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(54) **THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR BREAST CANER COMPRISING BIG3-PHB2  
INTERACTION-INHIBITING PEPTIDE DERIVED FROM PHB2**

(57) The present invention provides peptides containing the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide, and pharmaceutical compositions containing the peptide. The peptides of the present invention have the ability to bind not to PHB2, whose expression is found in organs throughout the hu-

man body, but to BIG3, which is a protein highly expressed specifically in particularly estrogen receptor-positive cancer, and have excellent growth suppressive effects on BIG3-positive cancer cells. Accordingly, the peptides of the present invention are useful as therapeutic agents for breast cancer which can avoid expression of side effects.

**EP 3 889 264 A1**

**Description**

[Technical Field]

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates to PHB2-derived peptides that inhibit BIG3-PHB2 interaction and therapeutic agents for breast cancer comprising the peptide.

[Background Art]

10 **[0002]** Estrogen-receptor  $\alpha$  (ER $\alpha$ ) plays a key role in the development and progression of breast cancer. The current endocrine therapies for breast cancer mainly target ER $\alpha$  signaling, and use selective ER $\alpha$  modulators (for example, tamoxifen and raloxifene), ER $\alpha$  down-regulators (for example, fulvestrant), and aromatase inhibitors (AI) (NPLs 1 to 3). Among these therapies, a method that uses tamoxifen, which inhibits breast cancer cell proliferation through competitive binding to ER $\alpha$ , is a standard therapy for patients with ER $\alpha$ -positive breast cancer. However, tamoxifen therapy is often  
 15 ineffective, and the patient may die from recurrent endocrine therapy-resistant tumors (NPLs 4 and 5). Furthermore, compared with tamoxifen, AI, which blocks estrogen synthesis, provides substantial clinical effects such as good efficacy, significant increase in relapse-free survival period, and a prolonged time to disease recurrence in postmenopausal women; however, some patients who have undergone AI treatment still relapse (NPLs 6 and 7). The precise molecular events having effects on the efficacy of these endocrine therapies remain unknown.

20 **[0003]** A complex formed between brefeldin A-inhibited guanine nucleotide-exchange protein 3 (BIG3), which is a cancer specific protein, and prohibitin 2 (PHB2), which is a tumor suppressor, plays a key role in estrogen signaling regulation in ER $\alpha$ -positive breast cancer (NPLs 8 and 9). BIG3 binds to PHB2 to inhibit the ability of PHB2, which suppresses the estrogen-dependent transcriptional activation, and thereby causes constitutive ER $\alpha$  activation.

25 **[0004]** Based on these findings, strategies of making PHB2 exhibit its tumor suppressive activity by dissociating PHB2 from its complex with BIG3 through inhibition of the BIG3-PHB2 interaction, may become a novel therapy for breast cancer. Based on this strategy, the present inventors have previously developed a dominant negative peptide of BIG3, which specifically inhibits the BIG3-PHB2 interaction (PTL 1). This peptide has been confirmed to suppress breast cancer growth by reactivating the tumor suppressive activity of PHB2 to inhibit ER $\alpha$ -signaling pathways that bring about the growth of breast cancer (PTL 1).  
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[Citation List]

[Patent Literature]

35 **[0005]** [PTL 1] WO 2013/018690

[Non-Patent Literature]

**[0006]**

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[Summary of Invention]

[Technical Problem]

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**[0007]** As noted above, it has been elucidated that an estrogen receptor (ER) activation regulator, BIG3, interacts with a suppressor, PHB2, to cause constitutive activation of ER and that a BIG3-PHB2 interaction-targeting inhibitory peptide (ERAP; the amino acid sequence at positions 165 to 177 (QMLS DLT LQLRQR; SEQ ID NO: 33) of the BIG3 protein)

has the effect of suppressing estrogen (E2)-dependent breast cancer cell growth (PTL 1; WO2017/126461). However, although ERAP, derived from the BIG3 sequence, achieves the interaction inhibition by binding to PHB2, it cannot be denied that ERAP exerts non-selective effects in organs other than cancer tissue because PHB2 expression is found in organs throughout the human body.

**[0008]** Accordingly, an objective of the present invention is to provide a therapeutic strategy which targets the BIG3-PHB2 interaction and can be expected to be highly selective for breast cancer.

[Solution to Problem]

**[0009]** The present inventors designed multiple PHB2-derived peptides (PHB2 peptides) based on the data of candidate protein interaction regions on the PHB2 amino acid sequence predicted through *in silico* analysis, and used these PHB2 peptides for screening to identify interaction regions using the effect of suppressing cell growth as an indicator. As a result, the present inventors succeeded in finding that PHB2 peptide No. 1 (11-RLPAGPRGMGTA-22 (SEQ ID NO: 1)) and PHB2 peptide No. 5 (76-QYPIIYDIRARPRKI-90 (SEQ ID NO: 5)) each have the effect of suppressing growth by about 50%, and in particular that the combination of PHB2 peptides Nos. 1 and 5 exhibits the effects of suppressing growth by 100% and inhibiting the BIG3-PHB2 interaction, as with ERAP. Furthermore, these effects were also observed for peptides consisting of sequences around PHB2 peptides Nos. 1 and 5 and for peptides in which amino acid residues at various positions in PHB2 peptides Nos. 1 and 5 have been substituted.

**[0010]** On the other hand, the cell growth suppressive effect of PHB2 peptides Nos. 1 and 5 was also observed on triple-negative breast cancer cells which do not express estrogen receptors and such but express BIG3. Moreover, the use of these peptides in combination showed enhancement of the effect. It is considered that in triple-negative breast cancer, which proliferates in a manner independent of proliferative signals such as hormones, its growth is activated by the binding between PHB2 and BIG3 without receipt of these signals in cells. It was suggested that the PHB2-derived peptides may suppress cell growth by inhibiting the binding between BIG3 and PHB2 in breast cancer expressing at least BIG3.

**[0011]** The present inventors thus found the PHB2-derived peptides which inhibit the BIG3-PHB2 interaction and exert an antitumor effect on E2-dependent breast cancer and triple-negative breast cancer, and completed the present invention. That is, the present invention provides the following peptides and uses thereof.

[1] A peptide, comprising a site binding to a BIG3 polypeptide in a PHB2 polypeptide, wherein the peptide inhibits the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide.

[2] The peptide of [1], wherein the peptide comprises any one or a combination of all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21; all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88; and all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57, in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide).

[3] A peptide, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a) to (f) below, wherein the peptide inhibits the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide:

(a) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41);

(b) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41);

(c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53);

(d) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53);

(e) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 82 and 83); and

(f) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 82 and 83).

[4] The peptide of [3], wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a') and (b') below:

(a') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than

those corresponding to glycine (Gly/G) at positions 15 and 18 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) are substituted with other amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41); and

(b') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than that corresponding to aspartic acid (Asp/D) at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) are substituted with other amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53).

[5] The peptide of any one of [1] to [4], wherein the peptide consists of 80 amino acid residues or less.

[6] The peptide of any one of [1] to [5], wherein the peptide consists of 25 amino acid residues or less.

[7] The peptide of any one of [1] to [6], wherein the peptide consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83).

[8] The peptide of any one of [1] to [7], wherein the peptide has been modified with a cell membrane-permeable substance.

[9] The peptide of any one of [1] to [8], wherein the peptide is cyclic.

[10] The peptide of any one of [1] to [9], wherein the peptide is cross-linked.

[11] The peptide of any one of [1] to [10], wherein the peptide has either or both of the following properties (i) and (ii):

(i) suppressing growth of BIG3-positive cells; and

(ii) promoting phosphorylation of a serine residue in the PHB2 polypeptide in BIG3-positive cells.

[12] A polynucleotide encoding the peptide of any one of [1] to [11].

[13] A pharmaceutical composition comprising: at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11], a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s); and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[14] The pharmaceutical composition of [13], wherein the composition comprises any one or a combination of: a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide); a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide); and a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide).

[15] The pharmaceutical composition of [13] or [14], which is for suppressing growth of cancer cells or for treatment and/or prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer.

[16] The pharmaceutical composition of [15], wherein the cancer is BIG3-positive cancer.

[17] The pharmaceutical composition of [15] or [16], wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

[18] The pharmaceutical composition of any one of [15] to [17], wherein the cancer is estrogen receptor-positive cancer.

[19] A method for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, wherein the method comprises administering to a subject at least one selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11]; a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s); and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s).

[20] The method of [19], wherein the method comprises administering any one or a combination of: a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide); a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide); and a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide).

[21] A method for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of pharmacotherapy-resistant breast cancer (for example, triple-negative breast cancer), wherein the method comprises: selecting a patient with pharmacotherapy-resistant breast cancer (for example, a patient with triple-negative breast cancer); and administering to a subject at least one selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11], a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s).

**[0012]** Alternatively, the present invention provides use of at least one selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11] mentioned above, a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s), in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer. Furthermore, the present invention relates to at least one

selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11] mentioned above, a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s), for use in either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer. Moreover, the present invention relates to methods of manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, the method comprising mixing or compounding with a carrier at least one selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of [1] to [11] mentioned above, a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s).

#### [Advantageous Effects of Invention]

**[0013]** The peptides of the present invention have the ability to bind to BIG3, a protein highly expressed specifically in, among others, estrogen receptor-positive cancer, and not to PHB2, of which expression is observed in organs throughout the human body, and can inhibit the BIG3-PHB2 interaction. Thus, the peptides of the present invention can be expected to have high selectivity for estrogen receptor-positive cancer.

**[0014]** Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention exhibit a growth suppressive effect not only on estrogen-dependent breast cancer cells but also on triple-negative breast cancer cells. For triple-negative breast cancer, there has so far been no effective molecular target drug, and treatment with existing anticancer agents having strong side effects has been the only option. On the other hand, the cell growth suppressive effect of the peptides of the present invention was not observed in normal mammary gland epithelial cells which did not express BIG3. These suggest that the peptides of the present invention are useful as therapeutic drugs for BIG3-positive cancer, regardless of whether the cancer is hormone-dependent or not.

#### [Brief Description of Drawings]

#### **[0015]**

Fig. 1-1: screening for PHB2 sequence-derived peptides which suppress estrogen-dependent cell growth is shown. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides, and then immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. The full-length sequence of human PHB2 protein is shown below the graph, and synthetic peptides in which eight arginine residues were added to the C terminus of the underlined sequences were used in the assay. Moreover, the bold letters represent amino acids which are suggested to be involved in the interaction with BIG3 by *in silico* analysis, boxed "S" represents the phosphorylation site of PHB2, and the broken line represents a region whose binding to PHB2 has been demonstrated.

Fig. 1-2 (B, C): MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides surrounding 11-22aa (B) and 76-90aa (C) (SEQ ID NOs: 1, 34 to 43, 5, and 44 to 55), and then immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. The positions of the PHB2-derived sequences contained in the synthetic peptides used in the assay are shown on the left side of the graph.

Fig. 1-3 (D): MCF-7 was treated with the combinations of 10  $\mu$ M PHB2 sequence-derived peptide 11-22aa with 10  $\mu$ M each of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides surrounding 76-90aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. (E): MCF-7 was treated with the combinations of 10  $\mu$ M PHB2 sequence-derived peptide 76-90aa with 10  $\mu$ M each of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides surrounding 11-22aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 2 shows the effect by combination of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa on the suppression of estrogen-dependent growth. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of ERAP (positive control), PHB2 peptides 11-22aa, 76-90aa, and 86-100aa (negative control), a combination of 11-22aa and 76-90aa, and a combination of 76-90aa and 86-100aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (B): The suppressive effects of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa and their combination on the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2 in MCF-7 were evaluated by Western blotting. MCF-7 was treated with 1  $\mu$ M and 10  $\mu$ M each of PHB2 peptides for 24 hours, and the cells were then lysed and immunoprecipitated with an anti-BIG3 antibody to perform immunoblot analysis using the antibodies shown in the figure. The percent binding inhibition is represented as the ratio when taking the PHB2 band area in untreated cells as 100. (C): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of ERAP, PHB2 peptides 11-22aa, 76-90aa, and 86-100aa, a

combination of 11-22aa and 76-90aa, and a combination of 76-90aa and 86-100, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the phosphorylation of PHB2 (Ser39) after 24 hours by Western blotting. The strength of phosphorylation is represented as the ratio when taking the phosphorylated band area of ERAP treatment in the presence of estrogen as 1.0.

Fig. 3 shows the effect of PHB2 peptide 11-90aa on estrogen-dependent growth and on the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with PHB2 peptides 11-90aa (20, 50, and 100  $\mu$ M), 11-22aa (50  $\mu$ M), and 76-90aa (50  $\mu$ M), and a combination of 11-22aa and 76-90aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (B): The inhibition effects of PHB2 peptides 11-90aa and 10  $\mu$ M ERAP (positive control) on the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2 in MCF-7 were evaluated by Western blotting. (C): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with PHB2 peptide 11-90aa (20, 50, and 100  $\mu$ M) and 10  $\mu$ M ERAP, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the phosphorylation of PHB2 (Ser39) after 24 hours by Western blotting. The strength of phosphorylation is represented as the ratio when taking the phosphorylated band area of the untreated cells as 1.0.

Fig. 4 shows schemes of branched and cyclic PHB2 peptides. (A): Linear bound PHB2 peptide. (B): Branched PHB2 peptide. (C): Cyclic PHB2 peptides.

Fig. 5 shows the suppressive effects of branched and cyclic PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of linear peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa, a combination of linear 11-22aa and 76-90aa, the linear bound peptide, the branched bound peptide, cyclic 11-21aa and cyclic 76-88aa, and a combination of the cyclic peptides, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (B) shows the results of MTT assay showing that linear 11-22aa and linear 76-90aa, the linear bound peptide, the branched bound peptide, and cyclic 11-21aa and cyclic 76-88aa peptides have no effect on growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A. (C): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of linear peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa, a combination of linear 11-22aa and 76-90aa, the linear bound peptide, the branched bound peptide, cyclic 11-21aa and cyclic 76-88aa, and a combination of the cyclic peptides, and their suppressive effects on the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2 were evaluated by Western blotting.

Fig. 6 shows the effects of suppressing estrogen-dependent growth by a combination of cyclic PHB2 peptides. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with linear 11-22aa and cyclic 11-21aa (left) or with linear 76-90aa and cyclic 76-88aa (right), and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the suppressive effect by MTT assay every 24 hours up to 96 hours. (B) represents the results of MTT assay showing that cyclic 11-21aa and cyclic 76-88aa peptides have no effect on the growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 7 shows the concentration-dependent suppressive effects of cyclic PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth. (A): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 10, and 20  $\mu$ M each of cyclic 11-21aa and 76-88aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (B): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with cyclic 11-21aa (4  $\mu$ M), cyclic 76-88aa (2  $\mu$ M), and their combination, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the suppressive effect by MTT assay every 24 hours up to 96 hours. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (C) represents the results of MTT assay showing that cyclic 11-21aa (4  $\mu$ M), cyclic 76-88aa (2  $\mu$ M), and their combination have no effect on growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A.

Fig. 8-1: PHB2 amino acids important for suppressing estrogen-dependent growth are shown. (A) depicts alanine-mutated PHB2 peptides of No. 1 (11-22aa) and No. 5 (76-90aa). (B, C): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with 10  $\mu$ M each of the alanine-mutated peptides derived from PHB2 sequence, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 8-2 (D) depicts PHB2 peptides in which 51-57 aa has been added to PHB2 peptides No. 2 (42-50aa) and No. 3 (38-50aa). (E): The PHB2 sequence-derived peptides of (D) were each added at 10  $\mu$ M, and the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number for 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 9 shows the cell growth suppressive effects of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa (A) and 76-90aa (B) on triple-negative breast cancer cells. Each peptide was diluted in a 3-fold dilution series starting from 20 mM with total 11 concentrations and added to breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231. The numbers of viable cells were measured 96 hours after the peptide addition, the relative values were calculated based on negative control cells to which no peptide was added, and the values were plotted on the graph. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments. (C) shows the results of examining the combined effect of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa on

cell growth of MDA-MB-231. The peptides were added to the cells alone or in combination at IC<sub>50</sub> value, the numbers of viable cells were measured after 96 hours, the relative values were calculated based on negative control cells to which phosphate buffered saline (PBS) was added, and the values were plotted on the graph. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 10-1: the suppressive effects of cross-linked PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth are shown. (A) shows schemes of cross-linking forms. (B) shows PHB2 peptides prepared by adding cysteine to both ends of PHB2 peptides 11-21aa and 76-88aa and cross-linking them (SEQ ID NOs: 106 to 108, 110 to 112, 115 to 117, and 119 to 121). The PHB2 peptides of SEQ ID NOs: 109, 113, 114, 118, and 122 were prepared as non-cross-linked peptides by adding alanine to both ends. The PHB2 peptides of SEQ ID NOs: 106 to 114 were prepared by adding polyarginine to the C terminus. Furthermore, in the PHB2 peptides of 11-21aa, methionine at position 19 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) was substituted with norleucine (Nle) to avoid oxidation during synthesis.

Fig. 10-2 (C): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with cross-linked PHB2 peptides of 11-21aa (left panel) or with cross-linked PHB2 peptides of 76-88aa (right panel), and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 11 shows the suppressive effects of cyclic PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth. (A) depicts cross-linking types of PHB2 peptides of cyclic 11-21aa (SEQ ID NO: 25) and cyclic 76-88aa (SEQ ID NO: 26). The cyclic PHB2 peptides of SEQ ID NOs: 125 and 128 were prepared as non-cross-linked cyclic peptides by adding alanine to both ends of PHB peptides 11-21aa and 76-88aa. All cyclic PHB2 peptides were prepared by adding an unnatural amino acid and consecutive multiple arginine residues to the C terminus. Furthermore, in the cyclic PHB2 peptides of 11-21aa, methionine at position 19 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) was substituted with norleucine (Nle) to avoid oxidation during synthesis. (B): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with cyclic PHB2 peptides, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 12 shows the effects of modifications of PHB2 peptide 11-22aa on estrogen-dependent growth. (A) depicts PHB2 peptides prepared from the PHB2 peptide of SEQ ID NO: 1 (11-22aa) by substituting glycine at positions 15 and 18 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) with D-alanine and D-leucine. (B): Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was treated with the modified PHB2 peptides of 11-22aa, and then the cells were immediately stimulated with 10 nM estrogen to evaluate the cell number after 24 hours by MTT assay. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

Fig. 13 shows the effects of cross-linked PHB2 peptides on normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A. The figure represents the results of MTT assay showing that cross-linked PHB2 peptides and cyclic PHB2 peptides have no effect on growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A. The data represents mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

#### [Description of Embodiments]

**[0016]** Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of embodiments of the present invention, the preferred methods, devices, and materials are now described. However, before the present materials and methods are described, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the particular sizes, shapes, dimensions, materials, methodologies, protocols, etc. described herein, as these may vary in accordance with routine experimentation and optimization. It is also to be understood that the terminology used in the description is for the purpose of describing the particular versions or embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention which will be limited only by the appended claims.

#### Definitions

**[0017]** The words "a", "an", and "the" used herein mean "at least one" unless otherwise specifically indicated.

**[0018]** Herein, unless otherwise specifically indicated, amino acids represented by capital letters indicate L-amino acids. Amino acids represented by lower-case letters indicate D-amino acids. Furthermore, L-amino acids and D-amino acids represented herein may include amino acids in which any of amino group, carboxyl group, and side chains has been modified. Examples of preferred modifications include acetylation of the amino group, amidation of the carboxyl group, tag peptide addition such as FLAG-tagging and HA-tagging, and such.

**[0019]** Herein, numbers indicating the positions of amino acid residues in amino acid sequences have been given with the N-terminal amino acid residue as number 1 and in order toward the C terminus, unless otherwise specifically indicated.

**[0020]** The term "BIG3" used herein refers to brefeldin A-inhibited guanine nucleotide-exchange protein 3. BIG3 forms

a complex with PHB2 to inhibit the estrogen-dependent transcriptional activation-suppressing function of PHB2. BIG3 is also referred to as "ARFGEF family member 3 (ARFGEF3)" or "A7322". An example of a representative nucleotide sequence of the human BIG3 gene is shown in SEQ ID NO: 31 (GenBank Accession No. NM\_020340.4), and the amino acid sequence encoded by the gene is shown in SEQ ID NO: 32. In the present invention, BIG3 is not limited to that encoded by the aforementioned nucleotide sequence and also encompasses their isoforms and mutants.

**[0021]** The term "PHB2" used herein refers to prohibitin 2. PHB2 binds to estrogen receptors to inhibit estrogen receptor signaling pathways and suppresses estrogen-dependent cell growth. PHB2 is also referred to as "Repressor of Estrogen Activity (REA)". Examples of representative nucleotide sequences of the human PHB2 gene are shown in SEQ ID NO: 27 (GenBank Accession No. NM\_001144831.1) and SEQ ID NO: 29 (GenBank Accession No. NM\_001267700.1), and the amino acid sequences encoded by the genes are shown in SEQ ID NO: 28 and SEQ ID NO: 30, respectively. In the present invention, PHB2s are not limited to those encoded by the aforementioned nucleotide sequences and also encompass their isoforms and mutants.

**[0022]** The term "estrogen receptor" used herein encompasses both estrogen receptor  $\alpha$  (ER $\alpha$ ) and estrogen receptor  $\beta$  (ER $\beta$ ). ER $\alpha$  and ER $\beta$  are encoded by the ESR1 gene and ESR2 gene, respectively. The nucleotide sequence of a representative human ESR1 gene and the amino acid sequence of a representative human ER $\alpha$  are shown in SEQ ID NO: 86 (GenBank Accession No. NM\_000125.3) and SEQ ID NO: 87 (GenBank Accession No. NP\_000116.2), respectively. Furthermore, the nucleotide sequence of a representative human ESR2 gene and the amino acid sequence of a representative human ER $\beta$  are shown in SEQ ID NO: 88 (GenBank Accession No. NM\_001437.2) and SEQ ID NO: 89 (GenBank Accession No. NP\_001428.1), respectively. In the present invention, however, the nucleotide sequences and amino acid sequences of estrogen receptor are not limited thereto and also encompass their isoforms and mutants. In a preferred embodiment, the estrogen receptor is ER $\alpha$ . It has been reported that transcriptional activation of ER $\alpha$  and ER $\beta$  is both regulated by a PHB2 polypeptide (Montano MM, et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. 96(12): 6947-52 (1999)).

**[0023]** Herein, the term "estrogen receptor-positive" used in the context of a cell or cancer means that a cell or a cancer cell constituting cancer expresses an estrogen receptor. Whether a cell or cancer is estrogen receptor-positive or not can be confirmed by a known method such as ELISA and immunohistochemical staining. Furthermore, herein, the term "estrogen receptor-negative" used in the context of a cell or cancer means that a cell or a cancer cell constituting cancer does not express an estrogen receptor.

**[0024]** The term "ERAP" used herein refers to a peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33. The amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 is a sequence consisting of the 165th to 177th amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of BIG3 (SEQ ID NO: 32), and contains amino acid residues important for binding with PHB2 (glutamine (Q) at position 165, aspartic acid (D) at position 169, and glutamine (Q) at position 173 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32). ERAP has an ability to bind to PHB2 and inhibits BIG3 from forming the complex with PHB2 by binding competitively to PHB2.

**[0025]** The term "treatment" used herein encompasses alleviation/improvement of at least one symptom caused by a target disease, suppression of progression of the disease, suppression of enlargement of the disease site, and such. For example, "cancer treatment (treatment of cancer)" includes cancer cell growth suppression, suppression of cancer progression, induction of regression/remission of cancer, alleviation/improvement of symptoms accompanying cancer, suppression of cancer metastasis, suppression of postoperative recurrence, and induction of prolonged survival time.

## 1. PHB2 peptides

**[0026]** The present invention provides peptides comprising a site binding to a BIG3 polypeptide (a BIG3 polypeptide-binding site) in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide. The peptides of the present invention are also herein referred to as "PHB2 peptides", "PHB2-derived peptides", or "PHB2 sequence-derived peptides".

**[0027]** The peptides of the present invention have the ability to bind to a BIG3 polypeptide by comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide. Consequently, the peptides competitively inhibit the binding of the PHB2 polypeptide to the BIG3 polypeptide. The PHB2 peptides of the present invention can be salts as long as they have the effect of inhibiting the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide. For example, the PHB2 peptides can be salts with acids (such as inorganic acids and organic acids) or with bases (such as alkaline metals, alkaline earth metals, and amines). The salts with acids include, for example, salts with inorganic acids (for example, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, and acetic acid) and those with organic acids (for example, acetic acid, formic acid, propionic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, malic acid, oxalic acid, benzoic acid, methanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, and meglumine acid). The salts with bases include, for example, salts with sodium, potassium, calcium, and ammonium. Preferred examples of salts of the peptides of the present invention include acetates, hydrochlorides, meglumine salts, and ammonium salts.

**[0028]** The "site binding to a BIG3 polypeptide in a PHB2 polypeptide (BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide)" means an amino acid residue(s) involved in binding to a BIG3 polypeptide in the amino acid sequence



constituting a PHB2 polypeptide. Such an amino acid residue(s) includes, for example, glycine at positions 15 and 18 and aspartic acid at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide). Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the peptides of the present invention are peptides which comprise glycine at positions 15 and 18 and aspartic acid at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) and inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide. Herein, the number of a particular amino acid residue in an amino acid sequence indicates the number of the amino acid residue counted from the N terminus.

