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(71) Applicant: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
[US/US]; 4311 11th Ave NE, Suite 500, Seattle, Wash-
ington 98105-4608 (US).

(72) Inventors: SOKURENKO, Evgeni V.; 4311 11th Ave
NE, Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98105-4608 (US).
KISIELA, Dagmara; 4311 11th Ave, NE, Suite 500,
Seattle, Washington 98105-4608 (US). THOMAS, Wendy
Evelyn; 4311 11th Ave, NE, Suite 500, Seattle, Wash-
ington 98105-4608 (US). TCHESNOKOVA, Veronika L.;
4311 11th Ave, NE, Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98105-
4608 (US).

(74) Agents: CANADY, Karen S. et al.; canady + lortz LLP,
3701 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 508, Los Angeles, California
90010 (US).

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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF UROPATHOGENIC *E. COLI* IN-
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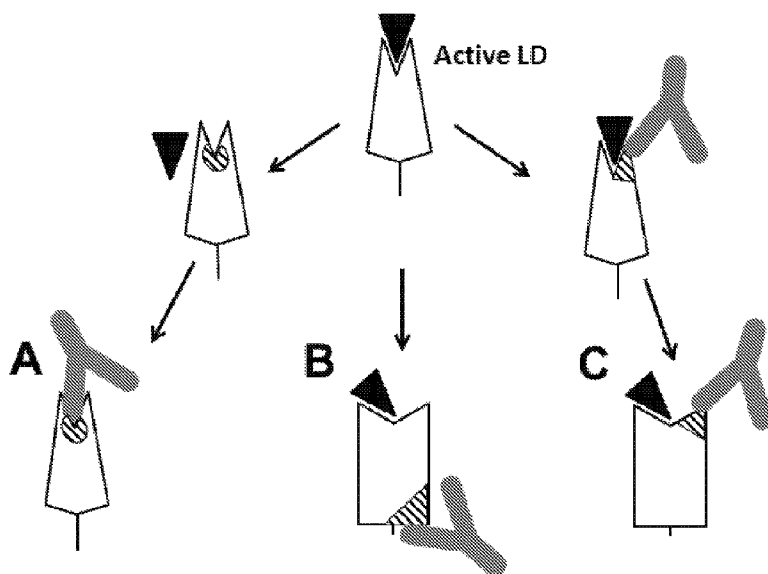


FIGURE 12

(57) Abstract: Methods and antibody com-
positions that displace mannose from the
binding pocket of fimbrial adhesin FimH of
enterobacteria, including uropathogenic *E.*
coli, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneu-*
moniae, can be used to disrupt or prevent the
attachment of a single layer of bacteria to a
mannose-coated surface, or to disrupt or pre-
vent the formation of a multilayer biofilm.
The antibody compositions of the invention
can thus be used in methods to inhibit, pre-
vent, or reverse the colonization of a surface
with enterobacteria that express the bacterial
Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, to inhibit or
prevent infection of a cell by enterobacteria
that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial ad-
hesin FimH, such as, for example, uropatho-
genic *E. coli*, to treat a bacterial infection in
subject in need thereof, and to treat or prevent
inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), among
other uses.



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COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF UROPATHOGENIC *E. COLI* INFECTION

[0001] This application claims benefit of United States provisional patent application numbers
5 62/160,852, filed May 13, 2015, and 62/208,913, filed August 24, 2015, and the entire contents
of each are incorporated by reference into this application.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

[0002] This invention was made with government support under Grant No. R21 AI103846,
awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the
10 invention.

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING SUBMITTED VIA EFS-WEB

[0003] The content of the ASCII text file of the sequence listing named "UW59WOU2_SL",
which is 15 kb in size, was created on May 12, 2016, and electronically submitted via EFS-Web
herewith the application. The sequence listing is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0004] This invention relates to methods and antibody compositions that displace mannose
from the binding pocket of fimbrial adhesin FimH of enterobacteria, including uropathogenic *E.*
coli, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. The methods and antibody compositions can
be used to disrupt or prevent the attachment of a single layer of bacteria to a mannose-coated
20 surface, or to disrupt or prevent the formation of a multilayer biofilm. The antibody compositions
of the invention can thus be used in methods to inhibit, prevent, or reverse the colonization of a
surface with enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, to inhibit or
prevent infection of a cell by enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin
FimH, such as, for example, uropathogenic *E. coli*, to treat a bacterial infection in subject in
25 need thereof, and to treat or prevent inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), among other uses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Receptor-ligand interactions are among the most basic biological phenomena involved
in cell signaling, adhesion and pathogen attachment. Antibody- or small molecule-based
inhibitors of these interactions are of great importance for various preventive and therapeutic
30 implications, including development of protective vaccines. Two general types of inhibitory
mechanisms have been described to date. Orthosteric inhibitors directly compete with ligands
for the binding pocket and, thus, their receptor-inhibitory activity is of a competitive nature
(Swinney 2004). In contrast, allosteric inhibitors exert their effects via interaction with a site that

is separate from the ligand-binding pocket and accomplish the inhibition in a non-competitive manner (Christopoulos 2002). Non-competitive inhibition is less sensitive to endogenous ligand and thus is generally more effective pharmacologically (Swinney 2006).

[0006] FimH is a 30 kDa lectin-like protein that is incorporated into the tip of surface hair-like structures of *E. coli* and other enterobacteria called type 1 fimbriae (Jones, et al. 1995). It exhibits specificity to glycoproteins carrying terminally exposed mannose and is critical for the virulence of uropathogenic strains of *E. coli* (Chen, et al. 2009; Connell, et al. 1996; Kisieliu, et al. 1989; Krogfelt, et al. 1990; Martinez, et al. 2000). FimH has two domains: the C-terminal pilin domain that anchors the adhesin to the fimbrial rod and the N-terminal lectin domain that is responsible for mannose binding (Choudhury, et al. 1999). The binding pocket in the lectin domain shifts between open and tightened conformations with low ($K_D = 298 \mu\text{M}$)- and high ($K_D = 1.2 \mu\text{M}$)- affinity for mannose, respectively (Aprikian, et al. 2007; Le Trong, et al. 2010; Tchesnokova, et al. 2008). The low-affinity (inactive) state of the lectin domain is allosterically stabilized by its interaction with the pilin domain that sustains a finger-trap-like twist in the β -sheets of the binding domain (Le Trong, et al. 2010). The high-affinity (active) state is induced by ligand binding and/or separation of the domains, with the latter facilitated by force during bacterial adhesion under flow conditions. FimH-like force-activated adhesion has been described in several other adhesive systems of different bacterial species as well as eukaryotic cells. For example, proteins like integrins (Chen, et al. 2012) or P/L-selectins (Phan, et al. 2006) exhibit a shift between inactive and active conformations under shear force.

[0007] The existence of two alternative conformations of the mannose-binding pocket of FimH reflects a broad phenomenon in the biology of receptor-ligand interactions, including enzyme binding to substrates and products. In fact, the century-old static 'lock-and-key' model of the interaction mechanism is considered now to be too rigid for many if not the majority of receptor proteins and enzymes. It has been shown that ligand-binding pockets are typically composed of residues on flexible loops and dynamically shift between active and inactive conformations, with relatively high and low (often unmeasurable) affinity for the ligand, respectively (Avlani, et al. 2007; Kim, et al. 2013; Ma, et al. 2014; Melcher, et al. 2009; Sooriyaarachchi, et al. 2010). Generally, the ligand-bound active pocket assumes a more contracted shape than the ligand-free inactive pocket, so the corresponding receptor conformers are commonly referred to as open versus closed (or tightened) states (Carlson, et al. 1997; Lebon, et al. 2011; Melcher, et al. 2009; Wagner and Czajkowski 2001). Some well-studied examples of receptors with such pocket dynamics include allosteric proteins such as maltose-binding protein (Duan, et al. 2001; Quijcho, et al. 1997; Spurlino, et al. 1991), and G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) (Lebon, et al. 2011; Rasmussen, et al. 2011; Wagner and Czajkowski 2001).

[0008] Two general models have been proposed to describe the effect of ligand on the conformation of receptor binding pockets. In the 'induced fit' model, the active state of the

pocket is assumed only after ligand binds to the inactive state, while in the 'conformational selection' model, the inactive and active states coexist in the absence of ligand, but the active state is stabilized by ligand binding (Csermely, et al. 2010; Gianni, et al. 2014; Hatzakis 2014). More complex models of ligand-receptor recognition that combine the two models are also considered (Silva, et al. 2011). All models allow for initial weak interaction of the ligand with the inactive state of binding pocket, and this weak interaction has been repeatedly shown to involve only a subset of the receptor residues that interact with the ligand in the strongly-binding active state (Carlson, et al. 1997; Lebon, et al. 2011; Melcher, et al. 2009; Silva, et al. 2011; Sooriyaarachchi, et al. 2010).

[0009] Partial interaction of the ligand with the binding pocket leaves the remaining residues, which only interact with the ligand when the pocket is in the active state, free in theory to bind to an additional compound. Such a compound could potentially act as an inhibitor by interfering with the switch of the pocket into the active state. Such an inhibitor would not fit the accepted definition of either orthosteric inhibitors that cannot bind simultaneously with ligand, or allosteric inhibitors that should bind away from the binding pocket. Instead, because such inhibitors would bind next to the ligand, they could be classified as parasteric inhibitors.

[0010] There remains a need for effective means of inhibiting FimH activity in order to disrupt biofilm formation and treat pathogenic infections, as well as prevent infection via contaminated biomedical devices.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] The invention meets these needs and others by providing methods and compositions that inhibit FimH activity with a surprising degree of efficacy. Described herein is a type of inhibitory monoclonal antibody against the mannose-binding adhesin of *E. coli*, FimH, that does not fall into either of the known two categories of inhibitors. Like an allosteric inhibitor, this antibody exerts non-competitive inhibition, but like an orthosteric inhibitor, it binds within the ligand-binding pocket. Unlike the latter, however, it forces the conversion of the binding pocket to an open, inactive conformation, even when the pocket is occupied by the ligand mannose.

[0012] In one embodiment, the invention provides a composition comprising an antibody that specifically recognizes and binds uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) fimbrial adhesin FimH and is capable of preventing colonization of a surface by uropathogenic *E. coli*. In one embodiment, the antibody comprises a light chain variable region, and, optionally, a heavy chain variable region, or polynucleotide(s) encoding same. In a typical embodiment, the light chain variable region comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto. The light chain variable region comprises one, two or three of three complementarity determining regions (CDRs), CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3. The CDR1 sequence comprises QNVSN (residues 27-31 of

SEQ ID NO: 1) or QNIVHNNGNTY (residues 27-37 of SEQ ID NO: 3). The CDR2 sequence comprises SAS (residues 49-51 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or KVS (residues 55-57 of SEQ ID NO: 3). The CDR3 sequence comprises QQNSSFPFT (residues 88-96 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or FQGSHVPFT (residues 94-102 of SEQ ID NO: 3). In a typical embodiment, the heavy chain

variable region comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto. The heavy chain variable region comprises one, two or three of three complementarity determining regions (CDRs), CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3. The CDR1 sequence comprises GYAFSSYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or GYTSTNYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 4). The CDR2 sequence comprises IYPRDGGT (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or INPTSGYT (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 4). The CDR3 sequence comprises EVGRGFYGM DY (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or ARGVIRDF (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 4). In one embodiment, the light chain variable region comprises CDR1 (QNIVHNNGNTY, residues 27-37 of SEQ ID NO: 3), CDR2 (KVS, residues 55-57 of SEQ ID NO: 3), and CDR3 (FQGSHVPFT, residues 94-102 of SEQ ID NO: 3), and the heavy chain variable region comprises CDR1 (GYTSTNYW, residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 4), CDR2 (INPTSGYT, residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 4), and CDR3 (ARGVIRDF, residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 4).

[0013] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3. Representative examples of the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region include, but are not limited to, the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, and 7. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 3.

[0014] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region sequence has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4. Representative examples of the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region include, but are not limited to, the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, and 8. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 4.

[0015] In one embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of the uropathogenic *E. coli* FimH. In a typical embodiment, the antibody binds within amino acid residues 133-142 of the FimH amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 14. In some embodiments, the antibody binds a conformational epitope selected from I52, N135, N136, Y137, N138, and D140 of SEQ ID NO: 14; and F1, N46, I52, D54, Q133, N135 and N136 of SEQ ID NO: 14. In one embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ less than about 15 nM. In another embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ less than 1 nM. In one particular embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ of about 14 nM. In another particular embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ of about 0.4 nM.

[0016] In one particular embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of FimH and thereby competes with mannose for binding to FimH. In another particular embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of FimH and thereby releases mannose bound to the pocket in a non-competitive manner, for example, by binding to a side of the pocket. In these manners, the antibody can both prevent attachment of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, and detach bacteria already attached to a mannose-coated surface. The antibody can be used to disrupt or prevent the attachment of a single layer of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, or to disrupt or prevent the formation of a multilayer biofilm. The invention provides a method of displacing mannose from the binding pocket of fimbrial adhesin FimH of enterobacteria, such as uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and other Type 1 fimbriae-expressing bacteria. In a typical embodiment, the method comprises contacting the binding pocket with a composition of the invention.

[0017] In some embodiments, the antibody further comprises a heterologous sequence.

Examples of a heterologous sequence include, but are not limited to, sequence encoding all or a portion of a polypeptide, antibody, epitope, or other moiety that would not be found adjacent to the recited sequence under natural conditions. Such heterologous moieties can be useful for improving solubility, delivery, immunogenicity, efficacy, detection, or identification of the recited sequence or molecule. In some embodiments, the heterologous sequence is inert or an unrelated sequence. The antibody can be, for example, one or more of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a humanized antibody, a human antibody, an antibody derivative, a veneered antibody, a diabody, an antibody derivative, a recombinant human antibody, a chimeric antibody, or an antibody fragment. In one embodiment, the antibody is a monoclonal antibody. The invention additionally provides polynucleotides encoding antibodies of the invention. Thus, in some embodiments, the antibody composition of the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding the recited antibody. In some embodiments, one nucleic acid molecule encodes the entire antibody or functional fragment thereof, while in others, separate nucleic acid molecules are provided that encode portions, regions, and/or fragments of the antibody.

[0018] In some embodiments, the composition of the invention further comprises a carrier. The carrier can be a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or other carrier that facilitates use of the antibody composition. The invention additionally provides a kit comprising a package or container that is compartmentalized to receive one or more containers such as vials, tubes, and the like, each of the container(s) comprising one of the separate elements (e.g., antibodies, carriers) to be used in the method.

[0019] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to inhibit, prevent, or reverse the colonization of a surface with enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin

FimH. Examples of enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*. The surface can be a biological or non-biological surface. Examples of biological surfaces that can be colonized by enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, mucosal epithelial surfaces.

- 5 Examples of non-biological surfaces that can be colonized by enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, catheters and intubation devices. The method typically comprises contacting the surface with a composition comprising an antibody of the invention.

[0020] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to inhibit or prevent infection of a cell by enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, such as, for
 10 example, uropathogenic *E. coli*. The method comprises administering to a tissue infected with the enterobacteria, e.g., uropathogenic *E. coli*, or other species of *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*. The method comprises contacting the cell with an effective amount of a composition of the invention, thereby inhibiting or preventing infection of the cell.

15 [0021] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to treat a bacterial infection in subject in need thereof, wherein the subject is infected with enterobacteria such as *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*. In some embodiments, the enterobacteria is uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. The method comprises administering to the subject an
 20 effective amount of a composition as described herein, thereby treating a bacterial infection in the subject. In some embodiments, the bacterial infection is colitis or sepsis. Additional representative examples of infections to be treated by the method include, but are not limited to, pneumonia, including ventilated pneumonia in intubated patients, catheter-associated infections, including urinary and blood line catheters, newborn meningitis, urinary tract
 25 infections, including those resulting from vaginal and periurethral colonization, and wound infections.

[0022] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a subject. The method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition as described herein, thereby treating or
 30 preventing IBD in the subject. In one embodiment, the administering is by subcutaneous, topical, transdermal, intravenous, oral, or intracolonic administration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] Figure 1. Inhibitory potency of mAb926 and mAb475. Binding of FimH^{wt}-expressing *E. coli* to surface-immobilized yeast mannan in the presence of different concentrations of anti-FimH antibodies. Data are mean $\pm$ SEM (n=5 independent experiments). The IC₅₀ values were
 35 calculated from the fitted curves shown using Prism GraphPad 6 software. **, P $\leq$ 0.005 (t-test).

[0024] Figure 2. Effect of mannose on antibody binding. Dose-response curves of mAb475 (A) and mAb926 (B) binding to fimbrial FimHwt in the absence and presence of 1% (52 mM) mannose. The EC50 values were calculated for each mAb separately from the fitted curves shown using Prism Graphpad 6 software. Data shown are mean $\pm$ SEM (n=3 independent experiments).

[0025] Figure 3. Inhibitory antibodies mAb926 and mAb475 recognize epitopes differently overlapping the mannose-binding pocket of FimH. Epitope of mAb926 mapped on crystal structure of the active (A) and inactive (D) conformations of the FimH lectin domain. C α atoms of mAb926 epitope residues are shown as black spheres. The natural allosteric site (residues V28, V30, S114 and A115) (Le Trong, et al. 2010) is shown as light grey spheres and D-mannose is shown as black sticks. The epitope of mAb21 is shown as dark grey spheres. (B and E) Close-up of FimH binding pocket with mAb926 and mAb475 epitopes presented as sticks. The mAb926 epitope residues are underlined and mAb475 epitope residues are in bold. The overlapping residues of these two epitopes are underlined and in bold. D47 residue, involved in direct hydrogen bond with D-mannose but not being a part of either mAb epitope is italicized. (C and F) Relative distances between mannose-contacting amino acid residues in the active and the inactive FimH conformations, respectively. The crystalized and the computationally docked (see text) positions of D-mannose (dark grey sticks) are also shown. The presented distances were measured between heavy atoms of residue side chains that are known to form hydrogen bonds with D-mannose ligand (Hung, et al. 2002). The PDB codes for active- and the inactive structures are 1UWF and 3JWN, respectively. The position of D-mannose in the 1UWF was determined by alignment with the sugar ring of butyl α -D-mannoside of the original crystal structure.

[0026] Figure 4. Effect of antibody binding on FimH conformation. Binding of the active state-specific mAb21 (biotinylated) to fimbrial FimH^{wt} (A) and FimH^{A188D} (B) after pre-treatment with 1% (52 mM) mannose, 50 μ g/ml mAb475, or mAb926. (C) Elution of mAb21 (biotinylated) from mAb21-FimH^{A188D} complex 60 minutes after addition of mAb475 or mAb926. Data shown are mean $\pm$ SEM (n=3 independent experiments). **, $P \leq 0.005$, ***, $P \leq 0.0005$ (t-test).

