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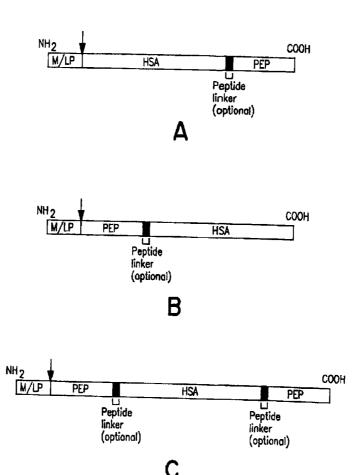
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- (54) Title: NOVEL BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE POLYPEPTIDES, PREPARATION THEREOF AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION CONTAINING SAID POLYPEPTIDES



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Novel biologically active polypeptides, preparation thereof and pharmaceutical compositions containing said polypeptides.





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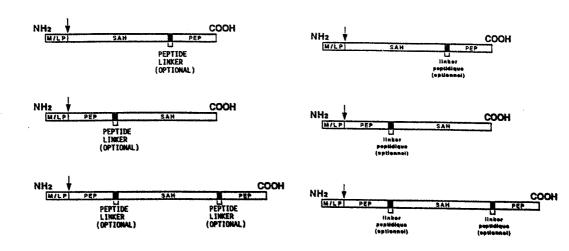
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(54) Titre: NOUVEAUX POLYPEPTIDES BIOLOGIQUEMENT ACTIFS, LEUR PREPARATION ET COMPOSITION PHARMACEUTIQUE LES CONTENANT



(57) Abstract

Novel biologically active polypeptides, preparation thereof and pharmaceutical compositions containing said polypeptides.

(57) Abrégé

La présente invention concerne de nouveaux polypeptides biologiquement actifs, leur préparation et des compositions pharmaceutiques les contenant.

NOVEL BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE POLYPEPTIDES, PREPARATION THEREOF AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION CONTAINING SAID POLYPEPTIDES

The present invention relates to new biologically active polypeptides, their preparation and pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

More particularly, the present invention relates to essentially recombinant polypeptides composed of an active part derived from a natural or artificial polypeptide having a therapeutic activity and coupled to an albumin or to a variant of albumin. It is understood that the therapeutic activity of the polypeptides of the invention can be either direct (treatment of diseases), or indirect (and for example capable of being used in the prevention of diseases, in the design of vaccines, in medical imaging techniques and the like).

It is understood in the following text that the albumin variants designate any protein with a high plasma half-life which is obtained by modification (mutation, deletion and/or addition), by genetic engineering techniques, of a gene encoding a given isomorph of human serum albumin, as well as any macromolecule with a high plasma half-life obtained by *in vitro* modification of the protein encoded by such genes. Albumin being highly polymorphic, numerous natural variants have been identified and classified Weitkamp L. R. et al., [Ann. Hum. Genet. 37 (1973) 219].

The aim of the present invention is to prepare artificial proteins which are biologically active and can be used pharmaceutically. Indeed, numerous polypeptides possessing one or more potential therapeutic activities cannot be exploited pharmaceutically. This may have various reasons, such as especially their low stability *in vivo*, their complex or fragile structure, the difficulty of producing them on an industrially acceptable scale and the like. Likewise, some polypeptides do not give the expected results *in vivo* because of problems of administration, of packaging, of pharmacokinetics and the like.

The present invention makes it possible to overcome these disadvantages. The present invention indeed provides new molecules which permit an optimal therapeutic exploitation of the biological properties of these polypeptides. The present invention results especially from the demonstration that it is possible to couple genetically any active structure derived from a biologically active polypeptide to another protein structure consisting of albumin, without impairing the said biological properties thereof. It also results from the demonstration by the Applicant that human serum albumin makes it possible efficiently to present the active structure to its sites for interaction, and that it provides a high plasma stability for the polypeptide of the invention. The polypeptides of the invention thus make it possible to maintain, in the body, a given biological activity for a prolonged period. They thus make it possible to reduce the administered doses and, in some cases, to potentiate the therapeutic effect, for example by reducing the side effects following a higher administration. The polypeptides of the invention make it possible, in addition, to generate and to use structures derived from biologically active polypeptides which are very small and therefore very specific for a desired effect. It is understood that the peptides having a biological activity, which are of therapeutic interest, may also correspond to nonnatural peptide sequences isolated for example from random peptide libraries. The polypeptides of the invention possess, moreover, a particularly advantageous distribution in the body, which modifies their pharmacokinetic properties and favours the development of their biological activity and their use. In addition, they also have the advantage of being weakly or non-immunogenic for the organism in which they are used. Finally, the polypeptides of the invention can be expressed (and preferentially secreted) by recombinant organisms, at levels permitting their industrial exploitation.

One subject of the present invention therefore relates to polypeptides containing an active part derived from a polypeptide having a therapeutic activity, coupled to an albumin or a variant of albumin.

In a specific embodiment, the peptides possessing a therapeutic activity are not of human origin. For example, there may be mentioned peptides, or their derivatives, possessing properties which are potentially useful in the pathologies of the blood and interstitial compartments, such as hirudin, trigramine, antistatine, tick anticoagulant peptides (TAP), arietin, applagin and the like.

More particularly, in the molecules of the invention, the polypeptide having a therapeutic activity is a polypeptide of human origin or a molecular variant. For example, this may be all or part of an enzyme, an enzyme inhibitor, an antigen, an antibody, a hormone, a factor involved in the control of coagulation, an interferon, a cytokine [the interleukins, but also their variants which are natural antagonists of their binding to the receptor(s), the SIS (small induced secreted) type cytokines and for example the macrophage inflammatory proteins (MIPs), and the like], of a growth factor and/or of differentiation [and for example the transformant growth factors (TGFs), the blood cell differentiation factors (erythropoietin, M-CSF, G-CSF, GM-CSF and the like), insulin and the growth factors resembling it (IGFs), or alternatively cell permeability factors (VPF/VEGF), and the like], of a factor involved in the genesis/resorption of bone tissues (OIF and osteospontin for example), of a factor involved in cellular motility or migration [and for example autocrine motility factor (AMF), migration stimulating factor (MSF), or alternatively the scatter factor (scatter factor/hepatocyte growth factor)], of a bactericidal or antifungal factor, of a chemotactic factor and for example platelet factor 4 (PF4), or alternatively the monocyte chemoattracting peptides (MCP/MCAF) or neutrophil chemoattracting peptides (NCAF), and the like, of a cytostatic factor (and for example the proteins which bind to galactosides), of a plasma (and for example von Willebrand factor, fibrinogen and the like) or interstitial (laminin, tenascin, vitronectin and the like) adhesive molecule or extracellular matrices, or alternatively any peptide sequence which is an antagonist or agonist of molecular and/or intercellular interactions involved in the pathologies of the circulatory and interstitial compartments and for example the formation of arterial and venous thrombi, cancerous metastases, tumour angiogenesis, inflammatory shock, autoimmune diseases, bone and osteoarticular pathologies and the like.

The active part of the polypeptides of the invention may consist for example of the polypeptide having a whole therapeutic activity, or of a structure derived therefrom, or alternatively of a non-natural polypeptide isolated from a peptide library. For the purposes of the present invention, a derived structure is understood to mean any polypeptide obtained by modification and preserving a therapeutic activity. Modification should be understood to mean any mutation, substitution, deletion, addition or modification of genetic and/or chemical nature. Such derivatives may be generated for various reasons, such as especially that of increasing the affinity of the molecule for its binding sites, that of improving its levels of production, that of increasing its resistance to proteases, that of increasing its therapeutic efficacy or alternatively of reducing its side effects, or that of conferring on it new biological properties. As an example, the chimeric polypeptides of the invention possess pharmacokinetic properties and a biological activity which can be used for the prevention or treatment of diseases.

Particularly advantageous polypeptides of the invention are those in which the active part has:

- (a) the whole peptide structure or,
- (b) a structure derived from (a) by structural modification (mutation, substitution addition and/or deletion of one or more residues) and possessing a therapeutic activity.

Among the structures of the (b) type, there may be mentioned more particularly the molecules in which certain N- or O-glycosylation sites have been modified or suppressed, the molecules in which one or more residues have been substituted, or the molecules in which all the cystein residues have been substituted. There may also be mentioned molecules obtained from (a) by deletion of regions not involved or not highly involved in the interaction with the binding

sites considered, or expressing an undesirable activity, and molecules containing, compared to (a), additional residues such as for example an N-terminal methionine and/or a signal for secretion and/or a joining peptide.

The active part of the molecules of the invention can be coupled either directly or via an artificial peptide to albumin. Furthermore, it may constitute the N-terminal end as well as the C-terminal end of the molecule. Preferably, in the molecules of the invention, the active part constitutes the C-terminal part of the chimera. It is also understood that the biologically active part may be repetitive within the chimera. A schematic representation of the molecules of the invention is given in FIG. 1.

Another subject of the invention relates to a process for preparing the chimeric molecules described above. More specifically, this process consists in causing a eukaryotic or prokaryotic cellular host to express a nucleotide sequence encoding the desired polypeptide, and then in harvesting the polypeptide produced.

Among the eukaryotic hosts which can be used within the framework of the present invention, there may be mentioned animal cells, yeasts or fungi. In particular, as regards yeasts, there may be mentioned yeasts of the genus Saccharomyces, Kluyveromyces, Pichia, Schwanniomyces, or Hansenula. As regards animal cells, there may be mentioned COS, CHO and C127 cells and the like. Among the fungi capable of being used in the present invention, there may be mentioned more particularly Aspergillus spp, or Trichoderma spp. As prokaryotic hosts, the use of bacteria such as Escherichia coli, or belonging to the genera Corynebacterium, Bacillus, or Streptomyces is preferred.