**[0029]** Examples of amino acid sequences comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide include (a) all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21 (SEQ ID NO: 84), (b) all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88 (SEQ ID NO: 85), and (c) all or part of the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 82) consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57, in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide). Accordingly, preferred examples of the peptides of the present invention include a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41);
- (b) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53); and
- (c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 82 and 83).

**[0030]** However, the peptides of the present invention are not limited thereto, and the amino acid sequences constituting the peptides are not particularly limited as long as the peptides comprise the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide and have the activity to inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide.

**[0031]** In general, it is known that one or more amino acid modifications in a peptide have no effect on the function of the peptide. Indeed, it is known that a peptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acid residues are modified by substitution, deletion, insertion, and/or addition retains the biological activity of the original peptide (Mark et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 81(18): 5662-6 (1984); Zoller and Smith, Nucleic Acids Res 10(20): 6487-500 (1982); and Dalbadie-McFarland et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 79(21): 6409-13 (1982)). The peptides of the present invention may comprise a substitution or deletion of amino acid residues, for example, at positions other than the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site, in a PHB2-derived amino acid sequence and may have an insertion or addition of amino acid residues at positions which have no effect on the binding to a BIG3 polypeptide, as long as they comprise the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide and have the activity to inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide. Actually, it is shown in Examples of the present specification that peptides having an amino acid sequence in which an amino acid residue(s) other than the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide has/have been substituted with other amino acid residue(s) also retain the biological activity equal to that of peptides which do not have such substitutions. Accordingly, the peptides of the present invention encompass peptides which comprise an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a') and (b') below and have an activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide:

- (a') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than those corresponding to glycine at positions 15 and 18 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) are substituted with other amino acid residues, in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41); and
- (b') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than that corresponding to aspartic acid at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) are substituted with other amino acid residues, in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53).

**[0032]** In the above (a') and (b'), amino acid residues substituted can be any amino acid residues as long as the resulting peptide maintains the ability to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide. Furthermore, which amino acid residue is substituted can be determined by predicting amino acid residues not involved in the binding to a BIG3 polypeptide by using, for example, a calculation method such as PSIVER. The number of amino acid residues substituted are also not particularly limited as long as the resulting peptide maintains the ability to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide, and one, two, or several amino acid residues can be substituted. "Several" preferably refers to six, five, four, or three.

**[0033]** In general, it is recognized that a substitution with another amino acid residue which conserves the amino acid side chain characteristics of the original amino acid residue tends to have no effect on the function of the original peptide. Such a substitution is often called a "conservative substitution" or "conservative modification". Accordingly, the substi-

tutions in the above (a') and (b') are preferably performed by conservative substitutions.

**[0034]** Tables of conservative substitutions presenting functionally similar amino acids are well known in the art. Examples of amino acid side chain characteristics that are desirable to conserve include, for example, hydrophobic amino acids (A, I, L, M, F, P, W, Y, V), hydrophilic amino acids (R, D, N, C, E, Q, G, H, K, S, T), and side chains having the following functional groups or characteristics in common: an aliphatic side-chain (G, A, V, L, I, P); a hydroxyl group containing side-chain (S, T, Y); a sulfur atom containing side-chain (C, M); a carboxylic acid and amide containing side-chain (D, N, E, Q); a base containing side-chain (R, K, H); and an aromatic containing side-chain (H, F, Y, W). In addition, the following eight groups each contain amino acids that are accepted in the art as conservative substitutions for one another:

- 1) Alanine (A), Glycine (G);
- 2) Aspartic acid (D), Glutamic acid (E);
- 3) Asparagine (N), Glutamine (Q);
- 4) Arginine (R), Lysine (K);
- 5) Isoleucine (I), Leucine (L), Methionine (M), Valine (V);
- 6) Phenylalanine (F), Tyrosine (Y), Tryptophan (W);
- 7) Serine (S), Threonine (T); and
- 8) Cysteine (C), Methionine (M) (see, e.g., Creighton, Proteins 1984).

**[0035]** However, the substitutions in the above-mentioned (a') and (b') are not limited thereto, and they may be non-conservative substitutions as long as the peptides maintain the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide.

**[0036]** The peptides of the present invention can comprise amino acid residues other than the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide as long as they maintain the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide. For example, a fragment of PHB2 polypeptide comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide is preferred as a peptide of the present invention. Accordingly, preferred examples of the peptides of the present invention include PHB2 polypeptides (SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1 and 36 to 41)) comprising glycine at positions 15 and 18 and their surrounding sequence in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) and PHB2 polypeptides (SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 5 and 47 to 53)) comprising aspartic acid at position 82 and its surrounding sequence in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide). Other preferred examples of the peptides of the present invention include PHB2 polypeptides (SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 82 and 83)) comprising amino acids at positions 44 to 57 and their surrounding sequence in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide).

**[0037]** The following peptides can be exemplified as the PHB2 peptides of the present invention: peptides comprising amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83), which peptides are composed of, for example, 30 amino acid residues or 20 amino acid residues, typically 19 amino acid residues, preferably 18 amino acid residues, and more preferably 17 amino acid residues or less. The following peptides can be shown as such peptides: peptides comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the amino acid sequences (9 residues) of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83) and an amino acid sequence selected from the full-length amino acid sequence constituting a PHB2 polypeptide, which peptides are composed of 30 amino acid residues or 20 amino acid residues, typically 19 amino acid residues, preferably 18 amino acid residues, and more preferably 17 amino acid residues or less.

**[0038]** In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an amino acid to be added to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83) can be zero (that is, the amino acid sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83)) or can be one, two or more consecutive amino acid sequences selected from the full-length amino acid sequence constituting a PHB2 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide)). The amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83) are those comprising glycine at position 15, glycine at position 18, aspartic acid at position 82, or the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the full-length amino acid sequence constituting a PHB2 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide)). Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an amino acid residue or amino acid sequence to be added to SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83) can be selected from amino acid sequences neighboring glycine at position 15, glycine at position 18, aspartic acid at position 82, or the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide)).

**[0039]** It is desirable that the peptides of the present invention have either or both of the following properties (i) and (ii), in addition to the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide:

- (i) promoting the nuclear import of a PHB2 polypeptide in an estrogen receptor-positive cell which expresses a BIG3 polypeptide; and
- (ii) promoting the binding between an estrogen receptor present in the nucleus and/or on cell membrane to a PHB2 polypeptide in an estrogen receptor-positive cell which expresses an ERAP1 polypeptide.

**[0040]** By having either or both of the above properties (i) and (ii), the peptides of the present invention suppress activation of estrogen receptors in BIG3-expressing cells, thereby leading to suppression of growth of estrogen receptor-positive cells. Both the above properties (i) and (ii) of PHB2 peptides can be evaluated according to methods known to one skilled in the art.

**[0041]** A PHB2 polypeptide is known as an estrogen receptor-selective coregulator and suppresses transcriptional activation of estrogen receptors by interaction with them (Kasashima K, J Biol Chem 281(47): 36401-10 (2006)). On the other hand, a BIG3 polypeptide binds to a PHB2 polypeptide to block the nuclear import of a PHB2 polypeptide, thereby inhibiting the interaction between the PHB2 polypeptide and an estrogen receptor in the nucleus. Furthermore, a BIG3 polypeptide blocks the binding between an estrogen receptor present on the cell membrane and a PHB2 polypeptide. As a result of these functions, in cells overexpressing a BIG3 polypeptide, suppression of estrogen receptor activation by the PHB2 polypeptide does not sufficiently work, and enhanced cell growth is induced.

**[0042]** The peptides of the present invention have the feature of restoring the PHB2 polypeptide's function of suppressing activation of estrogen receptors, the function having been inhibited by the binding to a BIG3 polypeptide, by competitively inhibiting the binding between the BIG3 polypeptide and the PHB2 polypeptide. On the other hand, a PHB2 polypeptide suppresses activation of estrogen receptors through the binding to them. Accordingly, it is desirable that the peptides of the present invention suppress the binding between a BIG3 polypeptide and a PHB2 polypeptide but do not block the binding between an estrogen receptor and the PHB2 polypeptide, and thus do not block the suppression of estrogen receptor activation by the PHB2 polypeptide. As described above, a fragment of PHB2 polypeptide comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site is suitable as a peptide of the present invention; however, a peptide close to the full-length of a PHB2 polypeptide is likely to block the binding between an endogenous PHB2 polypeptide and an estrogen receptor, thereby blocking the suppression of estrogen receptor activation by the endogenous PHB2 polypeptide. Thus, a partial amino acid sequence of PHB2 polypeptide comprised in the peptides of the present invention is preferably 100 residues or less, more preferably 80 residues or less, and even more preferably 70 residues or less. In a more preferred embodiment, a partial amino acid sequence of PHB2 polypeptide comprised in the peptides of the present invention is 50 residues or less, 40 residues or less, 30 residues or less, 25 residues or less, or 20 residues or less. Since the estrogen receptor-binding site in PHB2 is a site consisting of the amino acids at positions 175 to 198 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide), the peptides of the present invention preferably do not comprise this site and in this case, a partial amino acid sequence of PHB2 polypeptide comprised in the peptides of the present invention is desirably 100 residues or less, more preferably 80 residues or less, and even more preferably 70 residues or less, excluding the sequence of amino acids at positions 175 to 198. In a more preferred embodiment, a partial amino acid sequence of PHB2 polypeptide comprised in the peptides of the present invention is 50 residues or less, 40 residues or less, 30 residues or less, 25 residues or less, or 20 residues or less, excluding the sequence of amino acids at positions 175 to 198.

**[0043]** Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention may comprise additional amino acid sequences other than the amino acid sequence derived from a PHB2 polypeptide as long as they maintain the activity to inhibit the binding between a BIG3 polypeptide and a PHB2 polypeptide and do not block the suppression of estrogen receptor activation by the PHB2 polypeptide. Also in this case, it is desirable that the additional amino acid sequences do not block the binding between an endogenous PHB2 polypeptide and an estrogen receptor. Thus, the peptides of the present invention are preferably a peptide of 100 residues or less, 80 residues or less, or 70 residues or less. In a more preferred embodiment, the peptides of the present invention are peptides of 50 residues or less, 40 residues or less, or 30 residues or less. Preferred examples of amino acid sequences comprised in the peptides of the present invention include, but are not limited to, amino acid sequences constituting cell-permeable peptides described later and linker sequences for coupling other substances.

**[0044]** Moreover, the peptides of the present invention may be modified with other substances. Herein, the term "modified" used in the context of a peptide means that another substance(s) is/are directly or indirectly coupled to a peptide. Other substances that modify the peptides of the present invention include, but are not limited to, for example, peptides, lipids, saccharides, and natural or synthetic polymers. The peptides of the present invention can have any modifications as long as they maintain the activity to inhibit the binding between a BIG3 polypeptide and a PHB2 polypeptide. Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention may be conferred additional functions by modifications. Examples of the additional functions include, but are not limited to, targeting property, stability, and cell membrane

permeability.

**[0045]** Preferred examples of modifications in the present invention include introduction of a cell membrane permeable substance. Intracellular structure is usually cut off from the outside world by the cell membrane. Thus, it is difficult to efficiently introduce an extracellular substance into a cell. However, a certain type of substance has cell membrane permeability and can be introduced into a cell without being cut off by the cell membrane. It is possible to confer cell membrane permeability to a substance with no cell membrane permeability by modifying the substance with such a substance having cell membrane permeability (cell membrane permeable substance). Accordingly, the peptides of the present invention can be efficiently introduced into cells by modifying the peptide of the present invention with a cell membrane permeable substance(s). Furthermore, as used herein, "cell membrane permeability" refers to the property of being able to permeate the cell membrane of mammals and enter the cytoplasm. Moreover, a "cell membrane permeable substance" refers to a substance having "cell membrane permeability".

**[0046]** Examples of the cell membrane permeable substance include, but are not limited to, membrane fusogenic liposomes and cell membrane permeable peptides. For example, membrane fusogenic liposomes are fused to cell membrane to release their contents into a cell. Membrane fusogenic liposomes can be adjusted, for example, by modifying the surface of liposomes with a substance having membrane fusogenicity. Examples of membrane fusogenic liposomes include pH-sensitive liposomes (Yuba E, et al., J. Control. Release, 149, 72-80 (2011)), Sendai virus membrane fusogenic liposomes (WO 97/016171), and liposomes modified with cell membrane permeable peptides. The peptides of the present invention may be encapsulated into a membrane fusogenic liposome to efficiently introduce the peptides into a cell. In the present invention, encapsulation of a peptide into a membrane fusogenic liposome is also encompassed in "modification" of a peptide.

**[0047]** Various natural or artificially synthesized peptides have so far been reported as cell membrane permeable peptides (Joliot A. & Prochiantz A., Nat Cell Biol. 2004; 6: 189-96). Examples of cell membrane permeable peptides include the following peptides, but are not limited thereto.

**[0048]**

Polyarginine (Matsushita et al., J. Neurosci.; 21(16), 6000-7 (2003));  
Tat/RKKRRQRRR (SEQ ID NO: 90) (Frankel et al., Cell 55(6), 1189-93 (1988), Green & Loewenstein Cell 55, 1179-88 (1988));  
Penetratin/RQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK (SEQ ID NO: 103) (Derossi et al., J. Biol. Chem. 269(14), 10444-50 (1994));  
Buforin II/TRSSRAGLQFPVGRVHLLRK (SEQ ID NO: 91) (Park et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 97(15), 8245-50 (2000));  
Transportan/GWTLNSAGYLLGKINLKALAALAKKIL (SEQ ID NO: 92) (Pooga et al., FASEB J. 12(1), 67-77 (1998));  
MAP (Model Amphipathic Peptide)/KLALKLALKALKALKLA (SEQ ID NO: 93) (Oehlke et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta. 1414(1-2), 127-39 (1998));  
K-FGF/AAVALLPAVLLALLAP (SEQ ID NO: 94) (Lin et al., J. Biol. Chem. 270(24), 14255-8 (1995));  
Ku70/VPMLK (SEQ ID NO: 95) (Sawada et al., Nature Cell Biol. 5(4), 352-7 (2003));  
Ku70/PMLKE (SEQ ID NO: 96) (Sawada et al., Nature Cell Biol. 5(4), 352-7 (2003));  
Prion/MANLGWLLALFVTMWTDVGLCKKRPKP (SEQ ID NO: 97) (Lundberg et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 299(1), 85-90 (2002));  
pVEC/LLIILRRRIRKQAHASK (SEQ ID NO: 98) (Elmqvist et al., Exp. Cell Res. 269(2), 237-44 (2001));  
Pep-1/KETWWETWWTEWSQPKKKRKV (SEQ ID NO: 99) (Morris et al., Nature Biotechnol. 19(2), 1173-6 (2001));  
SynB1/RGGRLSYRRRFSTSTGR (SEQ ID NO: 100) (Rousselle et al., Mol. Pharmacol. 57(4), 679-86 (2000));  
Pep-7/SDLWEMMMVSLACQY (SEQ ID NO: 101) (Gao et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. 10(12), 4057-65 (2002)); and  
HN-1/TSPLNIHNGQKL (SEQ ID NO: 102); (Hong & Clayman Cancer Res. 60(23), 6551-6 (2000)).

**[0049]** The above-mentioned polyarginine may be composed of any number of arginine residues. For example, polyarginine may be composed of 5 to 20 arginine residues. The number of arginine residues constituting polyarginine is not particularly limited as long as it does not block the activity of the peptide to inhibit the binding between a BIG3 polypeptide and a PHB2 polypeptide.

**[0050]** Furthermore, it is known in the art to introduce various particularly useful amino acid mimetics or unnatural amino acids (for example, by substitution, addition, or insertion) in order to increase *in vivo* stability of peptides. Examples of amino acid mimetics or unnatural amino acids to be introduced include, but are not limited to,  $\beta$ -amino acids, D-amino acids, and N-methyl amino acids. Accordingly, such amino acid mimetics or unnatural amino acids can be introduced into the peptides of the present invention to increase *in vivo* stability. Moreover, azapeptides in which  $\alpha$ -carbons of amino acids have been substituted with an amino group and techniques for substituting amide bonds in peptides with their equivalents (such as esters, sulfonamides, and alkene isosteres) are also known in the art. Stability of peptides can be confirmed using, for example, peptidases and various biological media such as human plasma and serum (see, for example, Coos Verhoef et al. Eur. J. Drug Metab. Pharmacokin. 11(4): 291-302 (1986)).

**[0051]** Accordingly, the present invention provides peptides comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide and comprise at least one amino acid mimetic or unnatural amino acid (for example,  $\beta$ -amino acid, D-amino acid, and N-methyl amino acid). In a particular embodiment, the peptides of the present invention comprise an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted with corresponding amino acid mimetics or unnatural amino acids (for example,  $\beta$ -amino acids, D-amino acids, and N-methyl amino acids) in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83 (PHB2 sequence-derived peptides Nos. 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83).

**[0052]** Moreover, the present invention also provides peptides comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide and in which at least one amide bond has been replaced with its equivalent (for example, an ester, sulfonamide, and alkene isostere).

#### Cyclic and cross-linked peptides

**[0053]** In a particular embodiment, the peptides of the present invention may be cyclized and their stability can be improved by cyclization. Methods of introducing a cyclic structure into a peptide of the present invention are well known, and for example, a peptide can be cyclized by adding cysteine to the N- and C-termini of a linear peptide and allowing to form a disulfide bond between these cysteines. Herein, such a structure in which side chains of two (a pair of) amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence constituting a peptide are cross-linked (stapled) can be called a "stapling structure", and a cross-linked peptide into which one or more stapling structures have been introduced is also referred to as a "stapled peptide". Positions of amino acid residues forming such an intramolecular crosslink are not limited to the N- and C-termini of the original linear peptide, and amino acid residues present in the original linear peptide may form an intramolecular crosslink, or amino acid residues introduced into the original linear peptide (by, for example, substitution, addition, or insertion) may form an intramolecular crosslink. Amino acid residues forming an intramolecular crosslink are not limited to natural amino acids and may be amino acid mimetics or unnatural amino acids as described above. Moreover, methods of cross-linking a peptide are not limited to disulfide bond formation, and also include cross-linking of cysteine residues through fluorobenzene (for example, by using hexafluorobenzene or decafluorobiphenyl), thioether bond formation, ester bond formation, and a technique for stapling hydrocarbons such as ring-closing olefin metathesis (described in, for example, WO 2017/126461).

**[0054]** Furthermore, methods of cyclizing a peptide are not limited to methods of forming an intramolecular crosslink as mentioned above, and also include formation of an amide bond between the C-terminal and N-terminal amino acid residues of a peptide. The peptides thus cyclized by various methods are herein referred to as cyclic peptides, and include both cyclic peptides comprising an intramolecular crosslink (*i.e.*, cross-linked peptides; for example, SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 123, 124, 126, and 127 depicted in Figs. 4 and 11) and those not comprising an intramolecular crosslink (for example, SEQ ID NOs: 125 and 128 depicted in Fig. 11).

**[0055]** Accordingly, the present invention provides cyclic peptides comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibit the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide and have been cyclized by at least one intramolecular bond. Examples of the intramolecular bond include, but are not limited to, a disulfide bond, crosslink between cysteine residues through fluorobenzene (for example, by using hexafluorobenzene or decafluorobiphenyl), thioether bond, ester bond, thioester bond, bond by a hydrocarbon chain (for example, olefin and aryl), bond by a heterocycle (for example, triazole, oxazole, and thiazole) and amido bond, and combinations thereof.

**[0056]** Such an intramolecular bond may be formed by amino acid residues at both ends of the original linear peptide of a cyclic peptide, or may be formed by amino acid residues in the linear peptide. Moreover, the intramolecular bond may be formed by amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence derived from a PHB2 polypeptide, or may be formed by amino acid residues introduced into the amino acid sequence (by, for example, substitution, addition, or insertion). Preferred examples of such cyclic peptides of the present invention include cyclic PHB2 peptides of 11-21aa and 76-88aa (cyclic peptides respectively consisting of SEQ ID NO: 25, 106 to 108, 115 to 117, 123, or 124; and SEQ ID NO: 26, 110 to 112, 119 to 121, 126, or 127). These exemplary cyclic peptides are prepared by adding two cysteine residues that form an intramolecular bond (intramolecular crosslink) (SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 106 to 108, 110 to 112, 115 to 117, 119 to 121, 123, 124, 126, and 127); adding or substituting unnatural amino acids (SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 106 to 108, 115 to 117, 123, 124, 126, and 127); and adding consecutive multiple arginine residues (SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 106 to 108, 110 to 112, 123, 124, 126, and 127), in the linear peptides of PHB2 sequence-derived 11-21aa and 76-88aa with the objective of stabilization of the structure (and increase in the activity and improvement of protease resistance accompanied thereby) and improvement of membrane permeability. Such peptides have been cyclized by formation of an intramolecular crosslink between the two cysteine residues introduced (SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 106 to 108, 110 to 112, 115 to 117, 119 to 121, 123, 124, 126, and 127) and by formation of an amido bond between the C-terminal and N-terminal amino acid residues added (SEQ ID NOs: 25, 26, 123, 124, 126, and 127) (Figs. 4C, 10A, and 11A). These exemplary cyclic peptides (in particular, cyclic and cross-linked peptides) showed an enhanced growth suppressive

effect as compared to the original linear peptides (Figs. 5A, 10C, and 11B) and the suppressive effect was shown to last for a long time (Fig. 6A).

**[0057]** The present invention also relates to methods of producing a cyclic peptide, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a linear peptide comprising the BIG3 polypeptide-binding site in a PHB2 polypeptide, which inhibits the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide; and
- (b) allowing to form at least one intramolecular bond in the linear peptide, thereby cyclizing the linear peptide.

**[0058]** The intramolecular bond is optionally selected from the group consisting of a disulfide bond, crosslink between cysteine residues through fluorobenzene (for example, by using hexafluorobenzene or decafluorobiphenyl), thioether bond, ester bond, thioester bond, bond by a hydrocarbon chain (for example, olefin and aryl), bond by a heterocycle (for example, triazole, oxazole, and thiazole) and amido bond, and combinations thereof.

**[0059]** The above methods optionally comprise introducing at least one selected from the group consisting of cysteine residues, an amino acid mimetic(s) or unnatural amino acid(s), and consecutive multiple arginine residues into the linear peptide (by, for example, substitution, addition, or insertion).

**[0060]** The peptides of the present invention have the feature of having the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide. Whether a peptide produced has the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide or not can be confirmed by comparing the binding level between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide in the presence and absence of the peptide. That is, when the binding level in the presence of a peptide is lower than that in the absence of the peptide, the peptide can be judged to have "the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide".

**[0061]** The binding level between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide can be measured using various known methods. For example, immunoprecipitation using an anti-PHB2 antibody or an anti-BIG3 antibody, affinity chromatography, a biosensor using surface plasmon resonance phenomenon, and such can be used.

**[0062]** As a specific method, for example, a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide are incubated in the presence and absence of a test peptide. The reaction solution is then immunoprecipitated with an anti-PHB2 antibody or an anti-BIG3 antibody, and the immunoprecipitate is subjected to Western blot analysis. The binding level between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide can be confirmed by detecting at least either one of the BIG3 polypeptide level immunoprecipitated with the anti-PHB2 antibody or the PHB2 polypeptide level immunoprecipitated with the anti-BIG3 antibody. The PHB2 polypeptide and BIG3 polypeptide used here can be adjusted by a known genetic engineering technique. Furthermore, lysates of cells producing these polypeptides can be used. The cell lines as described in Examples of the present specification can be utilized as cells producing these polypeptides.

**[0063]** Alternatively, the methods as described in Examples of the present specification can also be used. Specifically, estrogen receptor-positive cells are cultured in the presence and absence of a test peptide. The cells are then lysed with an appropriate lysis buffer, and the cell lysate may be used to perform immunoprecipitation and Western blot analysis in the same manner as above.

**[0064]** A peptide for which "the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide" has been confirmed by any of the above methods is judged to be a peptide having "the activity to inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide".

**[0065]** Moreover, the peptides of the present invention may have either or both of the following (i) and (ii) as preferred properties:

- (i) promoting the nuclear import of a PHB2 polypeptide in an estrogen receptor-positive cell which expresses a BIG3 polypeptide; and
- (ii) promoting the binding between an estrogen receptor present in the nucleus and/or on cell membrane and a PHB2 polypeptide in an estrogen receptor-positive cell which expresses a BIG3 polypeptide.

**[0066]** Whether a peptide of the present invention has the above properties or not can be confirmed by comparing (i) the nuclear import level of a PHB2 polypeptide; and/or (ii) the binding level between an estrogen receptor and a PHB2 polypeptide, in the presence and absence of the peptide of the present invention. That is, when the level in the presence of the peptide of the present invention is higher as compared to that in the absence of the peptide, the peptide can be judged to have the above-mentioned properties (i) and/or (ii).

**[0067]** Methods well known to one skilled in the art can be used as examples of specific methods for judging the presence or absence of the above-mentioned properties (i) and/or (ii). Specifically, when examining the above property (i), estrogen receptor-positive cells are stimulated with estradiol for 24 hours with or without the addition of a peptide of the present invention. The cells are then fractionated by specific gravity centrifugation, and PHB2 polypeptides present in the nuclear fraction are detected by Western blot analysis and such. When the level of PHB2 polypeptide detected in the nuclear fraction increases in the case where the peptide of the present invention is added as compared to the

case where the peptide is not added, the peptide of the present invention is judged to have the above-mentioned property (i). Moreover, the level of PHB2 polypeptide present in the nucleus can be detected by immunocytochemical staining.

