-continued

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actgtgactg gttgctga                                                 1578
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What is claimed is:

1. A method for the prevention of the reduction of a disulfide bond in an antibody expressed in a recombinant host cell, comprising, following fermentation, sparging the pre-harvest or harvested culture fluid of said recombinant host cell with air, wherein the amount of dissolved oxygen (dO_2) in the pre-harvest or harvested culture fluid is at least 10%.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein said air sparging is continued until the pre-harvest or harvested culture fluid is at least 30% saturated with air.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein said air sparging is continued until the pre-harvest or harvested culture fluid is between about 100% saturated to about 30% saturated with air.

4. The method of claim **1** wherein the amount of dissolved oxygen (dO_2) in the pre-harvest or harvested culture fluid is at least 30%.

5. The method of claim **1** wherein the antibody is a therapeutic antibody.

6. The method of claim **1** wherein the antibody is a biologically functional fragment of an antibody.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein the host cell is eukaryotic host cell.

8. The method of claim **7** wherein the eukaryotic host cell is a mammalian host cell.

9. The method of claim **1** wherein the host cell is prokaryotic host cell.

10. The method of claim **9** wherein the prokaryotic host cell is a bacterial cell.

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