The nucleotide sequences which can be used within the framework of the present invention can be prepared in various ways. Generally, they are obtained by assembling, in reading phase, the sequences encoding each of the functional parts of the polypeptide. The latter may be isolated by the techniques of persons skilled in the art, and for example directly from cellular messenger RNAs

(mRNAs), or by recloning from a complementary DNA (cDNA) library, or alternatively they may be completely synthetic nucleotide sequences. It is understood, furthermore, that the nucleotide sequences may also be subsequently modified, for example by the techniques of genetic engineering, in order to obtain derivatives or variants of the said sequences.

More preferably, in the process of the invention, the nucleotide sequence is part of an expression cassette comprising a region for initiation of transcription (promoter region) permitting, in the host cells, the expression of the nucleotide sequence placed under its control and encoding the polypeptides of the invention. This region may come from promoter regions of genes which are highly expressed in the host cell used, the expression being constitutive or regulatable. As regards yeasts, it may be the promoter of the gene for phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD), lactase (LAC4), enolases (ENO), alcohol dehydrogenases (ADH), and the like. As regards bacteria, it may be the promoter of the right-hand or left-hand genes from the lambda bacteriophage (P_L, P_R), or alternatively the promoters of the genes for the tryptophan (P_{trp}) or lactose (P_{lac}) operons. In addition, this control region can be modified, for example by in vitro mutagenesis, by the introduction of additional control elements or of synthetic sequences, or by deletions or substitutions of the original control elements. The expression cassette may also comprise a region for termination of transcription which is functional in the host envisaged, positioned immediately downstream of the nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention.

In a preferred mode, the polypeptides of the invention result from the expression, in a eukaryotic or prokaryotic host, of a nucleotide sequence and from the secretion of the product of expression of the said sequence into the culture medium. It is indeed particularly advantageous to be able to obtain, by the recombinant route, molecules directly in the culture medium. In this case, the nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention is preceded by a "leader" sequence (or signal sequence) directing the nascent polypeptide in the secretory pathways of the host used. This "leader" sequence may be the natural signal sequence of the biologically active polypeptide in the case where the latter is a naturally secreted protein, or that of the stabilizing structure, but it may also be any other functional "leader" sequence, or an artificial "leader" sequence. The choice of one or the other of these sequences is especially guided by the host used. Examples of functional signal sequences include those of the genes for the sexual pheromones or the "killer" toxins of yeasts.

In addition to the expression cassette, one or several markers which make it possible to select the recombinant host may be added, such as for example the *URA3* gene from the yeast *S. cerevisiae*, or genes conferring the resistance to antibiotics such as geneticin (G418) or to any other toxic compound such as certain metal ions.

The unit formed by the expression cassette and by the selectable marker can be introduced directly into the considered host cells, or previously inserted in a functional self-replicating vector. In the first case, sequences homologous to regions present in the genome of the host cells are preferably added to this unit; the said sequences then being positioned on each side of the expression cassette and of the selectable gene so as to increase the frequency of integration of the unit into the genome of the host by targeting the integration of the sequences by homologous recombination. In the case where the expression cassette is inserted in a replicative system, a preferred replication system for yeasts of the genus Kluyveromyces is derived from the plasmid pKD1 originally isolated from K. drosophilarum; a preferred replication system for yeasts of the genus Saccharomyces is derived from the 2μ plasmid from S. cerevisiae. Furthermore, this expression plasmid may contain all or part of the said replication systems, or may combine elements derived both from the plasmid pKD1 and the 2μ plasmid.

In addition, the expression plasmids may be shuttle vectors between a bacterial host such as *Escherichia coli* and the chosen host cell. In this case, a

replication origin and a selectable marker functioning in the bacterial host are required. It is also possible to position restriction sites surrounding the bacterial and unique sequences on the expression vector: this makes it possible to suppress these sequences by cutting and religation *in vitro* of the truncated vector before transformation of the host cells, which may result in an increase in the number of copies and in an increased stability of the expression plasmids in the said hosts. For example, such restriction sites may correspond to sequences such as 5'-GGCCNNNNNGGCC-3' (SfiI) or 5'-GCGGCCGC-3' (NotI) in so far as these sites are extremely rare and generally absent from an expression vector.

After construction of such vectors or expression cassette, the latter are introduced into the host cells selected according to the conventional techniques described in the literature. In this respect, any method permitting the introduction of a foreign DNA into a cell can be used. This may be especially transformation, electroporation, conjugation, or any other technique known to persons skilled in the art. As an example of yeast-type hosts, the various strains of *Kluyveromyces* used were transformed by treating the whole cells in the presence of lithium acetate and polyethylene glycol, according to the technique described by Ito *et al.* [J. Bacteriol. 153 (1983) 163]. The transformation technique described by Durrens *et al.* [Curr. Genet. 18 (1990) 7] using ethylene glycol and dimethyl sulphoxide was also used. It is also possible to transform the yeasts by electroporation, according to the method described by Karube *et al.* [FEBS Letters 182 (1985) 90]. An alternative procedure is also described in detail in the examples below.

After selection of the transformed cells, the cells expressing the said polypeptides are inoculated and the recovery of the said polypeptides can be carried out, either during the cell growth for the "continuous" processes, or at the end of growth for the "batch" cultures. The polypeptides which are the subject of the present invention are then purified from the culture supernatant for their molecular, pharmacokinetic and biological characterization.

A preferred expression system for the polypeptides of the invention consists in using yeasts of the genus *Kluyveromyces* as host cell, transformed by certain vectors derived from the extrachromosomal replicon pKD1 originally isolated from *K. marxianus* var. *drosophilarum*. These yeasts, and in particular *K. lactis* and *K. fragilis* are generally capable of stably replicating the said vectors and possess, in addition, the advantage of being included in the list of G.R.A.S. ("Generally Recognized As Safe") organisms. Favoured yeasts are preferably industrial yeasts of the genus *Kluyveromyces* which are capable of stably replicating the said plasmids derived from the plasmid pKD1 and in which has been inserted a selectable marker as well as an expression cassette permitting the secretion, at high levels, of the polypeptides of the invention.

The present invention also relates to the nucleotide sequences encoding the chimeric polypeptides described above, as well as the eukaryotic or prokaryotic recombinant cells comprising such sequences.

The present invention also relates to the application, as medicinal products, of the polypeptides according to the present invention. More particularly, the subject of the invention is any pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more polypeptides or nucleotide sequences as described above. The nucleotide sequences can indeed be used in gene therapy.

The present invention will be more fully described with the aid of the following examples, which should be considered as illustrative and nonlimiting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The representations of the plasmids indicated in the following figures are not plotted to scale and only the restriction sites important for the understanding of the clonings carried out have been indicated.

Figure 1: Schematic representation of the chimera of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (A), a chimera of the PEPTIDE-HSA type (B) and a chimera of the PEPTIDE-HSA-PEPTIDE type (C). Abbreviations used: M/LP, translational initiator methionine residue, optionally followed by a signal sequence for secretion; HSA, mature albumin or one of its molecular variants; PEP, peptide of natural or artificial origin possessing a given therapeutic property. The PEP sequence may be present several times in the molecules of type A, B and C. The black arrow indicates the N-terminal end of the mature protein.

Figure 2: Examples of the nucleotide sequence of a HindIII restriction fragment encoding a chimeric protein of the prepro-HSA-PEPTIDE type. The black arrows indicate the end of the "pre" and "pro" regions of HSA. The MstII restriction site is underlined and the codon specifying the termination of translation is in bold characters.

Figure 3: Restriction map for the plasmid pYG105 and generic strategy for construction of the plasmids for expression of the chimeric proteins of the present invention. Abbreviations used: P, transcriptional promoter; T, transcriptional terminator; IR, inverted repeat sequences of the plasmid pKD1; LP, signal sequence for secretion; Ap^r and Km^r designate the genes for resistance to ampicillin (*E. coli*) and to G418 (yeasts), respectively.

Figure 4: Examples of nucleotide sequences of MstII-HindIII restriction fragments derived from the von Willebrand factor. Representation of the structure of the MstII-HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1248 (panel A). Representation of the structure of the MstII-HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1214 (panel B). Representation of the MstII-HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1206 (panel C); in this particular chimera, the Leu694 residue of the vWF is also the last residue (Leu585) of the HSA. Representation of the MstII-HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1223 (panel D). The numbering of the amino acids corresponds to the numbering of the mature vWF according to Titani et al. [Biochemistry 25 (1986) 3171-3184]. The MstII and HindIII restriction sites are underlined and the translation termination codon is in bold characters. FIG. 4E is a nucleotide sequence (SEO ID NO:3) of the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1248. The numbering of the amino acids (right-hand column) corresponds to the mature chimeric protein HSA-vWF470→713 (829 residues). The Thr470, Leu494, Asp498, Pro502, Tyr508, Leu694, Pro704 and Pro708 residues of the mature vWF are underlined.

Figure 5: The characterization of the material secreted after 4 days of culture (Erlenmeyers) of the strain CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmids pYG1248 (plasmid for expression of a chimera of the HSA-vWF Thr470→Val713) and pKan707 (control plasmid). In this experiment, the polypeptides for panels A, B and C were run on the same gel (8.5% SDS-PAGE) and then treated separately.