**[0068]** When examining the above-mentioned property (ii), estrogen receptor-positive cells are stimulated with estradiol for 24 hours with or without the addition of a peptide of the present invention. The cells are then fractionated by specific gravity centrifugation, the cytosolic fraction and the nuclear fraction are immunoprecipitated with an anti-estrogen receptor antibody or an anti-PHB2 antibody, and the immunoprecipitate is subjected to Western blot analysis. As a result, when the binding level between an estrogen receptor and a PHB2 polypeptide in the cytosolic fraction and/or the nuclear fraction increases in the case where the peptide of the present invention is added as compared to the case where the peptide is not added, the peptide of the present invention is judged to have the above-mentioned property (ii).

**[0069]** The peptides of the present invention can be produced using methods well known to one skilled in the art. For example, the peptides of the present invention can be obtained by chemical synthesis based on their amino acid sequences. Methods for chemical synthesis of a peptide are known and one skilled in the art can chemically synthesize the peptide of the present invention based on amino acid sequence selected as the peptide of the present invention. Chemical synthesis methods of peptide are described, for example, in the documents below:

- (i) Peptide Synthesis, Interscience, New York, 1966;
- (ii) The Proteins, Vol. 2, Academic Press, New York, 1976;
- (iii) "Peptide Synthesis" (in Japanese), Maruzen Co., 1975;
- (iv) "Basics and Experiment of Peptide Synthesis" (in Japanese), Maruzen Co., 1985;
- (v) "Development of Pharmaceuticals" (in Japanese), Continued Vol. 14 (peptide synthesis), Hirokawa, 1991;
- (vi) WO99/67288; and
- (vii) Barany G. & Merrifield R.B., Peptides Vol. 2, Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis, Academic Press, New York, 1980, 100-118.

**[0070]** Alternatively, the peptides of the present invention can be obtained by genetic engineering methods (e.g., Morrison J, J Bacteriology, 132(1): 349-51 (1977); Clark-Curtiss & Curtiss, Methods in Enzymology (eds. Wu et al.), 101: 347-62 (1983)). For example, a polynucleotide encoding a peptide of the present invention is inserted into an appropriate expression vector, and the vector is introduced into appropriate host cells to prepare transformed cells. The transformed cells are then cultured to produce the peptide of the present invention, and the cell extract is adjusted. Standard techniques for purifying proteins can be used to purify the peptide of the present invention from the cell extract. The peptide of the present invention can be purified by, for example, appropriately selecting and combining column chromatography, filter filtration, ultrafiltration, salting-out, solvent precipitation, solvent extraction, distillation, immunoprecipitation, SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, isoelectric focusing, dialysis, and recrystallization. Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention can be synthesized by *in vitro* translation system in which elements necessary to synthesize protein have been reconstructed *in vitro*.

**[0071]** When using genetic engineering techniques, the peptides of the present invention can also be expressed as a fusion protein with other peptide. A polynucleotide encoding a peptide of the present invention is ligated in frame with a polynucleotide encoding other peptide and inserted into an appropriate expression vector, and the vector is introduced into appropriate host cells to adjust transformed cells. The host cells are then cultured to allow production of a fusion protein of the peptide of the present invention and the other peptide, and its cell extract is adjusted. The purification of fusion protein from the cell extract can be performed by, for example, capturing the fusion protein by affinity chromatography using a column to which a substance having affinity to the fusion protein has been coupled. Moreover, if the peptide of the present invention has been coupled to another peptide through a linker sequence which can be cleaved by an enzyme such as peptidase, protease, and proteasome, the peptide of the present invention can be separated from the column by treating the fusion protein captured by the column with such an enzyme. Examples of other peptides which can be used to form fusion proteins include the following peptides, but are not limited thereto:

- FLAG (Hopp et al., Bio/Technology 6, 1204-10 (1988));
- 6xHis or 10xHis consisting of histidine (His) residues;
- Influenza Hemagglutinin (HA);
- Human c-myc fragment, VSV-GP fragment; p18 HIV fragment;
- T7 tag; HSV tag;
- E tag; SV40T antigen fragment;
- Ick tag;
- $\alpha$ -Tubulin fragment;
- B tag;
- Protein C fragment;
- GST (Glutathione-S-transferase);

HA (Influenza Hemagglutinin);  
 Immunoglobulin constant region;  
 $\beta$ -Galactosidase; and  
 MBP (Maltose-binding protein).

## 2. Polynucleotides encoding the peptides of the present invention, vectors, and host cells

**[0072]** The present invention also provides polynucleotides encoding the peptide of the present invention. Furthermore, the present invention provides vectors comprising the polynucleotide and host cells comprising the vector. Such polynucleotides, vectors, and host cells can be used to produce the peptides of the present invention.

**[0073]** The polynucleotides of the present invention can be produced by methods known to one skilled in the art. For example, the polynucleotides of the present invention can be synthesized using solid-phase techniques as described in Beaucage SL & Iyer RP, *Tetrahedron*, 48: 2223-311 (1992); Matthes et al., *EMBO J*, 3(4): 801-5 (1984). Moreover, the polynucleotides of the present invention can be adjusted using genetic engineering techniques. For example, primers are produced based on a partial nucleotide sequence of a PHB2 gene (SEQ ID NO: 27) encoding an amino acid sequence selected as a peptide of the present invention, and reverse transcription-PCR is performed by using mRNAs extracted from cells expressing a PHB2 polypeptide as a template. Thus, the polynucleotides of the present invention can be amplified.

**[0074]** The polynucleotides of the present invention can be inserted into an appropriate expression vector and the vector is introduced into appropriate host cells to produce the peptide of the present invention in the host cells.

**[0075]** For example, when *E. coli* is selected as a host cell and a vector is amplified in a large amount in *E. coli* (for example, JM109, DH5-alpha, HB101 or XL1 Blue), the vector needs to have an "ori" for amplification in *E. coli* and a marker gene for selection of transformed *E. coli* (for example, a drug resistance gene selected by a drug such as ampicillin, tetracycline, kanamycin, chloramphenicol). For example, the M13-series vectors, pUC-series vectors, pBR322, pBluescript, pCR-Script and such can be used. When a vector is used for producing a peptide of the present invention, an expression vector is particularly useful. For example, an expression vector for expression in *E. coli* needs to have the above features for amplification in *E. coli*. When *E. coli* such as JM109, DH5-alpha, HB 101 or XL1 Blue are used as a host cell, the vector needs to have a promoter, for example, lacZ promoter (Ward et al., *Nature*, 341(6242): 544-6 (1989); *FASEB J*, 6(7): 2422-7 (1992)), araB promoter (Better et al., *Science*, 240(4855): 1041-3 (1988)), T7 promoter or the like, that can efficiently express the desired gene in *E. coli*. Additionally, the vector may contain a signal sequence for polypeptide secretion. An exemplary signal sequence that directs the polypeptide to be secreted to the periplasm of the *E. coli* is the pelB signal sequence (Lei et al., *J Bacteriol*, 169(9): 4379-83 (1987)). Means for introducing the vectors into the target host cells include, for example, the calcium chloride method and the electroporation method.

**[0076]** In addition to *E. coli*, for example, expression vectors derived from mammalian cells (for example, pcDNA3 (Invitrogen) and pEGF-BOS (Mizushima S., *Nucleic Acids Res*, 18(17): 5322 (1990)), pEF, pCDM8), expression vectors derived from insect cells (for example, "Bac-to-BAC baculovirus expression system" (GIBCO BRL), pBacPAK8), expression vectors derived from plants (e.g., pMH1, pMH2), expression vectors derived from animal viruses (e.g., pHSV, pMV, pAdexLcw), expression vectors derived from retroviruses (e.g., pZIpneo), expression vectors derived from yeast (e.g., "Pichia Expression Kit" (Invitrogen), pNV11, SP-Q01) and expression vectors derived from *Bacillus subtilis* (e.g., pPL608, pKTH50) can be used.

**[0077]** In order to express the vector in animal cells such as CHO cells, COS cells or NIH3T3 cells, the vector needs to carry a promoter necessary for expression in such cells, for example, the SV40 promoter (Mulligan et al., *Nature*, 277(5692): 108-14 (1979)), the MMLV-LTR promoter, the EF1-alpha promoter (Mizushima et al., *Nucleic Acids Res*, 18(17): 5322 (1990)), the CMV promoter and the like, and preferably a marker gene for selecting transformants (for example, a drug resistance gene selected by a drug (e.g., neomycin, G418)). Examples of known vectors with these characteristics include, for example, pMAM, pDR2, pBK-RSV, pBK-CMV, pOPRSV and pOP13.

**[0078]** Furthermore, the polynucleotide of the present invention may be inserted into an appropriate vector and the vector is introduced into target cells to produce the peptide of the present invention within the target cells. A peptide of the present invention produced in a target cell inhibits the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide and induces suppression of growth of the target cell. In this case, the vector into which a polynucleotide of the present invention is inserted may be a vector for stably inserting the polynucleotide of the present invention into the genome of the target cell (for example, see Thomas KR & Capecchi MR, *Cell*, 51(3): 503-12 (1987) for description of cassette vectors for homologous recombination). For example, see Wolff et al., *Science*, 247: 1465-8 (1990); U.S. Patent No. 5,580,895; U.S. Patent No. 5,589,466; U.S. Patent No. 5,804,566; U.S. Patent No. 5,739,118; U.S. Patent No. 5,736,524; U.S. Patent No. 5,679,647; and WO 98/04720.

**[0079]** Moreover, the polynucleotide of the present invention can be inserted into, for example, an expression vector such as a viral vector and a bacterial vector. Examples of the expression vector include a host for an attenuated virus of cowpox, fowlpox, and the like (see, for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,722,858). Other examples of vectors that can be



used include Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) (Stover et al., Nature, 351(6326): 456-60 (1991)). Other examples include adenovirus vectors, adeno-associated virus vectors, retrovirus vectors, *Salmonella typhi* vectors, and attenuated anthrax toxin vectors (Shata et al., Mol Med Today, 6(2): 66-71 (2000); Shedlock et al., J Leukoc Biol, 68(6): 793-806 (2000); and Hipp et al., In Vivo, 14(5): 571-85 (2000)).

**[0080]** Peptides of the present invention encompass peptides in which either or both of the N-terminal and C-terminal amino acid residues have been modified. The types of modifications are not particularly limited, but those that do not affect the affinity for BIG3 are preferred. Examples of preferred modifications include acetylation of the N-terminal amino acid residue, amidation of the C-terminal amino acid residue, addition of tag peptides such as HA-tag and FLAG-tag, and such.

**[0081]** The peptides of the present invention are not limited to those composed of L-amino acids and may be peptides including one or more D-amino acids. The composition ratio of L-amino acids to D-amino acids in the peptides is not particularly limited, and there may be any of the following cases: all amino acid residues may be in L-form (hereinafter referred to as "L-form peptide"); all amino acid residues may be in D-form (hereinafter referred to as "D-form peptide"); or only amino acid residues at a particular position(s) may be in D-form. One preferred embodiment of the peptides of the present invention includes a peptide in which all the amino acid residues have been substituted with D-form amino acid residues in any of the above-mentioned peptides of the present invention. Another preferred embodiment of the peptides of the present invention includes a peptide in which an amino acid residue(s) at a particular position(s) important for the binding to BIG3 has/have been substituted with the corresponding D-form amino acid residue(s). Examples of such a position include positions corresponding to glycine at position 15, glycine at position 18, and aspartic acid at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

**[0082]** Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention may be retro-inverso forms of any of the above-mentioned peptides of the present invention. A retro-inverso form has an amino acid sequence that is reversed from that of the original peptide, and all amino acid residues are substituted with D-form amino acid residues. More specifically, a retro-inverso form is a D-form peptide having an amino acid sequence that is reversed from that of the original peptide. Therefore, peptides which are retro-inverso forms of any one of the above-mentioned peptides of the present invention are included as preferred embodiments of the peptides of the present invention.

**[0083]** Peptides of the present invention may also be in the form of salts. The form of salts is not particularly limited, but pharmaceutically acceptable salts are preferred. Herein, the "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to a salt that retains the pharmacological and pharmaceutical efficacy and characteristics of a peptide. Preferred examples of salts include salts with alkali metals (lithium, potassium, sodium and such), salts with alkaline-earth metals (calcium, magnesium and such), salts with other metals (copper, iron, zinc, manganese and such), salts with organic bases, salts with amines, salts with organic acids (acetic acid, formic acid, propionic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, malic acid, oxalic acid, benzoic acid, methanesulfonic acid, and such), salts with inorganic acids (hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid and such), and such. These salts can be prepared according to known methods.

### 3. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the peptide or polynucleotide of the present invention and uses thereof

**[0084]** The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a peptide or a salt thereof of the present invention or a polynucleotide encoding a peptide of the present invention, along with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**[0085]** The peptides of the present invention inhibit the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide to induce the suppression of estrogen receptor activation by the PHB2 polypeptide, thereby leading to suppression of growth of estrogen receptor-positive cells. Accordingly, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are useful in either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cell proliferative diseases caused by activation of estrogen receptors. Such cell proliferative diseases include, for example, cancer.

**[0086]** It is known that among cancers, particularly breast cancer is deeply related to activation of estrogen receptors. A BIG3 polypeptide is a novel estrogen receptor activation regulator and is frequently expressed in many breast cancer specimens and breast cancer cells; meanwhile, it has been confirmed that expression of a BIG3 polypeptide is hardly found in normal tissues (Kim JW, Akiyama M, Park JH, et al. Cancer Sci.; 100(8): 1468-78 (2009)). Thus, it is considered that in breast cancer, expression of a BIG3 polypeptide inhibits the function of a PHB2 polypeptide of suppressing activation of estrogen receptors, thereby growth of breast cancer cells is promoted. Accordingly, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are particularly suitable for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of breast cancer. Furthermore, among breast cancers, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are particularly useful in breast cancers that are estrogen receptor-positive and express BIG3 polypeptides. However, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are not limited to use for breast cancer, and they can be used for any cancer as long as it is estrogen receptor-positive and expresses a BIG3 polypeptide. Examples of estrogen receptor-positive cancer besides breast cancer include endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer (Nelles JL, et al.,

Expert Rev Endocrinol Metab., 6(3): 437-51 (2011)), and lung cancer (particularly non-small-cell lung cancer) (Stabile LP, et al., Cancer Res., 65(4): 1459-70 (2005); Marquez-Garban DC, et al., Steroids. 72(2): 135-43 (2007)), but are not limited thereto. Cancers to which pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are applied preferably express BIG3 and PHB2, and estrogen receptor-positive cancers generally express BIG3 and PHB2. Whether a cancer is estrogen receptor-positive can be confirmed by known methods such as ELISA or immunohistochemical staining.

**[0087]** Furthermore, the peptides of the present invention showed excellent cell growth inhibitory effects in triple-negative breast cancer cells, which are estrogen receptor-negative breast cancer cells (Fig. 9). Generally, triple-negative refers to breast cancer cells lacking expression of HER2, estrogen receptors, and progesterone receptors, which are targeted factors in major drug treatments. Therefore, triple-negative breast cancers are normally resistant to drug treatment. Therefore, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be applied to either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of estrogen receptor-negative breast cancer, and are also useful as pharmaceutical compositions for administration to patients with such treatment-resistant breast cancers.

**[0088]** More specifically, the present invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a peptide of the present invention, which are for administration to drug therapy-resistant breast cancer patients. The present invention also relates to peptides of the present invention for use in either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of drug therapy-resistant breast cancer patients. Furthermore, the present invention relates to use of the peptides of the present invention in the production of pharmaceutical compositions for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of drug therapy-resistant breast cancer patients. The present invention also provides methods for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of breast cancer which comprise the steps of selecting patients having drug therapy-resistant breast cancer, and administering a peptide of the present invention to the selected patients.

**[0089]** Patients with drug therapy-resistant breast cancer can be identified by observing the therapeutic outcome after common drug therapy. Specifically, when degeneration of the disease focus is not clearly observed by the treatment, one can know that this cancer is treatment-resistant. A condition where enlargement of the disease focus is prevented is included in the degeneration of the disease focus. The above-mentioned triple-negative breast cancer patients are said to have resistance to drug therapies. Triple-negative refers to breast cancers having the features of lacking expression of estrogen receptors and progesterone receptors in addition to HER2. These markers for drug therapy resistance can be evaluated quantitatively by immunostaining and gene expression profiling. For example, the marker status is determined to be negative when the expression level is approximately the same as that of a negative control. For the negative control, treatment-resistant cancer cell lines lacking expression of these markers can be used.

**[0090]** Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be produced using known drug formulation techniques by mixing a peptide or a salt thereof of the present invention with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Herein, "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" refers to an inactive substance to be used as diluents or solvents for drugs. For the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers to be used in pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention, carriers generally used for pharmaceutical products can be appropriately selected according to the dosage form of the pharmaceutical compositions to be prepared.

**[0091]** The dosage forms of the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are not particularly limited, and dosage forms generally used for pharmaceutical products such as liquids, tablets, elixirs, capsules, granules, and powders can be selected appropriately. Furthermore, depending on the selected dosage form, additives such as excipients, stabilizers, suspensions, preservatives, surfactants, solubilizing agents, pH adjusters, and aggregation inhibitors can be added appropriately.

**[0092]** The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention comprise as an active ingredient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a peptide or a salt thereof of the present invention or a polynucleotide encoding the peptide. A "pharmaceutically effective amount" is an amount sufficient for a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention to accomplish its objective. For example, when a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention is for a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of the treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, an example of a pharmaceutically effective amount can be an amount that induces suppression of cancer growth rate, suppression of metastatic potential, prolonged survival time, suppression or delay of cancer development, or alleviation of various clinical symptoms associated with cancer, when administered to a patient. Suppression of cancer growth rate can be, for example, suppression of about 5% or more compared to when the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention is not administered. Preferably, suppression of cancer growth rate can be about 10% or more, 20% or more, 30% or more, 40% or more, 50% or more, 75 % or more, 80% or more, 90% or more, or 100% or more.

**[0093]** The pharmaceutically effective amount can be selected appropriately according to the dosage form of the pharmaceutical compositions, dosage interval, age, gender, body weight, and body surface area of subjects for administration, type of disease, and such. Examples of the content of peptides or salts thereof of the present invention in pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention include 0.001 mg to 1000 mg, 0.01 mg to 100 mg, 0.1 mg to 30 mg, or 0.1 mg to 10 mg, but are not limited thereto.

**[0094]** Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may optionally include other pharmaceutical agents. Examples of other pharmaceutical agents include anti-inflammatory agents, analgesic agents, antipyretics, other ther-

apeutic agents for cancer, and such. Other therapeutic agents for cancer that may be used for pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are not particularly limited, but when the pharmaceutical compositions are used for estrogen-positive cancers, examples may include hormone therapy agents such as selective ER $\alpha$  modulators (e.g., tamoxifen and raloxifene), ER $\alpha$  down-regulators (e.g., fulvestrant), aromatase inhibitors, LH-RH agonist formulations, and progesterone formulations. These pharmaceutical agents may also be mixed in the form of prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

**[0095]** Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be administered to a subject by appropriately selecting a suitable administration route depending on the dosage form. The administration route is not particularly limited, but examples include oral administration, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraosseous, peritoneal and intravenous injection, and such. Furthermore, while either systemic administration or local administration near the diseased site is possible, local administration is preferred. More specifically, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be administered by means of injection and such to the cancer tissue or to its vicinity. Alternatively, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be administered surgically into the cancer tissue or to its vicinity. Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can also be prepared as a controlled-release preparation by combining them with appropriate carriers.

**[0096]** Dosage interval of pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may also be appropriately selected according to the age, gender, body weight, and body surface area of subjects for administration, the disease type and such, as well as the dosage form, administration route, and such of the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention. Examples of the dosage interval include every day, every four days, and every seven days, but are not limited thereto.

**[0097]** Dosage of pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may also be appropriately selected according to the age, gender, body weight, and body surface area of subjects for administration, the disease type and such, as well as the dosage form, administration route, and such of the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention.

**[0098]** Examples of the dosage of peptides or salts thereof of the present invention include, for example, 0.001 mg/kg/day to 1000 mg/kg/day, 0.005 mg/kg/day to 500 mg/kg/day, 0.01 mg/kg/day to 250 mg/kg/day, but are not limited thereto.

**[0099]** Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be used in combination with other pharmaceuticals depending on the condition of the administration subjects. The pharmaceuticals used in combination are not particularly limited, but when the pharmaceutical compositions are used for estrogen receptor-positive cancers, examples may include hormone therapy agents such as selective ER $\alpha$  modulators (e.g., tamoxifen and raloxifene), ER $\alpha$  down-regulators (e.g., fulvestrant), aromatase inhibitors, LH-RH agonist formulations, and progesterone formulations. Among these hormone therapy agents, particularly preferred examples include tamoxifen and fulvestrant.

**[0100]** When pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are used for cancer treatment, one may examine whether the cancer to be treated is accompanied by expression of BIG3 and PHB2 before administering the pharmaceutical compositions. Whether BIG3 and PHB2 are expressed in the cancer to be treated can be confirmed by detecting transcription products or translation products of these genes in the samples collected from the subjects. Known methods can be used for detection methods, and for example, methods of detecting transcription products using probes or PCR methods (for example, cDNA microarray method, Northern blotting, and RT-PCR) and methods of detecting translation products using antibodies and such (for example, Western blotting and immunostaining) may be used.

**[0101]** The present invention also provides articles of manufacture or kits that comprise a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. The articles of manufacture or kits of the present invention can include a container that houses the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. An example of an appropriate container includes a bottle, a vial or a test tube, but is not limited thereto. The container may be formed of various materials such as glass or plastic. A label may be attached to the container, and the disease or disease state to which the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention should be used may be described in the label. The label may also indicate directions for administration and such.

**[0102]** The articles of manufacture or kits of the present invention may further comprise a second container that houses pharmaceutically acceptable diluents optionally, in addition to the container that houses the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. The articles of manufacture or kits of the present invention may further comprise the other materials desirable from a commercial standpoint and the user's perspective, such as the other buffers, diluents, filters, injection needles, syringes, and package inserts with instructions for use.

**[0103]** As needed, the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can be provided in a pack or dispenser device that can contain one or more units of dosage forms containing active ingredients. The pack can include, for example, a metallic foil or a plastic foil such as a blister pack. Instructions for administration can be attached to the pack or dispenser device.

**[0104]** In another embodiment, the present invention provides the following uses, methods, and such:

(a) uses of the peptide or salt thereof, or polynucleotide encoding the peptide of the present invention in the man-

manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer;  
 (b) the peptides or salts thereof, or polynucleotides encoding the peptides of the present invention for use in either  
 or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer;  
 (c) methods or processes for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, the method or process comprising formulating the peptide or salt thereof, or polynucleotide encoding the peptide of the present invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier(s);  
 (d) methods or processes for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, the method or process comprising mixing the peptide or salt thereof, or polynucleotide encoding the peptide of the present invention with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier(s); and  
 (e) methods for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, the method comprising administering the peptide or salt thereof, or polynucleotide encoding the peptide of the present invention to a subject.

**[0105]** In the above uses, methods and such, cancer is preferably BIG3-positive cancer and may be estrogen receptor-positive cancer or estrogen receptor-negative cancer (for example, triple-negative breast cancer). A preferred example of such cancer includes breast cancer.

**[0106]** Hereinbelow, the present invention is described in more detail with reference to the Examples. Nevertheless, while the following materials, method and Examples may serve to assist one of ordinary skill in making and using certain embodiments of the present invention, there are only intended to illustrate aspects of the present invention and thus in no way to limit the scope of the present invention. One of ordinary skill in the art can use methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein in the practice or testing of the present invention.

**[0107]** All prior art documents cited herein are incorporated by reference in the present specification.

[Example]

## [Example 1] Effects on Estrogen-dependent Breast Cancer

### 1. Materials and Methods

#### Cell lines and Culturing Conditions

**[0108]** Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was purchased from JCRB Cell Bank (Osaka, Japan) and maintained in MEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS (Nishirei Biosciences Inc., Tokyo, Japan), 1% Antibiotic/Antimycotic solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), 0.1 mM NEAA (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 10 µg/mL insulin (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C.

**[0109]** Normal mammary gland epithelial cell line MCF-10A was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA), and maintained in MEM (Lonza) supplemented with a Single Quots kit (BPE, hydrocortisone, hEGF, insulin, gentamycin/amphotericin-B) (Lonza, Walkersville, MD, USA) and 100 ng/mL cholera toxin under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C.

#### Cell Growth Assay

**[0110]** Growth assay on MCF-7 was carried out by seeding cells into 48-well plates (2 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells/200 µL). First, on the next day after seeding, the medium was changed to phenol red-free DMEM/F12 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% Antibiotic/Antimycotic solution, 0.1 mM NEAA, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, and 10 µg/mL insulin. 24 hours later, the cells were treated with 10 nM 17β-estradiol (estrogen, Sigma) alone or with 10 nM estrogen and a PHB2 sequence-derived peptide. Growth assay on MCF-10A was carried out by seeding cells into 48-well plates (2 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells/200 µL). 24 hours after seeding, PHB2 sequence-derived peptide was added. Growth assays were carried out using the Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) (Dojindo, Kumamoto, Japan). The data are shown by mean ± standard deviation of three independent experiments.