[0027] Figure 5. Effect of mannose on antibodies bound to FimH as determined by surface plasmon resonance. Binding of mAb926 at concentration 50 nM (A) and mAb475 at concentration 100 nM (B) to CM5 chip-immobilized fimbriae with FimH^{wt} was allowed to proceed for 300 s, and running buffer without or with 1% mannose (black and grey curves, respectively) were then injected to the flow cell at the time point designated by arrow, for 600 s. Duplicates for each antibody and conditions tested (+/- mannose) are shown.

[0028] Figure 6. Comparison of the low affinity conformation-stabilizing mAbs. (A) Binding of the active state-specific mAb21 (biotinylated) in the presence of 0.01% (0.52 mM) mannose to untreated or mAb926- and mAb475-treated fimbrial FimH^{wt}. (B) Level of antibodies bound to

FimH^{wt} retained after treatment of the antibody-FimH complexes with PBS or 8 % (440 mM) mannose for 1 h. Data shown are mean $\pm$ SEM (n=3 independent experiments). ***, $P \leq 0.0005$ (t-test).

[0029] Figure 7. Effect of mAb926 and mAb475 on biofilm formed by *E. coli* UTI89 on mannan-coated surfaces and bladder infection in mice. (A) Biofilm formation by *E. coli* UTI89 in the presence of 1% mannose or 50 μ g/ml monoclonal antibodies. Data (mean $\pm$ SEM, n=4 independent experiments) are shown relative to the level of biofilm formed in the absence of mannose or antibodies (dashed line). **, $P \leq 0.005$, ***, $P \leq 0.0005$ (one sample t-test). (B) Detachment of 16 h-old *E. coli* UTI89 biofilm in the presence of 1% mannose or 50 μ g/ml mAbs. Data (mean $\pm$ SEM, n=3 independent experiments) are shown relative to the level of biofilm detached in the presence of PBS (dashed line). Biofilm was quantified using the crystal violet staining method. ***, $P \leq 0.0005$ (t-test). (C) *E. coli* UTI89 recovered from bladders 24h post transurethral infection of mice. Bacteria, prior to administration into mouse bladders, were pre-incubated with PBS, mAb475, mAb926 or mAb21 for 1 h. Horizontal bars indicate the mean (n=5 or 6 mice per group). P values for indicated datasets were determined using two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

[0030] Figure 8. Effect of passive and active immunization on *E.coli* infection in mice.

[0031] Estimated mean counts of *E.coli* CFT073 (log₁₀/10 μ l) in urine of different groups of non-diabetic (A) and diabetic (B) mice over 14 days after the challenge. Animals were passively or actively immunized with designated mAbs (150 μ g / mouse) or LD antigen (15 μ g / mouse), respectively, or immunized with incomplete Freund's adjuvant only (IFA, mock). (C) Statistical significance of the data presented in A and B.

[0032] Figure 9. Recognition of *Klebsiella* FimH by anti-*E. coli* FimH antibodies. Binding of the mAb475 and mAb926 to *E. coli* and *Klebsiella* fimbrial FimH. Type 1 fimbriae carrying different FimH variants (FimH^{wt} and FimH^{S62A} mutant) were incubated with different concentrations of mAbs (50 and 5 μ g/ml). Data shown are mean $\pm$ SD of duplicates from one representative experiment.

[0033] Figure 10. Inhibitory potency of mAb926 and mAb475. Binding of FimH^{wt}- and FimH^{S62A}-expressing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* to surface-immobilized RNaseB in the presence of 1 % mannose or 50 μ g/ml anti-FimH antibodies. Data are mean $\pm$ SD (n=2 independent experiments).

[0034] Figure 11. Effect of mAb926 and mAb475 on biofilm formed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* on RNaseB-coated surfaces. (A) Biofilm formation by *Klebsiella* in the presence of 1% mannose or 50 μ g/ml monoclonal antibodies. Data (mean $\pm$ SD, n=3 independent experiments). (B) Detachment of 14 h-old *Klebsiella* biofilm in the presence of 1% mannose or 50 μ g/ml

mAbs. Data (mean $\pm$ SD, n=3 independent experiments). Biofilm was quantified using the crystal violet staining method. *, $P \leq 0.05$, ***, $P \leq 0.0005$ (one sample t-test).

[0035] Figure 12. Schematic representation of different types of antibodies against lectin domain (LD) of FimH. (A) Orthosteric antibody. (B) Allosteric antibody. (C) Parasteric antibody.

- 5 The triangular indent on the LD represents the mannose-binding site, and the black triangle represents the mannose ligand. The striped elements represent the functional epitopes for orthosteric, allosteric and parasteric antibodies, respectively.

[0036] Figure 13. VH and VL region sequences of mAb475 and mAb926. (A) Alignment of VL (SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3) and VH (SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4) region amino acid sequences of mAb475 (SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2) and mAb926 (SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4). (B) Germline origin of mAb475 and mAb926. Positions of the complementarity determining regions (CDRs, outlined), and germline origins of the mAbs as determined by IMGT/V-Quest software. The first eight amino acids from N-terminus of VL (SEQ ID NOs: 16-17) and VH (SEQ ID NOs: 18-19) regions of the antibodies (mAb475, SEQ ID NOs: 16, 18; mAb926, SEQ ID NOs: 17, 19) overlapped with sequences of forward primers used for the Ig gene amplification and sequencing and thus are shown as in germline origin.

- [0037] Figure 14. Surface plasmon resonance measurements of antibody binding to CM5 chip-immobilized fimbriae with FimH^{wt}. (A) Binding of mAb926. (B) Binding of mAb475. The experimental data (black curves) were fitted to a 1:1 binding model (grey curves) using BIAevaluation 2.0.4 software (GE Healthcare). Duplicates of each concentration are shown.

[0038] Figure 15. Model of competitive (light grey field) vs non-competitive (dark grey field) binding of mannose and antibody to FimH receptor. R denotes FimH receptor, A denotes antibody and M denotes mannose. K_D and K_D (A) are respective equilibrium dissociation constants and α denotes the cooperative factor.

- 25 [0039] Figure 16. Inhibitory mAbs interfere with each other's binding to FimH. Binding of biotinylated mAb475 (A) and biotinylated mAb926 (B) to the high affinity variant of FimH (FimH^{wt:(186-201)FocH}, (Aprikian, et al. 2007)) pre-incubated with PBS or designated antibody. The data shown are mean $\pm$ SD of triplicates from one representative experiment of multiple experiments that were performed with similar settings.

- 30 [0040] Figure 17. Distances between ligand-contacting residues in the active and the inactive conformations of the FimH binding-pocket. All distances are shown in Å and were measured between the heavy atoms of designated residues in the active- (PDB 1UWF) and the inactive- (PDB 3JWN) conformers of FimH by PyMol.

- [0041] Figure 18. Binding to and dissociation of mAbs from fimbrial FimH. (A) Binding of mAb824 to CM5 chip-immobilized fimbriae with FimH^{wt} recorded by SPR. The mAb824 at concentration 200 nM was allowed to bind in two parallel channels for 300 s. At the time

designated by the arrow, either running buffer (black curve) or running buffer with 1% mannose (grey curve) was injected for the next 600 s. Single replicate for each condition (+/- mannose) is shown. (B) Dissociation of FimH^{wt}-bound antibodies upon 1-4 h-long incubation in PBS as determined by ELISA. Data are mean $\pm$ SD (n=2 independent experiments).

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0042] The invention is based on the surprising and unexpected discovery of a type of inhibitory monoclonal antibody against the mannose-binding adhesin of *E. coli*, FimH, that does not fall into either of the known two categories of inhibitors. Like an allosteric inhibitor, this antibody exerts non-competitive inhibition, but like an orthosteric inhibitor, it binds within the ligand-binding pocket. Unlike the latter, however, it forces the conversion of the binding pocket to an open, inactive conformation, even when the pocket is occupied by the ligand mannose.

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[0043] As described herein, we compared the inhibitory mechanism of different anti-FimH antibodies and describe an antibody that blocks the adhesive function in a distinct manner consistent with the parasteric model of inhibition. Compared to an orthosteric antibody, the parasteric antibody was a more potent inhibitor against bacterial adhesion, surface-bound biofilms and in vivo colonization, demonstrating that design of parasteric inhibitors potentially represents a very powerful approach toward the development of anti-adhesive preventive and therapeutic strategies.

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[0044] The antibodies of the invention inhibit bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ as low as 0.4 nM.

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Described herein are methods and antibody compositions for displacing mannose from the binding pocket of fimbrial adhesin FimH of enterobacteria, such as uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. The antibodies of the invention bind within the mannose-binding pocket of FimH and are able to compete with mannose for binding to FimH, or to release mannose bound to the pocket in a non-competitive manner, for example, by binding to a side of the pocket. The antibody can thus prevent attachment of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, and also detach bacteria already attached to a mannose-coated surface. The antibody can be used to disrupt or prevent the attachment of a single layer of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, or to disrupt or prevent the formation of a multilayer biofilm. The antibody compositions of the invention can thus be used in methods to inhibit, prevent, or reverse the colonization of a surface with enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, to inhibit or prevent infection of a cell by enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, such as, for example, uropathogenic *E. coli*, to treat a bacterial infection in subject in need thereof, and to treat or prevent inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

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Definitions

[0045] As used herein, "antibody" refers to monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies (e.g., bispecific antibodies), and antibody fragments so long as they exhibit the desired antigen-binding activity. An "antibody fragment" refers to a molecule other than an intact antibody that comprises a portion of an intact antibody and that binds the antigen to which the intact antibody binds. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, Fv, Fab, Fab', Fab'-SH, F(ab')₂; diabodies; linear antibodies; single-chain antibody molecules (e.g. scFv); and multispecific antibodies formed from antibody fragments.

[0046] As used herein, "specifically binds" refers to the binding of an antibody to a specific protein or target which is present amongst a heterogeneous population of proteins. Hence, when present in specific immunoassay conditions, the antibodies bind to a particular protein target, such as FimH, and do not bind in a significant amount to other proteins present in the sample.

[0047] As used herein, "identical" means, with respect to amino acid sequences, that at any particular amino acid residue position in an aligned sequence, the amino acid residue is identical between the aligned sequences. The term "similarity" or "sequence similarity" as used herein, indicates that, at any particular position in the aligned sequences, the amino acid residue is of a similar type between the sequences. For example, leucine may be substituted for an isoleucine or valine residue. This type of substitution can be referred to as a conservative substitution. Preferably, a conservative substitution of any of the amino acid residues contained in a given amino acid sequence, these changes have no effect on the binding specificity or functional activity of the resulting antibody when compared to the unmodified antibody.

[0048] As used herein, "corresponding position" refers to an amino acid residue that is present in a second sequence at a position corresponding to a specified amino acid residue in a first sequence which is the same position as the position in the first sequence when the two sequences are aligned to allow for maximum sequence identity between the two sequences.

[0049] As used herein, "consists essentially of" or "consisting essentially of" means that a polypeptide may have additional features or elements beyond those described, provided that such additional features or elements do not materially affect the ability of the antibody or antibody fragment to have the recited binding specificity. The antibody or antibody fragments comprising the polypeptides may have additional features or elements that do not interfere with the ability of the antibody or antibody fragments to bind to its target and exhibit its functional activity, e.g., disrupting or preventing bacterial adhesion to a mannose-coated surface. Such modifications may be introduced into the amino acid sequence in order to reduce the immunogenicity of the antibody. For example, a polypeptide consisting essentially of a specified sequence may contain one, two, three, four, five or more additional, deleted or substituted amino acids, at either end or at both ends of the sequence provided that these amino acids do

not interfere with, inhibit, block or interrupt the role of the antibody or fragment in binding to its target and exhibiting its biological activity.

[0050] As used herein, a "heterologous" sequence or a "heterologous" molecule refers to a moiety not naturally occurring in conjunction with a recited sequence or molecule.

- 5 Representative examples of the heterologous molecule include, but are not limited to, a polypeptide, antibody, epitope, polynucleotide, small molecule or drug. Such heterologous moieties can be useful for improving solubility, delivery, immunogenicity, efficacy, detection, or identification of the recited sequence or molecule. In some embodiments, the heterologous sequence is inert or an unrelated sequence. A moiety which contributes to antibodies of the invention may be chemically modified with one or more functional groups, provided that such functional groups do not interfere with the ability of the antibody or antibody fragment to bind to FimH and disrupt or prevent bacterial adhesion to a mannose-coated surface.

- [0051] As used herein, "enterobacteria" (or enterobacteriaceae) refers to gram-negative bacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH. Examples of enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*.

[0052] As used herein, "inflammatory bowel disease" (or IBD) refers to inflammatory conditions of the colon and small intestine, including, but not limited to, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

- 20 [0053] As used herein, "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" includes any material which, when combined with an active ingredient, allows the ingredient to retain biological activity and is non-reactive with the subject's immune system. Examples include, but are not limited to, any of the standard pharmaceutical carriers such as a phosphate buffered saline solution, water, emulsions such as oil/water emulsion, and various types of wetting agents. Preferred diluents for aerosol or parenteral administration are phosphate buffered saline or normal (0.9%) saline.

[0054] Compositions comprising such carriers are formulated by well-known conventional methods (see, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th edition, (Remington and Gennaro 1990)).

- 30 [0055] As used herein, to "prevent" or "treat" a condition means to decrease or inhibit symptoms indicative of the condition or to delay the onset or reduce the severity of the condition.

- [0056] As used herein, "adjuvant" includes those adjuvants commonly used in the art to facilitate an immune response. In some embodiments, such as with the use of a polynucleotide vaccine, an adjuvant such as a helper peptide or cytokine can be provided via a polynucleotide encoding the adjuvant.

[0057] As used herein, "a" or "an" means at least one, unless clearly indicated otherwise.

[0058] As used herein, the terms "comprise" or "include", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", "includes" or "including" mean the inclusion of a recited item or group of items, but not the exclusion of any other item or group of items.

Methods and Uses of the Invention

5 [0059] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to inhibit, prevent, or reverse the colonization of a surface with enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH. Examples of enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*. The surface can be a biological or non-biological surface. Examples of biological surfaces that can be
10 colonized by enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, mucosal epithelial surfaces. Examples of non-biological surfaces that can be colonized by enterobacteria include, but are not limited to, catheters and intubation devices. The method typically comprises contacting the surface with a composition comprising an antibody of the invention.

[0060] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to inhibit or prevent infection of a
15 cell by enterobacteria that express the bacterial Type 1 fimbrial adhesin FimH, such as, for example, uropathogenic *E. coli*. The method comprises administering to a tissue infected with the enterobacteria, e.g., uropathogenic *E. coli*, or other species of *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and *Edwardsiella*. The method comprises contacting the cell with an effective amount of a composition of the invention,
20 thereby inhibiting or preventing infection of the cell.

[0061] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method to treat a bacterial infection in subject in need thereof, wherein the subject is infected with enterobacteria such as *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, *Shigella*, *Serratia spp*, *Enterobacter spp*, *Citrobacter*, and
25 *Edwardsiella*. In some embodiments, the enterobacteria is uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. The method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition as described herein, thereby treating a bacterial infection in the subject. In some embodiments, the bacterial infection is colitis or sepsis. Additional representative examples of infections to be treated by the method include, but are not limited to, pneumonia, including ventilated pneumonia in intubated patients, catheter-associated
30 infections, including urinary and blood line catheters, newborn meningitis, urinary tract infections, including those resulting from vaginal and periurethral colonization, and wound infections.

[0062] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a subject. The method comprises administering to the
35 subject an effective amount of a composition as described herein, thereby treating or

preventing IBD in the subject. In one embodiment, the administering is by subcutaneous, topical, transdermal, intravenous, oral, or intracolonic administration.

Antibodies and Compositions of the Invention

- [0063] In one embodiment, the invention provides a composition comprising an antibody or polynucleotide encoding same that specifically recognizes and binds uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) fimbrial adhesin FimH and is capable of preventing colonization of a surface by uropathogenic *E. coli*. In one embodiment, the antibody comprises a light chain variable region, and, optionally, a heavy chain variable region. In a typical embodiment, the light chain variable region comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto. The light chain variable region comprises one, two or three of three complementarity determining regions (CDRs), CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3. The CDR1 sequence comprises QNVSN (residues 27-31 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or QNIVHNNGNTY (residues 27-37 of SEQ ID NO: 3). The CDR2 sequence comprises SAS (residues 49-51 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or KVS (residues 55-57 of SEQ ID NO: 3). The CDR3 sequence comprises QQNSSFPFT (residues 88-96 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or FQGSHVPFT (residues 94-102 of SEQ ID NO: 3). In a typical embodiment, the heavy chain variable region comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto. The heavy chain variable region comprises one, two or three of three complementarity determining regions (CDRs), CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3. The CDR1 sequence comprises GYAFSSYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or GYTSTNYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 4). The CDR2 sequence comprises IYPRDGDY (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or INPTSGYT (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 4). The CDR3 sequence comprises EVGRGFYGM DY (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or ARGVIRDF (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 4).
- [0064] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3. Representative examples of the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region include, but are not limited to, the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, and 6. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 3.
- [0065] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region sequence has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4. Representative examples of the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region include, but are not limited to, the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, and 8. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 4.
- [0066] In one embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of the uropathogenic *E. coli* FimH. In a typical embodiment, the antibody binds within amino acid

5 the amino acid sequence of FimH of UT189, which differs by only a few residues, as shown below.

[0067] Amino Acid Sequence of FimH of K12 (upper rows) and UT189 (lower rows):

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10      10      20      30      40      50      60      70      80
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
FACKTANGTAIPIGGGSANVYVNLAPVVNVGQNLVVDLSTQIFCHNDYPETITDYVTLQRGSA
YGGVLSNFSGTVKYSGS
.....A.....A.....S.....N..

