Year of publication 2020

Sandrine Moutel, Anne Beugnet, Aurélie Schneider, Bérangère Lombard, Damarys Loew, Sebastian Amigorena, Franck Perez, Elodie Segura (2020 Apr 1)

**Surface LSP-1 Is a Phenotypic Marker Distinguishing Human Classical versus Monocyte-Derived Dendritic Cells.**
iScience : 100987 : [DOI : S2589-0042(20)30171-1](https://doi.org/S2589-0042(20)30171-1)

**Summary**

Human mononuclear phagocytes comprise several subsets of dendritic cells (DCs), monocytes, and macrophages. Distinguishing one population from another is challenging, especially in inflamed tissues, owing to the promiscuous expression of phenotypic markers. Using a synthetic library of humanized llama single domain antibodies, we identified a novel surface marker for human naturally occurring monocyte-derived DCs. Our antibody targets an extra-cellular domain of LSP-1, specifically on monocyte-derived DCs, but not on other leukocytes, in particular monocytes, macrophages, classical DCs, or the recently described blood DC3 population. Our findings will pave the way for a better characterization of human mononuclear phagocytes in pathological settings.

Year of publication 2018

Sandrine Moutel, Clément Nizak, Franck Perez (2018 Sep 10)

**Selection and Use of Intracellular Antibodies.**

**Summary**

Intracellularly expressed recombinant antibodies, or intrabodies, are powerful tools for cell biology studies as well as therapeutic applications. Cell biologists use them to either block the intracellular antibody target or to image endogenous target dynamics. We describe here methods to select recombinant antibodies from antibody phage display libraries and to subsequently express them as fluorescent intrabodies.

Year of publication 2017

Valentina Galli, Rafael Sebastian, Sandrine Moutel, Jason Ecard, Franck Perez, Aurélien Roux (2017 Oct 13)

**Uncoupling of dynamin polymerization and GTPase activity revealed by the conformation-specific nanobody dynab.**
eLife : [DOI : 10.7554/eLife.25197](https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.25197)
Summary

Dynamin is a large GTPase that forms a helical collar at the neck of endocytic pits, and catalyzes membrane fission (Schmid and Frolov, 2011; Ferguson and De Camilli, 2012). Dynamin fission reaction is strictly dependent on GTP hydrolysis, but how fission is mediated is still debated (Antonny et al., 2016): GTP energy could be spent in membrane constriction required for fission, or in disassembly of the dynamin polymer to trigger fission. To follow dynamin GTP hydrolysis at endocytic pits, we generated a conformation-specific nanobody called dynab, that binds preferentially to the GTP hydrolytic state of dynamin-1. Dynab allowed us to follow the GTPase activity of dynamin-1 in real-time. We show that in fibroblasts, dynamin GTP hydrolysis occurs as stochastic bursts, which are randomly distributed relatively to the peak of dynamin assembly. Thus, dynamin disassembly is not coupled to GTPase activity, supporting that the GTP energy is primarily spent in constriction.

Ronan Crepin, Gianluca Veggiani, Selma Djender, Anne Beugnet, François Planeix, Christophe Pichon, Sandrine Moutel, Sebastian Amigorena, Franck Perez, Nicolae Ghinea, Ario de Marco (2017 Oct 12)

Whole-cell biopanning with a synthetic phage display library of nanobodies enabled the recovery of follicle-stimulating hormone receptor inhibitors.

Biochemical and biophysical research communications: 1567-1572 : DOI: S0006-291X(17)32006-5

Summary

Antibodies are essential reagents that are increasingly used in diagnostics and therapy. Their specificity and capacity to recognize their native antigen are critical characteristics for their in vivo application. Follicle-stimulating hormone receptor is a GPCR protein regulating ovarian follicular maturation and spermatogenesis. Recently, its potentiality as a cancer biomarker has been demonstrated but no antibody suitable for in vivo tumor targeting and treatment has been characterized so far. In this paper we describe the first successful attempt to recover recombinant antibodies against the FSHR and that: i) are directly panned from a pre-immune library using whole cells expressing the target receptor at their surface; ii) show inhibitory activity towards the FSH-induced cAMP accumulation; iii) do not share the same epitope with the natural binder FSH; iv) can be produced inexpensively as mono- or bivalent functional molecules in the bacterial cytoplasm. We expect that the proposed biopanning strategy will be profitable to identify useful functional antibodies for further members of the GPCR class.

Ronan Crépin, David Gentien, Angeline Duché, Audrey Rapinat, Cecile Reyes, Fariba Némati, Gérald Massonnet, Didier Decaudin, Selma Djender, Sandrine Moutel, Klervi Desrumeaux, Nathalie Cassoux, Sophie Piperno-Neumann, Sebastian Amigorena, Franck Perez, Sergio Roman Roman, Ario de Marco (2017 Feb 1)
Nanobodies against surface biomarkers enable the analysis of tumor genetic heterogeneity in uveal melanoma Patient Derived Xenografts.