A: the results of Coomassie blue staining of a molecular weight standard (lane 2); of a supernatant equivalent to 50 µl of the culture transformed with the plasmid pKan707 in YPL medium (lane 1); the plasmid pYG1248 in YPD medium (lane 3) and the plasmid pYG1248 in YPL medium (lane 4).

B: the results of immunological characterization of the secreted material

after using mouse antibodies directed against human vWF. The lanes are the same as described for FIG. 5A except that biotinylated molecular weight standards were used (lane 2).

C: the results of immunological characterization of the secreted material after using rabbit antibodies directed against human albumin: supernatant equivalent to 50 μ l of the culture transformed with the plasmid pKan707 in YPL medium (lane 1), the plasmid pYG1248 in YPD medium (lane 2) the plasmid pYG1248 in YPL medium (lane 3).

Figure 6: The kinetic analysis of secretion of a chimera of the invention by the strain CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmid pYG1206 (HSA-vWF Leu694-Pro708).

A: Coomassie blue staining was employed. Lane 1 is the molecular weight standard, lane 2 is the supernatant equivalent to 2.5 μ l of a "Fed Batch" culture in YPD medium after 24 hours of growth; lane 3 is the supernatant of the same culture after 40 hours; and lane 4 is the supernatant of the same culture after 46 hours of growth.

B: immunological characterization of the secreted material after using mouse antibodies directed against the human vWF. The lanes are the same as in A except that biotinylated molecular weight standards were used.

Figure 7: Characterization of the material secreted by *K. lactis* transformed with the plasmids pKan707 (control plasmid, lane 2), pYG1206 (lane 3), pYG1214 (lane 4) and pYG1223 (lane 5); molecular weight standard (lane 1). The deposits correspond to 50 μl of supernatant from a stationary culture after growing in YPD medium, running on an 8.5% acrylamide gel and staining with Coomassie blue.

Figure 8: Nucleotide sequence of the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1341 (HSA-UK1 \rightarrow 135). The limit of the EGF-like domain (UK1 \rightarrow 46) present in the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1340 is indicated. The numbering of the amino acids corresponds to the mature chimeric protein SAU-UK1 \rightarrow 135 (720 residues).

Figure 9: Secretion of the HSA-UK1-46 and HSA-UK1-135 chimeras by the strain CBS 293.91 respectively transformed with the plasmids pYG1343 (HSA-UK1-46) and pYG1345 (HSA-UK1-135), after 4 days of growth (YPL+G418 medium). The deposits (equivalent to 50 μl of culture) are run on an 8.5% PAGE-SDS gel and stained with Coomassie blue: supernatant from a clone transformed with the plasmids pKan707 (lane 1), pYG1343 (lane 3) or pYG1345 (lane 4); molecular weight standard (lane 2).

Figure 10: Nucleotide sequence of the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1259 (HSA-G.CSF). The limit of the G-CSF part (174 residues) is indicated. The ApaI and SstI (SstI) restriction sites are underlined. The numbering of the amino acids corresponds to the mature chimeric protein HSA-G.CSF (759 residues).

Figure 11: The nucleotide sequence of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1301 (chimera G.CSF-Gly₄ -HSA). The black arrows indicate the end of the "pre" and "pro" regions of HSA. The ApaI, SstI (SacI) and MstII restriction sites are underlined. The G.CSF (174 residues) and HSA (585 residues) domains are separated by the synthetic linker GGGG. The numbering of the amino acids corresponds to the mature chimeric protein G.CSF-Gly4-SAH (763 residues). The nucleotide sequence between the translation termination codon and the HindIII site comes from the HSA complementary DNA (cDNA) as described in Patent Application EP 361 991.

Figure 12: The characterization of the material secreted after 4 days of culture (erlenmeyers) of the strain CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmids pYG1266 (plasmid for expression of a chimera of the HSA-G.CSF type) and pKan707 (control plasmid). In this experiment, the polypeptides for panels A, B and C were run on the same gel (8.5% SDS-PAGE) and then treated separately.

A: coomassie blue staining of a molecular weight standard (lane 2); supernatant equivalent to 100 µl of culture transformed with the plasmid pKan707 in YPL medium (lane 1); the plasmid pYG1266 in YPD medium (lane 3) and the plasmid pYG1266 in YPL medium (lane 4).

B: immunological characterization of the material secreted after using primary antibodies directed against human G-CSF. The lanes are as described above for A.

C: immunological characterization of the material secreted after using primary antibodies directed against human albumin. The lanes are as described above for A.

Figure 13: Characterization of the material secreted after 4 days of culture (erlenmeyers in YPD medium) of the strain CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmids pYG1267 (chimera HSA-G.CSF), pYG1303 (chimera G.CSF-Gly4-HSA) and pYG1352 (chimera HSA-Gly4-G.CSF) after running on an 8.5% SDS-PAGE gel.

A: coomassie blue staining of a supernatant equivalent to $100 \,\mu l$ of the culture transformed with the plasmid pYG1303 (lane 1), the plasmid pYG1267 (lane 2), and the plasmid pYG1352 (lane 3). Lane 4 is the molecular weight standard.

B: immunological characterization of the material secreted after using primary antibodies directed against the human G-CSF: same legend as in A.

Figure 14: Nucleotide sequence of the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1382 (HSA-Fv'). The VH (124 residues) and VL (107 residues) domains of the Fv' fragment are separated by the synthetic linker (GGGGS)_{x3}. The numbering of the amino acids corresponds to the mature chimeric protein HSA-Fv' (831 residues).

Figure 15: Characterization of the secretion of the chimera HSA-Fv' by the strain CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmid pYG1383 (LAC4) after 4 days of growth in erlenmeyers at 28°C. in YPD medium (lane 2), and in YPL medium (lane 3). Lane 1 shows the molecular weight standard. The deposits, equivalent to 200 μl of culture (precipitation with ethanol), are run on a PAGE-SDS gel (8.5%).

A: coomassie blue staining of the gel.

B: immunological characterization of the material secreted after using primary antibodies directed against HSA.

Figure 16: Assay of the *in vitro* antagonistic activity of the agglutination of human platelets fixed with formaldehyde: IC₅₀ of the hybrids HSA-vWF694-708, [HSA-vWF470-713 C471G, C474G] and [HSA-vWF470-704 C471G, C474G] compared with the standard RG12986. The determination of the dose-dependent inhibition of the platelet agglutination is carried out according to the method described by C. Prior *et al.* [Bio/Technology (1992) 10 66] using an aggregameter recording the variations in optical transmission, with stirring, at 37°C. in the presence of human vWF, botrocetin (8.2 mg/ml) of the test product at various dilutions. The concentration of the product which makes it possible to inhibit the control agglutination (in the absence of product) by half is then determined (IC₅₀).

Figure 17: Activity on the *in vitro* cellular proliferation of the murine line NFS60. The radioactivity (³H-thymidine) incorporated into the cellular nuclei

after 6 hours of incubation is represented on the y-axis (cpm); the quantity of product indicated on the x-axis is expressed in molarity (arbitrary units).

Figure 18: Activity on granulopoiesis *in vivo* in rats. The number of neutrophils (average for 7 animals) is indicated on the y-axis as a function of time. The products tested are the chimera HSA-G.CSF (pYG1266), 4 or 40 mg/rat/day), the reference G-CSF (10 mg/rat/day), the recombinant HSA purified from *Kluyveromyces lactis* supernatant (HSA, 30 mg/rat/day, cf. EP 361 991), or physiological saline.

EXAMPLES

GENERAL CLONING TECHNIQUES

The methods conventionally used in molecular biology, such as the preparative extractions of plasmid DNA, the centrifugation of plasmid DNA in caesium chloride gradient, electrophoresis on agarose or acrylamide gels, purification of DNA fragments by electroelution, extractions of proteins with phenol or phenol-chloroform, DNA precipitation in saline medium with ethanol or isopropanol, transformation in *Escherichia coli*, and the like are well known to persons skilled in the art and are widely described in the literature [Maniatis T. *et al.*, "Molecular Cloning, a Laboratory Manual", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1982; Ausubel F. M. *et al.* (eds), "Current Protocols in Molecular Biology", John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1987].

The restriction enzymes were provided by New England Biolabs (Biolabs), Bethesda Research Laboratories (BRL) or Amersham and are used according to the recommendations of the suppliers.

The pBR322 and pUC type plasmids and the phages of the M13 series are of commercial origin (Bethesda Research Laboratories).

For the ligations, the DNA fragments are separated according to their size by electrophoresis on agarose or acrylamide gels, extracted with phenol or with a phenol/chloroform mixture, precipitated with ethanol and then incubated in the presence of phage T4 DNA ligase (Biolabs) according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

The filling of the protruding 5' ends is carried out by the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I of *E. coli* (Biolabs) according to the specifications of the supplier. The destruction of the protruding 3' ends is carried out in the presence of phage T4 DNA polymerase (Biolabs) used according to the recommendations of the manufacturer. The destruction of the protruding 5' ends is carried out by a controlled treatment with S1 nuclease.

Site-directed mutagenesis *in vitro* with synthetic oligodeoxynucleotides is carried out according to the method developed by Taylor *et al.* [Nucleic Acids Res. 13 (1985) 8749-8764] using the kit distributed by Amersham.