#### Antibodies and Immunoblot Analyses

**[0111]** For immunoblot analyses, after performing SDS-PAGE, the membranes blotted with proteins were blocked with 4% BlockAce solution (Dainippon Pharmaceutical, Osaka, Japan) for 3 hours and then incubated to react for 12 hours with antibodies against BIG3 (1:1,000), PHB2 (1:1,000) (Abcam, Cambridge, UK) and phosphorylated PHB2 (Ser39, Scrum, Tokyo, Japan). After allowing interaction with HRP-labeled secondary antibodies (anti-rat IgG-HRP for BIG3, 1:5,000; and anti-rabbit IgG-HRP for PHB2 and phosphorylated PHB2, 1:1,000) (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA) for 1 hour, the blots were developed with the Enhanced Chemiluminescence (ECL) system (GE

Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK) and scanned using the Image Reader LAS-3000 mini (Fujifilm, Tokyo, Japan).

#### Immunoprecipitation

**[0112]** For immunoprecipitation, MCF-7 was seeded into 10 cm dishes ( $2 \times 10^6$  cells/10 mL), and like cell growth assay, MCF-7 was treated with 10 nM estrogen alone or with 10 nM estrogen and PHB2 sequence-derived peptide. For immunoprecipitation analysis, cell lysates lysed in a cell lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl; pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40, and 0.5% CHAPS; 0.1% protease inhibitor cocktail III) were pre-cleared with a rat IgG antibody and rec-Protein G Sepharose 4B (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 4°C for 3 hours. Then, the supernatants were incubated for reaction with 5 µg of an antibody against BIG3 at 4°C for 12 hours. Next, the antigen-antibody complexes were precipitated using rec-Protein G Sepharose 4B at 4°C for 1 hour. The immunoprecipitated protein complexes were washed four times with the cell lysis buffer. Then, SDS-PAGE and immunoblot analyses were carried out.

#### Peptide Synthesis

**[0113]** All peptides were synthesized by the Fmoc solid-phase synthesis method. NovaSyn TGR resin (0.25 mmol amine/g) or Rink Amide AM resin (0.62 mmol amine/g) was used as resin and a manual Fmoc solid-phase synthesis method was utilized. The Fmoc group was removed by the following procedures: reacting with 20% (v/v) piperidine/DMF solution at room temperature for 10 minutes, the resin was washed five to ten times with DMF, and then three equivalents of an Fmoc amino acid was subjected to coupling in a DMF solvent at room temperature for 90 minutes using N,N-diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIPCDI; 3.0 equivalents) and 1-hydroxy benzotriazole hydrate (HOBt·H<sub>2</sub>O; 3.3 equivalents) or using N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA; 3.0 equivalents) and N,N,N,N-tetramethyl-O-(benzotriazole-1-yl)uronium hexafluorophosphate (HBTU; 2.9 equivalents). After washing with DMF, methanol, and ethanol and drying, the protected peptide resin was reacted with a cocktail of TFA:thioanisole:m-cresol:1,2-ethanedithiol:water (80:5:5:5:5) in the proportion of 100 mg of the protected peptide resin to 5 mL of the cocktail at room temperature for 90 minutes. After TFA was concentrated by nitrogen stream, the residual was precipitated by adding ether, and the precipitate was washed with ether and then dissolved in an appropriate aqueous solvent to perform preparative purification by HPLC.

## 2. Results

### Screening of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides

**[0114]** The 20 types of PHB2 protein sequence-derived peptides depicted in Fig. 1A were used to examine the suppressive effects on estrogen (E2)-dependent growth of MCF-7 (treated with 10 µM each peptide for 24 hours). As a result, growth of MCF-7 was significantly promoted by E2 stimulation, while treatments with PHB2-derived peptides No. 1 (11-22aa; SEQ ID NO: 1) and No. 5 (76-90aa; SEQ ID NO: 5) respectively showed the effect of significantly suppressing the E2-dependent growth by about 50% (No. 1: suppression ratio of 58%; No. 5: suppression ratio of 49%). Both peptides almost coincided with the BIG3-binding region predicted by *in silico* analysis (amino acids in bold letters). Furthermore, peptides No. 2 (42-50aa; SEQ ID NO: 2) and No. 3 (38-50aa; SEQ ID NO: 3) also showed the effect of suppressing the E2-dependent growth by 22% and 23%, respectively. However, each PHB2 sequence-derived peptide had a lower suppressive effect on the E2-dependent growth compared to that of ERAP, suggesting that PHB2 may have multiple BIG3-binding regions.

**[0115]** Next, additional PHB2 sequence-derived peptides surrounding No. 1 (11-22aa) and No. 5 (76-90aa) were synthesized (Figs. 1B and 1C), and the effect of treatment with 10 µM each peptide for 24 hours on the E2-dependent growth was examined. As a result, among the peptides around No. 1 (11-22aa), the PHB2 (11-22aa) peptide showed the highest suppression ratio (63%), while the suppressive effect attenuated with distance from there (Fig. 1B). On the other hand, among the peptides around No. 5 (76-90aa), the PHB2 (76-90aa) peptide showed the highest suppression ratio (51%), and No. 50 (75-89aa) also had almost the same suppressive effect; however, similarly to the above, the suppression ratio decreased with distance from these peptides (Fig. 1C). What is common to these data is that they comprise each amino acid of 11-21aa and 76-88aa, which showed a high score among the BIG3-binding sites predicted by *in silico* analysis, and the data suggested that there are two BIG3-binding sites in PHB2.

**[0116]** Thus, the combinations of No. 1 (11-22aa) with peptides surrounding No. 5 (76-90aa) and the combinations of No. 5 (76-90aa) with peptides surrounding No. 1 (11-22aa) were examined for suppressive effect on the E2-dependent growth of MCF-7. As a result, treatment with peptide No. 1 (11-22aa) alone almost reproduced the result with a suppression ratio of 65% for the E2-dependent growth, and when this peptide was used in combination with PHB2 peptides surrounding No. 5 (76-90aa), the combinations with No. 5 (76-90aa) and with No. 50 (75-89aa) showed almost complete suppressive effects of 100% and 97%, respectively (Fig. 1D). Similarly, treatment with No. 5 (76-90aa) alone showed a suppression ratio of 55%, and when this peptide was used in combination with PHB2 peptides surrounding No. 1 (11-22aa), the

combination with No. 1 (11-22aa) almost completely suppressed the growth, and the combinations with any of the peptides consisting of a region of 5 to 26 aa (Nos. 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40) showed a suppression ratio of 90% or higher (Fig. 1E). This suggested the importance of the PHB2 regions of No. 1 (11-22aa) and No. 5 (76-90aa) for the binding to BIG3 and the necessity to develop dominant-negative peptides considering these regions.

#### Suppressive effects of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides on E2-dependent growth

**[0117]** Next, the suppressive effect on E2-dependent growth of MCF-7 was examined when the two types of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides (No. 1 and No. 5), which can suppress E2-dependent growth of MCF-7, were used in combination. As a result, compared to each treatment with No. 1 or No. 5 alone, the use of both peptides in combination enhanced the effect and showed the growth suppressive effect of 88% (Fig. 2A). Moreover, enhanced suppressive effects were not observed when No. 5 was treated in combination with No. 6 (86-100aa), which did not show suppressive effect (suppression ratio of about 10%) in treatment with No. 6 alone. This suggested that there may be a BIG3-binding region in each of 11-22 aa and 76-90 aa of PHB2.

**[0118]** Next, the inhibition of the binding between BIG3 and PHB2 by treatment with 20  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M of No. 1 or No. 5 was examined by immunoprecipitation with a BIG3 antibody. As a result, No. 1 and No. 5 both inhibited the binding between BIG3 and PHB2 in a concentration-dependent manner, and No. 1 and No. 5 showed inhibition ratios of 64% and 80%, respectively, at 50  $\mu$ M (Fig. 2B). Furthermore, the use of both peptides at 50  $\mu$ M in combination achieved the inhibition ratio of 87% (Fig. 2B). Next, the effect of each peptide (Nos. 1, 5, and 6) on Ser39 phosphorylation of PHB2 was examined. Compared to Ser39 phosphorylation of PHB2 by treatment with ERAP, a positive control, each treatment with No. 1 or No. 5 alone showed only 40% or 20% band intensity of phosphorylation (Fig. 2C), and even the use of both peptides in combination showed 70% intensity of phosphorylation (Fig. 2C). On the other hand, No. 6 showed 10% band intensity of PHB2 phosphorylation and could hardly induce the phosphorylation (Fig. 2C). Moreover, since even the use of No. 5 and No. 6 in combination showed 20% band intensity, it was suggested that the binding between PHB2 and BIG3 extends over multiple regions of No. 1 and No. 5.

#### Suppressive effect of a novel peptide (11-90aa) covering the BIG3-binding regions of PHB2 peptides No. 1 and No. 5 on E2-dependent growth

**[0119]** Since the PHB2 sequence-derived peptides (No. 1 and No. 5) can suppress E2-dependent growth and can induce Ser39 phosphorylation of PHB2 by only 50%, a PHB2 peptide of 11-90aa comprising these two regions was newly synthesized and its effect on E2-dependent growth of MCF-7 was examined. As a result, the PHB2 peptide 11-90aa suppressed MCF-7 which proliferated twofold by 24 hour-E2 stimulation in a concentration-dependent manner, but had a suppression ratio of only 57% even at 50  $\mu$ M (Fig. 3A), which ratio was almost the same as that of No. 1 and No. 5 peptides.

**[0120]** It was then evaluated whether the peptide 11-90aa can inhibit the binding between BIG3 and PHB2 and can induce PHB2 phosphorylation. As a result, the PHB2 peptide 11-90aa inhibited the binding between BIG3 and PHB2 greater than an untreated sample, but did not provide a sufficient effect of inhibiting the binding (Fig. 3B). Furthermore, Ser39 phosphorylation of PHB2 was induced in a manner dependent on the concentration of PHB2 peptide 11-90aa, but it was 30% of the phosphorylation obtained by ERAP treatment, and PHB2 peptide 11-90aa could not induce sufficient phosphorylation (Fig. 3C). This may be because the number of amino acids was large, *i.e.* 80, and thus the binding to the  $\alpha$ -helical structure of BIG3 was insufficient.

#### Suppressive effects of linear, branched, and cyclic PHB2 on E2-dependent growth

**[0121]** Since the combination of PHB2 sequence-derived peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa enhanced suppression of estrogen-dependent growth to achieve a suppression ratio of 88% (Fig. 2A), a peptide in which both sequences were synthesized linearly (linear bound type; Fig. 4A), a peptide in which both sequences were synthesized with branching (branched bound type; Fig. 4B), and peptides in which each sequence was synthesized in a cyclic form for stabilizing structure and improving membrane permeability (cyclic type; Fig. 4C) were additionally prepared, and the enhancement of the growth suppressive effect of each peptide was examined (treated with 10  $\mu$ M each peptide for 24 hours). As a result, the linear bound and branched bound PHB2 peptides, in which both sequences were linked *via* a PEG (polyethylene glycol) sequence, showed suppression ratios of 71% and 57%, respectively. These suppression ratios were enhanced compared to that of administration of a single linear peptide, but were lower than that of the use of the peptides in combination (Fig. 5A). Furthermore, cyclic PHB2 peptides of 11-21aa and 76-88aa showed enhanced suppression ratios compared to non-cyclic peptides (Fig. 5A). Moreover, the use of the cyclic peptides in combination achieved an almost complete suppressive effect (suppression ratio of 96%; Fig. 5A), but an apoptosis-like phenomenon in which cells floated could not be confirmed.

**[0122]** Next, the effects of the cyclic peptides on growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells, MCF-10A, which do not express ER $\alpha$  and BIG3, were examined (treated with 10  $\mu$ M each peptide for 24 hours). As a result, although little suppressive effects were observed in the linear bound and cyclic bound PHB2 peptides (Fig. 5B; linear bound type: inhibition ratio of 10%, cyclic 11-21aa: inhibition ratio of 14%, cyclic 76-88aa: inhibition ratio of 15%), it was suggested

that most PHB2 peptides specifically suppress E2-dependent growth with little effect on MCF-10A growth. **[0123]** Subsequently, it was examined whether these PHB2 peptides can inhibit the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2. As a result, BIG3 strongly bound to PHB2 when the cells were untreated or stimulated with E2 (Fig. 5C) and treatment with each PHB2 peptide alone could hardly inhibit the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2 (Fig. 5C); however, the respective combination of the linear PHB2 peptides and the cyclic PHB2 peptides could markedly inhibit the interaction (Fig. 5C; combination of linear type: inhibition ratio of 67%, combination of cyclic type: inhibition ratio of 81%), and these results suggested that there are two BIG3-binding regions on PHB2. On the other hand, it was judged that the linear bound and branched bound PHB2 peptides cannot cover two BIG3-binding regions on PHB2.

#### Long-term stability of the suppressive effects of cyclic PHB2 peptides on E2-dependent growth

**[0124]** Since it was suggested that cyclic PHB2 peptides may acquire low concentration and long-term stability due to enhanced membrane permeability and fixation of structure, the long-term stability for up to 96 hours was examined when cells were treated with 10  $\mu$ M each cyclic PHB2 peptide alone. As a result, the linear PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa showed suppression ratios of 40% and 61%, respectively, in a 24-hour treatment, but exhibited significantly decreased suppression ratios of 31% and 24%, respectively, after 96 hours (Fig. 6A). Meanwhile, the cyclic peptide 11-21aa and cyclic peptide 76-88aa showed suppression ratios of 67% (53% in a 24-hour treatment) and 72% (58% in a 24-hour treatment), respectively, even after 96 hours (Fig. 6A), and their suppressive effects stably lasted for up to 96 hours. It was considered from these data that the suppressive effects of the cyclic peptides could last for a long time due to stable fixation of their tertiary structure similar to the cross-linked peptides.

**[0125]** Next, since the cyclic PHB2 peptides could sustain their suppressive effects for up to 96 hours, the effect on growth of MCF-10A, which does not express ER $\alpha$  and BIG3, was examined by treating with 1  $\mu$ M or 10  $\mu$ M each cyclic PHB2 peptide for up to 96 hours. As a result, the cyclic peptides of PHB2 sequences 11-21 aa and 76-88 aa each had little effect at 1  $\mu$ M (both of them had suppression ratios of 5% to 7%), but showed suppression ratios of 10% to 15% at 10  $\mu$ M (Fig. 6B), suggesting that they have a small non-specific suppressive effect. However, it was considered that the suppression of E2-dependent growth of MCF-7 by the cyclic PHB2 peptides was mainly due to the inhibition of the binding between BIG3 and PHB2.

#### Concentration-dependent suppressive effect of cyclic PHB2 peptides on E2-dependent growth

**[0126]** The 50% inhibition concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) of the cyclic PHB2 peptides for E2-dependent growth of MCF-7 were calculated and a synergistic suppressive effect of the peptides at the IC<sub>50</sub> was examined. As a result, each cyclic PHB2 peptide suppressed E2-dependent growth in a concentration-dependent manner, and the cyclic 11-21aa and cyclic 76-88aa showed IC<sub>50</sub> values of 4.06  $\mu$ M and 2.11  $\mu$ M, respectively (Fig. 7A). Then, 4  $\mu$ M cyclic 11-21aa and 2  $\mu$ M cyclic 76-88aa were used to examine the effect of long-term combination, and the use of peptides in combination for 24 hours showed a synergistic suppressive effect of 82%, which effect lasted for up to 96 hours (Fig. 7B; combination: suppression ratio of 88%, cyclic 11-21aa: suppression ratio of 41%, cyclic 76-88aa: suppression ratio of 59%). Furthermore, the peptides at these concentrations had little effect on growth of MCF-10A (Fig. 7C).

#### Identification of amino acids in PHB2 peptide sequences that are important for the binding to BIG3

**[0127]** Since PHB2-derived peptides No. 1 (11-22aa: SEQ ID NO: 1) and No. 5 (76-90aa: SEQ ID NO: 5) had a suppressive effect by about 50% on E2-dependent growth, peptides were made in which each amino acid in the peptide sequences of No. 1 and No. 5 was mutated to alanine (Fig. 8A) to identify amino acids important for growth suppression. In the experiment, MCF-7 was seeded, 10  $\mu$ M each PHB2 peptide and 10 nM estrogen were added 48 hours after seeding, and the cell number was monitored after another 24 hours. First, the amino acids of PHB2 sequence 11-22 aa were evaluated and No. 1 (11-22aa) suppressed estrogen-dependent cell growth by up to 65%, while only alanine-mutated peptides No. 59 and No. 62 (SEQ ID NOs: 59 and 62) attenuated suppression ratios of 19% and 8%, respectively (Fig. 8B). On the other hand, since other alanine-mutated peptides showed almost the same suppression ratio as No. 1 (Fig. 8B), glycines at positions 15 and 18 were considered to be important for the binding to BIG3, suggesting that the suppressive activity may be improved by converting these positions into an isomeric form, a D-amino acid.

**[0128]** Next, the amino acids of PHB2 sequence 76-90 aa were evaluated. Although the suppression ratio of No. 5 (76-90aa) on estrogen-dependent growth was 54% and nearly reproduced (Fig. 8C), the suppression ratios of alanine-mutated peptides Nos. 71 to 73 (SEQ ID NOs: 71 to 73) attenuated below No. 5 (76-90aa) and were 38%, 37%, and

13%, respectively (Fig. 8C), and particularly aspartic acid at position 82 was considered to be necessary for the binding between BIG3 and PHB2.

[0129] Furthermore, peptides (Fig. 8D; Nos. 82 and 83 (SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83)) were prepared by adding 51-57aa comprising 53-57 aa, which was predicted to be involved in the interaction between BIG3 and PHB2 by *in silico* analysis (Fig. 1A), to No. 2 (42-50aa: SEQ ID NO: 2) and to No. 3 (38-50aa: SEQ ID NO: 3), which showed a suppressive effect other than peptides No. 1 (11-22aa) and No. 5 (76-90aa), and these peptides were used to examine the effects on estrogen-dependent cell growth. As a result, while the suppression ratios of No. 2 and No. 3 were 20% and 17%, respectively, peptides No. 82 and No. 83, to which the amino acids at positions up to 57 were added, showed improved suppression ratios of 59% and 61%, respectively (Fig. 8E). Thus, it was suggested that by having the amino acids from glutamic acid at position 44 to glycine at position 57, the PHB2 peptides can be comparable in suppression ratio to No. 1 and No. 5.

## [Example 2] Effects on Triple-negative Breast Cancer

### 1. Materials and Methods

#### Cell lines and Culture Conditions

[0130] Human breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA), and cultured using Leibovitz's L-15 medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and a 1% antibiotic/antimycotic solution (Wako Pure Chemical, Osaka, Japan) at 37°C without CO<sub>2</sub> concentration control.

#### Cell Growth Assay

[0131] MDA-MB-231 cells were seeded into 48-well plates at a cell density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/200 mL in well. 48 hours later, the medium in each well was exchanged to a medium supplemented with PHB2 peptides 11-22aa or 76-90aa (three-fold serial dilution from 20 mM), and after culturing for another 96 hours, the level of cell growth was measured using the Cell Counting Kit-8 (Dojindo, Kumamoto, Japan). Data were obtained from three independent experiments, a graph (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation) was produced using a graphing and data analyzing software SigmaPlot (Systat Software, San Jose, CA, USA), and the 50% inhibition concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of the peptide against cell growth was calculated.

#### Combination assay

[0132] MDA-MB-231 cells were seeded into 48-well plates at a cell density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/200 mL in well. 48 hours later, the medium in each well was exchanged to media supplemented with PHB2 peptide 11-22aa (added concentration: IC<sub>50</sub> value), PHB2 peptide 76-90aa (added concentration: IC<sub>50</sub> value) and a mixed solution of both peptides (added concentration: respective IC<sub>50</sub> value), respectively, or to a medium supplemented with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) as a negative control. After culture for another 96 hours, the cell growth level was measured using the Cell Counting Kit-8 (Dojindo, Kumamoto, Japan). The data obtained was used to calculate relative values based on the growth level when PBS was added, and the graph was produced.

### 2. Results

#### Growth suppressive effects of PHB2 peptides on a breast cancer cell line

[0133] To examine the cell growth suppressive effects of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa on the breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231, serial dilution series of the peptides were prepared and the growth level was measured 96 hours after addition to the cells. As a result, as shown in Figs. 9A and 9B, concentration-dependent suppressive effects on cell growth were observed in both peptides. The 50% inhibition concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) were 0.462  $\mu$ M in the peptide 11-22aa and 0.273  $\mu$ M in the peptide 76-90aa, and the peptide 76-90aa showed a more potent growth suppressive effect.

#### Effect of use of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa in combination

[0134] To examine the effect of use of PHB2 peptides 11-22aa and 76-90aa in combination on suppression of cell growth, the breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 was used to compare the cell growth levels when both peptides were mixed and added at respective IC<sub>50</sub> and when each peptide was added alone at respective IC<sub>50</sub>. As a result, as shown



in Fig. 9C, the addition of each peptide alone showed the suppression of growth by about 50% compared to when phosphate buffered saline (PBS), a negative control, was added; however, the combination enhanced the suppressive effect by about 62%.

### [Example 3] Effects of Cross-linking PHB2 Peptide on Estrogen-dependent Breast Cancer

#### 1. Materials and Methods

##### Cell lines and Culturing Conditions

**[0135]** Human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 was purchased from JCRB Cell Bank (Osaka, Japan) and maintained in MEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS (Nichirei Biosciences Inc., Tokyo, Japan), a 1% Antibiotic/Antimycotic solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), 0.1 mM NEAA (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 10  $\mu$ g/mL insulin (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C.

**[0136]** Normal mammary gland epithelial cell line MCF-10A was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA), and maintained in MEM (Lonza) supplemented with a Single Quots kit (BPE, hydrocortisone, hEGF, insulin, gentamycin/amphotericin-B) (Lonza, Walkersville, MD, USA) and 100 ng/mL cholera toxin under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C.

##### Cell Growth Assay

**[0137]** Growth assay on MCF-7 was carried out by seeding cells into 48-well plates (2 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells/200  $\mu$ L). First, on the next day after seeding, the medium was changed to phenol red-free DMEM/F12 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% Antibiotic/Antimycotic solution, 0.1 mM NEAA, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, and 10  $\mu$ g/mL insulin. 24 hours later, the cells were treated with 10 nM 17 $\beta$ -estradiol (estrogen, Sigma) alone or with 10 nM estrogen and a PHB2 sequence-derived peptide. Growth assay on MCF-10A was carried out by seeding cells into 48-well plates (2 x 10<sup>4</sup> cells/200  $\mu$ L). 24 hours after seeding, PHB2 sequence-derived peptide was added. Growth assays were carried out using the Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) (Dojindo, Kumamoto, Japan). The data are shown by mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

#### 2. Results

##### Suppressive effects of cross-linked PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth

**[0138]** PHB2 peptides 11-21aa and 76-88aa were cross-linked by three types of cross-linking methods (Fig. 10A: hexafluorobenzene cross-linking, decafluorobiphenyl cross-linking, and disulfide cross-linking) to prepare cross-linked PHB2 peptides (stapled PHB2 peptides) (Fig. 10B), and the suppressive effects of these peptides on estrogen-dependent growth were examined. In the experiment, breast cancer cells MCF-7 were seeded, 10  $\mu$ M each PHB2 peptide and 10 nM estrogen were added after 48 hours, and the cell number was evaluated after another 24 hours by MTT assay.

**[0139]** Each cross-linked PHB2 peptide of 11-21aa and 76-88aa improved the suppressive effect on estrogen-dependent growth about 1.5-fold compared to non-cross-linked PHB2 peptides (SEQ ID NOs: 109, 113, 114, 118, and 122) (polyarginine addition: Fig. 10C (left); without polyarginine: Fig. 10C (right)). The improved effects did not vary depending on the cross-linking method (stapling method). Moreover, cross-linked PHB2 peptides which do not have polyarginine at the C terminus (SEQ ID NOs: 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, and 121) showed a slightly higher suppression ratios than peptides to which polyarginine was added (with polyarginine: suppression ratio of about 60%; without polyarginine: suppression ratio of about 70%), suggesting that polyarginine may block the function of cross-linked structure.

##### Suppressive effects of cyclic PHB2 peptides on estrogen-dependent growth

**[0140]** For improving the cell membrane permeability and the structural stability of cyclic PHB2 peptides (Fig. 4C, SEQ ID NOs: 25 and 26), their cross-linking forms were changed and the suppressive effects on estrogen-dependent growth were examined. In addition to disulfide cross-linking (SEQ ID NOs: 25 and 26) so far examined, hexafluorobenzene cross-linking (Fig. 11A; SEQ ID NOs: 123 and 126) and decafluorobiphenyl cross-linking (Fig. 11A; SEQ ID NOs: 124 and 127) were evaluated. As a result, cyclic PHB2 peptides cross-linked using fluorobenzene (Fig. 11A; SEQ ID NOs: 123, 124, 126, and 127) slightly improved the growth suppressive effect compared to disulfide cross-linking (Fig. 11B), and cyclic PHB2 peptide 11-21aa and cyclic PHB2 peptide 76-88aa enhanced the suppression ratios to about 70% and about 80%. Furthermore, no difference has been observed for fluorobenzene cross-linking between a single cross-linking (hexafluorobenzene cross-linking) and a double cross-linking (decafluorobiphenyl cross-linking).