*Pigment cell & melanoma research*: [DOI: 10.1111/pcmr.12577]

**Summary**

Monoclonal antibodies specific for biomarkers expressed on the surface of uveal melanoma (UM) cells would simplify the immune-capture and genomic characterization of heterogeneous tumor cells originated from patient derived xenografts (PDXs). Antibodies against four independent tumor antigens were isolated by panning a nanobody synthetic library. Such antibodies enabled flow-cytometry-based sorting of distinct cell sub-populations from UM PDXs and to analyze their genomic features. The complexity and specificity of the biochemical and genomic biomarker combinations mirrored the UM tumor polyclonality. The data showed that MUC18 is highly and universally displayed at the surface of UM cells with different genetic background and consequently represents a reliable pan-biomarker for their identification and purification. In contrast, the other three biomarkers were detected in very variable combinations in UM PDX cells. The availability of the identified nanobodies will be instrumental in developing clone-specific drug evaluation and rational clinical strategies based on accurate genomic profiling. This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

**Year of publication 2016**


**NaLi-H1: A universal synthetic library of humanized nanobodies providing highly functional antibodies and intrabodies.**

*eLife*: [DOI: 10.7554/eLife.16228]

**Summary**

In vitro selection of antibodies allows to obtain highly functional binders, rapidly and at lower cost. Here, we describe the first fully synthetic phage display library of humanized llama single domain antibody (NaLi-H1: Nanobody Library Humanized 1). Based on a humanized synthetic single domain antibody (hs2dAb) scaffold optimized for intracellular stability, the highly diverse library provides high affinity binders without animal immunization. NaLi-H1 was screened following several selection schemes against various targets (Fluorescent proteins, actin, tubulin, p53, HP1). Conformation antibodies against active RHO GTPase were also obtained. Selected hs2dAb were used in various immunoassays and were often found to be functional intrabodies, enabling tracking or inhibition of endogenous targets. Functionalization of intrabodies allowed specific protein knockdown in living cells. Finally, direct selection against the surface of tumor cells produced hs2dAb directed against tumor-specific antigens further highlighting the potential use of this library for therapeutic applications.
Year of publication 2015


**Resolving bundled microtubules using anti-tubulin nanobodies.**

*Nature communications* : 7933 : [DOI: 10.1038/ncomms8933]

**Summary**

Microtubules are hollow biopolymers of 25-nm diameter and are key constituents of the cytoskeleton. In neurons, microtubules are organized differently between axons and dendrites, but their precise organization in different compartments is not completely understood. Super-resolution microscopy techniques can detect specific structures at an increased resolution, but the narrow spacing between neuronal microtubules poses challenges because most existing labelling strategies increase the effective microtubule diameter by 20-40 nm and will thereby blend neighbouring microtubules into one structure. Here we develop single-chain antibody fragments (nanobodies) against tubulin to achieve super-resolution imaging of microtubules with a decreased apparent diameter. To test the resolving power of these novel probes, we generate microtubule bundles with a known spacing of 50-70 nm and successfully resolve individual microtubules. Individual bundled microtubules can also be resolved in different mammalian cells, including hippocampal neurons, allowing novel insights into fundamental mechanisms of microtubule organization in cell- and neurobiology.

Year of publication 2014

Selma Djender, Aurelie Schneider, Anne Beugnet, Ronan Crepin, Klervi Even Desrumeaux, Chiara Romani, Sandrine Moutel, Franck Perez, Ario de Marco (2014 Sep 17)

**Bacterial cytoplasm as an effective cell compartment for producing functional VHH-based affinity reagents and Camelidae IgG-like recombinant antibodies.**

*Microbial cell factories* : 140 : [DOI: 10.1186/s12934-014-0140-1]

**Summary**

The isolation of recombinant antibody fragments from displayed libraries represents a powerful alternative to the generation of IgGs using hybridoma technology. The selected antibody fragments can then be easily engineered into (multi)-tagged constructs of variable mass and complexity as well as reconstituted into Camelidae IgG-like molecules when expressed fused to Fc domains. Nevertheless, all antibody constructs depend on an oxidizing environment for correct folding and consequently still belong to the proteins difficult to express in bacteria. In such organisms they are mostly produced at low yields in the periplasmic space.
Intracellularly expressed recombinant antibodies, or intrabodies, are powerful tools for cell biology studies as well as therapeutic applications. Cell biologists use them to either block the intracellular antibody target or to image endogenous target dynamics. We describe here methods to select recombinant antibodies from antibody phage display libraries and to subsequently express them as fluorescent intrabodies.