The enzymatic amplification of DNA fragments by the so-called PCR technique Polymerase-catalyzed Chain Reaction, [Saiki R. K. *et al.*, Science 230 (1985) 1350-1354; Mullis K. B. and Faloona F. A., Meth. Enzym. 155 (1987) 335-350] is carried out using a "DNA thermal cycler" (Perkin Elmer Cetus) according to the specifications of the manufacturer.

The verification of the nucleotide sequences is carried out by the method developed by Sanger *et al.* [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 74 (1977) 5463-5467] using the kit distributed by Amersham.

The transformations of *K. lactis* with DNA from the plasmids for expression of the proteins of the present invention are carried out by any technique known to persons skilled in the art, and of which an example is given in the text.

Except where otherwise stated, the bacterial strains used are *E. coli* MC1060 (lacIPOZYA, X74, galU, galK, strA^r), or *E. coli* TG1 (lac, proA,B, supE, thi, hsdD5/FtraD36, proA⁺ B⁺, lacI^q, lacZ, M15).

The yeast strains used belong to the budding yeasts and more particularly to yeasts of the genus *Kluyveromyces*. The *K. lactis* MW98-8C (a, uraA, arg, lys, K⁺, pKD1°) and *K. lactis* CBS 293.91 strain were particularly used; a sample of the MW98-8C strain was deposited on 16 Sep. 1988 at Centraalbureau voor Schimmelkulturen (CBS) at Baarn (the Netherlands) where it was registered under the number CBS 579.88.

A bacterial strain (*E. coli*) transformed with the plasmid pET-8c52K was deposited on 17 Apr. 1990 with the American Type Culture Collection under the number ATCC 68306.

The yeast strains transformed with the expression plasmids encoding the proteins of the present invention are cultured in erlenmeyers or in 21 pilot fermenters (SETRIC, France) at 28°C. in rich medium (YPD: 1% yeast extract, 2% Bactopeptone, 2% glucose; or YPL: 1% yeast extract, 2% Bactopeptone, 2% lactose) with constant stirring.

EXAMPLE 1: COUPLING AT THE C-TERMINUS OF HSA

This plasmid contains a HindIII restriction fragment encoding the prepro-HSA gene preceded by the 21 nucleotides naturally present immediately upstream of the initiator ATG for translation of the PGK gene of *S. cerevisiae*. The nucleotide sequence of this restriction fragment is included in that of FIG. 2. The MstII site localized in the coding sequence, three residues from the codon specifying the end of translation is particularly useful as site for cloning a biologically active peptide which it is desired to couple in translational phase at the C-terminus of HSA. In a specific embodiment, it is useful to use peptides whose sequence is encoded by an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of the type: 5'-CCTTAGGCTTA [3xN]_p TAAGCTT-3', the sequence encoding the biologically active peptide (p residues) is [3xN]_p). The ligation of this fragment to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment

corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA, with the exception of the three C-terminal-most amino acids (leucine-glycine-leucine residues) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. In another embodiment, the biologically active peptide may be present more than once in the chimera.

EXAMPLE 2: COUPLING AT THE N-TERMINUS OF HSA

In a specific embodiment, the combined techniques of site-directed mutagenesis and PCR amplification make it possible to construct hybrid genes encoding a chimeric protein resulting from the translational coupling between a signal peptide (and for example the prepro region of HSA), a sequence including the biologically active peptide and the mature form of HSA or one of its molecular variants. These hybrid genes are preferably bordered in 5' of the translational initiator ATG and in 3' of the translational stop codon by HindIII restriction sites and encode chimeric proteins of the PEPTIDE-HSA type (FIG. 1, panel B). In a still more specific embodiment, the biologically active peptide may be present more than once in the chimera.

EXAMPLE 3: COUPLING AT THE N- AND C-TERMINUS OF HSA

The combined techniques of site-directed mutagenesis and PCR amplification described in Examples 1 and 2 make it possible to construct hybrid genes encoding a chimeric protein resulting from the translational coupling between the mature form of HSA, or one of its molecular variants, and a biologically active peptide coupled to the N- and C-terminal ends of HSA. These hybrid genes are preferably bordered in 5' of the translational initiator ATG and in 3' of the translational stop codon by HindIII restriction sites and encode chimeric

proteins of the PEPTIDE-HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel C), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. In a still more specific embodiment, the biologically active peptide may be present more than once in the chimera.

EXAMPLE 4: EXPRESSION PLASMIDS

The chimeric proteins of the preceding examples can be expressed in yeasts using functional, regulatable or constitutive promoters such as, for example, those present in the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4 promoter of Kluyveromyces lactis), pYG106 (PGK promoter of Saccharomyces cerevisiae), pYG536 (PHO5 promoter of S. cerevisiae), or hybrid promoters such as those described in Patent Application EP 361 991. The plasmids pYG105 and pYG106 are particularly useful here because they permit the expression of the genes encoded by the HindIII restriction fragments as described in the preceding examples and cloned into the HindIII site and in the productive orientation (defined as the orientation which places the "prepro" region of albumin proximally relative to the promoter for transcription), using promoters which are functional in K. lactis, regulatable (pYG105) or constitutive (pYG106). The plasmid pYG105 corresponds to the plasmid pKan707 described in Patent Application EP 361 991 in which the HindIII restriction site which is unique and localized in the gene for resistance to geneticin (G418) has been destroyed by site-directed mutagenesis while preserving an unchanged protein (oligodeoxynucleotide 5'-GAAA-TGCATAAGCTCTTGCCATTCTCACCG-3'). The SalI-SacI fragment encoding the URA3 gene of the mutated plasmid was then replaced with a SalI-SacI restriction fragment containing an expression cassette consisting of the LAC4 promoter of K. lactis (in the form of a Sall-HindIII fragment) and the terminator of the PGK gene of S. cerevisiae (in the form of a HindIII-SacI fragment). The plasmid pYG105 is mitotically very stable in the Kluyveromyces yeasts and a

restriction map thereof is given in FIG. 3. The plasmids pYG105 and pYG106 differ from each other only in the nature of the promoter for transcription encoded by the SalI-HindIII fragment.

EXAMPLE 5: TRANSFORMATION OF THE YEASTS

The transformation of the yeasts belonging to the genus Kluyveromyces, and in particular the strains MW98-8C and CBS 293.91 of K. lactis is carried out for example by the technique for treating whole cells with lithium acetate Ito H. et al., [J. Bacteriol. 153 (1983) 163-168], adapted as follows. The growth of the cells is carried out at 28°C. in 50 ml of YPD medium, with stirring and up to an optical density of 600 nm (OD₆₀₀) of between 0.6 and 0.8; the cells are harvested by centrifugation at low speed, washed in a sterile solution of TE (10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.4; 1 mM EDTA), resuspended in 3-4 ml of lithium acetate (0.1M in TE) in order to obtain a cellular density of about 2 x 10⁸ cells/ml, and then incubated at 30°C. for 1 hour with moderate stirring. Aliquots of 0.1 ml of the resulting suspension of competent cells are incubated at 30°C. for 1 hour in the presence of DNA and at a final concentration of 35% polyethylene glycol (PEG₄₀₀₀, Sigma). After a heat shock of 5 minutes at 42°C., the cells are washed twice, resuspended in 0.2 ml of sterile water and incubated for 16 hours at 28°C. in 2 ml of YPD medium in order to permit the phenotypic expression of the gene for resistance to G418 expressed under the control of the P_{kl} promoter (cf. EP 361 991); 200 µl of the cellular suspension are then plated on selective YPD dishes (G418, 200 μg/ml). The dishes are incubated at 28°C. and the transformants appear after 2 to 3 days of cell growth.

EXAMPLE 6:SECRETION OF THE CHIMERAS

After selection on rich medium supplemented with G418, the recombinant clones are tested for their capacity to secrete the mature form of the chimeric proteins. Few clones, corresponding to the strain CBS 293.91 or MW98-8C transformed by the plasmids for expression of the chimeras between HSA and the biologically active part, are incubated in YPD or YPL medium at 28°C. The cellular supernatants are recovered by centrifugation when the cells reach the stationary growth phase, optionally concentrated 10 times by precipitation for 30 minutes at -20°C. in a final concentration of 60% ethanol, and then tested after electrophoresis on an 8.5% SDS-PAGE gel, either directly by staining the gel with coomassie blue, or after immunoblotting using primary antibodies directed against the biologically active part or a rabbit polyclonal serum directed against HSA. During the experiments for immunological detection, the nitrocellulose filter is first incubated in the presence of specific primary antibodies, washed several times, incubated in the presence of goat antibodies directed against the primary antibodies, and then incubated in the presence of an avidin-peroxidase complex using the "ABC kit" distributed by Vectastain (Biosys S. A., Compiegne, France). The immunological reaction is then revealed by the addition of 3,3'-diamino benzidine tetrahydrochloride (Prolabo) in the presence of hydrogen peroxide, according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

EXAMPLE 7: CHIMERAS DERIVED FROM THE VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR

E.7.1. Fragments Antagonizing the Binding of vWF to the Platelets

E.7.1.1. Thr470-Val713 Residues of vWF

The plasmid pET-8c52K contains a fragment of the vWF cDNA encoding residues 445 to 733 of human vWF and therefore includes several crucial

determinants of the interaction between vWF and the platelets on the one hand, and certain elements of the basal membrane and the sub-endothelial tissue on the other, and especially the peptides G10 and D5 which antagonize the interaction between vWF and GP1b Mori H. et al., [J. Biol. Chem. 263 (1988) 17901-17904]. This peptide sequence is identical to the corresponding sequence described by Titani et al. [Biochemistry 25, (1986) 3171-3184]. The amplification of these genetic determinants can be carried out using the plasmid pET-8c52K, for example by the PCR amplification technique, using as primer oligodeoxynucleotides encoding contiguous residues localized on either side of the sequence to be amplified. The amplified fragments are then cloned into vectors of the M13 type for their verification by sequencing using either the universal primers situated on either side of the multiple cloning site, or oligodeoxynucleotides specific for the amplified region of the vWF gene of which the sequence of several isomorphs is known Sadler J. E. et al., [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 82 (1985) 6394-6398]; Verweij C. L. et al., [EMBO J. 5 (1986) 1839-1847]; Shelton-Inloes B. B. et al., [Biochemistry 25 (1986) 3164-3171]; Bonthron D. et al., [Nucleic Acids Res. 17 (1986) 7125-7127]. the PCR amplification of the plasmid pET-8c52K with the oligodeoxynucleotides 5'-CCCGGGATCCCTTAGGCTTAACCTGTGAAGCCTG C-3' (Sq1969, the MstII site is underlined) and 5'-CCCGGGATCCAAGCTTA-GACTTGTGCCATGTCG-3' (Sq2029, the HindIII site is underlined) generates an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment including the Thr470 to Val713 residues of vWF (FIG. 4, panel E). The ligation of this fragment to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA, with the exception of the three C-terminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. This restriction fragment is cloned in the productive orientation and into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmid pYG1248 (HSA-vWF470-713).