Effects of modifications of PHB2 peptide 11-22aa on estrogen-dependent growth

**[0141]** In the PHB2 peptide 11-22aa, glycines at positions 15 and 18 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 (full-length PHB2 polypeptide) were considered to be important for the binding to BIG3 (Fig. 8). Then, it was examined whether substitutions of these positions with D-alanine and D-leucine (Fig. 12A) enhance the suppressive activity or not. As a result, while the PHB2 peptide in which glycines at positions 15 and 18 were substituted with D-leucines (SEQ ID NO: 134) showed a suppression ratio of about 65% (Fig. 12B), the substitutions with D-alanines (SEQ ID NO: 133) had no suppressive effect (Fig. 12B). However, since the suppression ratio of PHB2 peptide 11-22aa (SEQ ID NO: 1; Fig. 8B) was about 65%, the substitutions with D-leucine showed little improvement in suppressive effect.

Effects of cross-linked PHB2 peptides on growth of mammary gland epithelial cells

**[0142]** The effects of cross-linked and cyclic PHB2 peptides on growth of normal mammary gland epithelial cells MCF-10A, which do not express ER $\alpha$  and BIG3, were examined (treated with 10  $\mu$ M each PHB2 peptide for 24 hours). As a result, all the PHB2 peptides evaluated had no effect on growth of MCF-10A (Fig. 13).

[Industrial Applicability]

**[0143]** The present invention provides PHB2 amino acid sequence-derived peptides which exert an inhibitory effect on the BIG3-PHB2 interaction and are useful as therapeutic agents for breast cancer. The peptides provided by the present invention are useful in treating cancer such as breast cancer. More specifically, the peptides of the present invention are useful in treating BIG3-positive and/or estrogen receptor-positive cancer. The peptides of the present invention target not PHB2, whose expression is observed in organs throughout the human body, but BIG3, which is a protein highly expressed specifically in particularly estrogen receptor-positive cancer, and thus these peptides can be expected to have high selectivity for estrogen receptor-positive cancer. Moreover, the peptides of the present invention also exert an antitumor effect against triple-negative breast cancer.

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 ONCOTHERAPY SCIENCE, INC.

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 PEPTIDE INHIBITING BIG3-PHB2 INTERACTION

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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# EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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		ttc	acc	agg	gga	agt	gac	agc	ctc	atc	aag	ggt	aag	aaa	tga					996			
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			250				255					260											
		gcctagtcac	caagaactcc				acccccagag				gaagtggatc				tgcttctcca				gtttttgagg				1056
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		aattactttc	ctcctccctg				tgттаactgg				ggctgttggg				gacagtgcgt				gatttctcag				1236
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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Ala	Ile	Phe	Phe	Asn	Arg	Ile	Gly	Gly	Val	Gln	Gln	Asp	Thr	Ile	Leu	50	55	60	
Ala	Glu	Gly	Leu	His	Phe	Arg	Ile	Pro	Trp	Phe	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Ile	Ile	65	70	75	80
Tyr	Asp	Ile	Arg	Ala	Arg	Pro	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ser	Ser	Pro	Thr	Gly	Ser	85	90	95	
Lys	Asp	Leu	Gln	Met	Val	Asn	Ile	Ser	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Ser	Arg	Pro	100	105	110	
Asn	Ala	Gln	Glu	Leu	Pro	Ser	Met	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Leu	Gly	Leu	Asp	Tyr	115	120	125	
Glu	Glu	Arg	Val	Leu	Pro	Ser	Ile	Val	Asn	Glu	Val	Leu	Lys	Ser	Val	130	135	140	
Val	Ala	Lys	Phe	Asn	Ala	Ser	Gln	Leu	Ile	Thr	Gln	Arg	Ala	Gln	Val	145	150	155	160
Ser	Leu	Leu	Ile	Arg	Arg	Glu	Leu	Thr	Glu	Arg	Ala	Lys	Asp	Phe	Ser	165	170	175	
Leu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Asp	Val	Ala	Ile	Thr	Glu	Leu	Ser	Phe	Ser	Arg	Glu	180	185	190	
Tyr	Thr	Ala	Ala	Val	Glu	Ala	Lys	Gln	Val	Ala	Leu	Ser	Lys	Asn	Pro	195	200	205	
Gly	Tyr	Ile	Lys	Leu	Arg	Lys	Ile	Arg	Ala	Ala	Gln	Asn	Ile	Ser	Lys	210	215	220	

# EP 3 889 264 A1

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						1											
30	gaa atc ctg agg aag ctg cag aag gag gcg tcc ggg agc aag tac aaa															225	
	Glu Ile Leu Arg Lys Leu Gln Lys Glu Ala Ser Gly Ser Lys Tyr Lys																
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	gcc atc aag gag agc tgc acc tgg gcc ctg gaa act cta ggt ggt ctg															273	
35	Ala Ile Lys Glu Ser Cys Thr Trp Ala Leu Glu Thr Leu Gly Gly Leu																
	20				25					30							
	gat acc att gtc aag atc cct cca cat gta ctg agg gag aaa tgc ctg															321	
	Asp Thr Ile Val Lys Ile Pro Pro His Val Leu Arg Glu Lys Cys Leu																
	35			40				45							50		
40	ctg cct ctc cag ttg gct ttg gaa tcc aag aat gtg aag ctg gcc caa															369	
	Leu Pro Leu Gln Leu Ala Leu Glu Ser Lys Asn Val Lys Leu Ala Gln																
			55				60						65				
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	His Ala Leu Ala Gly Met Gln Lys Leu Leu Ser Glu Glu Arg Phe Val																
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	tcc atg gaa aca gat tct gat gag aag cag ctg ctc aat cag ata ctg															465	
	Ser Met Glu Thr Asp Ser Asp Glu Lys Gln Leu Leu Asn Gln Ile Leu																
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	Asn Ala Val Lys Val Thr Pro Ser Leu Asn Glu Asp Leu Gln Val Glu																
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55	gtg atg aag gtt tta cta tgc atc acc tac acg cca aca ttt gat ctg															561	
	Val Met Lys Val Leu Leu Cys Ile Thr Tyr Thr Pro Thr Phe Asp Leu																
	115				120					125						130	



EP 3 889 264 A1

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	Asn Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Lys Ile Ala Glu Val Cys Ile Glu Thr Tyr	
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	Ile Ser Ser Cys His Gln Arg Ser Ile Asn Thr Ala Val Arg Ala Thr	
	150 155 160	
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	Leu Ser Gln Met Leu Ser Asp Leu Thr Leu Gln Leu Arg Gln Arg Gln	
	165 170 175	
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	Glu Asn Thr Ile Ile Glu Asn Pro Asp Val Pro Gln Asp Phe Gly Asn	
	180 185 190	
20	caa ggg tca aca gta gag tcc ctg tgt gat gat gtt gtc tct gta ctc	801
	Gln Gly Ser Thr Val Glu Ser Leu Cys Asp Asp Val Val Ser Val Leu	
	195 200 205 210	
25	acc gtc ctg tgt gag aag ctg caa gcc gcc ata aat gac agc cag cag	849
	Thr Val Leu Cys Glu Lys Leu Gln Ala Ala Ile Asn Asp Ser Gln Gln	
	215 220 225	
30	ctg cag ctt ctg tac ctg gag tgc atc ctg tct gtg ctc agc agc tcc	897
	Leu Gln Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Cys Ile Leu Ser Val Leu Ser Ser Ser	
	230 235 240	
35	tcc tcc tcc atg cac ctg cac agg cgc ttc acg gac ctg atc tgg aaa	945
	Ser Ser Ser Met His Leu His Arg Arg Phe Thr Asp Leu Ile Trp Lys	
	245 250 255	
40	aac ctg tgc cct gct ctg atc gtg atc ttg ggg aat cca att cat gac	993
	Asn Leu Cys Pro Ala Leu Ile Val Ile Leu Gly Asn Pro Ile His Asp	
	260 265 270	
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	Lys Thr Ile Thr Ser Ala His Thr Ser Ser Thr Ser Thr Ser Leu Glu	
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	Ser Asp Ser Ala Ser Pro Gly Val Ser Asp His Gly Arg Gly Ser Gly	
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	Cys Ser Cys Thr Ala Pro Ala Leu Ser Gly Pro Val Ala Arg Thr Ile	
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	Tyr Tyr Ile Ala Ala Glu Leu Val Arg Leu Val Gly Ser Val Asp Ser	
	325 330 335	
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	Met Lys Pro Val Leu Gln Ser Leu Tyr His Arg Val Leu Leu Tyr Pro	
	340 345 350	
70	cca ccc cag cac cgg gtg gaa gcc atc aaa ata atg aaa gag ata ctt	1281
	Pro Pro Gln His Arg Val Glu Ala Ile Lys Ile Met Lys Glu Ile Leu	
	355 360 365 370	
75	ggg agc cca cag cgt ctg tgt gac ttg gca gga ccc agc tcc act gaa	1329
	Gly Ser Pro Gln Arg Leu Cys Asp Leu Ala Gly Pro Ser Ser Thr Glu	
	375 380 385	

EP 3 889 264 A1

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	Ser Glu Ser Arg Lys Arg Ser Ile Ser Lys Arg Lys Ser His Leu Asp	
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	Leu Leu Lys Leu Ile Met Asp Gly Met Thr Glu Ala Cys Ile Lys Gly	
	405 410 415	
10	ggc atc gaa gct tgc tat gca gcc gtg tcc tgt gtc tgc acc ttg ctg	1473
	Gly Ile Glu Ala Cys Tyr Ala Ala Val Ser Cys Val Cys Thr Leu Leu	
	420 425 430	
15	ggg gcc ctg gat gag ctc agc cag ggg aag ggc ttg agc gaa ggt cag	1521
	Gly Ala Leu Asp Glu Leu Ser Gln Gly Lys Gly Leu Ser Glu Gly Gln	
	435 440 445 450	
20	gtg caa ctg ctg ctt ctg cgc ctt gag gag ctg aag gat ggg gct gag	1569
	Val Gln Leu Leu Leu Leu Arg Leu Glu Glu Leu Lys Asp Gly Ala Glu	
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25	tgg agc cga gat tcc atg gag atc aat gag gct gac ttc cgc tgg cag	1617
	Trp Ser Arg Asp Ser Met Glu Ile Asn Glu Ala Asp Phe Arg Trp Gln	
	470 475 480	
30	cgg cga gtg ctg tcc tca gaa cac acg ccg tgg gag tca ggg aac gag	1665
	Arg Arg Val Leu Ser Ser Glu His Thr Pro Trp Glu Ser Gly Asn Glu	
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35	agg agc ctt gac atc agc atc agt gtc acc aca gac aca ggc cag acc	1713
	Arg Ser Leu Asp Ile Ser Ile Ser Val Thr Thr Asp Thr Gly Gln Thr	
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	Thr Leu Glu Gly Glu Leu Gly Gln Thr Thr Pro Glu Asp His Ser Gly	
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45	aac cac aag aac agt ctc aag tcg cca gcc atc cca gag ggt aag gag	1809
	Asn His Lys Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Pro Ala Ile Pro Glu Gly Lys Glu	
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	Thr Leu Ser Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Glu Ala Val Asp Gln Pro Asp Val	
	550 555 560	
55	gtg cag aga agc cac acg gtc cct tac cct gac ata act aac ttc ctg	1905
	Val Gln Arg Ser His Thr Val Pro Tyr Pro Asp Ile Thr Asn Phe Leu	
	565 570 575	
60	tca gta gac tgc agg aca agg tcc tat gga tct agg tat agt gag agc	1953
	Ser Val Asp Cys Arg Thr Arg Ser Tyr Gly Ser Arg Tyr Ser Glu Ser	
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65	aat ttt agc gtt gat gac caa gac ctt tct agg aca gag ttt gat tcc	2001
	Asn Phe Ser Val Asp Asp Gln Asp Leu Ser Arg Thr Glu Phe Asp Ser	
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70	tgt gat cag tac tct atg gca gca gaa aag gac tcg ggc agg tcc gac	2049
	Cys Asp Gln Tyr Ser Met Ala Ala Glu Lys Asp Ser Gly Arg Ser Asp	
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75	gtg tca gac att ggg tcg gac aac tgt tca cta gcc gat gaa gag cag	2097
	Val Ser Asp Ile Gly Ser Asp Asn Cys Ser Leu Ala Asp Glu Glu Gln	

EP 3 889 264 A1

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	tct cta aaa ctg ctg aag aac cag gag gcg gat cag cac agc gcc agg Ser Leu Lys Leu Leu Lys Asn Gln Glu Ala Asp Gln His Ser Ala Arg 660 665 670			2193
10	ctg ttc ata cag tcc ctg gaa ggc ctc ctc cct cgg ctc ctg tct ctc Leu Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Glu Gly Leu Leu Pro Arg Leu Leu Ser Leu 675 680 685 690			2241
15	tcc aat gta gag gag gtg gac acc gct ctg cag aac ttt gcc tct act Ser Asn Val Glu Glu Val Asp Thr Ala Leu Gln Asn Phe Ala Ser Thr 695 700 705			2289
20	ttc tgc tca ggc atg atg cac tct cct ggc ttt gac ggg aat agc agc Phe Cys Ser Gly Met Met His Ser Pro Gly Phe Asp Gly Asn Ser Ser 710 715 720			2337
	ctc agc ttc cag atg ctg atg aac gca gac agc ctc tac aca gct gca Leu Ser Phe Gln Met Leu Met Asn Ala Asp Ser Leu Tyr Thr Ala Ala 725 730 735			2385
25	cac tgc gcc ctg ctc ctc aac ctg aag ctc tcc cac ggt gac tac tac His Cys Ala Leu Leu Leu Asn Leu Lys Leu Ser His Gly Asp Tyr Tyr 740 745 750			2433
30	agg aag cgg ccg acc ctg gcg cca ggc gtg atg aag gac ttc atg aag Arg Lys Arg Pro Thr Leu Ala Pro Gly Val Met Lys Asp Phe Met Lys 755 760 765 770			2481
	cag gtg cag acc agc ggc gtg ctg atg gtc ttc tct cag gcc tgg att Gln Val Gln Thr Ser Gly Val Leu Met Val Phe Ser Gln Ala Trp Ile 775 780 785			2529
35	gag gag ctc tac cat cag gtg ctc gac agg aac atg ctt gga gag gct Glu Glu Leu Tyr His Gln Val Leu Asp Arg Asn Met Leu Gly Glu Ala 790 795 800			2577
40	ggc tat tgg ggc agc cca gaa gat aac agc ctt ccc ctc atc aca atg Gly Tyr Trp Gly Ser Pro Glu Asp Asn Ser Leu Pro Leu Ile Thr Met 805 810 815			2625
	ctg acc gat att gac ggc tta gag agc agt gcc att ggt ggc cag ctg Leu Thr Asp Ile Asp Gly Leu Glu Ser Ser Ala Ile Gly Gly Gln Leu 820 825 830			2673
45	atg gcc tcg gct gct aca gag tct cct ttc gcc cag agc agg aga att Met Ala Ser Ala Ala Thr Glu Ser Pro Phe Ala Gln Ser Arg Arg Ile 835 840 845 850			2721
50	gat gac tcc aca gtg gca ggc gtg gca ttt gct cgc tat att ctg gtg Asp Asp Ser Thr Val Ala Gly Val Ala Phe Ala Arg Tyr Ile Leu Val 855 860 865			2769
55	ggc tgc tgg aag aac ttg atc gat act tta tca acc cca ctg act ggt Gly Cys Trp Lys Asn Leu Ile Asp Thr Leu Ser Thr Pro Leu Thr Gly 870 875 880			2817
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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	Gly	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Asn	Gln	Lys	Glu	Arg	Asp	Ala	Ile	Cys	Met	Ser	
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	Leu	Asp	Gly	Leu	Arg	Lys	Ala	Ala	Arg	Leu	Ser	Cys	Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	
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15	gct	gct	aac	tgc	gcc	tca	gcc	ctt	gcc	cag	atg	gca	gct	gcc	tcc	tgt	3009
	Ala	Ala	Asn	Cys	Ala	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ala	Gln	Met	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ser	Cys	
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	Val	Gln	Glu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Glu	Arg	Glu	Ala	Gln	Glu	Pro	Ser	Asp	Ala	
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	Ile	Thr	Gln	Val	Lys	Leu	Lys	Val	Glu	Gln	Lys	Leu	Glu	Gln	Ile	Gly	
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	Lys	Val	Gln	Gly	Val	Trp	Leu	His	Thr	Ala	His	Val	Leu	Cys	Met	Glu	
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	Cys	Trp	Pro	His	Val	Phe	Arg	Val	Cys	Glu	Tyr	Val	Gly	Thr	Leu		
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	Glu	His	Asn	His	Phe	Ser	Asp	Gly	Ala	Ser	Gln	Pro	Pro	Leu	Thr		
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	Asp	Pro	Glu	Cys	Glu	Gly	Ser	Pro	Pro	Glu	His	Ser	Pro	Glu	Gln		
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	Gly	Arg	Ser	Leu	Ser	Thr	Ala	Pro	Val	Val	Gln	Pro	Leu	Ser	Ile		
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	Gln	Asp	Leu	Val	Arg	Glu	Gly	Ser	Arg	Gly	Arg	Ala	Ser	Asp	Phe		
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	Arg	Gly	Gly	Ser	Leu	Met	Ser	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ala	Lys	Val	Val		
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75	ctc	acc	ctc	tcc	acg	caa	gcc	gac	agg	ctc	ttt	gaa	gat	gct	acg		3558
	Leu	Thr	Leu	Ser	Thr	Gln	Ala	Asp	Arg	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Ala	Thr		
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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10		Val	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Ala	Met	Pro	Gly	Glu	Val	Lys	Ser	Thr	Gln	
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		gac	cga	aaa	agc	gcc	ctc	cac	ctg	ttc	cgc	ctg	ggg	aat	gcc	atg	3738
		Asp	Arg	Lys	Ser	Ala	Leu	His	Leu	Phe	Arg	Leu	Gly	Asn	Ala	Met	
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		Leu	Arg	Ile	Val	Arg	Ser	Lys	Ala	Arg	Pro	Leu	Leu	His	Val	Met	
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		cgc	tgc	tgg	agc	ctt	gtg	gcc	cca	cac	ctg	gtg	gag	gct	gct	tgc	3828
20		Arg	Cys	Trp	Ser	Leu	Val	Ala	Pro	His	Leu	Val	Glu	Ala	Ala	Cys	
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		His	Lys	Glu	Arg	His	Val	Ser	Gln	Lys	Ala	Val	Ser	Phe	Ile	His	
25		1220					1225					1230					
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		Asp	Ile	Leu	Thr	Glu	Val	Leu	Thr	Asp	Trp	Asn	Glu	Pro	Pro	His	
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		Phe	His	Phe	Asn	Glu	Ala	Leu	Phe	Arg	Pro	Phe	Glu	Arg	Ile	Met	
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35		Gln	Leu	Glu	Leu	Cys	Asp	Glu	Asp	Val	Gln	Asp	Gln	Val	Val	Thr	
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		1280					1285					1290					
40		gga	tgg	aga	ccc	ttg	ttc	agt	gcc	ctg	gaa	aca	gtg	cat	ggc	ggg	4098
		Gly	Trp	Arg	Pro	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Leu	Glu	Thr	Val	His	Gly	Gly	
		1295					1300					1305					
		aac	aag	tca	gag	atg	aag	gag	tac	ctg	gtt	ggg	gac	tac	tcc	atg	4143
45		Asn	Lys	Ser	Glu	Met	Lys	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Val	Gly	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Met	
		1310					1315					1320					
		gga	aaa	ggc	caa	gct	cca	gtg	ttt	gat	gta	ttt	gaa	gct	ttt	ctc	4188
		Gly	Lys	Gly	Gln	Ala	Pro	Val	Phe	Asp	Val	Phe	Glu	Ala	Phe	Leu	
50		1325					1330					1335					
		aat	act	gac	aac	atc	cag	gtc	ttt	gct	aat	gca	gcc	act	agc	tac	4233
		Asn	Thr	Asp	Asn	Ile	Gln	Val	Phe	Ala	Asn	Ala	Ala	Thr	Ser	Tyr	
		1340					1345					1350					
55		atc	atg	tgc	ctt	atg	aag	ttt	gtc	aaa	gga	ctg	ggg	gag	gtg	gac	4278
		Ile	Met	Cys	Leu	Met	Lys	Phe	Val	Lys	Gly	Leu	Gly	Glu	Val	Asp	
		1355					1360					1365					

EP 3 889 264 A1

	tgt	aaa	gag	att	gga	gac	tgt	gcc	cca	gca	ccc	gga	gcc	ccg	tcc	4323
	Cys	Lys	Glu	Ile	Gly	Asp	Cys	Ala	Pro	Ala	Pro	Gly	Ala	Pro	Ser	
	1370					1375					1380					
5	aca	gac	ctg	tgc	ctc	ccg	gcc	ctg	gat	tac	ctc	agg	cgc	tgc	tct	4368
	Thr	Asp	Leu	Cys	Leu	Pro	Ala	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Leu	Arg	Arg	Cys	Ser	
	1385					1390					1395					
10	cag	tta	ttg	gcc	aaa	atc	tac	aaa	atg	ccc	ttg	aag	cca	ata	ttc	4413
	Gln	Leu	Leu	Ala	Lys	Ile	Tyr	Lys	Met	Pro	Leu	Lys	Pro	Ile	Phe	
	1400					1405					1410					
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	Leu	Ser	Gly	Arg	Leu	Ala	Gly	Leu	Pro	Arg	Arg	Leu	Gln	Glu	Gln	
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	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ser	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ile	Glu	Ser	Val	Leu	Ser	Asp	Phe	
	1430					1435					1440					
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	Asp	Asp	Asp	Thr	Gly	Leu	Ile	Glu	Val	Trp	Ile	Ile	Leu	Leu	Glu	
	1445					1450					1455					
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	Gln	Leu	Thr	Ala	Ala	Val	Ser	Asn	Cys	Pro	Arg	Gln	His	Gln	Pro	
	1460					1465					1470					
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	Pro	Thr	Leu	Asp	Leu	Leu	Phe	Glu	Leu	Leu	Arg	Asp	Val	Thr	Lys	
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	Leu	Pro	Val	Met	Ser	Val	Trp	Leu	Arg	Arg	Ser	His	Lys	Asp	His	
	1505					1510					1515					
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	Ser	Tyr	Trp	Asp	Met	Ala	Ser	Ala	Asn	Phe	Lys	His	Ala	Ile	Gly	
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	Leu	Ser	Cys	Glu	Leu	Val	Val	Glu	His	Ile	Gln	Ser	Phe	Leu	His	
	1535					1540					1545					
60	tca	gat	atc	agg	tac	gag	agc	atg	atc	aat	acc	atg	ctg	aag	gac	4863
	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Met	Ile	Asn	Thr	Met	Leu	Lys	Asp	
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	Leu	Phe	Glu	Leu	Leu	Val	Ala	Cys	Val	Ala	Lys	Pro	Thr	Glu	Thr	
	1565					1570					1575					
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	Ile	Ser	Arg	Val	Gly	Cys	Ser	Cys	Ile	Arg	Tyr	Val	Leu	Val	Thr	
	1580					1585					1590					
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	Ala	Gly	Pro	Val	Phe	Thr	Glu	Glu	Met	Trp	Arg	Leu	Ala	Cys	Cys	

EP 3 889 264 A1

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	ctg ctg ggc tgc ttc cac agc ggc acg gag agc ttc agc ggg gaa Leu Leu Gly Cys Phe His Ser Gly Thr Glu Ser Phe Ser Gly Glu 1625 1630 1635			5088
10	ggc tgc cag gtg cga gtg gcg gcc ccg tcc tcc tcc cca agt gcc Gly Cys Gln Val Arg Val Ala Ala Pro Ser Ser Ser Pro Ser Ala 1640 1645 1650			5133
15	gag gcc gag tac tgg cgc atc cga gcc atg gcc cag cag gtg ttt Glu Ala Glu Tyr Trp Arg Ile Arg Ala Met Ala Gln Gln Val Phe 1655 1660 1665			5178
20	atg ctg gac acc cag tgc tca cca aag aca cca aac aac ttt gac Met Leu Asp Thr Gln Cys Ser Pro Lys Thr Pro Asn Asn Phe Asp 1670 1675 1680			5223
	cac gct cag tcc tgc cag ctc att att gag ctg cct cct gat gaa His Ala Gln Ser Cys Gln Leu Ile Ile Glu Leu Pro Pro Asp Glu 1685 1690 1695			5268
25	aaa cca aat gga cac acc aag aaa agc gtg tct ttc agg gaa att Lys Pro Asn Gly His Thr Lys Lys Ser Val Ser Phe Arg Glu Ile 1700 1705 1710			5313
30	gtg gtg agc ctg ctg tct cat cag gtg tta ctc cag aac tta tat Val Val Ser Leu Leu Ser His Gln Val Leu Leu Gln Asn Leu Tyr 1715 1720 1725			5358
	gac atc ttg tta gaa gag ttt gtc aaa ggc ccc tct cct gga gag Asp Ile Leu Leu Glu Glu Phe Val Lys Gly Pro Ser Pro Gly Glu 1730 1735 1740			5403
35	gaa aag acg ata caa gtg cca gaa gcc aag ctg gct ggc ttc ctc Glu Lys Thr Ile Gln Val Pro Glu Ala Lys Leu Ala Gly Phe Leu 1745 1750 1755			5448
40	aga tac atc tct atg cag aac ttg gca gtc ata ttc gac ctg ctg Arg Tyr Ile Ser Met Gln Asn Leu Ala Val Ile Phe Asp Leu Leu 1760 1765 1770			5493
45	ctg gac tct tat agg act gcc agg gag ttt gac acc agc ccc ggg Leu Asp Ser Tyr Arg Thr Ala Arg Glu Phe Asp Thr Ser Pro Gly 1775 1780 1785			5538
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50	aac ctc tac cgc cag tct gcg atg agc ttt aac att tat ttc cac Asn Leu Tyr Arg Gln Ser Ala Met Ser Phe Asn Ile Tyr Phe His 1805 1810 1815			5628
55	gcc ctg gtg tgt gct gtt ctc acc aat caa gaa acc atc acg gcc Ala Leu Val Cys Ala Val Leu Thr Asn Gln Glu Thr Ile Thr Ala 1820 1825 1830			5673
	gag caa gtg aag aag gtc ctt ttt gag gac gac gag aga agc acg			5718