In the 1980s, progress in molecular biology enabled the manipulation and cloning of antibody fragments as functional scFv (single chain Fv). Because of their small size and relative ease of expression, scFv opened the road for new medical and biotechnological applications. scFvs can be easily expressed and targeted to different cellular compartments (cytosol, nucleus, endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, inner surface of the plasma membrane, etc.), using specific signals to target or retain them in a given compartment. Recombinant antibodies can thus be used as intracellular antibodies (intrabody) to neutralize, disrupt or track endogenous antigen. Intrabodies not only represent new tools for fundamental research to study the dynamics of endogenous proteins, but may also bring interesting options for applied research in terms of intracellular immunization for therapeutic use.
In the current post-genomic era, large scale efforts are underway to functionally explore the proteome by assembling large antibody libraries. However, because many proteins are modified post-translationally to regulate their function, collections of modification-specific sensors are also needed. Here we applied a novel approach to select monoclonal phosphospecific antibodies directly from the full-length protein and without up-front phosphoamino acid identification. We chose as antigen GRASP65, a well studied Golgi phosphoprotein. Bacterially produced full-length protein was first incubated with mitotic cytosol, thus allowing modification by naturally occurring kinases, and then used directly for affinity-based antibody selection using a single chain variable fragment phagemid library. In less than 1 week, three distinct and highly functional monoclonal phosphospecific antibodies against two GRASP65 epitopes were obtained and subsequently characterized. The presented approach is carried out fully in vitro, requires no prior knowledge of the phosphoamino acid identity, and is fast and inexpensive. It therefore has great potential to be an attractive alternative to classic animal-based protocols for the selection of post-translation modification sensors and thus to become an invaluable tool in our quest to understand the proteome in all its complexity.


**A multi-Fc-species system for recombinant antibody production.**


**Summary**

Genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic projects often suffer from a lack of functional validation creating a strong demand for specific and versatile antibodies. Antibody phage display represents an attractive approach to select rapidly in vitro the equivalent of monoclonal antibodies, like single chain Fv antibodies, in an inexpensive and animal free way. However, so far, recombinant antibodies have not managed to impose themselves as efficient alternatives to natural antibodies.


**Fully in vitro selection of recombinant antibodies.**

*Biotechnology journal* : 38-43 : [DOI : 10.1002/biot.200800246](https://doi.org/10.1002/biot.200800246)

**Summary**

Antibodies are essential for the identification and characterization of proteins. In the current postgenomic era the need for highly specific antibodies has further increased not only for research applications but also because they represent one of the most promising therapeutic options, especially in the field of cancer treatment. One appealing approach for rapid and inexpensive antibody generation is the use of phage display. This technique allows for a fast and animal-free selection of highly functional alternatives to classical antibodies. However,
one strong limitation of this recombinant approach has been the difficulty in producing and 
purifying antigens. These steps have to be adjusted for each new target, are time consuming 
and sometimes present an insurmountable obstacle. Here we report the development of new 
antibody selection approach where antigens are produced through in vitro translation and 
are used directly and without the need for purification. With this approach we were able to 
rapidly select recombinant antibodies directed against GFP and the mammalian protein 
tsg101, respectively. We believe that our method greatly facilitates antigen preparation and 
thus may broaden the use of the recombinant approach for antibody generation, especially 
since the technique could in the future be adapted to a high-throughput technology, thus 
further accelerating antibody selection.

Year of publication 2008

Ariane Dimitrov, Mélanie Quesnoit, Sandrine Moutel, Isabelle Cantaloube, Christian Poüs, Franck 
Perez (2008 Oct 16)

Detection of GTP-tubulin conformation in vivo reveals a role for GTP remnants in 
microtubule rescues.

Science (New York, N.Y.) : 1353-6 : DOI: 10.1126/science.1165401

Summary

Microtubules display dynamic instability, with alternating phases of growth and shrinkage 
separated by catastrophe and rescue events. The guanosine triphosphate (GTP) cap at the 
growing end of microtubules, whose presence is essential to prevent microtubule 
catastrophes in vitro, has been difficult to observe in vivo. We selected a recombinant 
antibody that specifically recognizes GTP-bound tubulin in microtubules and found that GTP-
tubulin was indeed present at the plus end of growing microtubules. Unexpectedly, GTP-
tubulin remnants were also present in older parts of microtubules, which suggests that GTP 
hydrolysis is sometimes incomplete during polymerization. Observations in living cells 
suggested that these GTP remnants may be responsible for the rescue events in which 
microtubules recover from catastrophe.

Sandrine Moutel, Franck Perez (2008 Mar 19)

“Antibodies-Europe. Engineering the next generation of antibodies”.

Biotechnology journal : 298-300 : DOI: 10.1002/biot.200800011

Summary