E.7.1.2. Molecular Variants:

In another embodiment, the binding site of vWF is a peptide including the Thr470 to Asp498 residues of the mature vWF. This sequence including the peptide G10 (Cys474-Pro488) described by Mori et al. [J. Biol. Chem. 263 (1988) 17901-17904] and capable of antagonizing the interaction of human vWF with the GP1b of the human platelets. The sequence corresponding to the peptide G10 is first included in an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment (FIG. 4, panel B), for example by PCR amplification of the plasmid pET-8c52K with the oligodeoxynucleotides Sq1969 and 5'-CCCGGGATCCAAGCTTAGTCCTCCACATACAG-3' (Sq1970, the HindIII site is underlined), which generates an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment including the peptide G10, and whose sequence CCTTAGGCTTAACCTGTGAAGCCTGCCAGGAGCCCGGGAGGCCTGGT-GGTGCCTCCCACAGATGCCCCGGTGAGCCCCACCACTCTGTA-

TGTGGAGGACTAAGCTT-3' (the sequence encoding the peptide G10 is in bold characters). The ligation of this fragment to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA, with the exception of the three C-terminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. This restriction fragment is cloned in the productive orientation into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmid pYG1214.

In another embodiment, the site for binding of vWF to GP1b is directly designed with the aid of synthetic oligodeoxynucleotides, and for example the oligodeoxynucleotides

5'-TTAGGCCTCTGTGACCTTGCCCCTGA-AG-CCCCTCCTACTCTGCCCCCCTAAGCTTA-3' (SEQ ID NO:26) and 5'-GATCTAAG-CTTAGGGGGGCAGAGTAGGAGGAGGGGCTTCAGGG-GCAAGGTCACAGAGGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:27). These oligodeoxynucleotides form, by pairing, a MstII-BglII restriction fragment including the MstII-HindIII fragment (FIG. 4, panel C) corresponding to the peptide D5 defined by the Leu694

to Pro708 residues of vWF. The ligation of the MstII-HindIII fragment to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA with the exception of the three C-terminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. This restriction fragment is cloned in the productive orientation into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmid pYG1206.

Useful variants of the plasmid pET-8c52K are deleted by site-directed mutagenesis between the peptides G10 and G5, for example sites for binding to collagen, and/or to heparin, and/or to botrocetin, and/or to sulphatides and/or to ristocetin. One example is the plasmid pMMB9 deleted by site-directed mutagenesis between the residues Cys509 and Ile662. The PCR amplification of this plasmid with the oligodeoxynucleotides Sq1969 and Sq2029 generates an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment (FIG. 4, panel D) including the Thr470 to Tyr508 and Arg663 to Val713 residues and in particular the peptides G10 and D5 of vWF and deleted in particular of its site for binding to collagen localized between the residues Glu542 and Met622 Roth G. J. et al., [Biochemistry 25 (1986) 8357-8361]. The ligation of this fragment to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA, with the exception of the three Cterminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. This restriction fragment is cloned in the productive orientation into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmid pYG1223.

In other embodiments, the use of combined techniques of site-directed mutagenesis and PCR amplification makes it possible to generate at will variants of the MstII-HindIII restriction fragment of panel A of FIG. 4 but deleted of one or more sites for binding to sulphatides and/or to botrocetin and/or to heparin and/or

to collagen, and/or substituted by any residue involved in the vWF-associated emergence of IIB type pathologies.

In other useful variants of the plasmid pET-8c52K, mutations are introduced, for example by site-directed mutagenesis, in order to replace or suppress all or part of the set of cysteines present at positions 471, 474, 509 and 695 of the human vWF. Specific examples are the plasmids p5E and p7E in which the cysteins present at positions 471 and 474, on the one hand, and at positions 471, 474, 509 and 695, on the other hand, have been respectively replaced by glycine residues. The PCR amplification of these plasmids with the oligodeoxynucleotides Sq2149 (5'-CCCGGGATC<u>CCTTAGG</u>CTTAACCGGTGAAGCCGGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:28), the MstII site is underlined) and Sq2029 makes it possible to generate MstII-HindIII restriction fragments including the Thr470 to Val713 residues of the natural vWF with the exception that at least the cystein residues at positions 471 and 474 were mutated to glycine residues. The ligation of these fragments to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA with the exception of the three C-terminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates a HindIII restriction fragment containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. These restriction fragments are cloned in the productive orientation into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmids pYG1283 (chimera HSA-vWF470-713, C471G, C474G) and pYG1279 (chimera HSA-vWF470-713, C471G, C474G, C509G, C695G).

Other particularly useful mutations affect at least one residue involved in vWF-associated type IIB pathologies (increase in the intrinsic affinity of vWF for GP1b), such as the residues Arg543, Arg545, Trp550, Val551, Val553, Pro574 or Arg578 for example. The genetic recombination techniques *in vitro* also make it possible to introduce at will one or more additional residues into the sequence of

vWF and for example a supernumerary methionine between positions Asp539 and Glu542.

E.7.2. Fragments Antagonizing the Binding of vWF to the Sub-Endothelium

In a specific embodiment, the sites for binding of vWF to the components of the sub-endothelial tissue, and for example collagen, are generated by PCR amplification of the plasmid pET-8c52K, for example with the (5'-GGATCCTTAGGGCToligodeoxynucleotides Sq2258 GTGCAGCAGCTACTGGACCTGGTC-3', the MstII site is underlined) and Sq2259 (5'-GAATTCAAGCTTAACAGAGGTAGCTAA-CGATCTCGTCCC-3', the HindIII site is underlined), which generates an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment encoding the Cys509 to Cys695 residues of the natural vWF. Deletion molecular variants or modified variants are also generated which contain any desired combination between the sites for binding of vWF to the sulphatides and/or to botrocetin and/or to heparin and/or to collagen and/or any residue responsible for a modification of the affinity of vWF for GP1b (vWF-associated type II pathologies). In another embodiment, the domain capable of binding to collagen may also come from the vWF fragment which is between the residues 911 and 1114 and described by Pareti et al. [J. Biol. Chem. (1987) 262: 13835-13841]. The ligation of these fragments to the HindIII-MstII restriction fragment corresponding to the entire gene encoding HSA with the exception of the three C-terminal most amino acids (cf. FIG. 2) generates HindIII restriction fragments containing a hybrid gene encoding a chimeric protein of the HSA-PEPTIDE type (FIG. 1, panel A), immediately preceded by the "prepro" export region of HSA. These restriction fragments are cloned in the productive orientation into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG105, which generates the corresponding expression plasmids, and for example the plasmid pYG1277 (HSA-vWF509-695).

${\bf E.7.3. \ \ Purification \ \ and \ \ Molecular \ \ Characterization \ \ of \ \ the}$ Chimeras Between HSA and vWF

The chimeras present in the culture supernatants corresponding to the CBS 293.91 strain transformed, for example with the expression plasmids according to Examples E.7.1. and E.7.2., are characterized in a first instance by means of antibodies specific for the HSA part and for the vWF part. The results of FIGS. 5 to 7 demonstrate that the yeast K. lactis is capable of secreting chimeric proteins between HSA and a fragment of vWF, and that these chimeras are immunologically reactive. It may also be desirable to purify some of these chimeras. The culture is then centrifuged (10,000 g, 30 min), the supernatant is passed through a 0.22 mm filter (Millipore) and then concentrated by ultrafiltration (Amicon) using a membrane whose discrimination threshold is situated at 30 kDa. The concentrate obtained is then dialysed against a Tris-HCl solution (50 mM pH 8) and then purified on a column. For example, the concentrate corresponding to the culture supernatant of the CBS 293.91 strain transformed with the plasmid pYG1206 is purified by affinity chromatography on Blue-Trisacryl (IBF). A purification by ionexchange chromatography can also be used. For example, in the case of the chimera HSA-vWF470-713, the concentrate obtained after ultrafiltration is dialysed against a Tris-HCl solution (50 mM pH 8), and then loaded in 20 ml fractions onto a cation-exchange column (5 ml) (S Fast Flow, Pharmacia) equilibrated in the same buffer. The column is then washed several times with the Tris-HCl solution (50 mM pH 8) and the chimeric protein is then eluted from the column by an NaCl gradient (0 to 1M). The fractions containing the chimeric protein are then pooled and dialysed against a 50 mM Tris-HCl solution (pH 8) and then reloaded onto the S Fast Flow column. After elution of the column, the fractions containing the protein are pooled, dialysed against water and freeze-dried before characterization: for example, sequencing (Applied Biosystem) of the protein [HSA-vWF470-704 C471G, C474G] secreted by the yeast CBS 293.91 gives the N-terminal sequence expected for HSA (Asp-Ala-His . . .), demonstrating a correct maturation of the

chimera immediately at the C-terminus of the doublet of residues Arg-Arg of the "pro" region of HSA (FIG. 2). The essentially monomeric character of the chimeric proteins between HSA and vWF is also confirmed by their elution profile on a TSK 3000 column [Toyo Soda Company, equilibrated with a cacodylate solution (pH 7) containing 0.2M Na₂SO₄]: for example the chimera [HSA-vWF 470-704 C471G, C474G] behaves under the conditions like a protein with an apparent molecular weight of 95 kDa, demonstrating its monomeric character.

