Construction of single-chain variable fragment antibodies against MCF-7 breast cancer cells

A.A. Zuhaida¹, A.M. Ali¹², S. Tamilselvan³, N.B. Alitheen⁴, M. Hamid¹⁴, A.M. Noor² and S.K. Yeap¹

¹Laboratory of Molecular Biomedicine, Institute of Bioscience, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia
²Faculty of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, City Campus, Jalan Sultan Mahmud, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
³Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biotechnology & Biomolecular Sciences, University Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia
⁴Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biotechnology & Biomolecular Sciences, University Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia

Corresponding author: N.B. Alitheen
E-mail: noorjahan@biotech.upm.edu.my

Received September 24, 2012
Accepted March 25, 2013
Published November 18, 2013
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/2013.November.18.5

ABSTRACT. A phage display library of single chain variable fragment (scFv) against MCF-7 breast cancer cells was constructed from C3A8 hybridoma cells. RNA from the C3A8 was isolated, cDNA was constructed, and variable heavy and light immunoglobulin chain gene region were amplified using PCR. The variable heavy and light chain gene regions were combined with flexible linker, linked to a pCANTAB 5E phagemid vector and electrophoresed into supE strain of Escherichia coli TG1 cells. Forty-eight clones demonstrated positive binding activity to MCF-7 breast cancer cell membrane fragments and the strongest of 48 clones was selected for analysis. The anti-MCF-7 library evaluated by SfiI and NotI digests demonstrated that anti-MCF-7 scFv
antibodies possess individual patterns that should be able to recognize distinct human breast cancer cells. The C3A8 scFv, with an apparent molecular weight of 32 kDa, showed high homology (99%) with single chain antibody against rice stripe virus protein P20. In summary, the anti MCF-7 scFv antibody can be used for pretargeting breast cancer for clinical diagnosis of patients; it also has potential for therapeutic applications.

**Key words:** Recombinant antibody; scFv; C3A8; MCF-7