15      90      100      110      120      130      140      150      160
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
SYPPFTTSETPRVVYNSRTDKPWPVALYLTFSVSSAGGVAIKAGSLIAVLILRQTNNYNSDDFQ
FVWNIYANNDVVVPTGG
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|

20      170      180      190      200      210      220      230      240
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
CDVSARDVTTLPDYPGSVRIPLTVYCAKSQNLGYLSGTTADAGNSIFTNTASFSPAQGGVGVL
TRNGTIIPANNTVSL
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|

25      250      260      270      280
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
GAVGTSAVSLGLTANYARTGGQVTAGNVQSIIGVTFVYQ* SEQ ID NO: 14
.....* SEQ ID NO: 15

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[0068] In one particular embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of FimH and thereby competes with mannose for binding to FimH. In another particular embodiment, the antibody binds within the mannose-binding pocket of FimH and thereby releases mannose bound to the pocket in a non-competitive manner, for example, by binding to a side of the pocket. In these manners, the antibody can both prevent attachment of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, and detach bacteria already attached to a mannose-coated surface. The antibody can be used to disrupt or prevent the attachment of a single layer of bacteria to a mannose-coated surface, or to disrupt or prevent the formation of a multilayer biofilm. The invention provides a method of displacing mannose from the binding pocket of fimbrial adhesin FimH of enterobacteria, such as uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. In a typical embodiment, the method comprises contacting the binding pocket with a composition of the invention.

[0069] In one embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ less than about 15 nM. In another embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ less than 1 nM. In one particular embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ of about 14 nM. In another particular embodiment, the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion with an IC₅₀ of about 0.4 nM.

[0070] In some embodiments, the antibody further comprises a heterologous sequence.

Examples of a heterologous sequence include, but are not limited to, sequence encoding all or a portion of a polypeptide, antibody, epitope, or other moiety that would not be found adjacent to the recited sequence under natural conditions. Such heterologous moieties can be useful for improving solubility, delivery, immunogenicity, efficacy, detection, or identification of the recited sequence or molecule. In some embodiments, the heterologous sequence is inert or an unrelated sequence. The antibody can be, for example, one or more of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a humanized antibody, a human antibody, an antibody derivative, a veneered antibody, a diabody, an antibody derivative, a recombinant human antibody, a chimeric antibody, or an antibody fragment. In one embodiment, the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

[0071] The invention additionally provides polynucleotides encoding antibodies of the invention. Thus, in some embodiments, the antibody composition of the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding the recited antibody. In some embodiments, one nucleic acid molecule encodes the entire antibody or functional fragment thereof, while in others, separate nucleic acid molecules are provided that encode portions, regions, and/or fragments of the antibody.

[0072] In one embodiment, the composition is a pharmaceutical composition. The composition can comprise a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an antibody, or polynucleotide encoding same, of the invention. An effective amount is an amount sufficient to disrupt bacterial adhesion and/or biofilm formation, or to alleviate symptoms of a condition, disease, or infection. In some embodiments, the composition of the invention further comprises a carrier. The carrier can be a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or other carrier that facilitates use of the antibody composition.

[0073] While any suitable carrier known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed in the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention, the type of carrier will vary depending on the mode of administration. Compositions of the present invention may be formulated for any appropriate manner of administration, including for example, topical, oral, nasal, intravenous, intracranial, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous or intramuscular administration. For parenteral administration, such as subcutaneous injection, the carrier preferably comprises water, saline, alcohol, a fat, a wax or a buffer. For oral administration, any of the above carriers or a solid carrier, such as mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, talcum, cellulose, glucose, sucrose, and magnesium carbonate, may be employed.

[0074] Such compositions may also comprise buffers (e.g., neutral buffered saline or phosphate buffered saline), carbohydrates (e.g., glucose, mannose, sucrose or dextrans), mannitol, proteins, polypeptides or amino acids such as glycine, antioxidants, chelating agents such as EDTA or glutathione, adjuvants (e.g., aluminum hydroxide) and/or preservatives.

Alternatively, compositions of the present invention may be formulated as a lyophilizate. Compounds may also be encapsulated within liposomes via known methods.

Administration of the Compositions

[0075] Treatment includes prophylaxis and therapy. Prophylaxis or treatment can be accomplished by a single direct injection at a single time point or multiple time points. Administration can also be nearly simultaneous to multiple sites. Patients or subjects include mammals, such as human, bovine, equine, canine, feline, porcine, and ovine animals as well as other veterinary subjects. Typical patients or subjects are human.

[0076] Compositions are typically administered *in vivo* via parenteral (e.g. intravenous, subcutaneous, and intramuscular) or other traditional direct routes, such as buccal/sublingual, rectal, oral, nasal, topical, (such as transdermal and ophthalmic), vaginal, pulmonary, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, intraocular, or intranasal routes or directly into a specific tissue.

[0077] The compositions are administered in any suitable manner, often with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Suitable methods of administering cells in the context of the present invention to a patient are available, and, although more than one route can be used to administer a particular composition, a particular route can often provide a more immediate and more effective reaction than another route.

[0078] The dose administered to a patient, in the context of the present invention should be sufficient to effect a beneficial therapeutic response in the patient over time, or to inhibit infection or disease due to infection. Thus, the composition is administered to a patient in an amount sufficient to alleviate, reduce, cure or at least partially arrest symptoms and/or complications from the disease or infection. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as a "therapeutically effective dose."

[0079] The dose will be determined by the activity of the composition produced and the condition of the patient, as well as the body weight or surface areas of the patient to be treated. The size of the dose also will be determined by the existence, nature, and extent of any adverse side effects that accompany the administration of a particular composition in a particular patient. In determining the effective amount of the composition to be administered in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases such as enterobacterial infection, the physician needs to evaluate the progression of the disease, and any treatment-related toxicity.

Kits

[0080] For use in the methods described herein, kits are also within the scope of the invention. Such kits can comprise a package or container that is compartmentalized to receive one or more containers such as vials, tubes, and the like, each of the container(s) comprising one of the separate elements (e.g., antibodies, carriers) to be used in the method. Typically, the kit

comprises one or more antibodies or polynucleotides of the invention. The kit further comprises one or more containers, with one or more antibodies stored in the containers. The kit of the invention will typically comprise the container described above and one or more other containers comprising materials desirable from a commercial and user standpoint, including buffers, diluents, filters, needles, syringes, and package inserts with instructions for use. In addition, a label can be provided on the container to indicate that the composition is used for a specific therapeutic or non-therapeutic application, and can also indicate directions for use. Directions and or other information can also be included on an insert which is included with the kit.

EXAMPLES

[0081] The following examples are presented to illustrate the present invention and to assist one of ordinary skill in making and using the same. The examples are not intended in any way to otherwise limit the scope of the invention.

Example 1: Anti-FimH antibodies mAb926 and mAb475 inhibit bacterial adhesion with different efficiencies and mechanisms.

[0082] This example describes in greater detail the activity of anti-FimH inhibitory antibodies raised against the lectin domain of FimH in the inactive conformation characterized in a previous study that described the mAb475 antibody that directly competes with mannose binding (Kisiela, et al. 2013). Using IMG2/V-Quest software (Brochet, et al. 2008; Giudicelli, et al. 2011) we now have compared the germline origins of mAb475 and several other FimH-inhibiting monoclonal antibodies. One of the antibodies, mAb926, was of a different germline origin from mAb475, with the amino acid sequence homology of the VL- and VH regions being only 56% and 71%, respectively, and all three complementarity-determining regions being highly diverse (Fig. 13). We therefore compared the abilities of mAb926 and mAb475 to inhibit FimH in greater detail.

[0083] Type 1 fimbriated bacterial cells expressing the wild-type FimH adhesin variant of the uropathogenic *E. coli* strain J96 (FimH^{wt}) were pre-incubated with different concentrations of the antibodies and then allowed to bind to mannosylated surfaces (Fig. 1). mAb926 inhibited bacterial adhesion with half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) of 0.4 ± 0.1 nM and mAb475 with IC₅₀ of 14 ± 1 nM indicating much higher inhibitory potency of mAb926 (Fig. 1).

To determine if the 32-fold difference ($P \leq 0.005$) in inhibitory potency of the antibodies reflected a difference in binding affinity, we characterized binding of the antibodies to the purified fimbriae carrying FimH^{wt} with surface plasmon resonance. As shown in Figure 14, the K_D of mAb926 was 7-fold lower than K_D of mAb475 (0.58 vs. 4.15 nM, respectively). Thus, the difference in IC₅₀ between the two antibodies could not be explained by a difference in affinity.

Indeed, mAb926 demonstrates >50% inhibition at its K_D concentration, while mAb475 demonstrates no measurable inhibition at its K_D concentration (Fig. 1). Moreover, because

mAb926 had a 17.6-fold higher association rate relative to mAb475 (49.7 vs. 2.8 x10⁴ M⁻¹s⁻¹, respectively), and a 2.5-fold higher dissociation rate (2.89 vs. 1.17 x10⁻⁴s⁻¹, respectively), the difference in affinity was due to the faster association rate of mAb926. The SPR experiments were performed in parallel at the Analytical Biopharmacy Core, at the University of Washington (with separate preparations of the antigenic substrate), with results that are completely consistent with those reported here, adding confidence to our analyses (Table 1). Since in the inhibition assay the antibodies were pre-incubated with the bacteria for one hour, the saturation of binding has likely been reached for both antibodies. Thus, at that point the difference in the dissociation rate of the inhibitory antibodies would be more important than their association rates, so the increased effectiveness of mAb926 is even more remarkable considering its slightly higher dissociation rate.

[0084] Thus, taken together, these results demonstrate that the significantly higher inhibitory potential of mAb926 than of mAb475 antibodies cannot be explained by differences in binding kinetics or affinity of the two antibodies. Instead, the large difference in inhibitory potency must reflect some unknown difference in the mechanism of inhibition.

[0085] Table 1. The binding parameters of mAb926 and mAb475 as measured by surface plasmon resonance.

	SPR1 (data from Figure 14)			SPR2*		
	K_D (nM)	k_a x10 ⁴ (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	k_d x10 ⁻⁴ (s ⁻¹)	K_D (nM)	k_a x10 ⁴ (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	k_d x10 ⁻⁴ (s ⁻¹)
mAb926	0.58	49.7	2.89	0.22	99.6	2.17
mAb475	4.15	2.82	1.17	1.5	8.68	1.3
mab926 vs mab475 (fold difference)	7.2 - lower	17.6 - higher	2.5 - higher	6.8 - lower	11.5 - higher	1.7 - higher

[0086] *SPR2 measurements performed at the Analytical Biopharmacy Core, UW Seattle. Experiments were run in HBS-EP buffer using Biacore T100 system (GE/Healthcare). FimH^{wt} fimbriae in 10 mM glycine, pH=2.6 were immobilized on a Series S CM5 Chip (GE Healthcare) at 1231 RUs using a contact time of 14 minutes. Following immobilization, a flow rate of 30 µL/min, mAb analyte concentrations, ranging from 0 µM to 938 µM, were tested in triplicates using a contact time of 60 seconds and a dissociation time of 900 seconds. Each run was followed with three 30 -second injections of glycine pH=1.5 to regenerate the surface. Both the reference surface signal and the blank injection signal were subtracted from the resulting data, and the kinetic data "double referenced" in this manner was fitted globally across all concentrations to a 1:1 Langmuir binding model using the Biacore T200 Evaluation Software (GE Healthcare version 2.0).

Example 2: Mannose directly competes with mAb475 but not mAb926 binding.

[0087] This Example compares the ability of *mAb475* and mAb926 to bind FimH in the presence of soluble mannose. As shown in Fig. 2A, mannose strongly inhibited mAb475 binding, causing a significant shift of its binding curve towards higher concentrations of the antibody. The mAb475 half-maximal effective concentration (EC_{50}) increased 179-fold in the presence of soluble mannose. In contrast, binding of mAb926 was affected by mannose to a much lesser extent resulting in a relatively small rightward shift of the binding curve with a 6.2-fold increase in the mAb926 EC_{50} (Fig. 2B).

[0088] To distinguish between competitive versus non-competitive interactions of mannose and the antibodies, we compared the observed EC_{50} ratio values for antibody binding with an EC_{50} ratio for a model of two ligands binding to a receptor (Ehlert 1988). Based on the model, mannose and antibody can compete for binding to the same site on FimH according to their relative concentrations and affinities, or bind to the receptor simultaneously (Fig. 15) with the affinities altered by a cooperativity factor α (Kenakin 2004). The calculated EC_{50} ratio for competitive binding (see Material and Methods) was 175 ± 30 , which is consistent with the EC_{50} ratio experimentally determined for mAb475 (179) confirming that the antibody is a direct competitor. Thus, binding of mAb475 and mannose to FimH is not simultaneous but mutually exclusive, implying binding to a structurally identical site, consistent with our previously reported determination of the mAb475 epitope (Kisiela, et al. 2013). However, the 6.2-fold alteration of mAb926 EC_{50} by mannose cannot be explained by the competitive inhibition model but instead indicates that mannose inhibits mAb926 binding in a non-competitive manner consistent with simultaneous binding of the antibodies and mannose to FimH.

[0089] The non-competitive relationship of mAb926 with the mannose ligand indicates that, unlike with mAb475, inhibition of FimH activity by mAb926 is not via a direct orthosteric mechanism. It rather resembles more the mechanism exerted by allosteric inhibitors that, however, would have to involve structurally distant sites for antibody and ligand binding.

[0090] Inhibitory mAb475 and mAb926 recognize overlapping but distinct epitopes within the mannose-binding pocket of the active FimH conformation.

We next determined the mAb926 binding epitope in FimH by site-directed mutagenesis (Table 2) and compared it with the locations of the mAb475 epitope and mannose-interacting residues of the adhesin defined according to lectin domain crystalized in the high-affinity (active), mannose-bound conformation (Fig. 3A).

[0091] Table 2. Mapping of mAb926 epitope using FimH mutant library.

Mutation	mAb binding relative to wild type* (%)
F1L	111

A2S	92		[0092]	* Binding of mAb926 to purified isogenic fimbriae with different mutations in LD of FimH (FimH ^{wt:(188-201)FocH}) was tested as described in Materials and Methods. Predicted mAb926 epitope residues mutation of which reduced the mAb binding >25% (and which also clustered together on FimH crystal structure) are marked in bold type.
P12A	87			
I13S	66			
H45A	91			
N46A	90			
N46Q	104	5		
D47S	97			
Y48A	58			
E50A	69		[0093]	Alteration of positions 52, 135-138 and 140 in FimH abrogated mAb926 binding (Table 2 and Table 3). These positions form a compact epitope located on the top of the lectin domain (Fig. 3A, black spheres), i.e. on the side of the beta-barrel where the mannose-binding pocket is positioned. This epitope location is opposite from the domain-domain interaction interface that comprises the natural allosteric site of the lectin domain (Fig. 3A, light grey spheres) (Le Trong, et al. 2010). Three out of 6 of the residues in the mAb926 epitope, I52, N135 and N136, are also part of the mAb475 epitope (which include positions 1, 46, 52, 54, 133, 135, and 136) (Table 3 and Fig. 3B) (Kisiela, et al. 2013). The predicted structural overlap of mAb926 and mAb475 epitopes is also supported experimentally by the fact that mAb926 and mAb475 strongly cross-interfere with each other's binding to FimH (Fig. 16).
T51A	96			
I52A	19			
T53A	100			
D54E	119	10		
Y55A	99			
T57G	96			
I130A	82			
R132D	102			
Q133N	100			
T134G	122	15		
N135I	6			
N136A	13			
Y137A	2			
N138I	8			
S139A	105			
D140A	21			
D141A	73	20		
F142A	100			

[0094] **Table 2. The overlap between the FimH pocket residues and mAb926 and mAb475 epitopes.** Distances between mannose ligand and hydrogen bond forming FimH amino acids in the active and inactive conformation of the binding pocket are also shown.

FimH AA	α-man-FimH AA hydrogen bond distance (Å)¹				
	Epitope		α-man atom	FimH conformation	
	mAb926	mAb475		Active	Inactive
		5			
Phe1		+	O2/O5 /O6	2.9/2.9/2.8	2.9/3/2.8
Asn46		+	O6	3.1	3
Asp47			O6	2.9	3.1
Ile52*	+	+	-	-	-
Asp54		+	O4/O6	2.5/2.5	2.7/2.6
Gln133		+	O3	3.1	3.1
Asn135	+	+	O3/O4	3.6/2.9	6.2/6.2
Asn136	+	+	-	-	-
Tyr137*	+		-	-	-

Asn138	+	-	-	-
Asp140	+	O3	2.6	9.9

¹ Distance between hydrogen bond forming atoms of α -D-mannose and FimH amino acid residues in the active- (1UWF) and the inactive (3JWN) conformers of lectin domain as measured by PyMole.

*AA involved in hydrophobic interactions with mannose.

5 [0095] Epitopes of both antibodies overlap with the mannose-binding pocket (Table 3 and Fig. 3B), in particular with the network of 7 side chain residues that form 11 hydrogen bonds with the ligand (Hung, et al. 2002). However, the mAb475 epitope is positioned on at least three different areas of the pocket (46-54 and 133-142 loops and N-terminal end) and includes a total of 5 of these mannose-interacting residues that form a total of 9 hydrogen bonds with the ligand
10 (Hung, et al. 2002; Kisiela, et al. 2013). In contrast, almost the entire mAb926 epitope is limited to just one side of the pocket formed by loop 133-142, with only two residues – 135 and 140 - forming a total of 3 hydrogen bonds with mannose. Consistent with structural data, mutation of residues that are directly (N135 and D140)- or indirectly (N138) involved in hydrogen bonds with ligand substantially decreased ligand binding (Hung, et al. 2002; Kisiela, et al. 2013;
15 Nilsson, et al. 2006b), while mutation of remaining mAb926 epitope residues had no or only minor effect on the interactions with mannose (Kisiela, et al. 2013).

[0096] Thus, the epitope of non-competitively inhibiting mAb926 overlaps with the mannose-binding pocket of the active FimH but, in contrast to the mAb475 epitope, is mostly limited to just one loop of the pocket. Still, because two residues of the mAb926 epitope contribute to the
20 network of hydrogen bonds with the mannose ligand, it is plausible to expect some inhibitory effect of mAb926 against mannose binding, consistent with results reported above.

Example 3: The mAb926 epitope shifts away from mannose-interacting residues in the inactive FimH

[0097] While the overlap of mAb926 epitope with the mannose-binding residues in the active
25 FimH explains the inhibitory potential of the antibody, it does not explain the non-competitive nature of the mAb926 inhibition. Thus, we turned to the alternative FimH structure (3JWN), where the lectin domain assumed a more twisted conformation and interacts with the pilin domain (Fig. 3D). This structure was obtained in the absence of mannose ligand and its binding pocket is in an open, low-affinity (i.e. inactive) conformation.