EXAMPLE 8: CHIMERAS DERIVED FROM UROKINASE

E.8.1. Constructs

A fragment corresponding to the amino-terminal fragment of urokinase (ATF: EGF-like domain + kringle domain) can be obtained from the corresponding messenger RNA of cells of certain human carcinoma, for example using the RT-PCR kit distributed by Pharmacia. An MstII-HindIII restriction fragment including the ATF of human urokinase is given in FIG. 8. The ligation of the HindIII-MstII fragment of the plasmid pYG404 to this MstII-HindIII fragment makes it possible to generate the HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1341 which encodes a chimeric protein in which the HSA molecule is genetically coupled to the ATF (HSA-UK1→135). Likewise, the plasmid pYG1340 contains a HindIII fragment encoding a chimera composed of HSA immediately followed by the first 46 residues of human urokinase (HSA-UK1->46, cf. FIG. 8). The cloning in the productive orientation, of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1340 (HSA-UK1->46) into the HindIII site of the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4) and pYG106 (PGK) generates the expression plasmids pYG1343 and pYG1342 respectively. Likewise, the cloning, in the productive orientation, of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1341 (HSA-UK1→135) into the HindIII site of the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4) and pYG106 (PGK) generates the expression plasmids pYG1345 and pYG1344 respectively.

E.8.2. Secretion of the Hybrids

After selection on rich medium supplemented with G418, the recombinant clones are tested for their capacity to secrete the mature form of the chimeric proteins HSA-UK. A few clones corresponding to the strain *K. lactis* CBS 293.91, which is transformed with the expression plasmids according to Example E.9.1., are incubated in selective complete liquid medium at 28°C. The cellular supernatants are then tested after electrophoresis on an 8.5% acrylamide gel, either directly by staining of the gel with coomassie blue, or after immunoblotting using as primary antibodies a rabbit polyclonal serum directed against human albumin or against human urokinase. The results of FIG. 9 demonstrate that the hybrid proteins HSA-UK1→46 and HSA-UK1→135 are particularly well secreted by the yeast *Kluyveromyces*.

E.8.3 Purification of the Chimeras Between HSA and Urokinase

After centrifugation of a culture of the CBS 293.91 strain transformed with the expression plasmids according to Example E.8.1., the culture supernatant is passed through a 0.22 mm filter (Millipore) and then concentrated by ultrafiltration (Amicon) using a membrane whose discrimination threshold is situated at 30 kDa. The concentrate obtained is then adjusted to 50 mM Tris-HCl starting with a stock solution of 1M Tris-HCl (pH 7), and then loaded in 20 ml fractions onto an anion-exchange column (3 ml) (D-Zephyr, Sepracor) equilibrated in the same buffer. The chimeric protein (HSA-UK1→46 or HSA-UK1→135) is then eluted from the column by a gradient (0 to 1M) of NaCl. The fractions containing the chimeric protein are then pooled and dialysed against a 50 mM Tris-HCl solution (pH 6) and reloaded onto a D-Zephyr column equilibrated in the same buffer. After elution of the column, the fractions containing the protein are pooled, dialysed against water and freeze-dried before characterization of their biological activity and especially with respect to their ability to displace urokinase from its cellular receptor.

EXAMPLE 9: CHIMERAS DERIVED FROM G-CSF

E.9.1. Constructs

E.9.1.1. Coupling at the C-terminus of HSA.

An MstII-HindIII restriction fragment including the mature form of human G-CSF is generated, for example according to the following strategy: a KpnI-HindIII restriction fragment is first obtained by the enzymatic PCR amplification (5'oligodeoxynucleotides Sq2291 technique using the CAAGGATCCAAGCTTCAGGGCTGCGCAAGGTGGCGTAG-3', the HindIII site is underlined) and Sq2292 (5'-CGGGGTACCTTAGGCTTAACCCCCCTG-GGCCCTGCCAGC-3', the KpnI site is underlined) as primer on the plasmid BBG13 serving as template. The plasmid BBG13 contains the gene encoding the B form (174 amino acids) of mature human G-CSF, which is obtained from British Bio-technology Limited, Oxford, England. The enzymatic amplification product of about 550 nucleotides is then digested with the restriction enzymes KpnI and HindIII and cloned into the vector pUC19 cut with the same enzymes, which generates the recombinant plasmid pYG1255. This plasmid is the source of an MstII-HindIII restriction fragment which makes it possible to fuse G-CSF immediately downstream of HSA (chimera HSA-G.CSF) and whose nucleotide sequence is given in FIG. 10.

It may also be desirable to insert a peptide linker between the HSA part and G-CSF, for example in order to permit a better functional presentation of the transducing part. An MstII-HindIII restriction fragment is for example generated by substitution of the MstII-ApaI fragment of the plasmid pYG1255 by oligodeoxynucleotides Sq2742 (5'-TTAGGCTTAthe GGTGGTGGCGGTACCCCCCTGGGCC-3', the codons encoding the glycine this particular linker are underlined) and Sq2741 (5'residues of CAGGGGGTACCGCCACCACCTAAGCC-3') which form, by pairing, an MstII-ApaI fragment. The plasmid thus generated therefore contains an MstII- HindIII restriction fragment whose sequence is identical to that of FIG. 10 with the exception of the MstII-ApaI fragment.

The ligation of the HindIII-MstII fragment of the plasmid pYG404 to the MstII-HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1255 makes it possible to generate the HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1259 which encodes a chimeric protein in which the B form of the mature G-CSF is positioned by genetic coupling in translational phase at the C-terminus of the HSA molecule (HSA-G.CSF).

An identical HindIII restriction fragment, with the exception of the MstII-ApaI fragment, may also be easily generated and which encodes a chimeric protein in which the B form of the mature G-CSF is positioned by genetic coupling in translational phase at the C-terminus of the HSA molecule and a specific peptide linker. For example, this linker consists of 4 glycine residues in the HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1336 (chimera HSA-Gly₄-G.CSF).

The HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1259 is cloned in the productive orientation and into the HindIII restriction site of the expression plasmid pYG105, which generates the expression plasmid pYG1266 (HSAG.CSF). In another exemplification, the cloning of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1259 in the productive orientation and into the HindIII site of the plasmid pYG106 generates the plasmid pYG1267. The plasmids pYG1266 and pYG1267 are mutually isogenic with the exception of the SalI-HindIII restriction fragment encoding the LAC4 promoter of *K. lactis* (plasmid pYG1266) or the PGK promoter of *S. cerevisiae* (plasmid pYG1267).

In another exemplification, the cloning in the productive orientation of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1336 (chimera HSA-Gly₄-G.CSF) into the HindIII site of the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4) and pYG106 (PGK) generates the expression plasmids pYG1351 and pYG1352 respectively.

E.9.1.2. Coupling at the N-terminus of HSA

In a specific embodiment, the combined techniques of site-directed mutagenesis and PCR amplification make it possible to construct hybrid genes

encoding a chimeric protein resulting from the translational coupling between a signal peptide (and for example the prepro region of HSA), a sequence including a gene having a G-CSF activity, and the mature form of HSA or one of its molecular variants (cf. chimera of panel B, FIG. 1). These hybrid genes are preferably bordered in 5' of the translational initiator ATG and in 3' of the translational stop codon by HindIII restriction sites. For example the oligodeoxynucleotide Sq2369 (5'-GTTCTACGCCACCTTG-

CGCAGCCCGGTGGAGGCGGTGATGCACACAAGAGTGAGGTTGCTCAT-

CGG-3' the residues underlined (optional) correspond in this particular chimera to a peptide linker composed of 4 glycine residues) makes it possible, by site-directed mutagenesis, to put in translational phase the mature form of the human G-CSF of the plasmid BBG13 immediately upstream of the mature form of HSA, which intermediate generates plasmid A. Likewise, the use [5'-CAGGGAGCTGGCAGGGCCCAGGGGGoligodeoxynucleotide Sq2338 GTTCGACGAAACACCCCTGGAATAAGCCGAGCT-3' (non-coding strand), the nucleotides complementary to the nucleotides encoding the first N-terminal residues of the mature form of the human G-CSF are underlined] makes it possible. by site-directed mutagenesis, to couple in translational reading phase the prepro region of HSA immediately upstream of the mature form of the human G-CSF, which generates the intermediate plasmid B. A HindIII fragment encoding a chimeric protein of the PEPTIDE-HSA type (cf. FIG. 1, panel B) is then generated by combining the HindIII-SstI fragment of the plasmid B (joining prepro region of HSA+N-terminal fragment of the mature G-CSF) with the SstI-HindIII fragment of the plasmid A [joining mature G-CSF-(glycine)_{x4} - mature HSA]. The plasmid pYG1301 contains this specific HindIII restriction fragment encoding the chimera G.CSF-Gly₄-HSA fused immediately downstream of the prepro region of HSA (FIG. 11). The cloning of this HindIII restriction fragment in the productive orientation and into the HindIII site of the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4) and pYG106 (PGK) generates the expression plasmids pYG1302 and pYG1303 respectively.