EP 3 889 264 A1

	Glu 1835	Gln	Val	Lys	Lys	Val 1840	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Asp 1845	Glu	Arg	Ser	Thr	
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10	gaa Glu 1865	acc Thr	gcc Ala	cag Gln	gtc Val	agc Ser 1870	ccc Pro	ccg Pro	aga Arg	ggc Gly	aag Lys 1875	gag Glu	aag Lys	aga Arg	cag Gln	5808
	tgg Trp 1880	cgg Arg	gca Ala	cgg Arg	atg Met	ccc Pro 1885	ttg Leu	ctc Leu	agc Ser	gtc Val	cag Gln 1890	cct Pro	gtc Val	agc Ser	aac Asn	5853
15	gca Ala 1895	gat Asp	tgg Trp	gtg Val	tgg Trp	ctg Leu 1900	gtc Val	aag Lys	agg Arg	ctg Leu	cac His 1905	aag Lys	ctg Leu	tgc Cys	atg Met	5898
20	gaa Glu 1910	ctg Leu	tgc Cys	aac Asn	aac Asn	tac Tyr 1915	atc Ile	cag Gln	atg Met	cac His	ttg Leu 1920	gac Asp	ctg Leu	gag Glu	aac Asn	5943
25	tgt Cys 1925	atg Met	gag Glu	gag Glu	cct Pro	ccc Pro 1930	atc Ile	ttc Phe	aag Lys	ggc Gly	gac Asp 1935	ccg Pro	ttc Phe	ttc Phe	atc Ile	5988
	ctg Leu 1940	ccc Pro	tcc Ser	ttc Phe	cag Gln	tcc Ser 1945	gag Glu	tca Ser	tcc Ser	acc Thr	cca Pro 1950	tcc Ser	acc Thr	ggg Gly	ggc Gly	6033
30	ttc Phe 1955	tct Ser	ggg Gly	aaa Lys	gaa Glu	acc Thr 1960	cct Pro	tcc Ser	gag Glu	gat Asp	gac Asp 1965	aga Arg	agc Ser	cag Gln	tcc Ser	6078
35	cgg Arg 1970	gag Glu	cac His	atg Met	ggc Gly	gag Glu 1975	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	agc Ser	ctg Leu	aag Lys 1980	gcc Ala	ggg Gly	ggg Gly	ggg Gly	6123
	gac Asp 1985	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	ccc Pro 1990	agc Ser	ccc Pro	aaa Lys	gtg Val	gag Leu 1995	aag Lys	aag Lys	gat Asp	ccc Pro	6168
40	agc Ser 2000	cgg Arg	aag Lys	aag Lys	gag Glu	tgg Trp 2005	tgg Trp	gag Glu	aat Asn	gcg Ala	ggg Gly 2010	aac Asn	aaa Lys	atc Ile	tac Tyr	6213
45	acc Thr 2015	atg Met	gca Ala	gcc Ala	gac Asp	aag Lys 2020	acc Thr	att Ile	tca Ser	aag Lys	ttg Leu 2025	atg Met	acc Thr	gaa Glu	tac Tyr	6258
50	aaa Lys 2030	aag Lys	agg Arg	aaa Lys	cag Gln	cag Gln 2035	cac His	aac Asn	ctg Leu	tcc Ser	gag Ala 2040	ttc Phe	ccc Pro	aaa Lys	gag Glu	6303
	gtc Val 2045	aaa Lys	gtg Val	gag Glu	aag Lys	aaa Lys 2050	gga Gly	gag Glu	cca Pro	ctg Leu	ggg Gly 2055	ccc Pro	agg Arg	ggc Gly	cag Gln	6348
55	gac Asp 2060	tcc Ser	ccg Pro	ctg Leu	ctt Leu	cag Gln 2065	cgt Arg	ccc Pro	cag Gln	cac His	ttg Leu 2070	atg Met	gac Asp	caa Gln	ggg Gly	6393



EP 3 889 264 A1

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## EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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 Tyr Lys Ala Ile Lys Glu Ser Cys Thr Trp Ala Leu Glu Thr Leu Gly

EP 3 889 264 A1

	20	25	30
5	Gly Leu Asp Thr Ile Val Lys Ile Pro Pro His Val Leu Arg Glu Lys 35 40 45		
10	Cys Leu Leu Pro Leu Gln Leu Ala Leu Glu Ser Lys Asn Val Lys Leu 50 55 60		
15	Ala Gln His Ala Leu Ala Gly Met Gln Lys Leu Leu Ser Glu Glu Arg 65 70 75 80		
20	Phe Val Ser Met Glu Thr Asp Ser Asp Glu Lys Gln Leu Leu Asn Gln 85 90 95		
25	Ile Leu Asn Ala Val Lys Val Thr Pro Ser Leu Asn Glu Asp Leu Gln 100 105 110		
30	Val Glu Val Met Lys Val Leu Leu Cys Ile Thr Tyr Thr Pro Thr Phe 115 120 125		
35	Asp Leu Asn Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Lys Ile Ala Glu Val Cys Ile Glu 130 135 140		
40	Thr Tyr Ile Ser Ser Cys His Gln Arg Ser Ile Asn Thr Ala Val Arg 145 150 155 160		
45	Ala Thr Leu Ser Gln Met Leu Ser Asp Leu Thr Leu Gln Leu Arg Gln 165 170 175		
50	Arg Gln Glu Asn Thr Ile Ile Glu Asn Pro Asp Val Pro Gln Asp Phe 180 185 190		
55	Gly Asn Gln Gly Ser Thr Val Glu Ser Leu Cys Asp Asp Val Val Ser 195 200 205		
	Val Leu Thr Val Leu Cys Glu Lys Leu Gln Ala Ala Ile Asn Asp Ser 210 215 220		
	Gln Gln Leu Gln Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Cys Ile Leu Ser Val Leu Ser 225 230 235 240		
	Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Met His Leu His Arg Arg Phe Thr Asp Leu Ile 245 250 255		
	Trp Lys Asn Leu Cys Pro Ala Leu Ile Val Ile Leu Gly Asn Pro Ile 260 265 270		

EP 3 889 264 A1

	His	Asp	Lys	Thr	Ile	Thr	Ser	Ala	His	Thr	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Ser	275	280	285
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10	Ser	Gly	Cys	Ser	Cys	Thr	Ala	Pro	Ala	Leu	Ser	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Arg	305	310	315
	Thr	Ile	Tyr	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Ala	Glu	Leu	Val	Arg	Leu	Val	Gly	Ser	Val	325	330	335
15	Asp	Ser	Met	Lys	Pro	Val	Leu	Gln	Ser	Leu	Tyr	His	Arg	Val	Leu	Leu	340	345	350
20	Tyr	Pro	Pro	Pro	Gln	His	Arg	Val	Glu	Ala	Ile	Lys	Ile	Met	Lys	Glu	355	360	365
25	Ile	Leu	Gly	Ser	Pro	Gln	Arg	Leu	Cys	Asp	Leu	Ala	Gly	Pro	Ser	Ser	370	375	380
	Thr	Glu	Ser	Glu	Ser	Arg	Lys	Arg	Ser	Ile	Ser	Lys	Arg	Lys	Ser	His	385	390	395
30	Leu	Asp	Leu	Leu	Lys	Leu	Ile	Met	Asp	Gly	Met	Thr	Glu	Ala	Cys	Ile	405	410	415
35	Lys	Gly	Gly	Ile	Glu	Ala	Cys	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Val	Ser	Cys	Val	Cys	Thr	420	425	430
40	Leu	Leu	Gly	Ala	Leu	Asp	Glu	Leu	Ser	Gln	Gly	Lys	Gly	Leu	Ser	Glu	435	440	445
	Gly	Gln	Val	Gln	Leu	Leu	Leu	Leu	Arg	Leu	Glu	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Gly	450	455	460
45	Ala	Glu	Trp	Ser	Arg	Asp	Ser	Met	Glu	Ile	Asn	Glu	Ala	Asp	Phe	Arg	465	470	475
50	Trp	Gln	Arg	Arg	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser	Glu	His	Thr	Pro	Trp	Glu	Ser	Gly	485	490	495
	Asn	Glu	Arg	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ile	Ser	Ile	Ser	Val	Thr	Thr	Asp	Thr	Gly	500	505	510
55	Gln	Thr	Thr	Leu	Glu	Gly	Glu	Leu	Gly	Gln	Thr	Thr	Pro	Glu	Asp	His	515	520	525

EP 3 889 264 A1

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5	Lys	Glu	Thr	Leu	Ser	Lys	Val	Leu	Glu	Thr	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Gln	Pro	
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	Asp	Val	Val	Gln	Arg	Ser	His	Thr	Val	Pro	Tyr	Pro	Asp	Ile	Thr	Asn	
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	Asp	Ser	Cys	Asp	Gln	Tyr	Ser	Met	Ala	Ala	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ser	Gly	Arg	
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	Ser	Asp	Val	Ser	Asp	Ile	Gly	Ser	Asp	Asn	Cys	Ser	Leu	Ala	Asp	Glu	
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	Glu	Gln	Thr	Pro	Arg	Asp	Cys	Leu	Gly	His	Arg	Ser	Leu	Arg	Thr	Ala	
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30	Ala	Leu	Ser	Leu	Lys	Leu	Leu	Lys	Asn	Gln	Glu	Ala	Asp	Gln	His	Ser	
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	705					710					715					720	
	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ser	Phe	Gln	Met	Leu	Met	Asn	Ala	Asp	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Thr	
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				755				760					765				
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	770					775						780					



EP 3 889 264 A1

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					805					810					815		
10	Thr	Met	Leu	Thr	Asp	Ile	Asp	Gly	Leu	Glu	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ile	Gly	Gly	
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15	Gln	Leu	Met	Ala	Ser	Ala	Ala	Thr	Glu	Ser	Pro	Phe	Ala	Gln	Ser	Arg	
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35	Ala	Glu	Gly	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gln	Asn	Gln	Lys	Glu	Arg	Asp	Ala	Ile	Cys	
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	930					935						940					
50	Ser	Cys	Val	Gln	Glu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Glu	Arg	Glu	Ala	Gln	Glu	Pro	Ser	
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## EP 3 889 264 A1

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	1070						1075					1080			
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	1085						1090					1095			
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	1160						1165					1170			
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	1175						1180					1185			
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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	1580						1585					1590			
	Thr	Ala	Gly	Pro	Val	Phe	Thr	Glu	Glu	Met	Trp	Arg	Leu	Ala	Cys
25	1595						1600					1605			
	Cys	Ala	Leu	Gln	Asp	Ala	Phe	Ser	Ala	Thr	Leu	Lys	Pro	Val	Lys
	1610						1615					1620			
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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10	Leu	Leu	Asp	Ser	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Ala	Arg	Glu	Phe	Asp	Thr	Ser	Pro
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15	Gly	Leu	Lys	Cys	Leu	Leu	Lys	Lys	Val	Ser	Gly	Ile	Gly	Gly	Ala
	1790						1795					1800			
20	Ala	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Arg	Gln	Ser	Ala	Met	Ser	Phe	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Phe
	1805						1810					1815			
25	His	Ala	Leu	Val	Cys	Ala	Val	Leu	Thr	Asn	Gln	Glu	Thr	Ile	Thr
	1820						1825					1830			
30	Ala	Glu	Gln	Val	Lys	Lys	Val	Leu	Phe	Glu	Asp	Asp	Glu	Arg	Ser
	1835						1840					1845			
35	Thr	Asp	Ser	Ser	Gln	Gln	Cys	Ser	Ser	Glu	Asp	Glu	Asp	Ile	Phe
	1850						1855					1860			
40	Glu	Glu	Thr	Ala	Gln	Val	Ser	Pro	Pro	Arg	Gly	Lys	Glu	Lys	Arg
	1865						1870					1875			
45	Gln	Trp	Arg	Ala	Arg	Met	Pro	Leu	Leu	Ser	Val	Gln	Pro	Val	Ser
	1880						1885					1890			
50	Asn	Ala	Asp	Trp	Val	Trp	Leu	Val	Lys	Arg	Leu	His	Lys	Leu	Cys
	1895						1900					1905			
55	Met	Glu	Leu	Cys	Asn	Asn	Tyr	Ile	Gln	Met	His	Leu	Asp	Leu	Glu
	1910						1915					1920			
60	Asn	Cys	Met	Glu	Glu	Pro	Pro	Ile	Phe	Lys	Gly	Asp	Pro	Phe	Phe
	1925						1930					1935			
65	Ile	Leu	Pro	Ser	Phe	Gln	Ser	Glu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Pro	Ser	Thr	Gly
	1940						1945					1950			
70	Gly	Phe	Ser	Gly	Lys	Glu	Thr	Pro	Ser	Glu	Asp	Asp	Arg	Ser	Gln
	1955						1960					1965			
75	Ser	Arg	Glu	His	Met	Gly	Glu	Ser	Leu	Ser	Leu	Lys	Ala	Gly	Gly

# EP 3 889 264 A1

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5	Gly	Asp	Leu	Leu	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ser	Pro	Lys	Val	Glu	Lys	Lys	Asp
	1985						1990					1995			
10	Pro	Ser	Arg	Lys	Lys	Glu	Trp	Trp	Glu	Asn	Ala	Gly	Asn	Lys	Ile
	2000						2005					2010			
15	Tyr	Thr	Met	Ala	Ala	Asp	Lys	Thr	Ile	Ser	Lys	Leu	Met	Thr	Glu
	2015						2020					2025			
20	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Arg	Lys	Gln	Gln	His	Asn	Leu	Ser	Ala	Phe	Pro	Lys
	2030						2035					2040			
25	Glu	Val	Lys	Val	Glu	Lys	Lys	Gly	Glu	Pro	Leu	Gly	Pro	Arg	Gly
	2045						2050					2055			
30	Gln	Asp	Ser	Pro	Leu	Leu	Gln	Arg	Pro	Gln	His	Leu	Met	Asp	Gln
	2060						2065					2070			
35	Gly	Gln	Met	Arg	His	Ser	Phe	Ser	Ala	Gly	Pro	Glu	Leu	Leu	Arg
	2075						2080					2085			
40	Gln	Asp	Lys	Arg	Pro	Arg	Ser	Gly	Ser	Thr	Gly	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ser
	2090						2095					2100			
45	Val	Ser	Val	Arg	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ile	Gln	Ala	Trp	Thr	Asn
	2105						2110					2115			
50	Met	Val	Leu	Thr	Val	Leu	Asn	Gln	Ile	Gln	Ile	Leu	Pro	Asp	Gln
	2120						2125					2130			
55	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ala	Leu	Gln	Pro	Ala	Val	Phe	Pro	Cys	Ile	Ser	Gln
	2135						2140					2145			
60	Leu	Thr	Cys	His	Val	Thr	Asp	Ile	Arg	Val	Arg	Gln	Ala	Val	Arg
	2150						2155					2160			
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85	<213> Artificial Sequence														
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<220>

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<220>

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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Tyr Asp Ile Arg Ala Arg Pro Arg Lys Ile Ser Ser Pro Thr Gly  
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10	atc caa ggg aac gag ctg gag ccc ctg aac cgt ccg cag ctc aag atc	333
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	Ala Val Tyr Asn Tyr Pro Glu Gly Ala Ala Tyr Glu Phe Asn Ala Ala	
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25	gcc gcc gcc aac gcg cag gtc tac ggt cag acc ggc ctc ccc tac ggc	477
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35	ccc cca ctc aac agc gtg tct ccg agc ccg ctg atg cta ctg cac ccg	573
	Pro Pro Leu Asn Ser Val Ser Pro Ser Pro Leu Met Leu Leu His Pro	
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40	ccg ccg cag ctg tcg cct ttc ctg cag ccc cac ggc cag cag gtg ccc	621
	Pro Pro Gln Leu Ser Pro Phe Leu Gln Pro His Gly Gln Gln Val Pro	
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	Tyr Tyr Leu Glu Asn Glu Pro Ser Gly Tyr Thr Val Arg Glu Ala Gly	
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	Pro Pro Ala Phe Tyr Arg Pro Asn Ser Asp Asn Arg Arg Gln Gly Gly	
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55	aga gaa aga ttg gcc agt acc aat gac aag gga agt atg gct atg gaa	765
	Arg Glu Arg Leu Ala Ser Thr Asn Asp Lys Gly Ser Met Ala Met Glu	
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60	tct gcc aag gag act cgc tac tgt gca gtg tgc aat gac tat gct tca	813
	Ser Ala Lys Glu Thr Arg Tyr Cys Ala Val Cys Asn Asp Tyr Ala Ser	
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65	ggc tac cat tat gga gtc tgg tcc tgt gag ggc tgc aag gcc ttc ttc	861
	Gly Tyr His Tyr Gly Val Trp Ser Cys Glu Gly Cys Lys Ala Phe Phe	
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70	aag aga agt att caa gga cat aac gac tat atg tgt cca gcc acc aac	909
	Lys Arg Ser Ile Gln Gly His Asn Asp Tyr Met Cys Pro Ala Thr Asn	
	210 215 220 225	
75	cag tgc acc att gat aaa aac agg agg aag agc tgc cag gcc tgc cgg	957
	Gln Cys Thr Ile Asp Lys Asn Arg Arg Lys Ser Cys Gln Ala Cys Arg	
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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## EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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## EP 3 889 264 A1

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EP 3 889 264 A1

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	Ala Ser Asn Lys Gly Met Glu His Leu Leu Asn Met Lys Cys Lys Asn	
	470 475 480	
50	gtg gtc cca gtg tat gac ctg ctg ctg gag atg ctg aat gcc cac gtg	1965
	Val Val Pro Val Tyr Asp Leu Leu Leu Glu Met Leu Asn Ala His Val	
	485 490 495	
55	ctt cgc ggg tgc aag tcc tcc atc acg ggg tcc gag tgc agc ccg gca	2013
	Leu Arg Gly Cys Lys Ser Ser Ile Thr Gly Ser Glu Cys Ser Pro Ala	
	500 505 510 515	
60	gag gac agt aaa agc aaa gag ggc tcc cag aac cca cag tct cag tga	2061
	Glu Asp Ser Lys Ser Lys Glu Gly Ser Gln Asn Pro Gln Ser Gln	
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65	cgcttgcccc tgagggtgaac tggcccccacag aggtcacagg ctgaagcgtg aactccagt	2121
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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15	Pro	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Val	Asp	Ser	His	His	Glu	Tyr	Pro	Ala	Met	Thr	Phe	35	40	45	
20	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Ala	Val	Met	Asn	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Pro	Ser	Asn	Val	Thr	Asn	50	55	60	
25	Leu	Glu	Gly	Gly	Pro	Gly	Arg	Gln	Thr	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asn	Val	Leu	Trp	65	70	75	80
30	Pro	Thr	Pro	Gly	His	Leu	Ser	Pro	Leu	Val	Val	His	Arg	Gln	Leu	Ser	85	90	95	
35	His	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Glu	Pro	Gln	Lys	Ser	Pro	Trp	Cys	Glu	Ala	Arg	Ser	100	105	110	
40	Leu	Glu	His	Thr	Leu	Pro	Val	Asn	Arg	Glu	Thr	Leu	Lys	Arg	Lys	Val	115	120	125	
45	Ser	Gly	Asn	Arg	Cys	Ala	Ser	Pro	Val	Thr	Gly	Pro	Gly	Ser	Lys	Arg	130	135	140	
50	Asp	Ala	His	Phe	Cys	Ala	Val	Cys	Ser	Asp	Tyr	Ala	Ser	Gly	Tyr	His	145	150	155	160
55	Tyr	Gly	Val	Trp	Ser	Cys	Glu	Gly	Cys	Lys	Ala	Phe	Phe	Lys	Arg	Ser	165	170	175	
	Ile	Gln	Gly	His	Asn	Asp	Tyr	Ile	Cys	Pro	Ala	Thr	Asn	Gln	Cys	Thr	180	185	190	
	Ile	Asp	Lys	Asn	Arg	Arg	Lys	Ser	Cys	Gln	Ala	Cys	Arg	Leu	Arg	Lys	195	200	205	
	Cys	Tyr	Glu	Val	Gly	Met	Val	Lys	Cys	Gly	Ser	Arg	Arg	Glu	Arg	Cys	210	215	220	
	Gly	Tyr	Arg	Leu	Val	Arg	Arg	Gln	Arg	Ser	Ala	Asp	Glu	Gln	Leu	His	225	230	235	240
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EP 3 889 264 A1

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				260					265					270		
10	Leu	Glu	Ala	Glu	Pro	Pro	His	Val	Leu	Ile	Ser	Arg	Pro	Ser	Ala	Pro
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15	Phe	Thr	Glu	Ala	Ser	Met	Met	Met	Ser	Leu	Thr	Lys	Leu	Ala	Asp	Lys
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20	Glu	Leu	Val	His	Met	Ile	Ser	Trp	Ala	Lys	Lys	Ile	Pro	Gly	Phe	Val
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25	Glu	Leu	Ser	Leu	Phe	Asp	Gln	Val	Arg	Leu	Leu	Glu	Ser	Cys	Trp	Met
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30	Glu	Val	Leu	Met	Met	Gly	Leu	Met	Trp	Arg	Ser	Ile	Asp	His	Pro	Gly
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35	Lys	Leu	Ile	Phe	Ala	Pro	Asp	Leu	Val	Leu	Asp	Arg	Asp	Glu	Gly	Lys
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40	Cys	Val	Glu	Gly	Ile	Leu	Glu	Ile	Phe	Asp	Met	Leu	Leu	Ala	Thr	Thr
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	385					390					395					400
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55	Thr	Gln	Asp	Ala	Asp	Ser	Ser	Arg	Lys	Leu	Ala	His	Leu	Leu	Asn	Ala
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# EP 3 889 264 A1

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# EP 3 889 264 A1

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# EP 3 889 264 A1

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<400> 136

40

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 1 5 10 15

45

Arg Arg Arg Arg  
 20

## Claims

50

1. A peptide, comprising a site binding to a BIG3 polypeptide in a PHB2 polypeptide, wherein the peptide inhibits the binding between the PHB2 polypeptide and the BIG3 polypeptide.

55

2. The peptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises any one or a combination of all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21; all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88; and all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57, in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

3. A peptide, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a) to (f) below, wherein the peptide inhibits the binding between a PHB2 polypeptide and a BIG3 polypeptide:

- (a) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41;
- (b) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41;
- (c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53;
- (d) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53;
- (e) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83; and
- (f) an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acids are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82 and 83.

4. The peptide of claim 3, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a') and (b') below:

- (a') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than those corresponding to glycine at positions 15 and 18 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 are substituted with other amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 36 to 41; and
- (b') an amino acid sequence in which one, two, or several amino acid residues located at positions other than that corresponding to aspartic acid at position 82 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 are substituted with other amino acid residues in an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 47 to 53.

5. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the peptide consists of 80 amino acid residues or less.

6. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the peptide consists of 25 amino acid residues or less.

7. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the peptide consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 36 to 41, 47 to 53, 82, and 83.

8. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the peptide has been modified with a cell membrane-permeable substance.

9. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the peptide is cyclic.

10. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the peptide is cross-linked.

11. The peptide of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the peptide has either or both of the following properties (i) and (ii):

- (i) suppressing growth of BIG3-positive cells; and
- (ii) promoting phosphorylation of a serine residue in the PHB2 polypeptide in BIG3-positive cells.

12. A polynucleotide encoding the peptide of any one of claims 1 to 11.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising: at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of claims 1 to 11, a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s), and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s); and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises any one or a combination of: a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; and a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 or 14, which is for suppressing growth of cancer cells or for treatment and/or prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the cancer is BIG3-positive cancer.



17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 or 16, wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the cancer is estrogen receptor-positive cancer.

19. A method for either or both of treatment and prophylaxis (prevention) of cancer, wherein the method comprises administering to a subject at least one selected from the group consisting of one or more of the peptides of any one of claims 1 to 11; a polynucleotide(s) encoding the peptide(s); and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of the peptide(s).

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the method comprises administering any one or a combination of: a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 11 to 21 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 44 to 57 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; and a peptide comprising all or part of the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acids at positions 76 to 88 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.



