | X |
| Clinical impact | X |
| UK impact (companies/jobs) |  |
| Royalties |  |
| Sales |  |

## MRC Collaborative Centre

## Antibody Diseases treated Company partners Patients treated Sales

Actemra (tocilizumab)<br>Rheumatoid arthritis<br>Chugai (Roche)<br>>100,000<br>US \$435M (2010)

Tysabri (natalizumab) MS, Crohn's disease Elan (Biogen-IDEC)
59,000
> US \$ 1000M


## Translation process (MRC) - humanised mAbs



## Translation process (MRC) - human mAbs



## Start-up companies

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

## BUSINESS PLAN

(for deals, pipeline of preclinical \& clinical leads)


MONEY
(investors, deal income)

## MANAGEMENT

(business and scientific)

## Cambridge Antibody Technology

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology \& MRC Centre for Protein Engineering


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


MANAGEMENT
(business and scientific)

## MONEY

 (investors, deal income)

Chiswell, Winter

## Translation process (MRC) - human mAbs



## 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.