30 [0098] As the inactive FimH structure was obtained in the absence of ligand, we first determined the potential position for mannose in the open configuration of binding pocket. Mannose was docked into the pocket of the 3JWN crystal structure using coordinates present in the active 1UWF structure followed by energy minimization using the CHARMM and the PARAM22 force field. As shown in Table 3 and Fig. 3E mannose is predicted to take a position
35 in the open pocket that retains 8 out of 11 hydrogen interactions of the active FimH with side

chains of 5 out of 7 mannose-interacting residues - Phe1, Asn46, Asp47, Asp54 and Gln133 (Hung, et al. 2002). Interestingly, these five residues in the inactive binding pocket retain essentially the same position relative to each other as in the active FimH (Figs. 3C and 3F), with the distance shift being 0.1 to 1 Å ($0.44 \text{ Å} \pm 0.3$ on average)(Fig. 17). This position of mannose is also supported by previous studies that employed molecular dynamics simulations of the active pocket or resolved crystal structure of mutationally inactivated FimH (Hung, et al. 2002; Nilsson, et al. 2008).

[0099] According to the predicted position of mannose, two of the residues that interact with mannose in the active structure – Asn135 and Asp140 – would lose their contacts with mannose in the open binding pocket (Fig. 3E and Table 3). In the alternative FimH structures, these two residues also shifted significantly relative to one another and the other five mannose-interacting residues (Fig. 3F), with the shift being 1.2 to 7.7 Å ($3.9 \pm 2.2 \text{ Å}$ on average) (Fig. 17).

[0100] Thus, based on the projected mannose position in the inactive FimH, the mAb926 epitope residues that form hydrogen bonds with mannose in the active conformation are shifted relatively further away from the ligand in the inactive conformation. Thus, while in the active FimH pocket a portion of the mAb926 epitope is occupied by mannose, in the inactive FimH the entire mAb926 epitope is potentially accessible to the antibody.

Example 4: mAb926 blocks FimH conversion from inactive to active conformation.

[0101] Because the mannose binding pocket of FimH is allosterically coupled with the rest of the lectin domain, we compared the effects of mAb926 and mAb475 antibodies on the conformation of FimH. For this, we used the mAb21 antibody that recognizes only the active conformation of FimH. The mAb21 epitope (Fig. 3A, dark grey spheres) is located distal to the mannose-binding pocket and close to the interdomain interface, presumed natural allosteric site (Fig. 3A, light grey spheres) (Le Trong, et al. 2010).

[0102] As shown in Fig. 4A, binding of mAb475 and mannose to fimbrial FimH^{wt} converts it from the inactive to the active conformation as determined by binding of active conformation-specific mAb21. In contrast, mAb926 failed to induce such a conversion. We then performed the same experiment but using a FimH mutant variant that has the A188D mutation in the pilin domain that interferes with its interaction with the lectin domain and, in contrast to FimH^{wt}, sustains FimH in active state even in the absence of mannose (Tchesnokova, et al. 2008). Pre-treatment of FimH^{A188D} fimbriae with mAb926 entirely abolished its recognition by mAb21 (Fig. 4B), again in sharp contrast with the pretreatment with mAb475 which enhanced subsequent mAb21 binding. Moreover, when FimH^{A188D} was first pre-treated with mAb21 followed by incubation with the inhibitory mAbs, mAb475 stabilized mAb21 binding, while mAb926 resulted in almost complete displacement of the active state-specific antibody from the adhesin (Fig. 4C).

[0103] Thus, not only is mAb926 binding to the FimH pocket unable to induce the shift from the inactive to the active conformation of the lectin domain, but it does the opposite – induces a shift away from the active conformation.

Example 5: Mannose can displace mAb926 but not mAb475 from FimH.

5 [0104] In this Example, we assessed whether soluble mannose and mAb926 could interact with the binding pocket simultaneously as predicted by the non-competitive inhibition model. We hypothesized that if mannose and mAb926 do bind together to FimH, then mannose should be able to bind to, and destabilize, a pre-formed complex of FimH with the antibody, resulting in a higher off-rate of mAb926. In contrast, this should not occur for mAb475 bound to FimH as
10 the competitive antibody would fully prevent access of mannose to the pocket and the effect of mannose on the mAb475-FimH complex would be insignificant. In other words, the mannose effect after antibody binding will be opposite from the effect before/during the binding (Fig. 2). Thus, we measured the effect of mannose ligand on the antibody-FimH complexes using surface plasmon resonance.

15 [0105] Surface coated with FimH^{wt} fimbriae were first allowed to bind mAb926 or mAb475 and then antibody-FimH complexes were exposed to running buffer with and without a high concentration (1%) of soluble mannose. As shown in Fig. 5, the dissociation rate of mAb926 from FimH was dramatically increased in the presence of mannose. At the same time, mannose had no significant effect on the stability of the complexes between mAb475 and FimH
20 over the observed time period.

[0106] These results demonstrate that addition of soluble mannose affects the stability of the FimH-mAb926 complex and, thus, the antibody and the ligand must be able to bind to FimH simultaneously, consistent with the non-competitive nature of their interaction. In contrast, there is no such evidence for simultaneous interaction of mannose and mAb475 with FimH consistent
25 with the direct orthosteric inhibitory mechanism of that antibody. Thus, the effect of mannose on the pre-formed antibody-FimH complexes was opposite from the antibodies effect on the complexes formation.

Example 6: mAb926 differs from mAb824 which allosterically stabilizes the low-affinity state of FimH.

30 [0107] Considering that mAb926 was found to stabilize the low-affinity conformation of FimH, we determined whether any antibodies from our original panel (Kisiela, et al. 2013) have analogous activity. We found that indeed one of the antibodies, mAb824, can also prevent binding of active state-specific mAb21 to FimH^{wt} in the presence of soluble mannose (Fig. 6A), i.e. mAb824 stabilizes the low-affinity state of the adhesin similar to mAb926. Unlike the latter,
35 however, mAb824 recognized an epitope located away from the mannose-binding pocket (residues G79, S80, Y82, and P91; Table 4) suggesting that the stabilization of the low-affinity

conformation of FimH occurs via an allosteric, i.e. away-from-ligand, mechanism. While mannose could not displace mAb824 from FimH^{wt} in SPR experiments (Fig. 18A), SPR studies with mAb824 could not be reliably performed due to difficulties in re-generating the antigen surface upon the mAb824 antibody binding. Thus, the stability of mAb926- and mAb824-

- 5 FimH^{wt} complexes in the presence of soluble mannose was measured by ELISA. Unlike mAb926, mAb824 is not displaced from FimH^{wt} even at high (8%) concentration of ligand (Fig. 6B). Notably, in the absence of mannose, both antibodies were binding to FimH at the same level upon 4 h-long incubation with PBS (Fig. 18B).

[0108] **Table 4. Mapping of mAb824 epitope using FimH mutant library.**

Mutation	mAb binding ¹⁰ relative to wild type* (%)		
F1L	99		[0109] * Binding of mAb824 to purified isogenic fimbriae with different mutations in LD of FimH ^{wt} was tested as described in Materials and Methods. Predicted mAb824 epitope residues mutation of which reduced the mAb binding >25% (and which also clustered together on FimH crystal structure) are marked in bold type.
A2S	102		
P12A	99		
I13S	98		
N46Q	97		
N46A	103	15	
D47S	105		
Y48A	104		
E50A	97		
I52A	98		
T51A	98		
D54E	100		
L68V	92		
S69C	65	20	
N70C	89		
N70G	93		[0110] These results suggested that while stabilization of the low-affinity conformation of FimH by antibodies could be achieved via an allosteric mechanism, the parasteric mechanism may provide unique properties of interference between the mannose ligand and mAb926 binding, not provided by an allosteric mechanism.
F71A	105		
S72A	99		
T74K	93		
G79R	4		
S80R	2		
S81R	95		
Y82A	3		
P83S	99		
P83R	98	25	
F84S	101		
P85S	99		
T87A	107		
T90G	100		
T90N	95		[0111] This Example evaluates the effect of inhibitory antibodies against an <i>E. coli</i> biofilm formed on a mannose-coated surface by the model uropathogenic strain UT189 expressing type 1 fimbriae (Kisiela, et al. 2015). Both mAb475 and mAb926 (as well as soluble mannose), prevented formation of <i>E. coli</i> biofilm on a mannan-coated surface when they were added to the bacteria prior
P91A	98		
P91R	2		
R92A	108		
R92D	99	30	
P104W	102		
I130A	105		
R132D	96		
Q133N	99		
N135I	109		
N136A	98		
Y137A	97		
I138A	86	35	
S139A	102		

to growth over the surface ($P<0.005$), indicating that biofilm formation is dependent on mannose-specific bacterial adhesion (Fig. 7A). However, when we first allowed the surface biofilms to form on a mannan-coated surface overnight and then added the antibodies (or mannose), neither mAb475 nor soluble mannose caused substantial detachment of the surface-attached biofilm (Fig. 7B). In contrast, mAb926 resulted in effective dissolution of the biofilm (93% biofilm reduction vs 12% for mAb475, $P<0.0005$). In concordance with our previous results from bacterial adhesion assays (Kisiela, et al. 2013), the active state-specific antibody, mAb21, enhanced biofilm formation and decreased dissolution of biofilm formed on a mannan-coated surface (Figure 7A and B).

[0112] We then compared the antibodies for their ability to block *E. coli* infection in vivo. As shown in Fig. 7C, incubation of *E. coli* UTI89 with mAb926 prior to inoculation of mice via bladder catheter blocked bladder colonization more effectively than mAb475. There was an 83% reduction in bacteria recovered from bladder of mice infected with *E. coli* UTI89 that were pre-treated with mAb926 (Fig. 7C), while inhibition with mAb475 was 52% ($P=0.0087$). A slight decrease in bacterial load caused by mAb21 did not achieve statistical significance ($P=0.1508$).

[0113] Thus, the non-competitively-inhibiting mAb926 is more effective than is the competitively-inhibiting mAb475 in assays that are most physiologically relevant, such as detachment of biofilms and prevention of bladder infections by uropathogenic *E. coli*.

[0114] We have shown that mAb926 has a superior potency to block bacterial adhesion in vitro and decrease bladder colonization in mice when transurethrally administered to the bladder together with bacteria used for the challenge (UPEC strain, UTI89) (Figure 7C).

[0115] We also evaluated protective effects of mAb926 against different UPEC strain, CFT073, upon a passive transfer of the antibody to peritoneal cavity of mice. The intraperitoneal injection was completed 1 day prior and 1 day after challenge with CFT073 *E. coli* (A07 Study for Vaccine candidate, Contract # HHSN272201000040I, Task Order # HHSN27200005, Galveston). In this study, effect of passively transferred mAb926 (raised against FimH LD^{mut}) was compared to the action of passively administered mAb21 antibody (raised against FimH LD^{wt}), as well as to the effect of active immunizations with the two types of antigen (LD^{wt} and LD^{mut}) against which the monoclonal antibodies were raised. Mixtures of antibodies for passive transfer were prepared as 150 µg per mouse doses in 50 µl volumes of sterile HBS. The effect of the antibodies was evaluated in two mice models that included non-diabetic and diabetic C57Bl/6 mice, respectively. Mice injected with incomplete Freund's adjuvant only (IFA) were used as the control (mock) group in each model. Bacterial load in mice urine was analyzed daily over 14-days' time period starting 24h after bacterial challenge.

[0116] As shown in Figure 8A and C, passive immunization of non-diabetic mice with mAb926 but not mAb21 resulted in significant decrease of bacterial counts in urine as compared to the mock group starting on day 1 after the challenge: estimated average log₁₀ of bacterial counts in

mock mice 2.58 ± 0.3 vs 1.31 ± 0.5 and 2.47 ± 0.5 in mAb926 and mAb21 mice, $P=.009$ and $P=.801$, respectively. Similar trend continued to be present for up to 10 of 14 days tested after the challenge (Figure 8 A and C). On the day 1 and 3 estimated bacterial counts in mAb926-treated mice were also significantly lower as compare to counts from mAb21-treated mice ($\log_{10}$ 1.31 $\pm$ 0.5 and 0.99 $\pm$ 0.4 vs 2.47 $\pm$ 0.5 and 1.89 $\pm$ 0.4, $P = .018$ and $P = .019$, respectively). As observed previously for intraurethral administration of mAbs, the peritoneal injection of mAb21 resulted in somewhat better clearance of bacteria in comparison to mock group, though, the effect of this treatment (similar to active immunization with LD^{wt}) did not achieve statistical significance (Figure 8A and C). In turn, the effect of passive transfer of mAb926 closely resembled the effect of active immunization with the LD^{mut}, against which mAb926 was elicited with both treatments causing significant decrease of bacterial level in urine in comparison to mock group and better clearance of infection (Figure 8 A and C). Moreover, the passive transfer of mAb926 also reduced bacterial load in diabetic mice (Figure 8 B and C). However, in this model, mice from all treatment groups presented on average much higher bacterial counts in urine than no-diabetic mice and this sustained true over whole time period tested upon challenge (Figure 8 B and C). Though, passive immunization of mice with mAb926 (or active immunization with LD^{mut}) significantly decreased bacterial counts in mice urine in comparison to mock group, there was no significant decrease of bacterial counts for these treatments with time (Figure 8 B and C).

Example 8: mAb926 is active against other *Enterobacteriaceae* that express homologues FimH adhesin.

[0117] *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is an important opportunistic pathogen frequently causing UTIs, septicemia or respiratory tract infections. Similar to *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* expresses mannose-specific type 1 fimbriae with FimH adhesin being 72-84 % homologous to *E. coli* FimH at amino acid sequences level. The sequence alignment revealed that mAb475 and mAb926 epitopes are not targeted by amino acid changes, though presence of amino acid replacement at the position 132 (R to H) in *Klebsiella* binding pocket could indirectly affect the antibodies binding. This especially related to mAb475, which epitope includes neighboring residue from position 133, the residue, important for ligand recognition in *E.coli*. Indeed, fine specificity of the the FimH adhesins is somewhat different, as *Klebsiella* FimH in contrast to *E. coli*, shows decreased capability to binds terminally exposed monomannose residues (Stahlhut, et al. 2009).

[0118] The analysis of the antibodies binding showed that both anti-*E.coli* FimH antibodies recognized *Klebsiella* FimH (Figure 9). While mAb926 presented the same level of binding to both FimH adhesins, mAb475 bound to *Klebsiella* FimH variants at lower level than to *E. coli* FimH. Incubation of *Klebsiella* cells with mAb475 and mAb926 significantly reduced bacterial adhesion to plate-coated mannose ligand (RNaseB), with mAb926 substantially outcompeting

inhibitory effect of mAb475 (Figure 10). We next tested whether mAb926 can block formation of biofilm by *Klebsiella* or affect a biofilm that was already formed. As shown in Figure 11 A, mAb926 effectively inhibited formation of biofilm (76-86 % of inhibition, $P<0.0005$) by two different *Klebsiella* FimH variants being more potent than soluble mannose that caused 38-67 % inhibition. Similar, incubation of 14-h-old biofilm with mAb926 but not mannose or mAb21 caused significant ($P=0.0005$) destabilization of the biofilm (Figure 11B).

[0119] Thus, the non-competitively-inhibiting mAb926 is effective in blocking adhesion and biofilm formation of *Klebsiella* that expresses homologues FimH adhesin and thus the antibody might be promising anti-infective agent against other Enterobacteriaceae-caused infections.

Example 9: Significance of antibodies binding to just one loop of the ligand-binding site for both inhibition and reversal of bacterial adhesion via the novel parasteric mechanism

[0120] Creating antibodies targeting ligand-binding-site epitopes of receptor proteins is a primary goal in the development of protective or therapeutic antibodies. These antibodies are expected to block receptor binding functions by directly competing with the ligand. By definition, for competitive inhibition to occur, the binding pocket cannot be occupied by the ligand at the moment of inhibitor binding (Fig. 12A). Thus, such orthosteric inhibitors cannot reverse ligand binding by triggering detachment of ligand from the pocket, and are ineffective in the presence of high concentrations of endogenous ligand, which limits their utility. The only inhibitors able to detach bound ligand are thought to be those of an allosteric nature that induce a weakly-binding inactive receptor state by signaling a conformational change from the site that is positioned distal to the ligand-binding pocket (Fig. 12B). However, design of allosteric inhibitors is problematic for proteins where conformational regulation is unknown, not existing or complex.

[0121] We demonstrated here that the ligand-binding site of a receptor protein provides epitopes for powerful inhibitory antibodies that interfere with ligand binding within the pocket (like orthosteric inhibitors) but in a non-competitive manner (like allosteric inhibitors), via a mechanism that we refer to as parasteric (next-to-ligand) inhibition. Allosteric inhibitors have been described that bind near the pocket (Luo, et al. 2004; Mukund, et al. 2013; Wu, et al. 2007), however, unlike the parasteric inhibitor, they did not bind the ligand-interacting pocket residues themselves. The term 'parasteric inhibition' was suggested previously to highlight at least a theoretical possibility that inhibitor and ligand could bind in close proximity to each other rather than to fully overlapping or distant sites as expected for orthosteric and allosteric inhibitors, respectively (Dissing, et al. 1993). That study was focused on modulation of enzymatic activity of ACP1 by purine modulators, but structural or mechanistic details of the inhibition were not examined. We show here that one of the striking apparent properties of the parasteric antibody is to bind to the binding pocket simultaneously with the ligand and prevent its conversion into the active state (Fig. 12C). In this way, the parasteric concept is also distinct from the concept of inverse agonists, like those shown for the human G-protein coupled

receptors, which can stabilize the inactive state of the pocket, but do not bind simultaneously with ligand (Jaakola, et al. 2008; Lebon, et al. 2011).

[0122] Parasteric inhibition is potentially applicable to a wide range of receptors. Conformational dynamics of the binding pocket is considered to be an essential property of all ligand-binding proteins (Boehr, et al. 2009; Goh, et al. 2004; Henzler-Wildman and Kern 2007). At least two different conformational states of the binding pocket are proposed to exist for receptor proteins — the active state that binds the ligand strongly and the inactive state that binds the ligand relatively weakly. In many or even the majority of cases, the active state pocket tightens around the ligand relative to the inactive state. For example, the two domains of the maltose binding protein hinge close to increase affinity (Quiocho, et al. 1997; Spurlino, et al. 1991), a 'lid' over the binding site of adenylate kinase closes to prevent substrate exit (Wolf-Watz, et al. 2004), a 'gate' of the plant hormone abscisic acid receptor closes around the hormone ligand (Nilsson, et al. 2008), and the binding pocket of the beta-adrenergic receptor contracts around catecholamines (Lebon, et al. 2011; Warne, et al. 2011). Similarly, the ligand-binding loops of various receptor proteins have been shown to be highly flexible by NMR and FRET analysis (Kim, et al. 2013; Tang, et al. 2007). This suggests that parasteric inhibitors could potentially bind simultaneously with ligand to the more loosely binding open pocket, preventing it from tightening in many different receptor-ligand systems. Notably, many of these receptors undergo only localized conformational dynamics that are not allosteric in nature, so the parasteric mechanism should be applicable to a wider range of receptors than the allosteric mechanism. The wealth of accumulated structural and functional data on different FimH states and the availability of various conformation-specific monoclonal antibodies provided an opportunity to use FimH as a prototype molecule to study dynamics of conformational shifts between active and inactive states and test various types of inhibitors and conformational modulators.