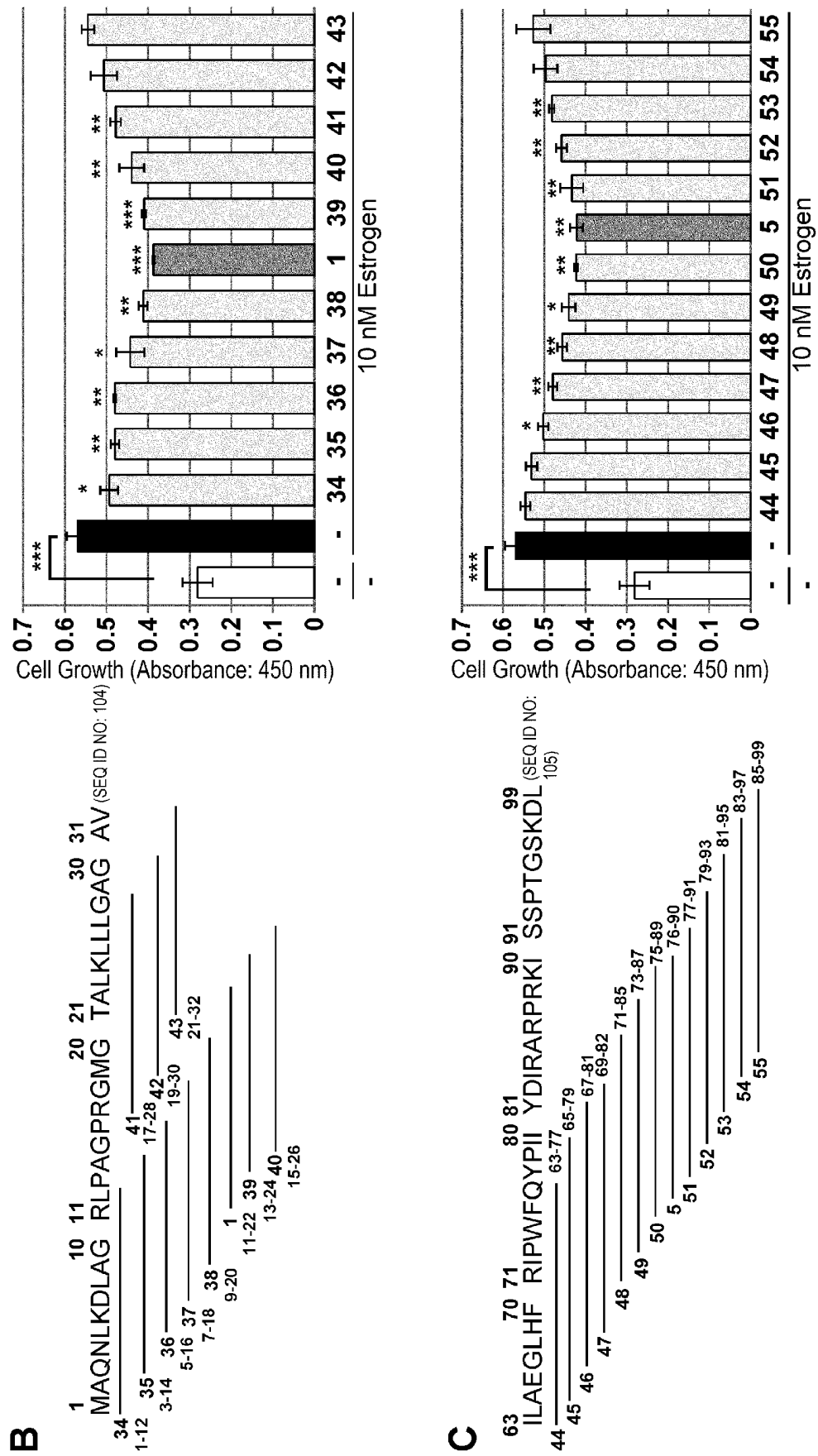


FIG. 1-2

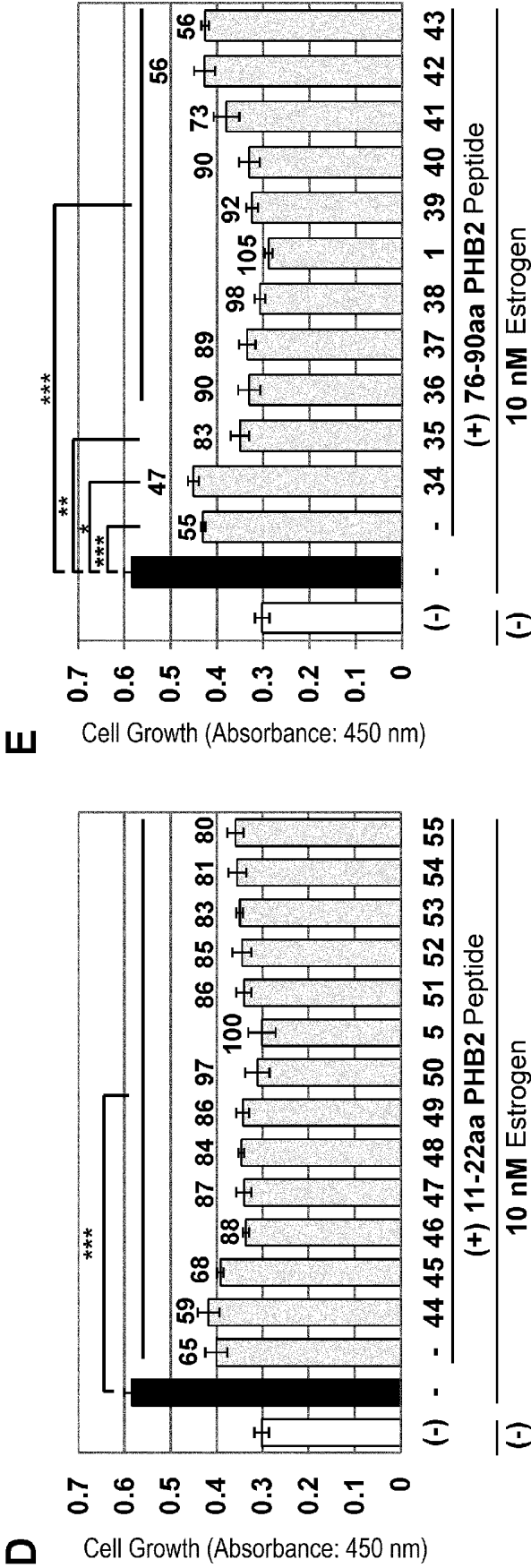


FIG. 1-3

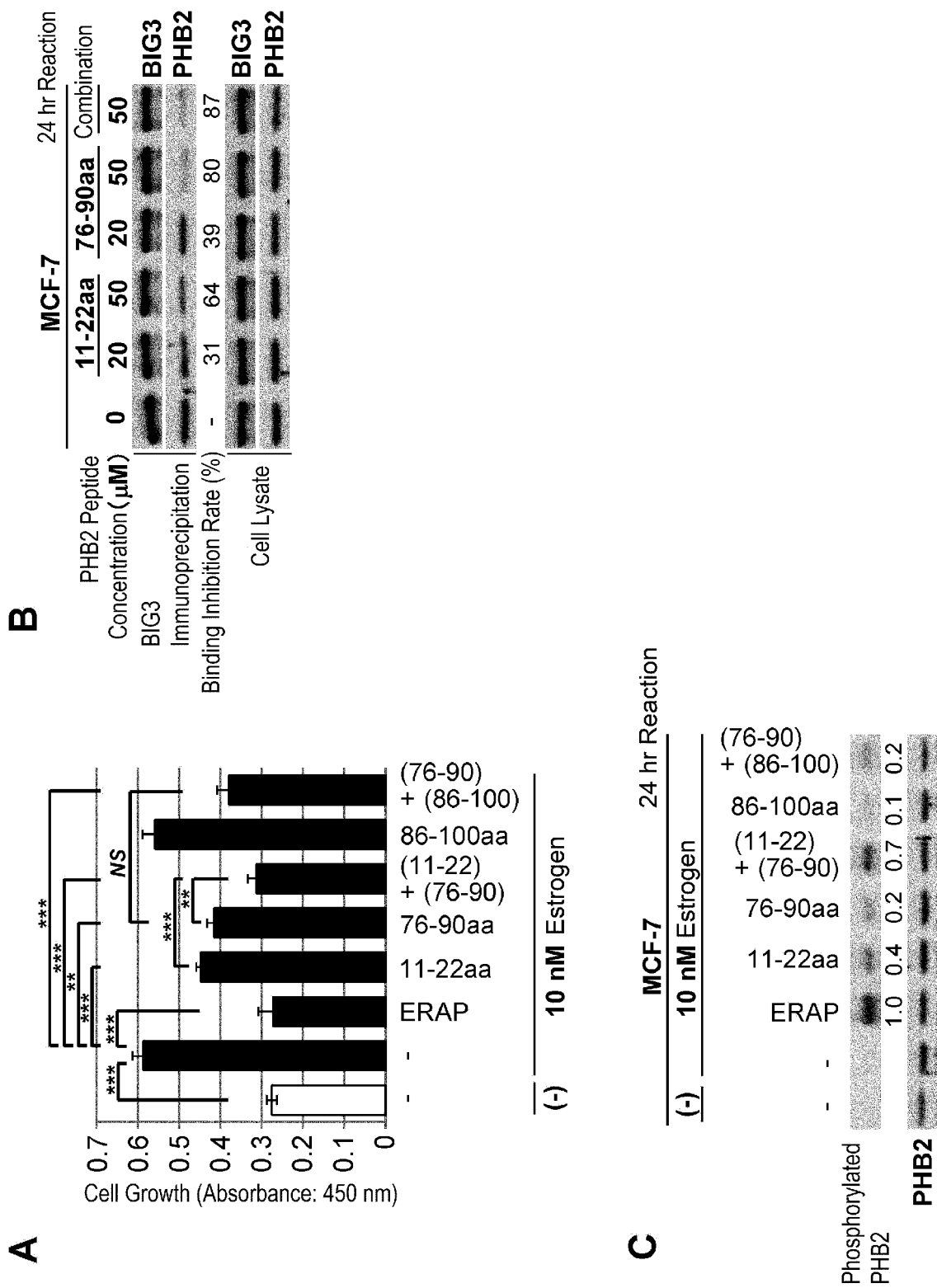


FIG. 2

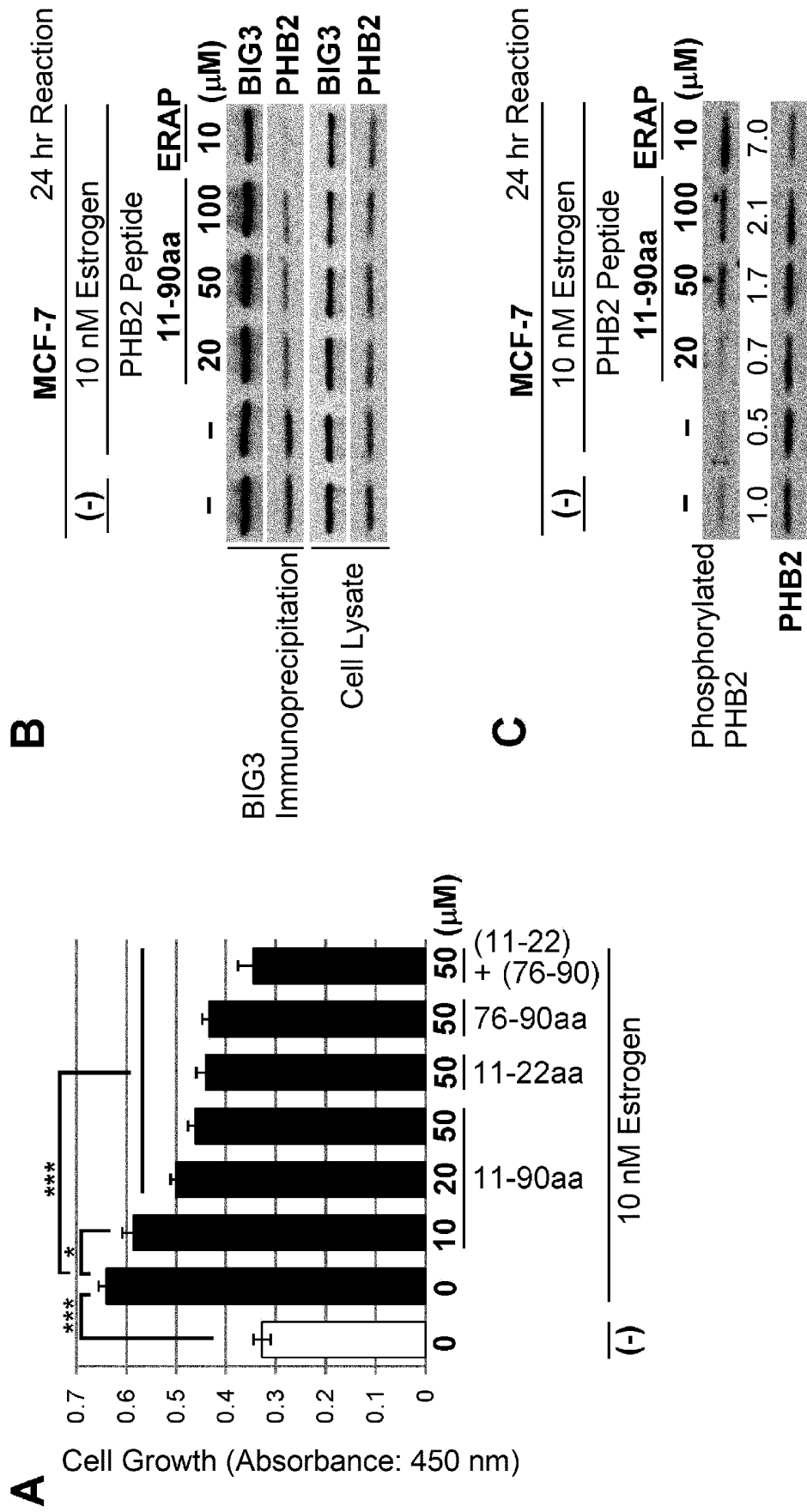


FIG. 3

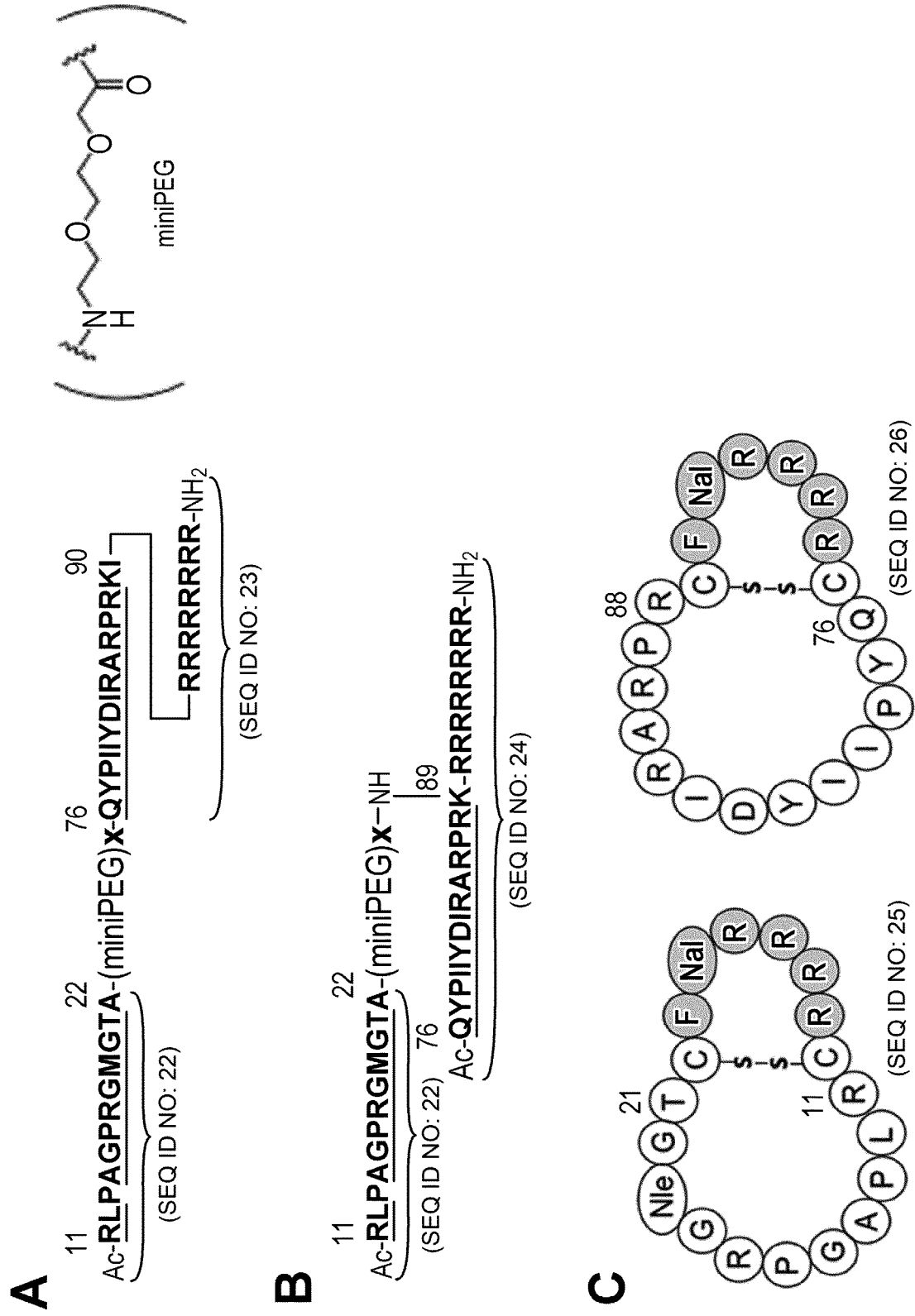
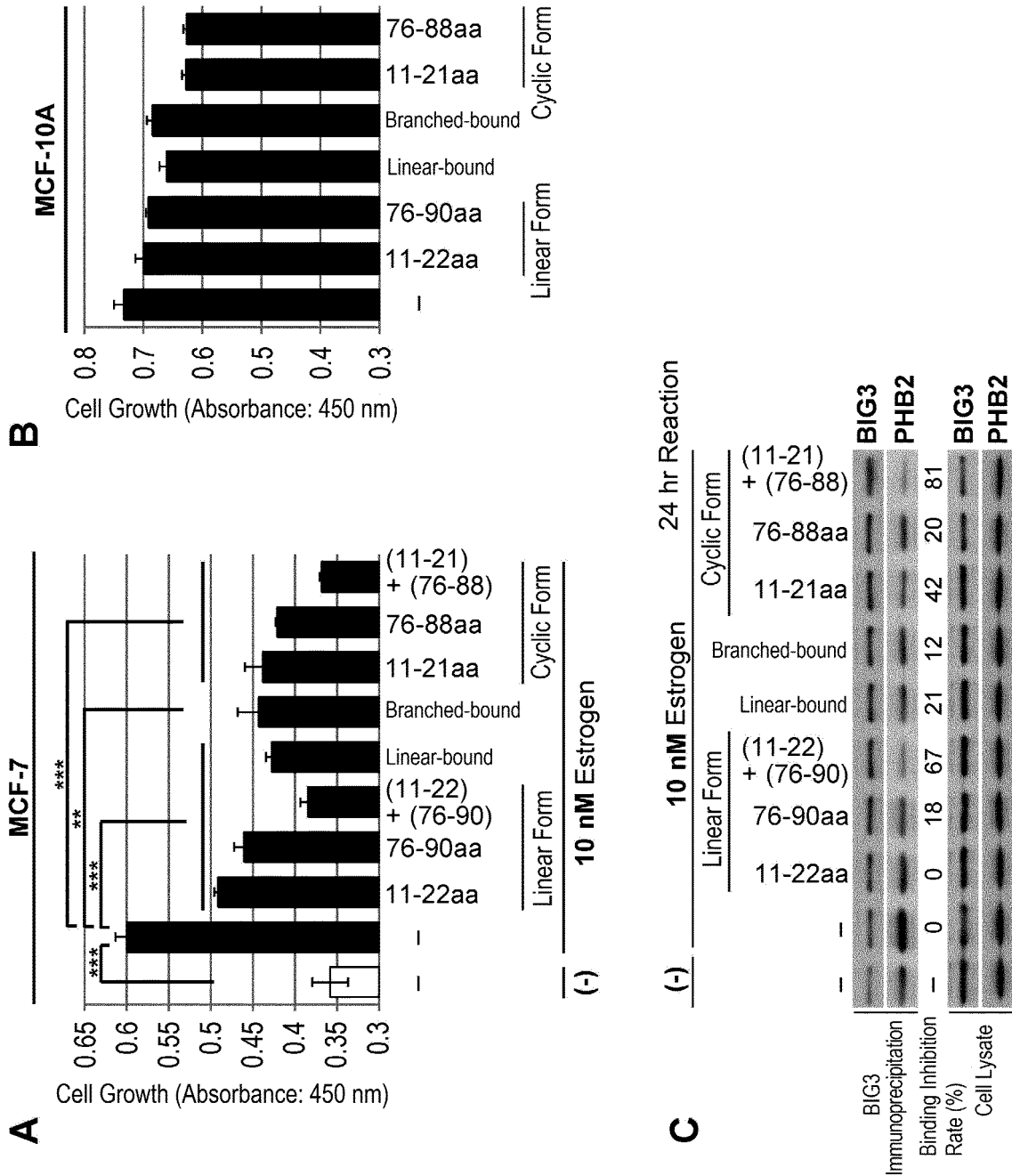