E.9.2. Secretion of the Hybrids.

After selection on rich medium supplemented with G418, the recombinant clones are tested for their capacity to secrete the mature form of the chimeric proteins between HSA and G-CSF. A few clones corresponding to the strain K. lactis CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmids pYG1266 or pYG1267 (HSA-G.CSF), pYG1302 or pYG1303 (G.CSF-Gly₄-HSA) or alternatively pYG1351 or pYG1352 (HSA-Gly₄-G.CSF) are incubated in selective complete liquid medium at 28°C. The cellular supernatants are then tested after electrophoresis on an 8.5% acrylamide gel, either directly by staining the gel with coomassie blue, or after immunoblotting using as primary antibodies rabbit polyclonal antibodies directed against the human G-CSF or a rabbit polyclonal serum directed against human albumin. The results of FIG. 12 demonstrate that the hybrid protein HSA-G.CSF is recognized both by antibodies directed against human albumin (panel C) and human G-CSF (panel B). The results of FIG. 13 indicate that the chimera HSA-Gly₄-G.CSF (lane 3) is particularly well secreted by the yeast Kluyveromyces, possibly because of the fact that the presence of the peptide linker between the HSA part and the G-CSF part is more favourable to an independent folding of these 2 parts during the transit of the chimera in the secretory pathway. Furthermore, the N-terminal fusion (G.CSF-Gly₄-HSA) is also secreted by the yeast Kluyveromyces (FIG. 13, lane 1).

E.9.3. Purification and Molecular Characterization of the Chimeras Between HSA and G-CSF.

After centrifugation of a culture of the CBS 293.91 strain transformed with the expression plasmids according to Example E.9.1., the culture supernatant is passed through a 0.22 mm filter (Millipore) and then concentrated by ultrafiltration (Amicon) using a membrane whose discrimination threshold is situated at 30 kDa. The concentrate obtained is then adjusted to 50 mM Tris-HCl from a 1M stock solution of Tris-HCl (pH 6), and then loaded in 20 ml fractions onto an ion-exchange column (5 ml) (Q Fast Flow, Pharmacia) equilibrated in the same buffer.

The chimeric protein is then eluted from the column by a gradient (0 to 1M) of NaCl. The fractions containing the chimeric protein are then pooled and dialysed against a 50 mM Tris-HCl solution (pH 6) and reloaded onto a Q Fast Flow column (1 ml) equilibrated in the same buffer. After elution of the column, the fractions containing the protein are pooled, dialysed against water and freeze-dried before characterization: for example, the sequencing (Applied Biosystem) of the protein HSA-G.CSF secreted by the yeast CBS 293.91 gives the N-terminal sequence expected for HSA (Asp-Ala-His . . .), demonstrating a correct maturation of the chimera immediately at the C-terminus of the doublet of residues Arg-Arg of the "pro" region of HSA (FIG. 2).

EXAMPLE 10: CHIMERAS DERIVED FROM AN IMMUNOGLOBULIN

E.10.1. Constructs

An Fv' fragment can be constructed by genetic engineering techniques, and which encodes the variable fragments of the heavy and light chains of an immunoglobulin (Ig), linked to each other by a linker peptide Bird *et al.*, Science (1988) 242: 423; Huston *et al.*, (1988) [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 85: 5879]. Schematically, the variable regions (about 120 residues) of the heavy and light chains of a given Ig are cloned from the messenger RNA of the corresponding hybridoma, for example using the RT-PCR kit distributed by Pharmacia (Mouse ScFv module). In a second stage, the variable regions are genetically coupled by genetic engineering via a synthetic linkage peptide and for example the linker (GGGGS)_{x3}. An MstII-HindIII restriction fragment including the Fv' fragment of an immunoglobulin secreted by a murine hybridoma is given in FIG. 14. The ligation of the HindIII-MstII fragment of the plasmid pYG404 to this MstII-HindIII fragment makes it possible to generate the HindIII fragment of the plasmid pYG1382 which encodes a chimeric protein in which the HSA molecule is genetically coupled to the Fv' fragment of FIG. 14 (chimera HSA-Fv'). The cloning

in the productive orientation of the HindIII restriction fragment of the plasmid pYG1382 into the HindIII site of the plasmids pYG105 (LAC4) and pYG106 (PGK) generates the expression plasmids pYG1383 and pYG1384 respectively.

E.10.2. Secretion of the Hybrids

After selection on rich medium supplemented with G418, the recombinant clones are tested for their capacity to secrete the mature form of the chimeric protein HSA-Fv'. A few clones corresponding to the strain *K. lactis* CBS 293.91 transformed with the plasmids pYG1383 or pYG1384 (HSA-Fv') are incubated in selective complete liquid medium at 28°C. The cellular supernatants are then tested after electrophoresis on an 8.5% acrylamide gel, either directly by staining of the gel with coomassie blue, or after immunoblotting using as primary antibodies a rabbit polyclonal serum directed against human albumin, or directly incubated with biotinylated antibodies directed against the immunoglobulins of murine origin. The results of FIG. 15 demonstrate that the hybrid protein HSA-Fv' is recognized both by antibodies directed against human albumin (panel C) and reacts with biotinylated goat antibodies which are immunologically reactive towards mouse immunoglobulins (panel B).

EXAMPLE 11: BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF THE CHIMERAS

E.11.1. Biological Activity In vitro.

E.11.1.1. Chimeras Between HSA and vWF.

The antagonistic activity of the products is determined by measuring the dose-dependent inhibition of the agglutination of human platelets fixed with paraformaldehyde according to the method described by Prior *et al.* [Bio/Technology (1992) 10: 66]. The measurements are carried out in an aggregameter (PAP-4, Bio Data, Horsham, Pa., U.S.A.) which records the variations over time of the optical transmission, with stirring, at 37°C. in the

presence of vWF, of botrocetin (8.2 mg/ml) and of the test product at various dilutions (concentrations). For each measurement, 400 ml (8 x 10⁷ platelets) of a suspension of human platelets stabilized with paraformaldehyde (0.5%, and then resuspended in [NaCl (137 mM); MgCl₂ (1 mM); NaH₂PO₄ (0.36 mM); NaHCO₃ (10 mM); KCl (2.7 mM); glucose (5.6 mM); HSA (3.5 mg/ml); HEPES buffer (10 mM, pH 7.35)] are preincubated at 37°C. in the cylindrical tank (8.75 x 50 mm, Wellcome Distriwell, 159 rue Nationale, Paris) of the aggregameter for 4 min and are then supplemented with 30 ml of the solution of the test product at various dilutions in apyrogenic formulation vehicle [mannitol (50 g/l); citric acid (192 mg/l); L-lysine monohydrochloride (182.6 mg/l); NaCl (88 mg/l); pH adjusted to 3.5 by addition of NaOH (1M)], or formulation vehicle alone (control assay). The resulting suspension is then incubated for 1 min at 37°C. and 12.5 ml of human vWF [American Bioproducts, Parsippany, N.J., U.S.A.; 11% von Willebrand activity measured according to the recommendations for the use of PAP-4 (Platelet Aggregation Profiler^{RTM}) with the aid of platelets fixed with formaldehyde (2 x 10⁵ platelets/ml), human plasma containing 0 to 100% vWF and ristocetin (10 mg/ml, cf. p. 36-45: vW ProgramTM] are added and incubated at 37°C, for 1 min before adding 12.5 ml of botrocetin solution purified from freeze-dried venom of Bothrops jararaca (Sigma) according to the procedure described by Sugimoto et al., [Biochemistry (1991) 266: 18172]. The recording of the reading of the transmission as a function of time is then carried out for 2 min with stirring by means of a magnetic bar (Wellcome Distriwell) placed in the tank and with a magnetic stirring of 1,100 rpm provided by the aggregameter. The mean variation of the optical transmission (n³5 for each dilution) over time is therefore a measurement of the platelet agglutination due to the presence of vWF and botrocetin, in the absence or in the presence of variable concentrations of the test product. From such recordings, the % inhibition of the platelet agglutination due to each concentration of product is then determined and the straight line giving the % inhibition as a function of the reciprocal of the product dilution in log-log scale is plotted. The

IC50 (or concentration of product causing 50% inhibition of the agglutination) is then determined on this straight line. The table of FIG. 6 compares the IC50 values of some of the HSA-vWF chimeras of the present invention and demonstrates that some of them are better antagonists of platelet agglutination than the product RG12986 described by Prior et al. [Bio/Technology (1992) 10: 66] and included in the assays as standard value. Identical tests for the inhibition of the agglutination of human platelets in the presence of vWF of pig plasma (Sigma) makes it possible, furthermore, to demonstrate that some of the hybrids of the present invention, and especially some type IIB variants, are very good antagonists of platelet agglutination in the absence of botrocetin-type cofactors. The botrocetinindependent antagonism of these specific chimeras can also be demonstrated according to the procedure initially described by Ware et al. [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (1991) 88: 2946] by displacing the monoclonal antibody ¹²⁵I-LJ-IB1 (10 mg/ml), a competitive inhibitor of the binding of vWF to the platelet GPIb Handa M. et al., (1986) [J. Biol. Chem. 261: 12579] after 30 min of incubation at 22°C. in the presence of fresh platelets (10⁸ platelets/ml).

