



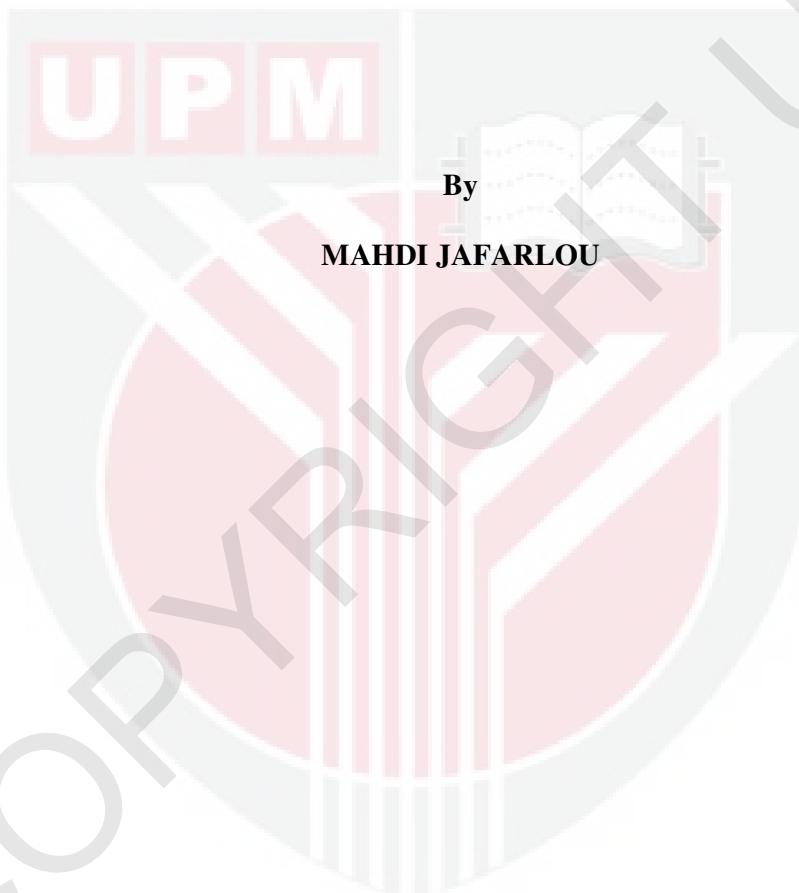
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***GENERATION AND VALIDATION OF ASPERGILLUS FUMIGATUS
MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES***

MAHDI JAFARLOU

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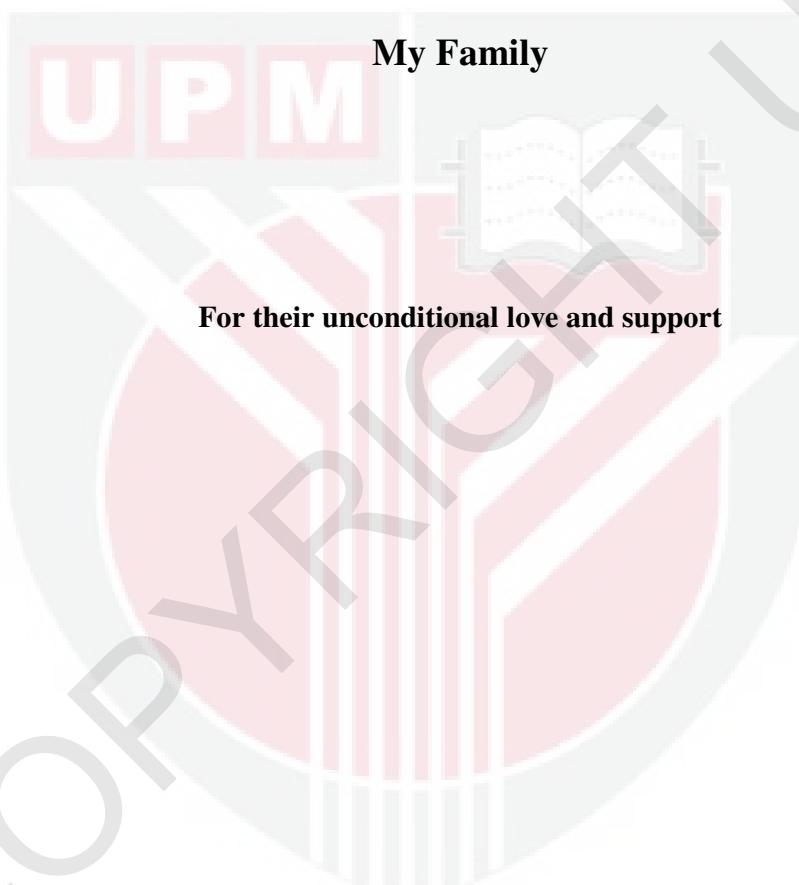
**GENERATION AND VALIDATION OF *ASPERGILLUS FUMIGATUS*
MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES**



**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

July 2009

Specially dedicated to,



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**GENERATION AND VALIDATION OF *Aspergillus fumigatus* MONOCLONAL
ANTIBODIES**

By

MAHDI JAFARLOU

July 2009

Chair: Seow Heng Fong, PhD

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

Aspergillus fumigatus is a ubiquitous thermo tolerant fungus associated with a number of diseases in humans and animals. People at high risk for aspergillosis include patients with advanced AIDS, prolonged neutropenia, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, solid organ transplant recipients, and chronic granulomatous disease. The diagnosis of invasive fungal infections is difficult, and most mycology laboratories depend on the blood culture system, and the serology diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis has low sensitivity and specificity. Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) due to their binding specificity, their homogeneity and great ability to be produced in unlimited quantities are important in diagnosis. The main objective of the present research was to develop specific monoclonal antibodies to help in the early detection of invasive aspergillosis.