[0123] To gain insight into the mAb926 inhibitory mechanism, we turned to the crystal structure of inactive FimH with an open mannose-binding pocket, which was obtained without mannose (Le Trong, et al. 2010). Our previous studies on locking the inactive conformation have suggested that the open pocket of FimH retains some ability to interact with mannose (Le Trong, et al. 2010). Also, studies of others have shown that mutation of one of the mannose-binding residues, Gln133 to Asn, virtually eliminated the binding function of FimH, but mannose still could be co-crystallized with the mutant (Hung, et al. 2002). In the latter structure, mannose retained the same interactions as in the native active pocket with all binding residues except for the N135 and D140 residues that shifted away from the ligand, supporting our conclusion that the latter residues are on a flexible pocket loop. Further support for our model is provided by previous molecular dynamics simulations that predicted that residues F1 and D54 (i.e. those not on the flexible loop) form the strongest interaction with the ligand (Nilsson, et al. 2008). Thus, our model pointing to the dynamic nature of the 133- 140 loop is consistent with previous studies.

[0124] It remains unclear whether the binding pocket must undergo a shift from the active to the inactive conformation in order for mAb926 (or any parasteric inhibitor in general) to gain access to its epitope when ligand is already bound. In the case of FimH, the 132-140 loop of the pocket that carries mAb926 epitope may transiently shift away from the attached mannose. Indeed, the intrinsic opening rate of maltose-binding protein has been recently shown to determine ligand dissociation (Seo, et al. 2014). Another possible scenario for mAb926 action could involve its intermediate binding to the active conformation of the mannose-occupied pocket of FimH via a portion of the epitope that does not involve the mannose-binding residues N135 and D140. In turn, the possible intermediate step of binding could facilitate the full opening of the flexible loop, thus de-activating the active state. Indeed, mutation of mAb926 epitope residues that are not involved in hydrogen bonding with ligand and facing outside the pocket cleft (I52, N136 and Y137) did not decrease or had only minimal effect on mannose ligand binding (Kisiela, et al. 2013) suggesting that they could be accessible for interactions with the antibody even if the pocket is occupied by the ligand. Further studies are needed to elucidate the structural details of the inhibitory action of mAb926 and that of other potential parasteric inhibitors.

[0125] Although interaction of the lectin domain with the pilin domain in FimH allosterically facilitates the inactive conformation of the binding pocket, soluble pilin domain failed to stabilize the low affinity state of the adhesin (Aprikian, et al. 2007). In this study, however, we found an antibody, mAb824 that appears to prevent shifting of FimH^{wt} from the low- to high-affinity state in an apparently allosteric manner by binding an epitope located away from the binding pocket. This epitope is positioned on a side of the split sheet of the lectin domain of FimH that may be a critical region in the conformational pathway of the switch, but details of mAb824 action require further investigation. Importantly, we observed that, unlike mAb926, mAb824 is not displaced from FimH by soluble mannose suggesting that the ligand-induced conformational shift in FimH cannot overcome the conformation-stabilizing effect of mAb824. It is plausible to expect that at least in some receptor proteins, allosteric antibodies that are bound to the inactive conformation might be displaced by the ligand-induced activation of the protein and conversely that ligand bound to the active conformation might be displaced by allosteric inhibitory antibodies. However, allosteric antibodies are fundamentally different from parasteric antibodies in a way that is likely to affect the issue of induced dissociation. Allosteric antibodies bind to sites that are distinct from, and relatively weakly coupled to, the binding site (Christopoulos 2002). This means that the antibody epitope can be in the inactive conformation while the binding site is in the active conformation. In contrast, a parasteric antibody by our definition has an epitope that to some extent overlaps with the binding site, so that binding kinetics must be changed if the antibody binds, and vice versa. We hypothesize that this difference explains the lack of mAb824 displacement by mannose from FimH but more extensive studies of mAb824 are needed to address this question. Thus, although mAb926 binding to FimH has an allosteric effect on the lectin domain, its inhibition of mannose-binding is not via the allosteric mechanism per se and is

fundamentally distinct from the action exerted by mAb824 or other classic allosteric inhibitors described for other receptor-ligand interaction systems (Doern, et al. 2009; Hino, et al. 2012; Luo, et al. 2004).

[0126] The model of non-competitive inhibition by mAb926 implies that the antibody and the ligand can bind simultaneously to FimH, i.e. form at least a transient FimH-mannose-mAb926 complex. This is experimentally supported by the observation that mannose accesses the FimH pocket occupied by mAb926 but not by mAb475, resulting in unbinding of the former. The exact mechanism of how the three-way complex forms and why it is unstable is unclear, but is likely that antibody is eluted from FimH due to a structural distortion or steric hindrance caused by ligand binding. Reciprocally then, the co-binding property of mAb926 would lead to ligand unbinding when the receptor is already occupied by the ligand. Indeed, we observed that bacterial biofilm formed on a mannose-coated surface can be effectively detached only by mAb926 compared with the relatively minor effect of mAb475 antibody or even high concentrations of soluble mannose. To our knowledge, mAb926 is the only antibody shown to dissolve a bacterial biofilm.

[0127] The phenomenon of apparent simultaneous binding of the inhibitory mAb926 and the mannose ligand in spite of overlapping binding sites, makes it distinct from both the orthosteric and allosteric inhibitors, providing the rationale for defining a novel, parasteric mechanism of ligand binding inhibition. The advantage of parasteric inhibitors vs orthosteric inhibitors is that the former would be more potent in unbinding the ligand from the binding pocket and more effective in the presence of high concentrations of endogenous ligands. Either effect can explain the significantly stronger inhibition by mAb926 relative to the competitive inhibitor mAb475, and the superior ability of mAb926 to block FimH-mediated mouse bladder colonization. Although we demonstrated that the ligand can enter the binding pocket with bound mAb926 and in fact displace the antibody, this only occurred at very high, non- physiologic concentrations, and would not compromise the effectiveness of the antibody as a ligand-binding inhibitor. Many bacterial adhesins mediate shear-enhanced adhesion similar to FimH (Ding, et al. 2010; George, et al. 2006; Nilsson, et al. 2006a; Tchesnokova, et al. 2010), suggesting that they may also undergo conformational changes and be candidates for parasteric inhibition. The advantage of parasteric inhibitors vs allosteric inhibitors is that the effectiveness of the parasteric inhibition is not limited by weak coupling of the allosteric site to the ligand binding site, and that parasteric inhibition does not require the receptor to be allosteric. In comparison to allosteric inhibitors which present difficulties for rational design due to lack of knowledge of the location of allosteric sites, development of parasteric inhibitors may be more universally applicable to any protein with defined ligand binding sites, whether or not the protein is allosteric.

[0128] The epitope of mAb926 appears to be highly conserved. The sequence analysis of the epitope region in 488 different *fimH* alleles from 4271 strains of *E. coli* of various origin (intestinal, extraintestinal and environmental) showed that out of 488 alleles, only 1 allele (5 strains) had variability in one of the epitope position: D140. However, this allele was extremely rare (present in 5 strains out of >4,000 isolates) indicating that mAb296 can be universally potent against great variety of *E. coli* isolates. Moreover, this antibody effectively blocked adhesion and biofilm formation of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, an important opportunistic pathogen frequently causing UTIs, septicemia or respiratory tract infections expresses mannose-specific type 1 fimbriae with FimH adhesin being 72-84 % homologous to *E. coli* FimH (at amino acid sequences level). Though the binding pocket of *Klebsiella* FimH is somewhat different from *E. coli* (Stahlhut, et al. 2009), still epitope of mAb926 sustained unchanged in comparison to *E. coli*, being identical in more than 100 different *fimH* alleles from > 540 *Klebsiella* strains analyzed. This suggested that mAb926 might be potent inhibitor also against other *Enterobacteriaceae* that express homologues FimH adhesin.

[0129] Taken together, our findings suggest that antibodies binding to just one loop of the ligand- binding site have the potential to be very effective for both inhibition and reversal of bacterial adhesion via the novel parasteric mechanism. The binding pocket side loops of bacterial adhesins appear to be good targets for generation of antibodies with such potential. The observation that the mAb926 epitope is largely formed by a single loop makes this loop a good candidate immunogen for induction of parasteric antibodies using synthetic cyclic peptides. Loop-shaped epitopes have been shown to be extremely potent as synthetic peptide-based vaccines due to their structural properties when synthesized in circular form that not only well mimic the native epitopes but also exhibit extremely high stability as immunogenic agents (Hoogerhout, et al. 1995; Misumi, et al. 2003).

Example 10: Monoclonal antibody production and purification

[0130] Hybridoma cells producing mice antibodies, mAb475, mAb824, mAb926 and mAb21, were grown in IMDM media (Lonza) complemented with 10% FBS (Gibco, #10082147), Pen/Strep (Gibco, 315140-122) and Sodium Pyruvate (Gibco, #11360). The antibodies were purified from hybridoma cell culture supernatants using protein G-agarose (Millipore) according to manufacture recommendations followed by FPLC purification using 16/60 Superdex 75 column (GE Healthcare). All FPLC purification steps were performed in HBS and the antibodies at the final concentration 5-10 mg/ml were stored at 4 °C.

Example 11: Sequencing of V-region of mAb light and heavy chains.

[0131] Total mRNA was isolated from hybridoma cells using RNase Mini kit (Qiagen, #74104), followed by cDNA synthesis with the Omniscript RT kit (Qiagen) and oligo dT primer (Qiagen).

The V-regions were PCR amplified using 2 μ L from the 20- μ L RT reaction volume with the following primers: forward:

[0132] VL4 (mAb475): CCAGTTCCGAGCTCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCA (SEQ ID NO: 9);

[0133] VL5 (mAb926): CCAGATGTGAGCTCGTGATGACCCAGACTCCA (SEQ ID NO: 10);

5 [0134] VH1 (mAb475 and mAb926): AGGTCCAGCTGCTCGAGTCTGG (SEQ ID NO: 11); and

[0135] reverse: VLr (mAb475 and mAb926):

GCGCCGTCTAGAATTAACACTCATTCTGTTGAA (SEQ ID NO: 12); and

[0136] VH3r(IgG1-specific):

[0137] AGGCTTACTAGTACAATCCCTGGGCACAAT (SEQ ID NO: 13).

10 [0138] Purified PCR products were subjected to sequencing by Genewiz Inc. (Seattle).

Germline origin of anti-FimH antibodies was determined based on the V-region sequence of their light and heavy chains using IMGT/V-Quest software (available online) (Brochet, et al. 2008; Giudicelli, et al. 2011).

Example 12: Antibody epitope mapping

15 [0139] Mapping of mAb926 and mAb824 epitopes was performed as described previously (Kisiela, et al. 2013). Briefly, the antibodies were tested for the ability to recognize purified isogenic fimbriae carrying different mutations in LD of FimH. Parental (not mutated) fimbriae were used as a reference against which binding of the antibodies to all other mutant fimbriae was normalized. Epitopes of mAb926 and mAb824 were mapped using the high affinity FimH
20 variant (FimH^{wt}:(186-201)^{Foch}, (Aprikian, et al. 2007) and the low affinity FimH variant (FimH^{wt}), respectively.

Example 13: Bacterial strains

[0140] The *Escherichia coli* clinical isolate UTI89 and recombinant strains of *E. coli* K12 expressing type 1 fimbriae with different structural FimH variants were previously described
25 (Aprikian, et al. 2007; Liu, et al. 2012; Tchesnokova, et al. 2008). Briefly, the recombinant strain of *E. coli* K12 (AAEC191A) carries pPKL114 plasmid containing the entire *fim* gene cluster from the *E. coli* strain K12, but with the inactivated *fimH* gene. For type 1 fimbriae expression, pPKL114 plasmid harboring bacteria were transformed with isogenic pGB2-24-based plasmids carrying different alleles of the *fimH* gene. The AAEC191A recombinant strain was also used to
30 produce type 1 fimbriae carrying *Klebsiella pneumoniae* FimH (Stahlhut et al., 2009) including FimH wild type (FimH^{wt}) and S62A mutant (FimH^{S62A}). The *Klebsiella pneumoniae fimH* mutant complemented with different *fimH* variants was described previously (Struve, et al. 2008).

Example 14: ELISA assays

[0141] Microtiter plate wells were coated with purified fimbriae (Kisiela, et al. 2013) at concentration 0.1 mg/ml (unless stated otherwise) in 0.02 M NaHCO₃ buffer for 1 h at 37 °C.

The wells were washed with PBS and quenched for 20 min with 0.2% BSA in PBS. To test the effect of mannose on monoclonal antibody binding, immobilized fimbriae were incubated with serial dilutions of pure mAbs in the absence or presence of 52 mM α -methyl-D-mannopyranoside (α mm, hereinafter also termed 'mannose'). Bound antibodies were detected with a 1:5,000 diluted HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (Bio-Rad). The reaction was developed using 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB, KPL), and absorbance was read at 650 nm. EC₅₀ values were determined by non-linear regression curve fitting using Prism 6.0 software (GraphPad, La Jolla, CA) for each antibody independently.

[0142] To test the effect of antibodies on the adhesin conformation, immobilized fimbriae were incubated with 50 μ g/ml pure antibodies, or 52 mM mannose for 1 h and then 0.5 μ g/ml biotinylated mAb21 was added to wells. After washing, binding of biotinylated mAbs was detected using a 1:5,000 diluted HRP-conjugated streptavidin (Sigma-Aldrich). In some experiments, surface-immobilized fimbriae were first incubated with 0.5 μ g/ml biotinylated mAbs (in the absence or presence of 52 mM mannose) followed by incubation with purified mAbs 50 μ g/ml for 1 h.

[0143] To test the effect of ligand on the stability of FimH-antibody complexes, antibodies at concentration 0.4 μ g/ml were first bound to surface-immobilized fimbriae, followed by incubation with 8% mannose, or PBS for 1-4 h time.

Example 15: Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) Analyses.

[0144] SPR analyses of mAb926, mAb475 and mAb824 binding to FimH^{wt} followed by the absence or presence of 1% (w/v) mannose were conducted at 25°C in a running buffer (RB) of HBS-EP+ (0.01 M Hepes pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, 0.05% (v/v) Surfactant P20) with 0.1 mg/mL BSA on a Biacore T100 system (GE Healthcare). Using standard amine coupling chemistry, ~2000 RUs of FimH^{wt} fimbriae were amine-coupled at 20 μ g/mL in 10 mM glycine, pH 2.5 to 2 flow cells of a Series S CM5 chip (GE Healthcare). Two reference surfaces were prepared by activating and deactivating flow cells without the addition of protein. Duplicate (single for mAb824) samples at a single concentration were injected at a flow rate of 10 μ L/min using a "dual" injection command in the T100 control software (v2.0.4) with injection 1 at 5 mins, injection 2 at 10 mins and a final dissociation time of 1 min. MAb alone curves were generated by injecting mAb followed by an injection of RB and double referenced (Myszka 1999) by subtracting a dual injection of RB followed by RB. mAb + mannose curves were generated by injecting mAb (in RB without mannose) followed by an injection of RB with 1% mannose and double referenced by subtracting a dual injection of RB followed by RB with 1%

mannose. Optimal regeneration was achieved by injection of either one (for mAb926) or 2 (for mAb475) 30 second pulses of 10 mM glycine, pH 1.5 at a flow rate of 50 μ L/min followed by a 2 min buffer stabilization phase. Optimal regeneration conditions for mAb824 sample binding were not found, and so required the generation of two FimH^{wt} fimbriae surfaces with only a single mAb824 injection on each. MAb926 and mAb475 injections with and without mannose were run on each FimH^{wt} fimbriae surface prior to the mAb824 injection in order to match mAb824 binding surfaces as closely as possible, as well as to provide a control for comparison. Sensorgrams were double-referenced in Scrubber 2.0b software (BioLogic Software), saved as text files, and re-plotted in Prism GraphPad 6 software.

[0145] To determine apparent kinetic rate and equilibrium binding constants, FimH^{wt} fimbriae were amine-coupled as noted above to a density of 1300 RUs, with an activated/deactivated surface used as reference. Serial 2-fold dilutions of analyte starting at 12.5 nM (mAb926) or 200 nM (mAb475), and buffer blanks were injected in random order and run in duplicate in HBS-EP+ with 0.1 mg/mL BSA at a flow rate of 30 μ L/minute with 700 s of association and 1200 s of dissociation. Surfaces were regenerated with either one 30 s injection (mAb926) or two 30s injections (mAb475) of 10 mM glycine, pH 1.5 at 50 μ L/minute followed by 2 mins of buffer stabilization. Double-referenced data were fit with a 1:1 binding model with BIAevaluation 2.0.4 software (GE Healthcare).

Example 16: Bacterial adhesion

[0146] Microtiter 96-well plates were coated with 20 μ g/ml of yeast mannan or RNaseB (Sigma-Aldrich) in 0.02 M NaHCO₃ buffer at pH 9.6. The wells were quenched with 0.2 % bovine serum albumin (BSA, Sigma-Aldrich) in PBS for 20 min. Bacteria expressing FimH adhesin (OD=1 or OD=2) were first preincubated with different concentrations of mAbs for 1 h at 37 °C and then allowed to adhere to ligand-coated surface for another 1 h. After an extensive washing with PBS, plates were dried and bound bacteria were stained with 0.1% crystal violet (Becton Dickinson) for 20 min at room temperature (RT). The wells were washed with water and 50 % ethanol was added to the wells. The absorbance was measured at 600 nm.

Example 17: Biofilm formation assay

[0147] Microtiter 96-well plates were coated with 20 μ g/mL of yeast mannan or RNaseB (Sigma-Aldrich) in 0.02 M NaHCO₃ buffer at pH 9.6. Bacterial strains grown overnight in 3 ml LB media were spun and washed 1x with minimal essential media (MEM, Difco). Bacterial suspensions in MEM, at final concentration OD =0.2, were added to mannan-coated wells in the absence and presence of 52 mM mannose or 50 μ g/ml mAbs and incubated 16 h at RT without shaking. After washing with PBS, formed biofilms were stained with 0.1% (v/v) crystal violet (Becton Dickinson) as described above for bacterial adhesion assay. For biofilm detachment, 16 h-old biofilm produced by *E. coli* UTI89 on mannan-coated microtiter plates

was washed 3 times with PBS and incubated in the absence or presence of 1 % mannose or 50 µg/ml mAbs at RT with mild shaking. The wells were washed 3 times with PBS and stain for biofilm detection as described above.