FIG. 4





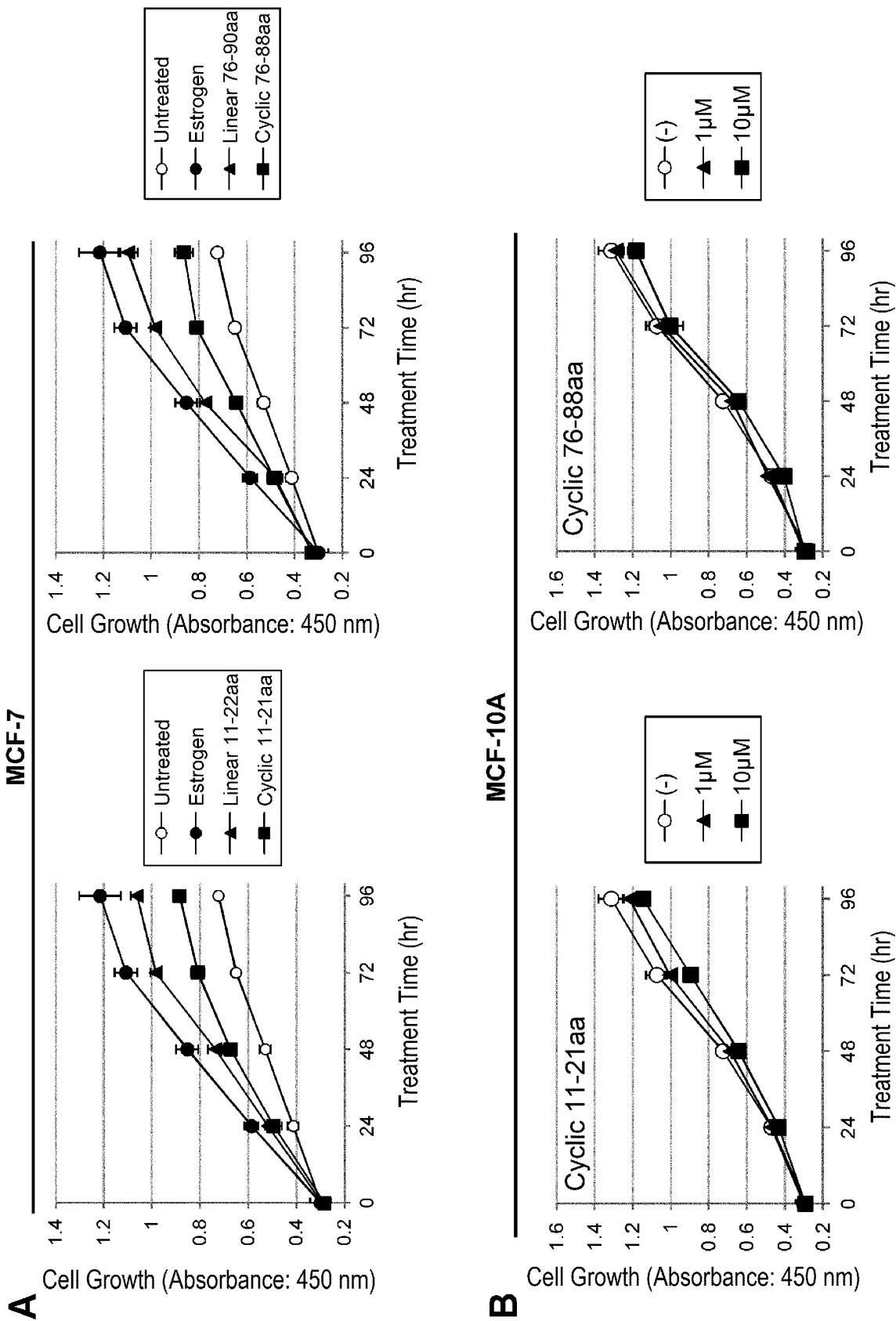


FIG. 6

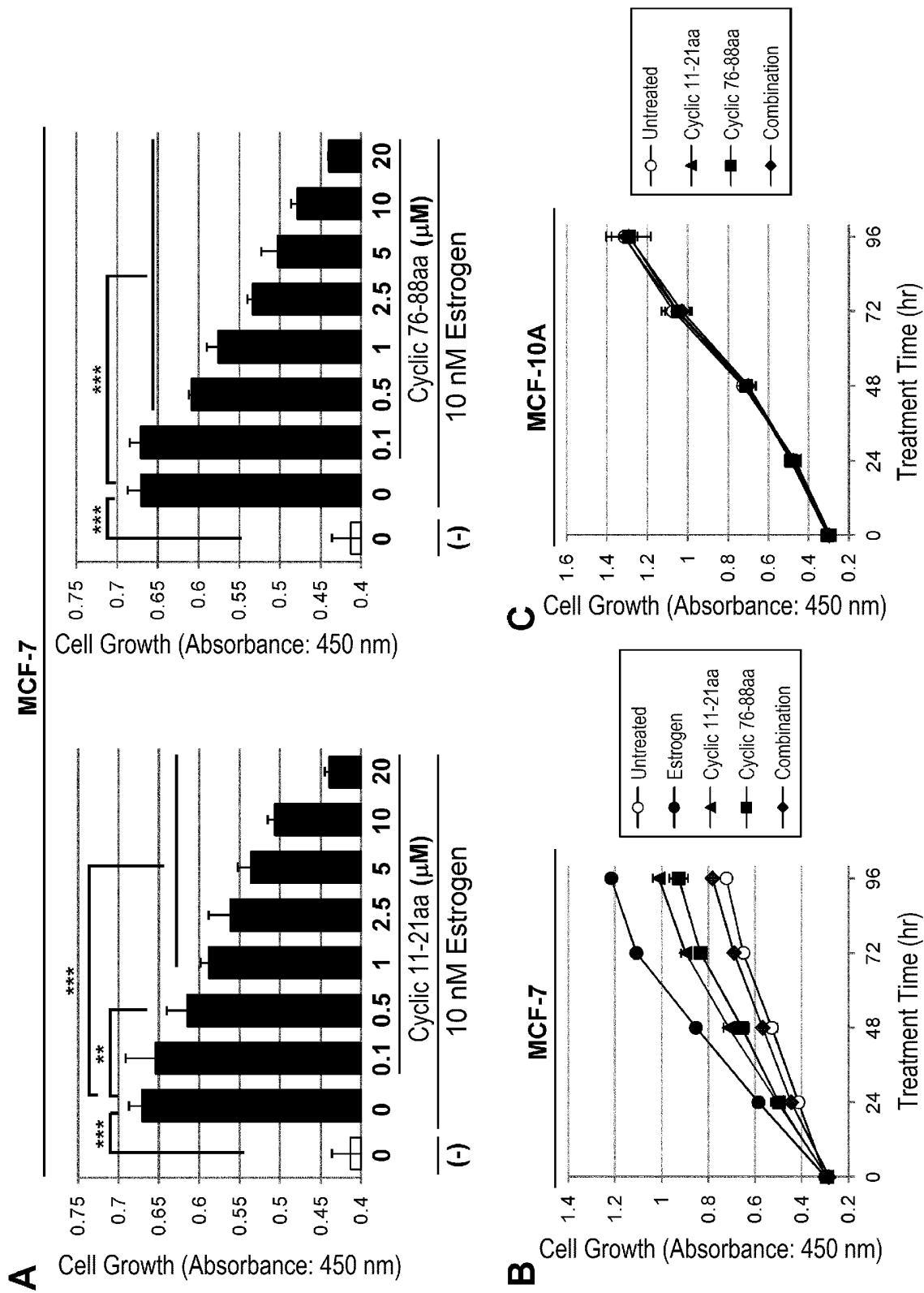
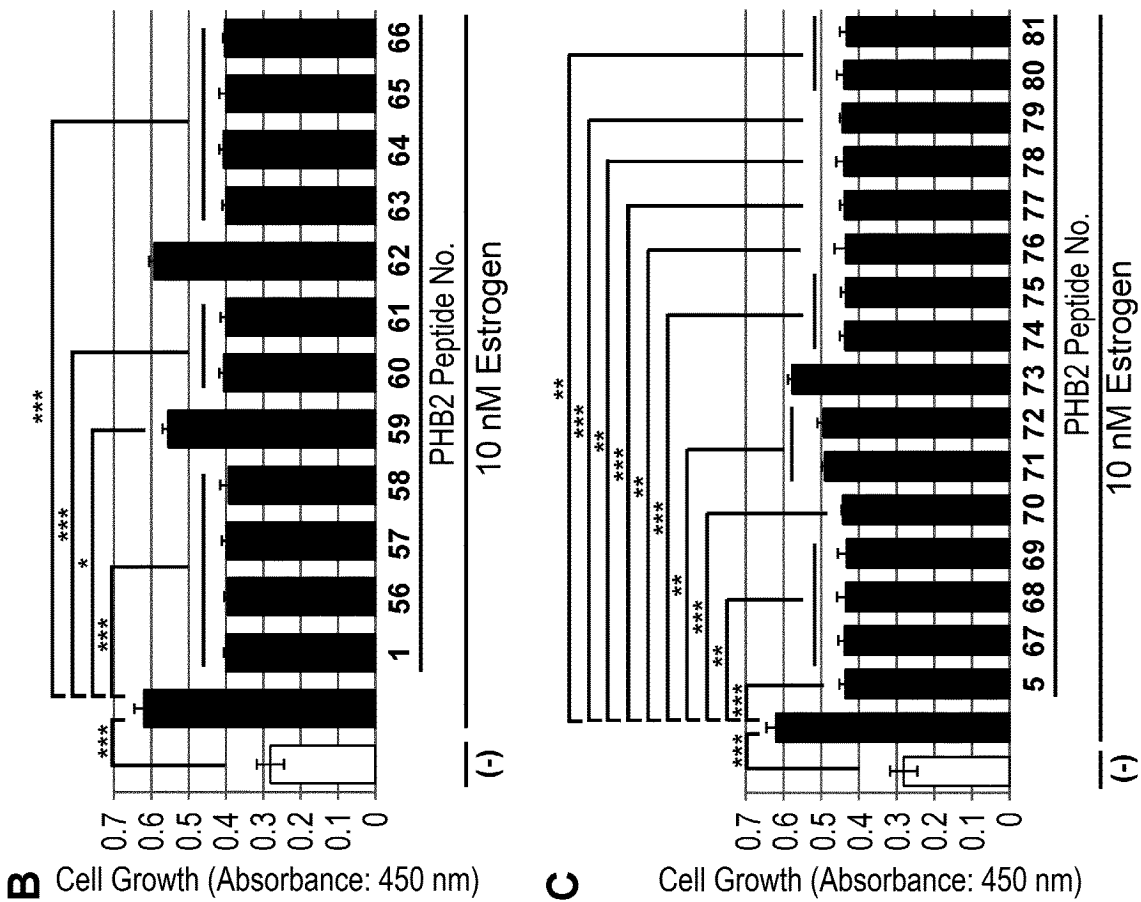


FIG. 7



76 80 85 90

SEQ ID NO: 5 QYP I I YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 67 AYP I I YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 68 QAP I I YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 69 QYA I I YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 70 QYP A I YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 71 QYP I A YD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 72 QYP I I AD I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 73 QYP I I YA I RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 74 QYP I I YD A RARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 75 QYP I I YD I AARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 76 QYP I I YD I RAARPRKI

SEQ ID NO: 77 QYP I I YD I RARARKI

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SEQ ID NO: 80 QYP I I YD I RARPRKA

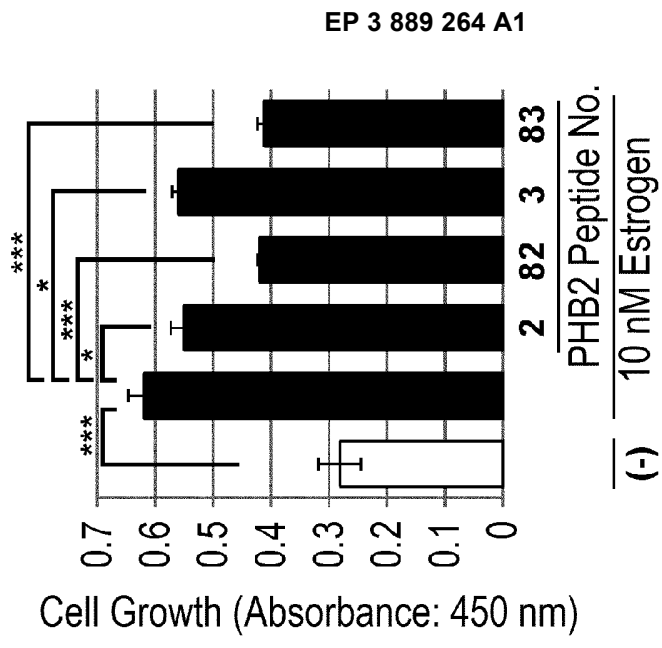
SEQ ID NO: 81 QAP I I YD I AARPRKI

FIG. 8-1

**D**

SEQ ID NO: 2	38	40	45	50	55	57
			T V E G G H R A I			
SEQ ID NO: 82			E G G H R A I	F F N R I G G		
SEQ ID NO: 3		E S V F T	V E G G H R A I			
SEQ ID NO: 83		E S V F T	V E G G H R A I	F F N R I G G		

**E**



**FIG. 8-2**

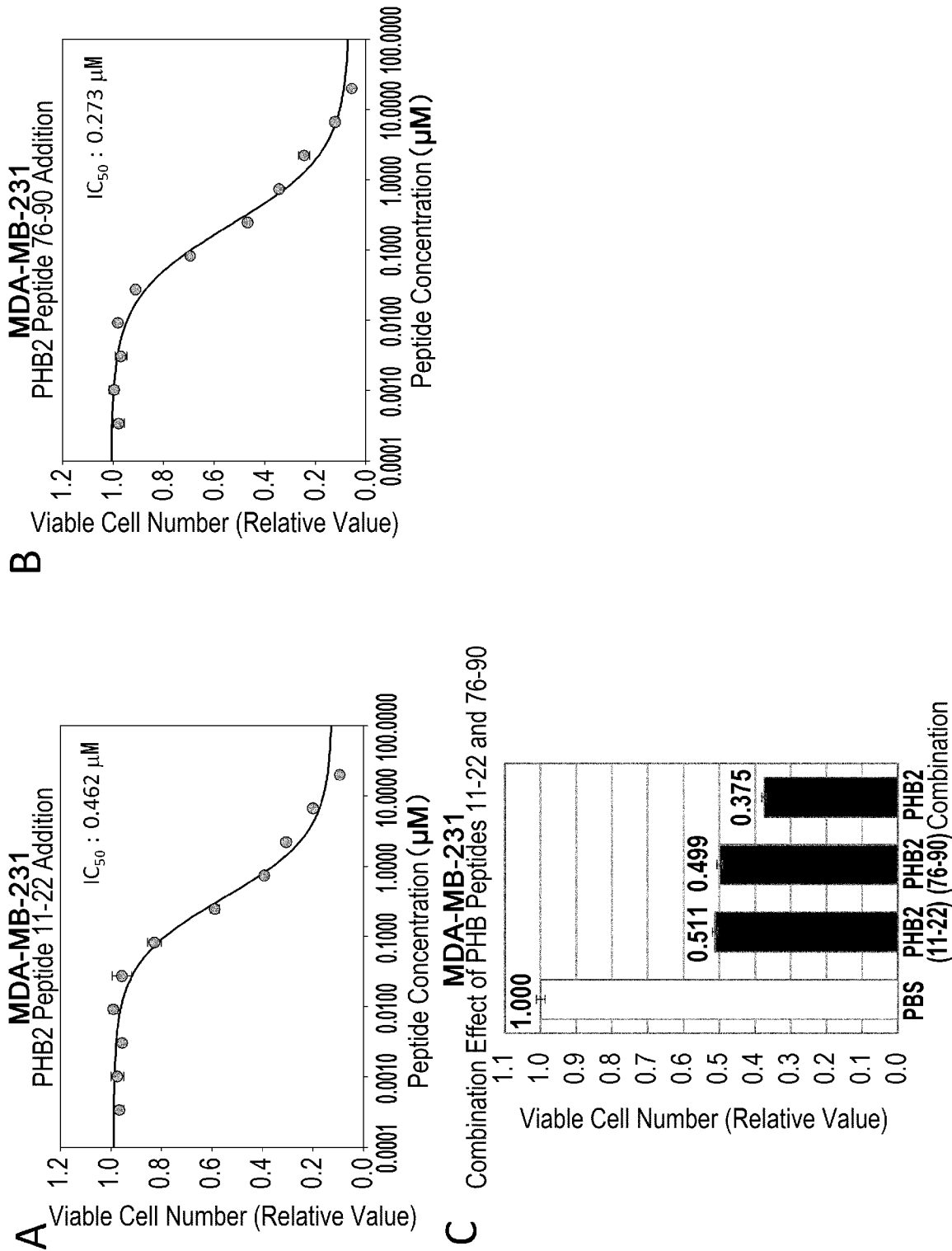


FIG. 9

<b>A</b>	Hexafluorobenzene Crosslink	
<b>B</b>	Sequence	Type of Crosslink
	CRLPAGPRG-Nle-GTC-RRRRRRRR 11 19 21	Hexafluorobenzene Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 106
	ARLPAGPRG-Nle-GTA-RRRRRRRR	Decafluorobiphenyl Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 107
	CQYPIIDIRARPRC-RRRRRRRR 76 88	Disulfide Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 108
	AQYPIIDIRARPRC-RRRRRRRR	Non-crosslink SEQ ID NO: 109
	ARLPAGPRGMGTA-RRRRRRRR	Hexafluorobenzene Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 110
	CRLPAGPRG-Nle-GTC 11 19 21	Decafluorobiphenyl Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 111
	ARLPAGPRG-Nle-GTA	Disulfide Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 112
	CQYPIIDIRARPRC 76 88	Non-crosslink SEQ ID NO: 113
	AQYPIIDIRARPRC	Non-crosslink SEQ ID NO: 114
	ARLPAGPRG-Nle-GTA	Hexafluorobenzene Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 115
	CQYPIIDIRARPRC 76 88	Decafluorobiphenyl Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 116
	AQYPIIDIRARPRC	Disulfide Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 117
	ARLPAGPRG-Nle-GTA	Non-crosslink SEQ ID NO: 118
	CQYPIIDIRARPRC 76 88	Hexafluorobenzene Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 119
	AQYPIIDIRARPRC	Decafluorobiphenyl Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 120
	ARLPAGPRG-Nle-GTA	Disulfide Crosslink SEQ ID NO: 121
	AQYPIIDIRARPRC	Non-crosslink SEQ ID NO: 122

FIG. 10-1

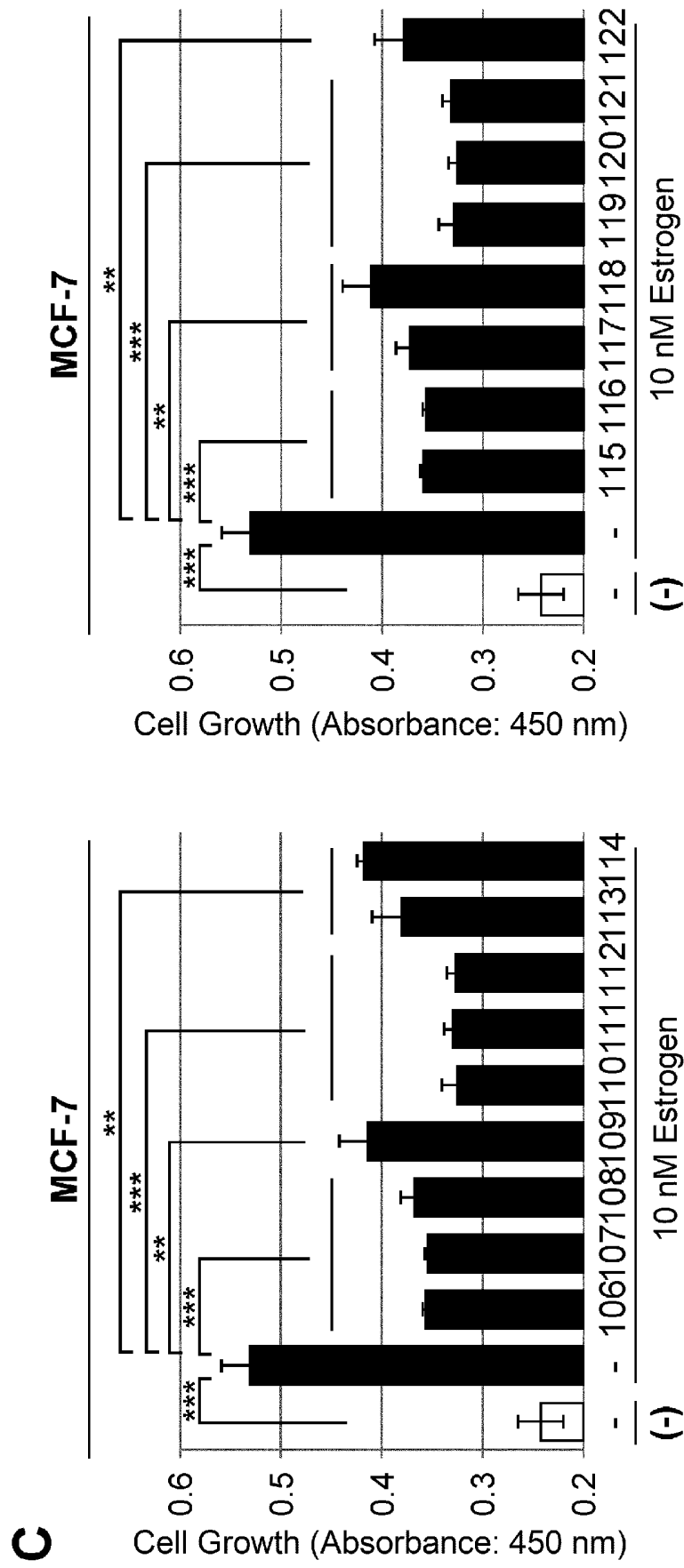


FIG. 10-2

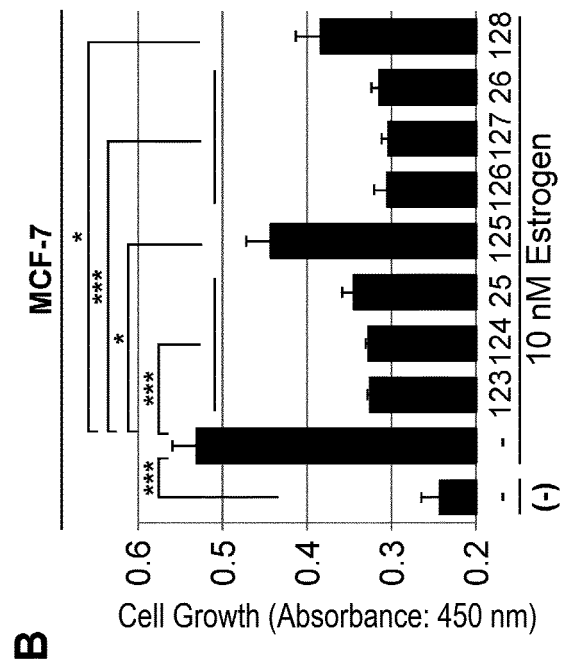
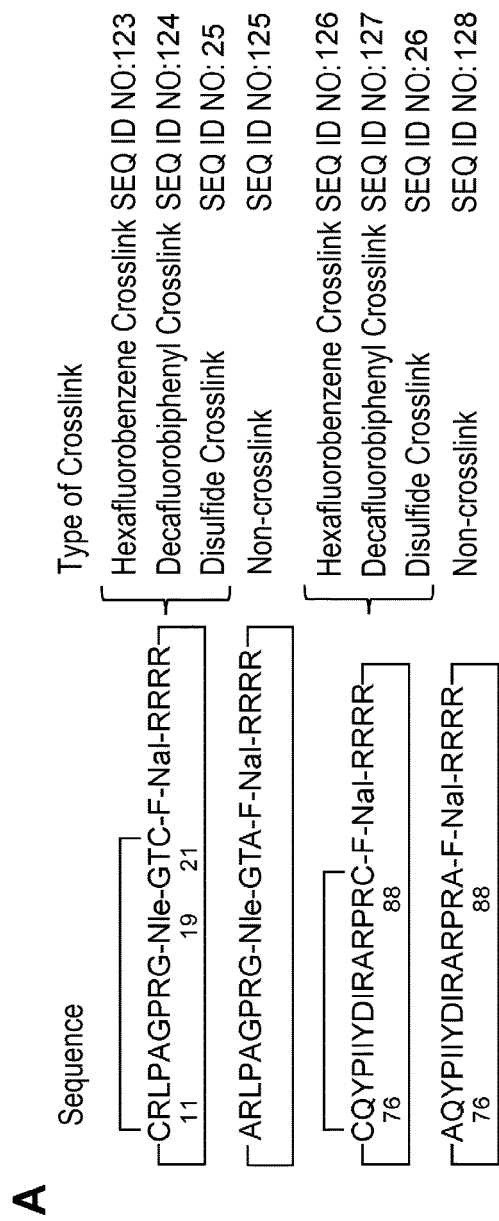
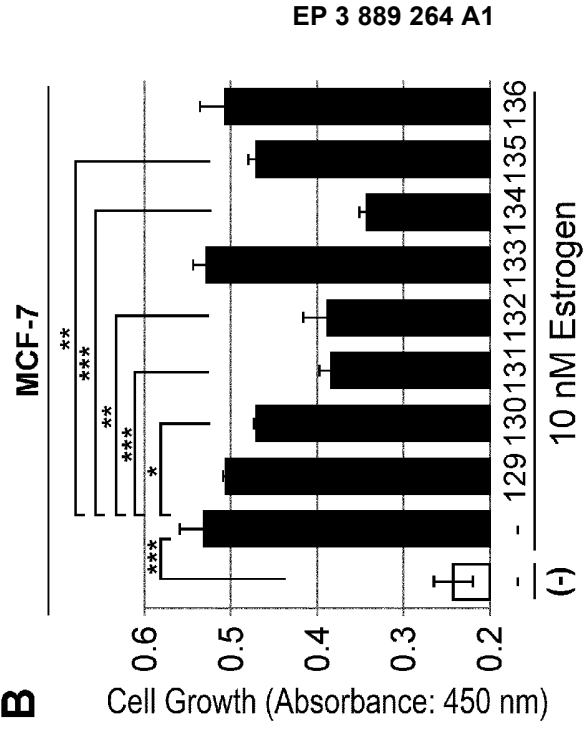


FIG. 11



SEQ ID NO: 129	Sequence	Mutation Site
SEQ ID NO: 130	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G18 → D-Ala
SEQ ID NO: 131	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G15 → D-Ala
SEQ ID NO: 132	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G18 → D-Leu
SEQ ID NO: 133	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G15 → D-Leu
SEQ ID NO: 134	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G15 → D-Ala, G18 → D-Ala
SEQ ID NO: 135	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G15 → D-Leu, G18 → D-Leu
SEQ ID NO: 136	RLPAGPRAMGTA-RRRRRRRR	G15 → D-Ala, G18 → D-Leu

**B**



**FIG. 12**

**FIG. 13**

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2019/046505

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl. C12N15/12 (2006.01) i, A61K38/10 (2006.01) i, A61K38/12 (2006.01) i, A61K48/00 (2006.01) i, A61P35/00 (2006.01) i, A61P43/00 (2006.01) i, C07K7/06 (2006.01) i, C07K7/08 (2006.01) i, C07K14/47 (2006.01) i  
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)

Int.Cl. C12N15/12, A61K38/10, A61K38/12, A61K48/00, A61P35/00, A61P43/00, C07K7/06, C07K7/08, C07K14/47

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

Published examined utility model applications of Japan	1922-1996
Published unexamined utility model applications of Japan	1971-2019
Registered utility model specifications of Japan	1996-2019
Published registered utility model applications of Japan	1994-2019

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

JSTPlus/JMEDPlus/JST7580 (JDreamIII),  
CAPplus/REGISTRY/MEDLINE/EMBASE/BIOSIS/REGISTRY (STN)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	CHEN, Y. A. et al., Brefeldin A-inhibited guanine nucleotide-exchange protein 3 (BIG3) is predicted to interact with its partner through an ARM-type $\alpha$ -helical structure, BMC Research Notes, 2014, vol. 7, no. 435, pp. 1-8, particularly, abstract, background, fig. 3, 6	1-6, 11-12 1-20
Y	WO 2013/018690 A1 (TOKUSHIMA UNIVERSITY) 07 February 2013, claims, paragraphs [0008], [0022] & US 2014/0162952 A1, claims, paragraphs [0011], [0143] & EP 2738255 A1	1-20

☒ 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

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"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  
12.12.2019

Date of mailing of the international search report  
24.12.2019

Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japan Patent Office  
3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-8915, Japan

Authorized officer

Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2019/046505

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>吉丸哲郎 ほか, 新規 A キナーゼアンカータンパク質 BIG3 による抑制因子 PHB2 の制御は HER2 乳がん細胞増殖に必須である, 第 41 回日本分子生物学会年会 要旨集, 09 November 2018, 2P-0632, (YOSHIMARU, Tetsuro et al., A-kinase anchoring protein BIG3-PHB2 axis is required for progression of HER2-rich breast cancer cells), non-official translation (Abstracts of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Molecular Biology Society of Japan)</p>	1-20

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (January 2015)

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