The hybridoma cells were obtained by fusing *A. fumigatus*-hyperimmunised Balb/c splenocytes with Sp 2/0-Ag14 (Sp2) myeloma cells using polyethylene glycol with

molecular weight of 1450 (PEG 1450). Positive clones were screened by ELISA. Clones with high titre were selected after 4th limiting dilution, and analyzed with Western blotting. ELISA was carried out to determine the isotypes of antibodies. An ELISA based cross-reactivity test was done to examine the cross-reacts of mAbs with other species of *Aspergillus* and *Candida*. The result of isotype test showed that mAbs 1F8, 3B3, 4C6, 4E9, 5B8, 7D7 and 8G3 were IgG₁; mAbs 2G10 was IgG₃ and 3B2, 7B2 and 8F4 were IgM and none of the hybridoma clones produced IgA. Kappa (κ) light chains were found in all of the mAbs. Both of mAb 4C6 (97 kDa) and mAb 7D7 (58 kDa) were chosen for *in vivo* production. Mabs 4C6, 7D7 had a strong reactivity with *A. Fumigatus* crude extract and did not show any cross-reactivity with other pathogenic species of *Aspergillus* and *Candida*. The above antibodies displayed a substantial amount of sensitivity and specificity and both of mAbs were able to stain and clearly identify the hyphae and conidia of *A. fumigatus* by immunofluorescence. The study concluded that mAb 4C6 and mAb 7D7 are able to be used as an immunoprobe for recognition of epitopes responsible for shared antigenicity of fungal glycoproteins, for examining their expression during hyphal and conidial morphogenesis.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai
memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENCIRIAN DAN PENGHASILAN *Aspergillus fumigatus* ANTIBODI
MONOKLONAL**

Oleh

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Aspergillus fumigatus adalah sejenis kulat yang boleh dijumpai di merata tempat dan mempunyai toleransi terhadap haba. Ia sering dikaitkan dengan beberapa jenis penyakit di kalangan manusia dan haiwan. Orang ramai yang berisiko menghadapi penyakit aspergilosis termasuklah pesakit yang menghidapi penyakit AIDS peringkat lanjut, neutropenia berpanjangan, penerima pemindahan sel stem hematopoetik allogenik, penerima pemindahan organ, dan penyakit granulomatous yang kronik. Diagnosis untuk infeksi kulat invasif adalah sukar dan kebanyakan makmal bergantung pada sistem kultur darah. Walau bagaimanapun, diagnosis serologi untuk aspergilosis invasif mempunyai sensitiviti dan spesifikasi yang rendah. Antibodi monoklonal didapati mempunyai peranan yang sangat penting dalam identifikasi dan rawatan penyakit aspergilosis disebabkan oleh kemampuannya untuk bertindak secara spesifik, kehomogeneitiannya serta kebolehannya untuk dihasilkan dalam kuantiti yang tidak terhingga. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk penghasilan

antibodi monoklonal yang spesifik bagi membantu pengesan awal penyakit aspergilosis invasif. Kami memperoleh sel hibridoma dengan menyatukan *A. fumigatus*-sel limpa Balb/c dihiperimmunisasi dengan sel myeloma Sp 2/0-Ag14 (Sp2) dengan penggunaan polietilene glycol dengan berat molekular sebanyak 1450 (PEG 1450). Klon positif dipilih menerusi teknik ELISA. Klon-klon dengan nilai titer yang tinggi dipilih selepas pencairan terhad yang ke-4 dan dianalisis dengan ujian Western pemblotan. Teknik ELISA dijalankan untuk menentukan isotaip antibodi yang diperoleh. Ujian menunjukkan bahawa mAbs 1F8, 3B3, 4C6, 4E9, 5B8, 7D7 dan 8G3 adalah IgG₁; mAb 2G10 adalah IgG₃ dan 3B2, 7B2 dan 8F4 adalah IgM and tidak ada sebarang klon hibridoma tersebut yang menghasilkan IgA. Rantai ringan Kappa (κ) dijumpai dalam semua mAbs yang dihasilkan. Kedua-dua mAb 4C6 (97 kDa) dan mAb 7D7 (58 kDa) telah dipilih untuk produksi secara *in vivo* dan purifikasi. Ia tidak menunjukkan sebarang tindak balas dengan sepesies lain di kalangan *Aspergillus* dan *Candida*.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotation and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