Example 18: Mouse experiments with transurethral injection of the antibodies.

5 [0148] Infection of 10- to 11-week-old C57BL/6 female mice was performed as described elsewhere (Kisiela, et al. 2013). Briefly, bacteria were grown in LB medium without shaking for 48 h, harvested, washed twice in PBS and resuspended in PBS at a final concentration of 10^8 CFU per ml. Bacteria were pretreated with 500 µg/ml mAbs for 1 h at 37°C prior to inoculation. Mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine and twenty-five microliters of mAb-pretreated
10 bacteria in PBS were inoculated transurethrally into mouse bladders via catheter. After 24 h, mice were sacrificed and bladders were aseptically removed and homogenized in 1 mL PBS. Serial dilutions were plated and total bacterial load per bladder was calculated. Statistical significance was determined using two-tailed Mann-Whitney test (GraphPad Prism 6.0 software, La Jolla, Ca).

15 Example 19: Non-diabetic and diabetic mice model for passive immunization.

[0149] Diabetic state in C57Bl/6 mice was induced by the 4 days- treatment with streptozotocin (STZ) by intraperitoneal injection. Groups of 100 C57Bl/6 mice were randomly divided into 5 groups of ten for diabetic and for non-diabetic states respectively. One group of each condition was subcutaneously injected with the adjuvant alone (mock), 15 µg of LD^{mut} or 15 µg of LD^{wt} (4
20 and 1 week before a challenge), with two other groups receiving 150 µg of mAb926 or mAb21 by intraperitoneal injection (1 day prior and 1 day after the challenge). Mice were challenged with CFT073 UPEC strain (1×10^6 cfu/50 µl per mouse) via intraurethral catheterization under isoflurane anesthesia. Bacterial load in mice urine was analyzed daily over 14-days' time starting 24h after bacterial challenge. Genomic bacterial load was quantified in each urine
25 sample (10 µl) by qPCR. Statistical analysis of the data was performed using the Generalized Estimating Equation model (GEE) (*xtgee* command in STATA software, StataCorp. 2015. *Stata Statistical Software: Release 14*. College Station, TX: StataCorp LP). Overall, 1400 observations were made for 100 mice over 14 days. Out of 1,400 total 237 observations were missing (no urine provided) and were excluded from subsequent analysis. The mice ID were
30 set as a panel variable, treatment type and days as predictor variables with interaction allowed between them; and E. coli counts as an outcome variable. To account for the heteroscedasticity and non-linearity we performed analysis of log-transformed E. coli counts. For log₁₀ transformation, zero counts (E. coli not detected) were replaced with value 1. The data for diabetic and non-diabetic mice were fitted separately. The Wald's test was used to calculate
35 inference of the regression parameters using naive standard errors. For bacterial counts from diabetic mice, the residuals analysis showed the presence of non-influential outliers (that

represented occasional lack of *E. coli* DNA in urine) that were excluded from the study to satisfy the request for normality of distribution of the dependent variable from independent. After exclusion of outliers, 617 (out of initial 673, 91.6%) observations were analyzed using same model.

5 Example 20: Modeling and visualization of protein structure

[0150] To dock α -D-mannose to the binding site of the inactive conformation of FimH, the crystal structure of the lectin domain (residues 1-158, with PDB code 3JWN) was aligned onto the high affinity structure of FimH lectin domain (PDB code 1UWF) followed by minimization of the RMSD of residues 1 to 6 and 44 to 48. The coordinates of mannose which are present in 1UWF structure were then used to create a complex between LD in low affinity conformation and the ligand. The entire system was then subjected to 100 steps of steepest descent minimization in vacuo and 500 steps of conjugate gradient minimization in a dielectric continuum using the program CHARMM.13 (Brooks, et al. 2009) and PARAM22 force field (Mackerell, et al. 1998). Based on published structural data, (Bouckaert, et al. 2005; Hung, et al. 2002; Wellens, et al. 2008), the mannose-ring retains the same position and makes the same network of hydrogen bonds in the pocket, regardless the nature of mannosylated ligand (i.e α -D mannose, alkyl-derivatives of the mannose or oligomannose substrate). Thus, for simplicity, only the mannose-ring of α -D mannose was modeled and is presented in FimH structures.

[0151] In the 1UWF structure, α -D mannose was modeled in by alignment with the sugar ring of the mannose residue of the original crystal structure. The spatial distribution of amino acid residues involved in mAb epitopes and distances between atoms forming hydrogen bonds and mannose ligand in 3JWN and 1UWF structures were measured using the molecular visualization software program PyMOL (DeLano Scientific LLC).

25 Example 21: Statistics and data analysis.

[0152] All values, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed as mean and SEM. Statistical significance was determined by two-tailed student test using Prism 6.0 software (GraphPad, La Jolla, Ca).

[0153] The receptor occupancy by antibody in the presence of mannose was calculated from the equation:

$$[0154] EC_{50}^{ratio} = \frac{1 + \frac{[M]}{K_D}}{1 + \alpha \frac{[M]}{K_D}} \quad (\text{Kenakin 2004})$$

[0155] where, α is a cooperativity factor for mannose and antibody, $[M]$ is mannose concentration and K_D is its equilibrium constant. For the strongest possible negative cooperativity (if mannose and antibody are direct competitors) $\alpha = 0$ and $EC_{50}^{ratio} = 1 + \frac{[M]}{K_D}$.

[0156] As the dissociation constant for mannose and fimbrial FimH^{wt} is $298 \pm 50 \mu M$

- 5 (Tchesnokova, et al. 2008), and antibody binding was tested at a 52 mM concentration of mannose, the expected EC_{50} ratio for competitive binding is 175 ± 30 .

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- [0226] Throughout this application various publications are referenced. The disclosures of
- 20 these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application in order to describe more fully the state of the art to which this invention pertains.
- [0227] From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is
- 25 not limited except as by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

5

1. A composition comprising an antibody that specifically recognizes and binds uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) fimbrial adhesin FimH and is capable of preventing colonization of a surface by uropathogenic *E. coli*, wherein the antibody comprises:

10 (a) a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto, wherein the light chain variable region comprises a CDR1 sequence comprising QNVSN (residues 27-31 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or QNIVHNNGNTY (residues 27-37 of SEQ ID NO: 3), a CDR2 sequence comprising SAS (residues 49-51 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or KVS (residues 55-57 of SEQ ID NO: 3), and a CDR3 sequence comprising QQNSSFPFT (residues 88-96 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or FQGSHVPFT (residues 94-102 of SEQ ID NO: 3); and

(b) a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, and sequences at least 90% identical thereto, wherein the heavy chain variable region comprises a CDR1 sequence comprising GYAFSSYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or GYTSTNYW (residues 26-33 of SEQ ID NO: 4), a CDR2 sequence comprising IYPRDGGT (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or INPTSGYT (residues 51-58 of SEQ ID NO: 4), and a CDR3 sequence comprising EVGRGFYGM DY (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or ARGVIRDF (residues 97-107 of SEQ ID NO: 4).

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the antibody inhibits bacterial adhesion to a mannose-coated surface with an IC₅₀ less than one.

25 3. The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3.

4. The composition of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region sequence has at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4.

5. The composition of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, and 6.

6. The composition of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, and 8.

7. The composition of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 2.

35 8. The composition of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the amino acid sequence of the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. The composition of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the antibody further comprises a heterologous sequence.
10. The composition of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the antibody is one or more of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a humanized antibody, a human antibody, an antibody derivative, a veneered antibody, a diabody, an antibody derivative, a recombinant human antibody, a chimeric antibody, or an antibody fragment.
11. The composition of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
12. The composition of any one of claims 1-11, further comprising a carrier.
- 10 13. A method to inhibit or prevent infection of a cell by uropathogenic *E. coli*, comprising administering to a tissue infected with the uropathogenic *E. coli* comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of a composition of any one of claims 1-12, thereby inhibiting or preventing infection of the cell.
14. A method to treat a bacterial infection in subject in need thereof, wherein the subject is infected with uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition any one of claims 1-12, thereby treating a bacterial infection in the subject.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the bacterial infection is colitis or sepsis.
16. A method of treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a composition any one of claims 1-11, thereby treating or preventing IBD in the subject.
- 20 17. The method of any one of claims 13-16, wherein the administering is by subcutaneous, topical, transdermal, intravenous, oral, or intracolonic administration.
18. A method of displacing mannose from the binding pocket of uropathogenic *E. coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, or *Klebsiella pneumoniae* fimbrial adhesin FimH, the method comprising contacting the binding pocket with a composition of any one of claims 1-12.
- 25

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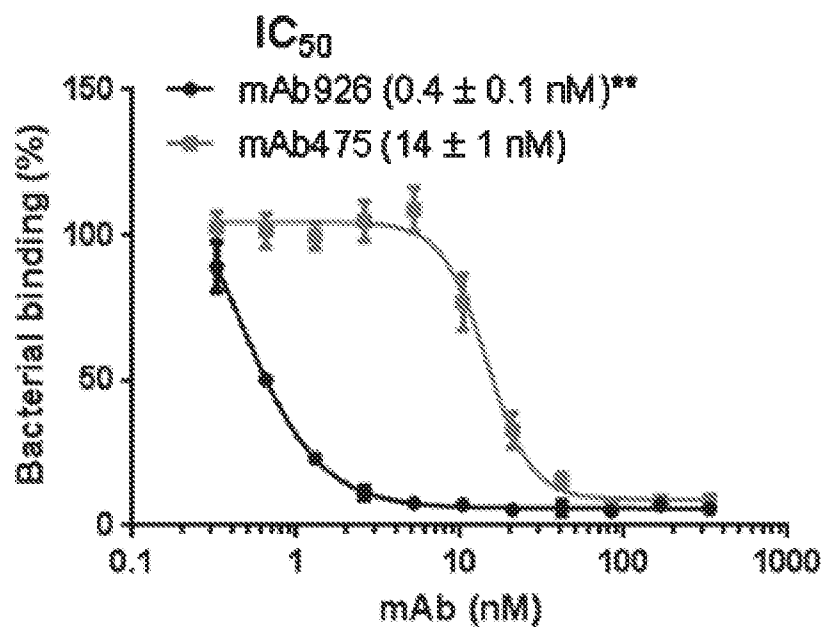


FIGURE 1

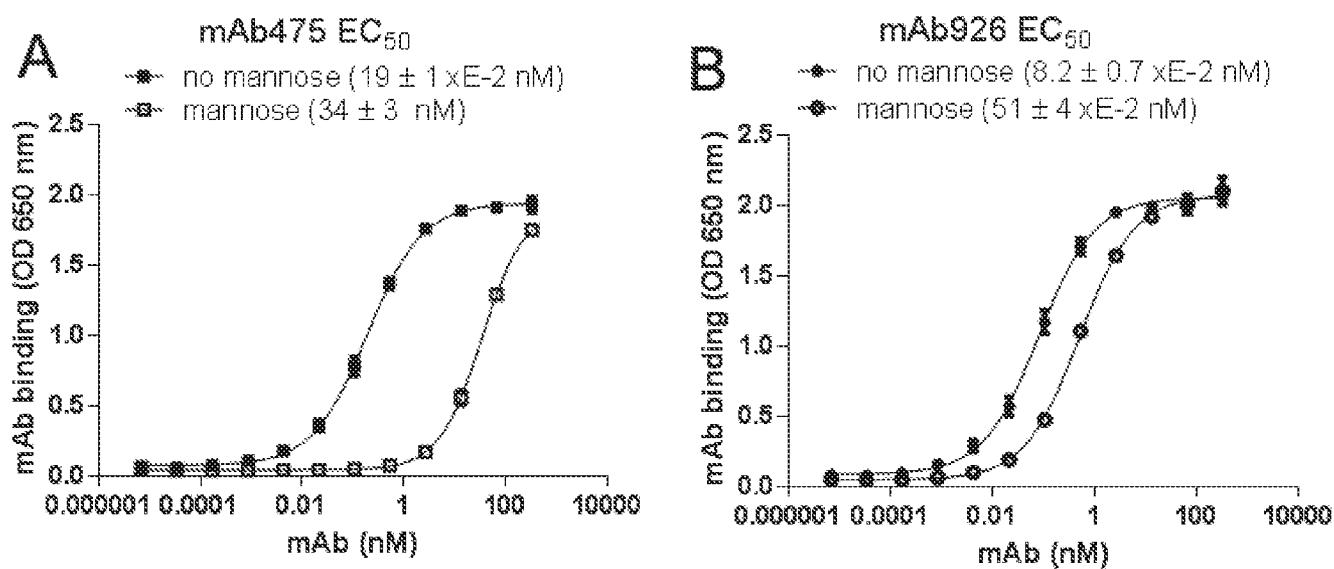
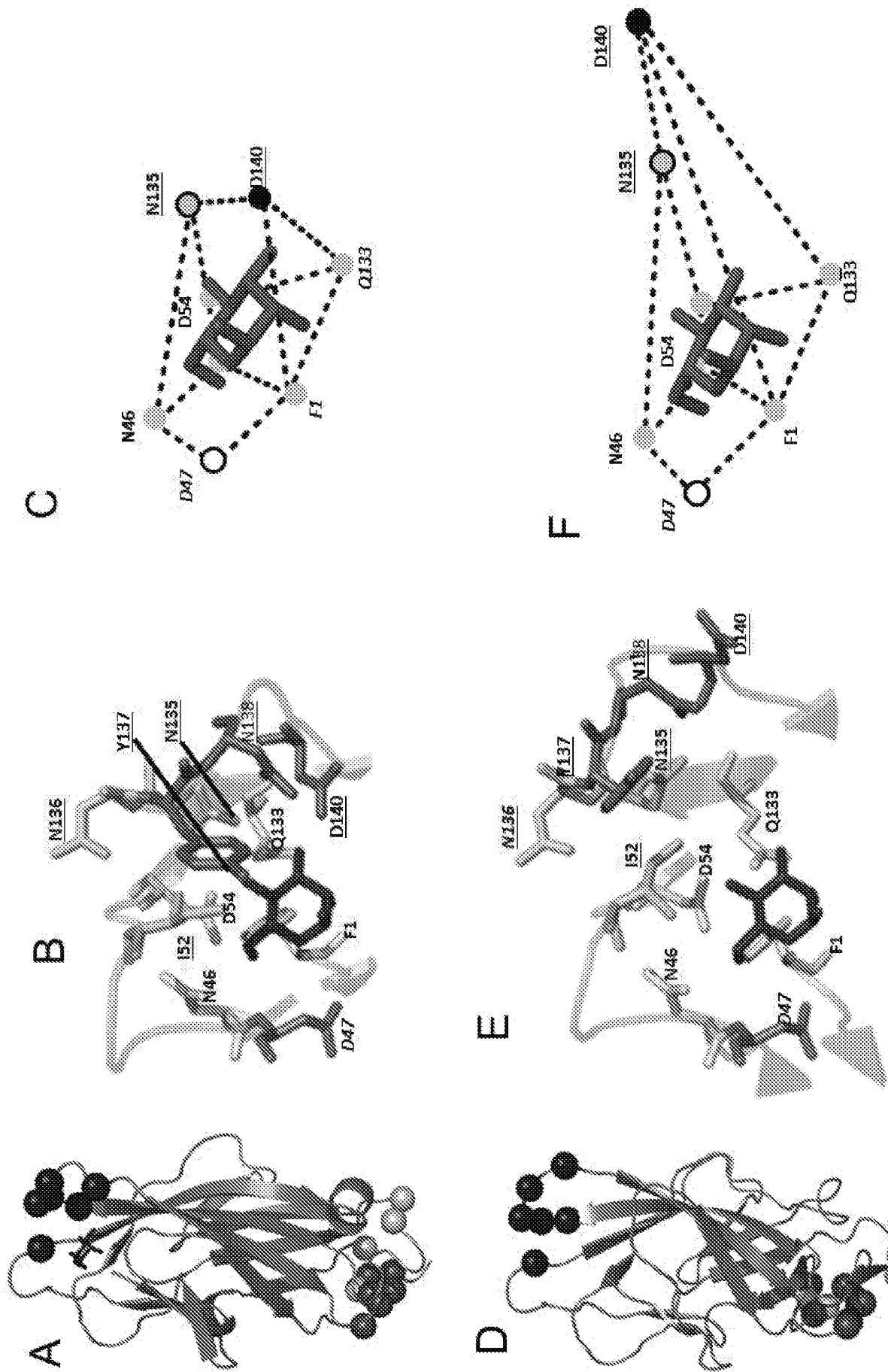


FIGURE 2



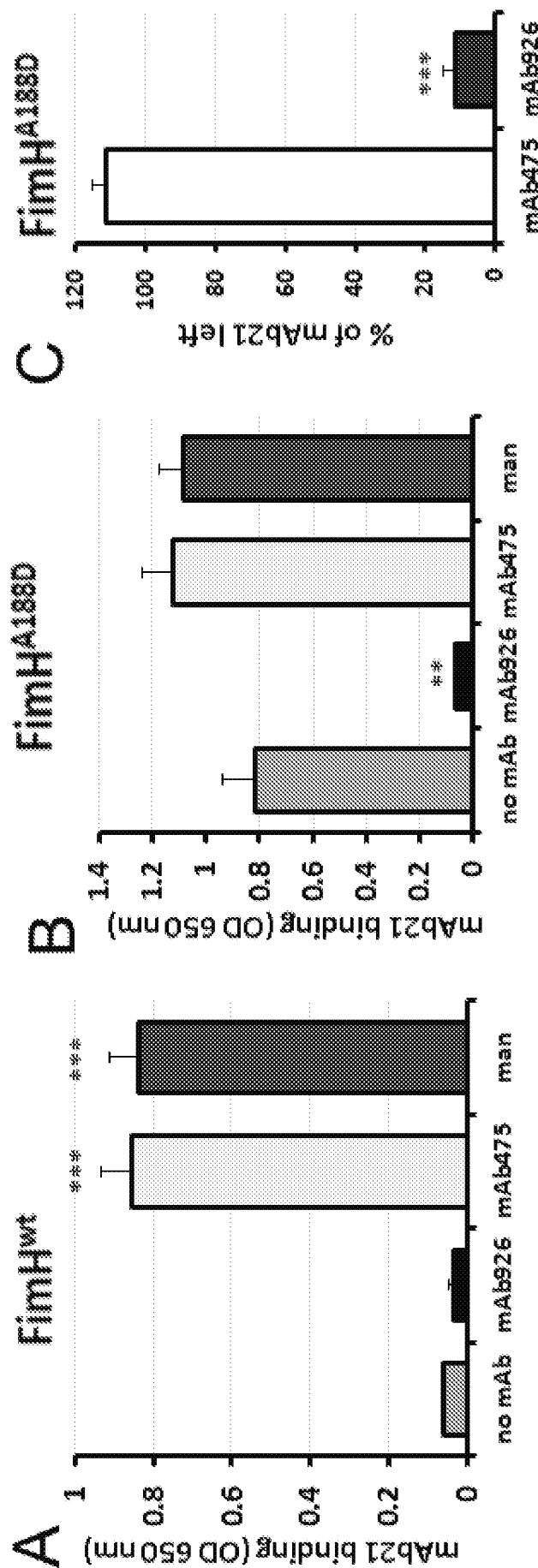


FIGURE 4

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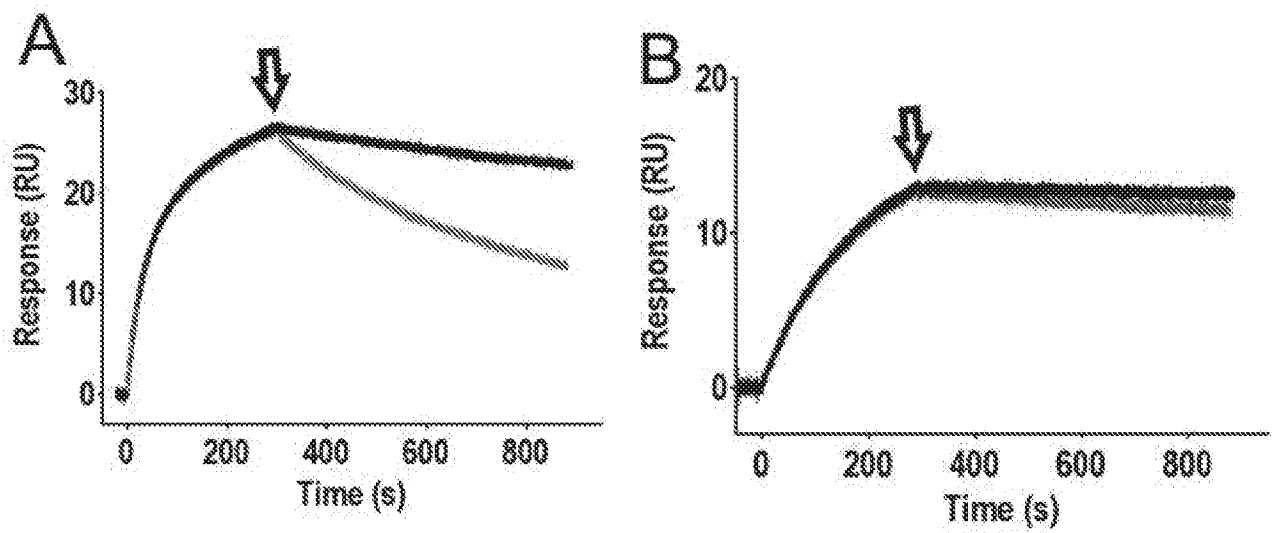


FIGURE 5

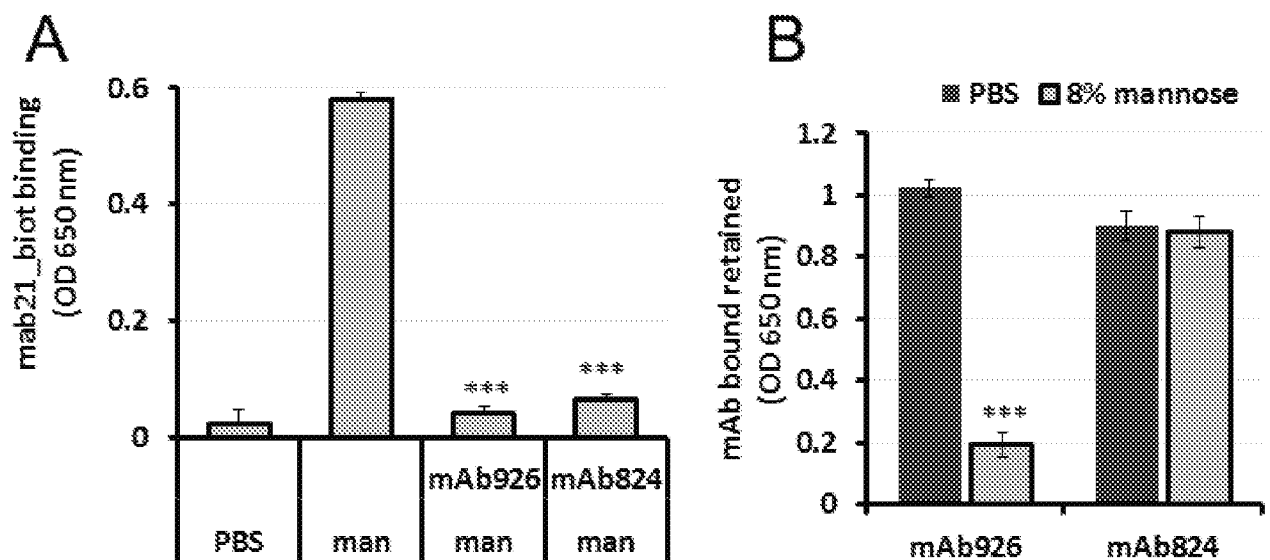


FIGURE 6

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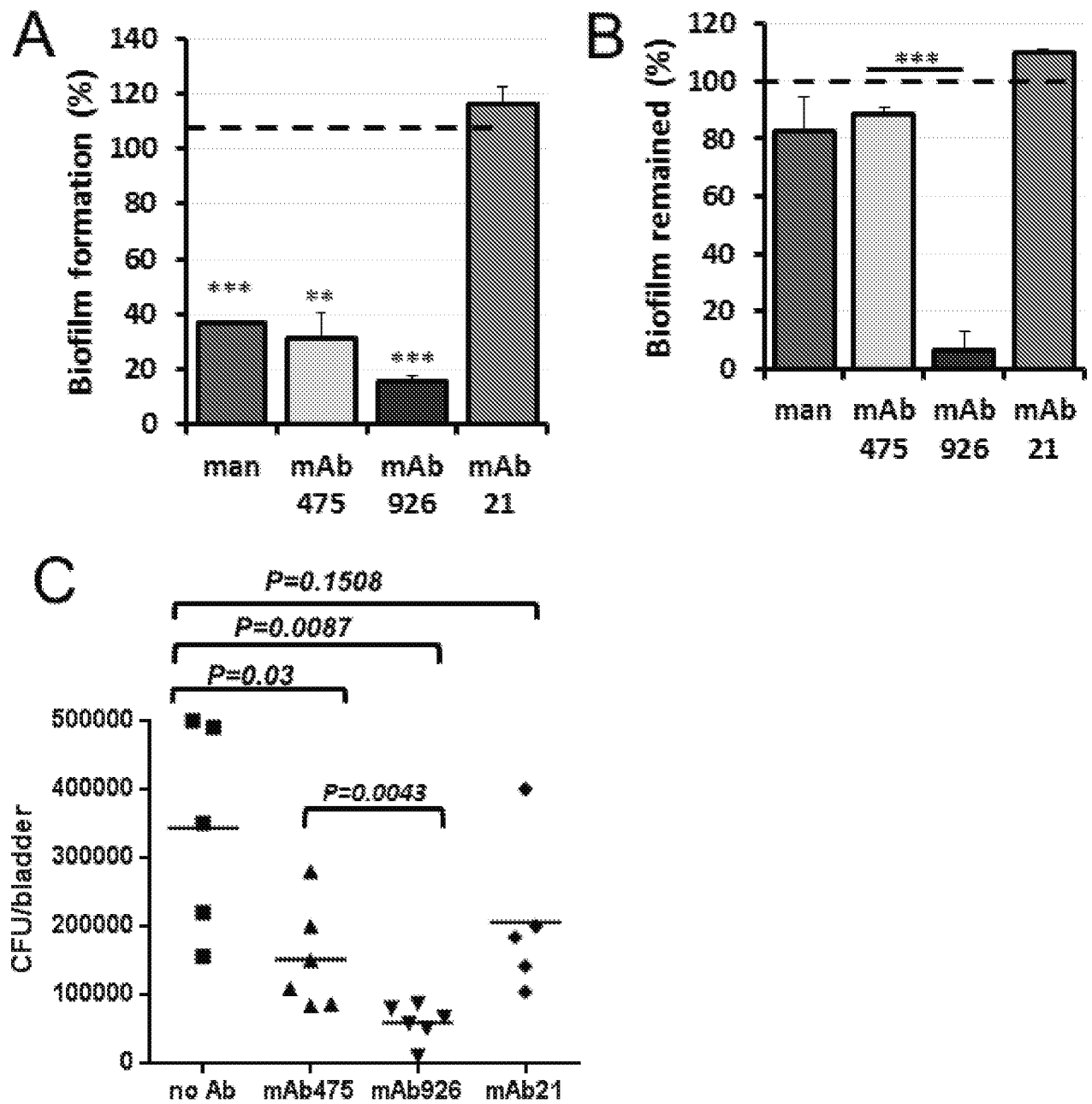
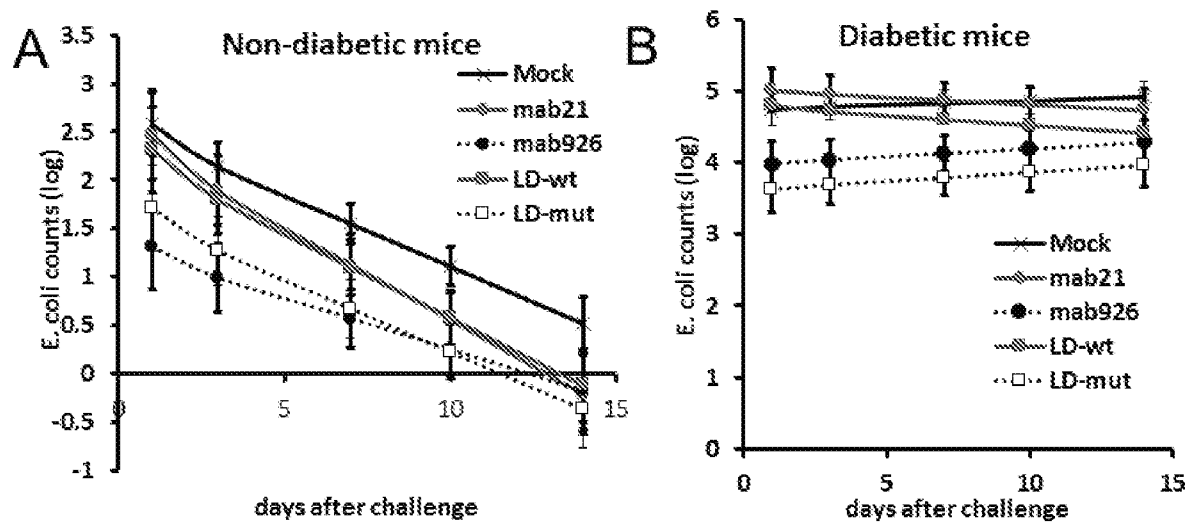


FIGURE 7

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C	day 0				day 3			
	Counts	SE	P vs mock	P vs other	Counts	SE	P vs mock	P vs other
NON-DIABETIC MICE								
Mock	2.58	0.32	ref	na	2.14	0.25	ref	na
mAb21	2.47	0.46	0.801	ref	1.89	0.36	0.495	ref
mAb926	1.31	0.48	0.009	0.018	0.99	0.38	0.003	0.019
LD ^{wt}	2.32	0.44	0.55	ref	1.80	0.35	0.326	ref
LD ^{mut}	1.71	0.44	0.048	0.149	1.27	0.35	0.012	0.114
DIABETIC MICE								
Mock	4.74	0.22	ref	na	4.78	0.19	ref	na
mAb21	5.01	0.30	0.367	ref	4.95	0.27	0.508	ref
mAb926	3.98	0.31	0.013	0.001	4.04	0.27	0.006	0.001
LD ^{wt}	4.80	0.31	0.851	ref	4.71	0.27	0.816	ref
LD ^{mut}	3.62	0.31	<.001	<.001	3.69	0.27	<.001	<.001

	day 7				day 10				day 14			
	Counts	SE	P vs mock	P vs other	Counts	SE	P vs mock	P vs other	Counts	SE	P vs mock	P vs other
NON-DIABETIC MICE												
Mock	1.55	0.20	ref	na	1.11	0.21	ref	na	0.52	0.28	ref	na
mAb21	1.13	0.29	0.146	ref	0.56	0.31	0.071	ref	-0.21	0.41	0.075	ref
mAb926	0.57	0.31	0.001	0.066	0.25	0.31	0.006	0.335	-0.18	0.41	0.089	0.944
LD ^{wt}	1.10	0.28	0.11	ref	0.58	0.29	0.07	ref	-0.12	0.38	0.094	ref
LD ^{mut}	0.67	0.28	0.002	0.12	0.22	0.30	0.003	0.226	-0.37	0.39	0.023	0.512
DIABETIC MICE												
Mock	4.83	0.18	ref	na	4.86	0.18	ref	na	4.92	0.22	ref	na
mAb21	4.87	0.25	0.85	ref	4.81	0.25	0.841	ref	4.73	0.30	0.541	ref
mAb926	4.13	0.25	0.005	0.002	4.19	0.26	0.009	0.014	4.28	0.31	0.037	0.125
LD ^{wt}	4.60	0.25	0.367	ref	4.52	0.26	0.182	ref	4.41	0.30	0.095	ref
LD ^{mut}	3.79	0.25	<.001	0.001	3.87	0.26	<.001	0.012	3.97	0.30	0.002	0.141

FIGURE 8

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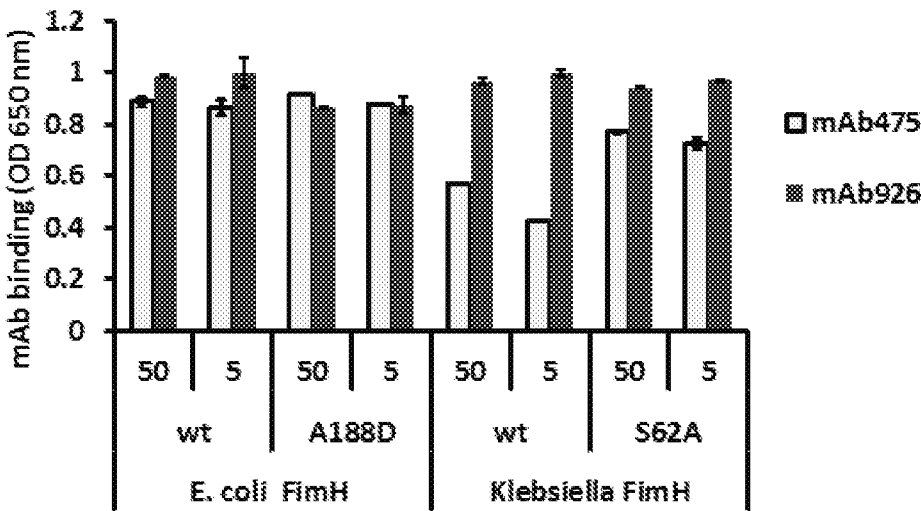