MAHDI JAFARLOU

Date: 28 July 2009



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADCC	antibody – dependent cell – mediated cytotoxicity
ABTS	2,2'-Azinobis [3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid]-diammonium salt
AP	alkaline phosphatase
APS	ammonium persulfate
BSA	bovine serum albumin
°C	degree Celsius
Cm	Centimeter
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
dH ₂ O	distilled water
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagles' Medium
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EBV	Epstein – Barr virus
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
ELISA	enzyme – linked immunosorbent assay
F	fusion (glycoprotein)
FACS	fluorescence activated cell sorter
Fc	fragment crystallisable (Ig)
FBS	fetal bovine serum
g	force of gravity
g	Gram
h	Hour
H ₂ O ₂	hydrogen peroxide
HAT	hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine
HFCS	hybridoma guanine phosphoribosyl transferase

HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
Ig	Immunoglobulin
Ip	Intraperitoneal
Iv	Intravenous
Kb	Kilobase
L	large (protein)
μg	Microgram
μL	Microlitre
μm	Micrometer
M	Molar
mAb	monoclonal antibody
mAbs	monoclonal antibodies
mg	Milligram
Min	minute (time)
mL	Milliliter
Mm	Millimeter
mM	Millimolar
MOPC	mineral oil plasmacytoma
NA	Neuraminidase
P	Phosphoprotein
pAbs	polyclonal antibodies
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
PBST	phosphate buffered saline – Tween – 20
PEG	polyethylene glycol
pg	Pictogram
RBC	red blood cell
RNA	ribonucleic acid
rpm	revolutions per minute
RT	room temperature

S	second (time)
Sc	Subcutaneous
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulphate
SDS -PAGE	sodium dodecyl sulphate – polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SDA	Sabouraud Dextrose Agar
SDB	Sabouraud Dextrose Broth
SPP	Species
TMB	3,3',5,5' - tetramethylbenzidine
Tris	Tris – (hydroxymethyl) – aminomethane
UV	Ultraviolet
v/v	volume for volume
w/v	weight for volume

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Aspergillus fumigatus is an opportunistic and one of the most ubiquitous of the airborne saprophytic fungi which causes a number of life threatening diseases in humans and animals.

Invasive aspergillosis which occurs in a wide range of clinical scenarios, including allergic aspergillosis, colonization of cavities with or without the formation of a fungus ball (mainly in the lungs, paranasal sinuses, bronchiectasis), acute to chronic necrotizing invasive forms, ocular infections (keratitis), otomycosis, endocarditis, osteomyelitis and skin infections, is protean in its manifestations, and is still associated with an unacceptably high mortality rate. People most at risk for aspergillosis include patients with advanced AIDS, prolonged neutropenia, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, solid organ transplant recipients, and chronic granulomatous disease.

Antibodies are important tools used by many investigators in their research and have led to many medical advances. Monoclonal antibodies have been used as essential research tools for multiplicity of research purposes, including Western blotting, immunohistochemistry, immunocyto chemistry, enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA), immuno precipitation and flow cytometric analysis. In addition, antibodies are now being designed for therapeutic applications, including suppression of the immune

system after organ transplantation (Koch et al., 2002; Bumgardner et al., 2001a) treatment of cancers such as leukemia and inhibition of angiogenesis (Stephan et al., 2004).

Aspergillosis accounted for almost half of the cases of fungal infections. The diagnosis of invasive fungal infections is difficult and most mycology laboratories depend on the blood culture system. The positive yield of blood culture unfortunately is less than 15% of patients suspected of having invasive fungal infections. Serology diagnosis of invasive aspergillosis has low sensitivity and specificity. Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) due to their binding specificity, homogeneity and great ability to be produced in unlimited quantities are important in diagnosis. The main objective of the present research is to develop specific monoclonal antibodies to help in the early detection of invasive aspergillosis.

The difficulties of early diagnosis and treatment of fungal infections have given rise to high mortality rate. Indeed, these infections are all too frequently diagnosed at an advanced stage and prone to rapid progression (Segal and Walsh, 2006).

Monoclonal antibodies are produced by cell lines or clones obtained from animals that have been immunized with the substance that is the subject of study. The cell lines are produced by fusing B cells from the immunized animal with myeloma cells. A major advantage of using mAb rather than polyclonal antiserum is the potential availability of almost infinite quantities of a specific monoclonal antibody directed toward a single epitope (Kohler and Milstein, 1975).

In fact, the importance of early and accurate diagnosis of Aspergillus infections and its substantiated pathogenic impact is the main reason to venture into generating monoclonal antibodies.

Current study conducted on (1) culture of *A. fumigatus* ATCC 36607 and extraction of crude antigen to *A. fumigatus*, (2) generate a panel of murine monoclonal antibodies against *A. fumigatus* ATCC 36607 (3) *in-vivo* production of monoclonals either *in-vivo* and *in-vitro*, (4) validate the selected hybridomas clones

Specifically, the main objective of this study was to generation specific monoclonal antibodies against *A. fumigatus*, which can be used to develop an accurate and rapid diagnostic test to *aspergillosis*.

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