FIGURE 9

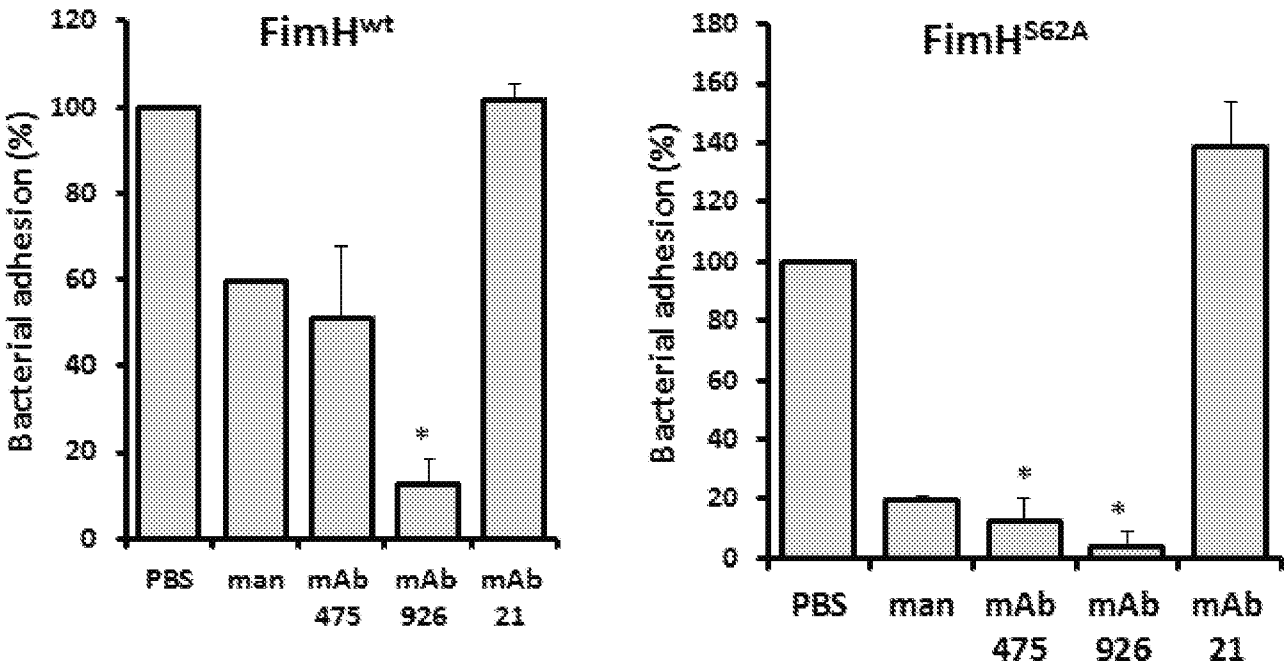


FIGURE 10

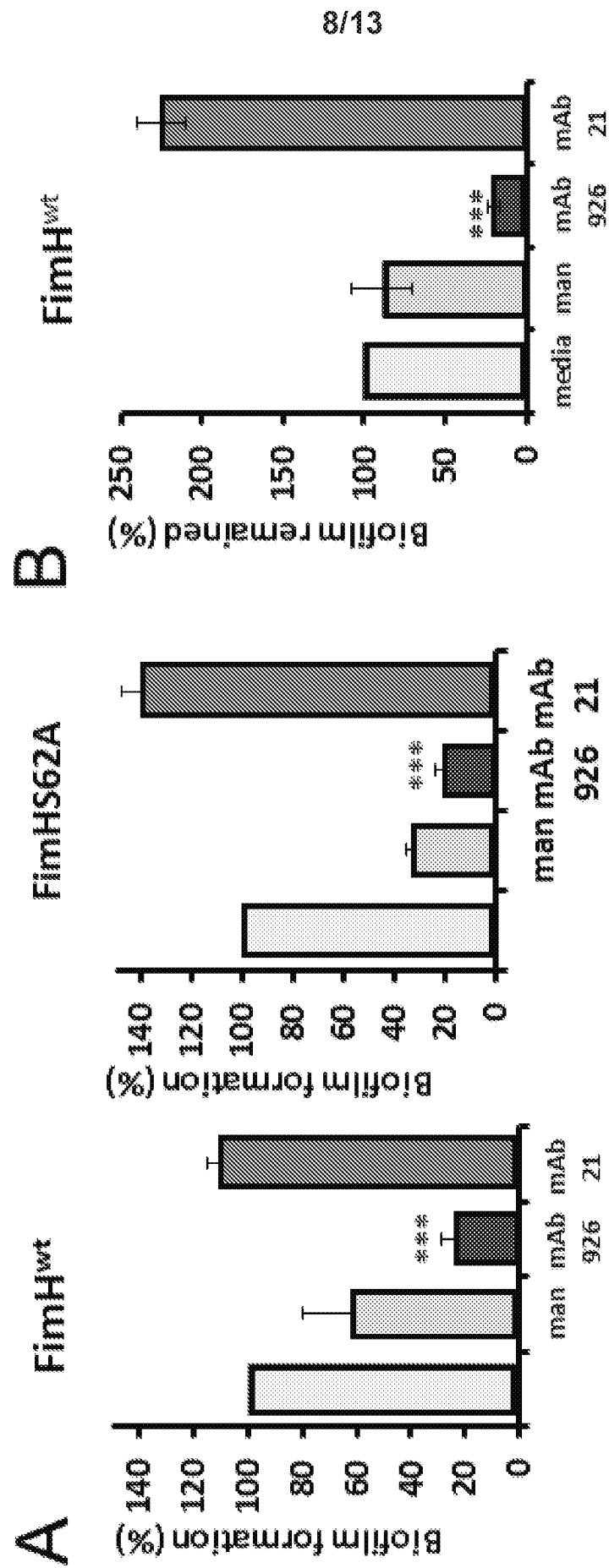


FIGURE 11

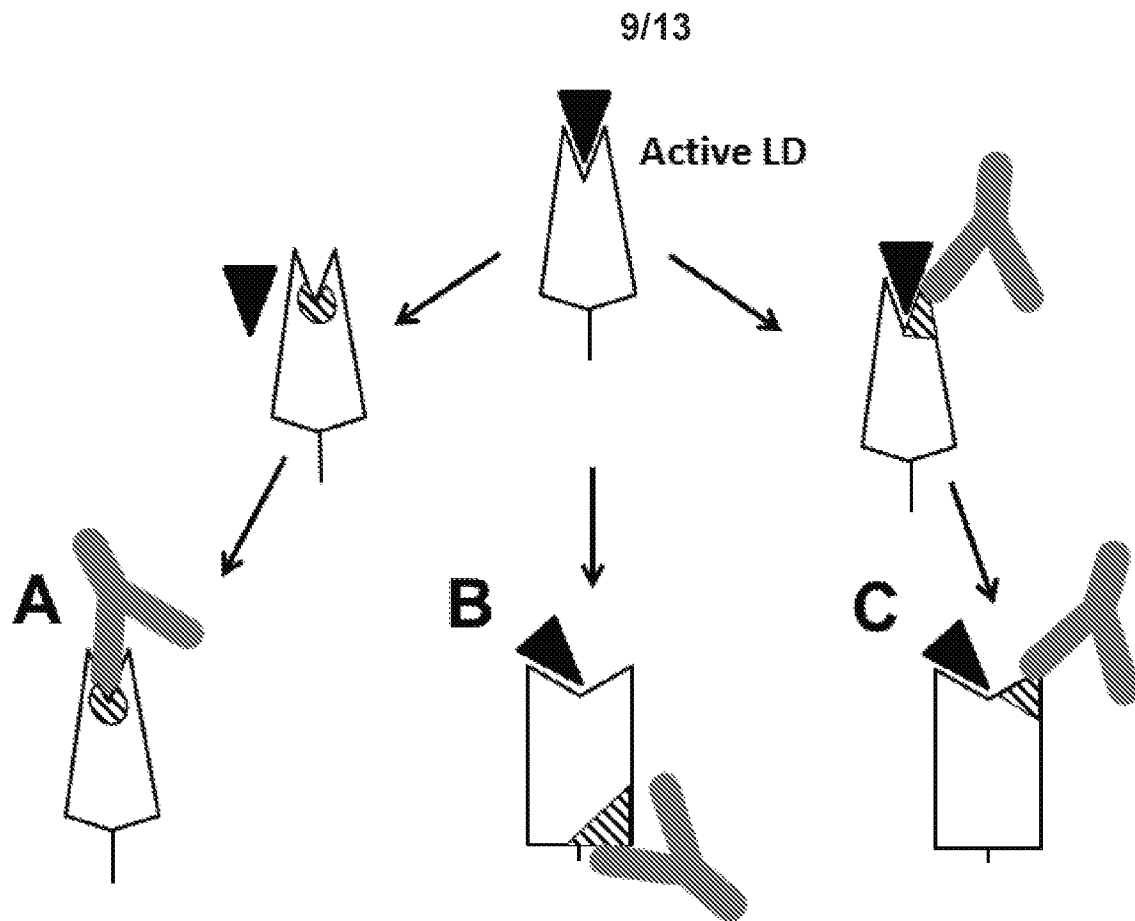


FIGURE 12

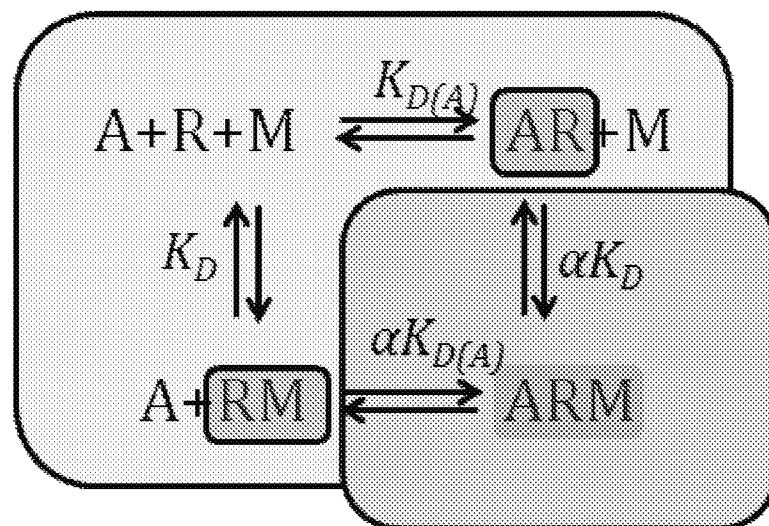


FIGURE 15

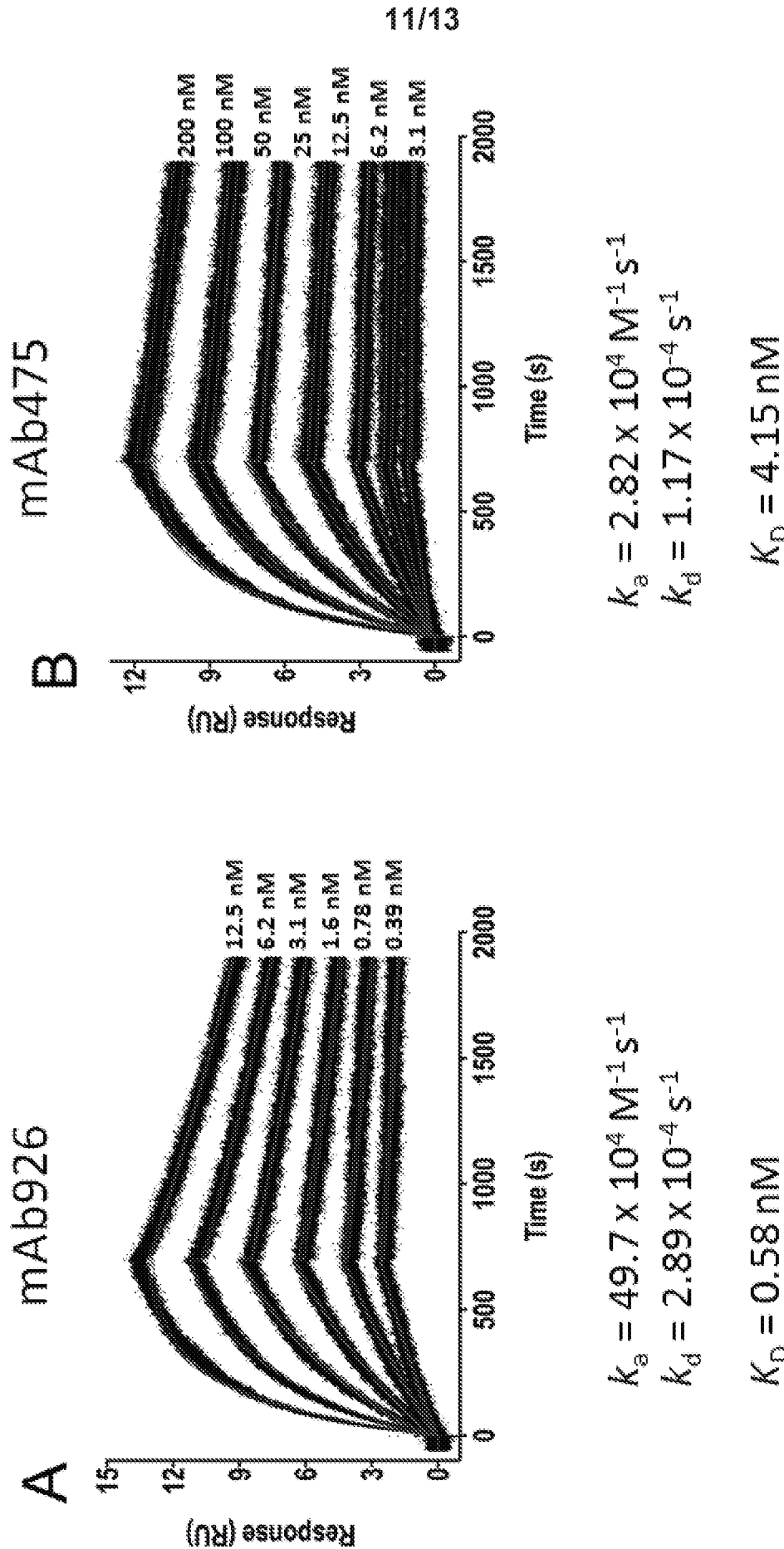


FIGURE 14

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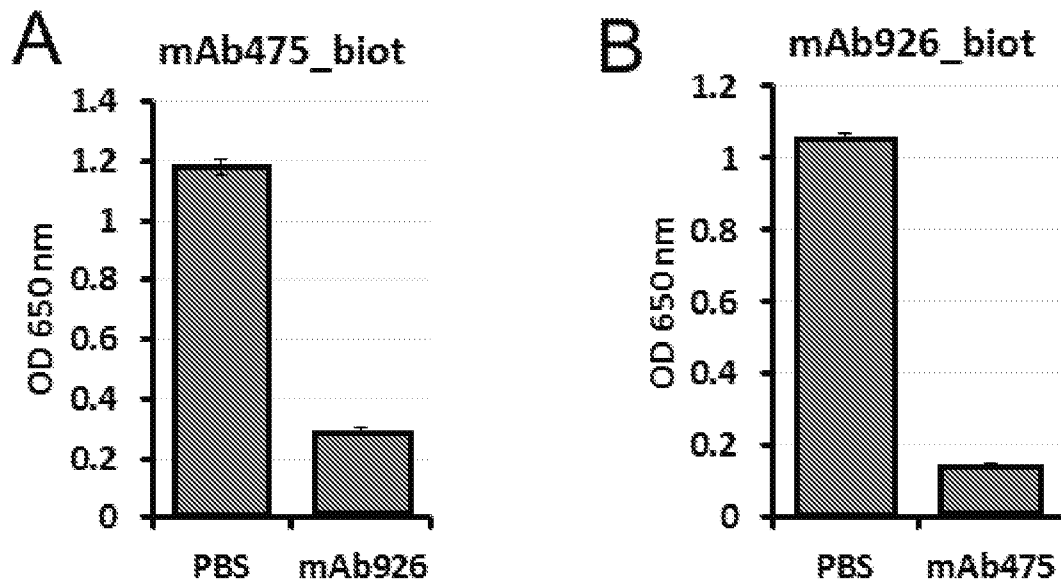


FIGURE 16

		Inactive						
ACTIVE	FimH AA	Phe1	Asn46	Asp47	Asp54	Gln133	Asn135	Asp140
	Phe1	0	5.6	4.4	4.3 (5.5)	4.8	10.4	15
	Asn46	5.5	0	3	3.6 (5.5)	7.4	10.5	15.7
	Asp47	3.8	2.9	0	5.1 (7.1)	8.1	12.4	17.3
	Asp54	4.4 (5.3)	3.4 (4.9)	4.4 (6.1)	0	2.9 (4)	5.7 (7.8)	11.4 (13.5)
	Gln133	5.4	7.8	8	3.5 (4.8)	0	6.4	11.3
	Asn135	7.6	8.2	9.3	4.5 (6.5)	4.3	0	6.3
	Asp140	7.3	10.1	10	7 (8.5)	5.3	4	0

FIGURE 17

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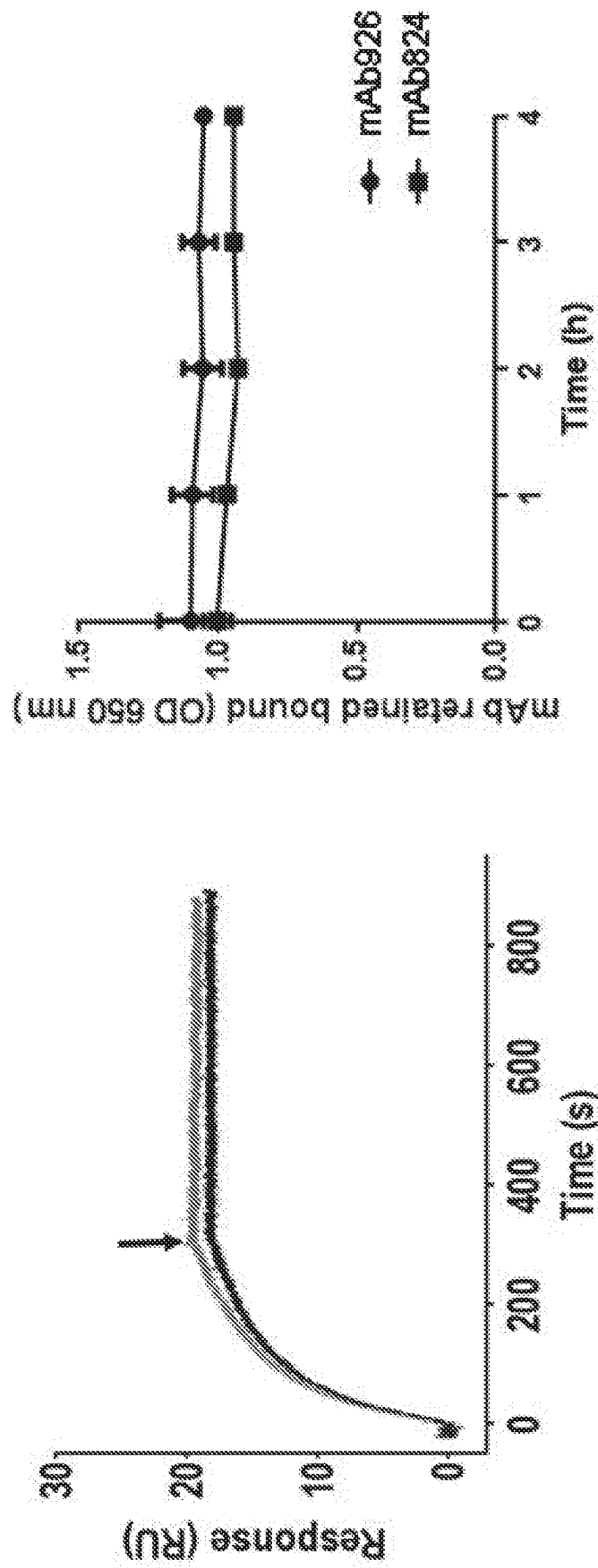


FIGURE 18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US16/32495

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - C07K 14/245, 16/12; A61K 39/02, 39/395; A61P 13/10 (2016.01)

CPC - C07K 14/245, 16/1232; A61K 39/0258, 39/395

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8) Classifications: C07K 14/245, 16/12; A61K 39/02, 39/395; A61P 13/10 (2016.01)

CPC Classifications: C07K 14/245, 16/1232; A61K 39/0258, 39/395

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PatSeer (US, EP, WO, JP, DE, GB, CN, FR, KR, ES, AU, IN, CA, INPADOC Data); Google/Google Scholar; PubMed; EBSCO; Lens.org
PatSeq; NCBI BLAST; ENA: 'Antibody', 'Escherichia coli', 'E. coli', 'fimbrial adhesion', 'FimH'

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	(KISIELA, DI et al.) Conformational Inactivation Induces Immunogenicity of the Receptor-Binding Pocket of a Bacterial Adhesin. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A. 19 November 2013, Vol. 110, No. 47, pages 19089-19094; abstract; page 19090, second column, third - fourth paragraphs; page 19092, first column, first paragraph; figure 3; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1314395110.	1-2, 3/1-2
A	WO 2012/047427 A2 (THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, et al.) April 12, 2012; Figure 4 Panel F	1-2, 3/1-2
A	US 2008/0044424 A1 (COHEN, SB et al.) February 21, 2008; Claim 7	1-2, 3/1-2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 August 2016 (09.08.2016)

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

Authorized officer

Shane Thomas

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US16/32495

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-18
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.