E.11.1.2. Chimeras between HSA and G-CSF

The purified chimeras are tested for their capacity to permit the *in vitro* proliferation of the IL3-dependant murine line NFS60, by measuring the incorporation of tritiated thymidine essentially according to the procedure described by Tsuchiya *et al.* [*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* (1986) 83 7633]. For each chimera, the measurements are carried out between 3 and 6 times in a three-point test (three dilutions of the product) in a zone or the relation between the quantity of active product and incorporation of labelled thymidine (Amersham) is linear. In each microtitre plate, the activity of a reference product consisting of recombinant human G-CSF expressed in mammalian cells is also systematically incorporated. The results of FIG. 17 demonstrate that the chimera HSA-G.CSF (pYG1266) secreted by the yeast *Kluyveromyces* and purified according to Example E.9.3. is capable *in vitro* of transducing a signal for cellular proliferation for the line NFS60.

In this particular case, the specific activity (cpm/molarity) of the chimera is about 7 times lower than that of the reference G-CSF (non-coupled).

E.11.2. Biological Activity In vivo

The activity of stimulation of the HSA-G-CSF chimeras on granulopoiesis *in vivo* is tested after subcutaneous injection in rats (Sprague-Dawley/CD, 250-300g, 8-9 weeks) and compared to that of the reference G-CSF expressed using mammalian cells. Each product, tested at the rate of 7 animals, is injected subcutaneously into the dorso-scapular region at the rate of 100 ml for 7 consecutive days, (D1-D7). 500 ml of blood are collected on days D-6, D2 (before the 2nd injection). D5 (before the 5th injection) and D8, and a blood count is performed. In this test, the specific activity (neutropoiesis units/mole injected) of the chimera HSA-G.CSF (pYG1266) is identical to that of the reference G-CSF (FIG. 18). Since this specific chimera has *in vitro* a specific activity 7 times lower than that of the reference G-CSF (FIG. 17), it is therefore demonstrated that the genetic coupling of G-CSF onto HSA favourably modifies the pharmacokinetic properties thereof.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANTS:
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 - (B) STREET: 20 Raymond ARON Avenue
 - (C) CITY: Antony
 - (E) COUNTRY: France
 - (F) POSTAL CODE: 92165
- (ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: Novel Biologically Active Polypeptides,
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 Polypeptides
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 6
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) NAME: MBM & Co.
 - (B) STREET: P.O. Box 809
 - (C) CITY: Ottawa
 - (D) PROVINCE: ON
 - (E) COUNTRY: Canada
 - (F) POSTAL CODE: K1P 5P9
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy Disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM-PC Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: Windows
 - (D) SOFTWARE: Word
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 2,126,091
 - (B) FILING DATE: January 28, 1993
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: SWAIN, Margaret
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 10926
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER:
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: 613-567-0762
 - (B) TELEFAX: 613-563-7671
- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:
- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1859 base pairs

.

	(C) S'	YPE: TRANI OPOLO	DEDN:	ESS:	doul										
	(ii) MO	LECU	LE T	YPE:	cDN	A									
	(ii	i) H	YPOTI	HETI	CAL:	no										
	(ii	i) Al	NTIS	ENSE	: no											
	() ()	A) NA B) L	ATURI AME/I OCATI	KEY:	26.			imera	a of	type	e HSA	A-pe]	otide	e		
	(1	A) N2 B) L0 D) O	ATURI AME/I OCAT: THER EQUEI	KEY: ION: INF	1842 DRMA	2-184 TION	48 : /st	canda	_			MstI:	I Si	te"		
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AAG	C 1 1 1 1	ACA A	HCHA	AIAI	AA AZ	AACA					Thr 5					32
			TTT Phe													100
10	riic	пси	7 110	JCI	15	ALG	ı yı	ber	Arg	20	vai	1110	,,,,	Arg	25	
			AGT Ser													148
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	Pro		GAA Glu		His	Val		Leu	Val	Asn		Val				244
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Glu	Asp 475	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Val	Val 480	Leu	Asn	Gln	TTA Leu	Cys 485	Val	Leu	His	Glu	1492
Lys 490	Thr	Pro	Val	Ser	Asp 495	Arg	Val	Thr	Lys	TGC Cys 500	Cys	Thr	Glu	Ser	Leu 505	1540
Val	Asn	Arg	Arg	Pro 510	Cys	Phe	Ser	Ala	Leu 515	Glu	Val	Asp	Glu	Thr 520	•	1588
Val	Pro	Lys	Glu 525	Phe	Asn	Ala	Glu	Thr 530	Phe	ACC Thr	Phe	His	Ala 535	Asn	Ile	1636
Cys	Thr	Leu 540	Ser	Glu	Lys	Glu	Arg 545	Gln	Ile	AAG Lys	Lys	Gln 550	Thr	Ala	Leu	1684
Val	Glu 555	Leu	Val	Lys	His	Lys 560	Pro	Lys	Ala	ACA Thr	Lys 565	Glu	Gln	Leu	Lys	1732
Ala 570	Val	Met	Asp	Asp	Phe 575	Ala	Ala	Phe	Val	GAG Glu 580	Lys	Cys	Cys	Lys	Ala 585	1780
GAC	GAT	AAG	GAG	ACC	TGC	TTT	GCC	GAG	GAG	GGT	AAA	AAA	CTT	GTT	GCT	1828

Asp Asp Lys Glu Thr Cys Phe Ala Glu Glu Gly Lys Lys Leu Val Ala 590 595 600	
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 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2: (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS: (A) LENGTH: 750 base pairs (B) TYPE: nucleic acid (C) STRANDEDNESS: double (D) TOPOLOGY: linear 	
(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA	
(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: no (iii) ANTISENSE: no	
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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:	
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Asp Ile Ser Glu Pro Pro Leu His Asp Phe Tyr Cys Ser Arg Leu Leu 35 40 45	143
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Arg	Arg	Ile	Ala 115	Ser	Gln	Val	Lys	Tyr 120	Ala	Gly	Ser	Gln	Val 125	Ala	Ser	
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											CTG Leu 155					479
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- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 423 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA
- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: no
- (iii) ANTISENSE: no
- (ix) FEATURE:
- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 3..419
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/product = "C-terminal fragment of the HSA-UK1-135 chimera"
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- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 541 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA
- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: no
- (iii) ANTISENSE: no
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 - (B) LOCATION: 3..536
 - (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /product = "C-terminal fragment of the HSA-G.CSF chimera"
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 2455 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid (C) STRANDEDNESS: double (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

	•	•		HETI ENSE		no											
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•		-					ATG	AAG	TGG	GTA Val							52
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										CCC Pro							244
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										CTG Leu							436

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						TTT Phe			724
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CA 02126091 200

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					CCT Pro			1540
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					CTG Leu			1684
					GCT Ala 565			1732
					CCT Pro			1780

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											GAG Glu					2356
			AGT Ser							TAAC	CATCA	CA T	TTAA	AAGG	JA	2406
TCTC	AGCC	TA C	CATG	AGAA	T AA	GAGA	AAGA	AAA	TGAP	GAT	GAAA	AGCT	т			2455

(, (,	A) L B) T C) S	ENGT YPE: TRAN	H: 7 nuc DEDN	ARAC' 56 baleic ESS: line	ase j acio doul	pair: d									
(ii) MO	LECU	LE T	YPE:	CDN	A.									
	i) H			CAL: : no	no										
() () ()	D) O'	AME/: OCAT: THER	KEY: ION: INF	3' ORMA	TION	chi	mera	H					of th	ne HSAF	'v
(x)	i) SE	EQUEN	ICE I	DESCF	RIPTI	ON:	SEQ	ID N	10 : 6 :	:					
								Gln a			CCT (Pro (47
 			_								TCT Ser				95
											CCT Pro				143
											GAT Asp 5 5				191
											GAC Asp				239
											GTG Val				287
											GAG Glu				335
											ACC Thr				383
											GGC Gly 140				431

CAG Gln 145									479
GTC Val									527
 TGG Trp							 	 	575
GCA Ala									623
 TCT Ser	 	 -	 _	 			 	 	671
 TCG Ser 225							 	 	719
GGT Gly				 -	TAAC	CTT			7 59

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is a hormone or a therapeutically active fragment thereof and wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma half-life than said hormone when not fused.
- 2. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is an interferon or a therapeutically active fragment thereof and wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma half-life than said interferon when not fused.
- 3. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is an interleukin or a therapeutically active fragment thereof and wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma half-life than said interleukin when not fused.
- 4. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is insulin or a therapeutically active fragment thereof and wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma half-life than insulin when not fused.
- 5. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is an erythropoietin or a therapeutically active

fragment thereof and wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma halflife than said erythropoietin when not fused.

- 6. A recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprising one or more therapeutically active polypeptides fused to an albumin or a variant thereof, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is a granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) or a therapeutically active fragment thereof and wherein said wherein said albumin fusion polypeptide has a higher plasma half-life than said G-CSF when not fused.
- 7. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein said one or more therapeutically active polypeptide is of human origin.
- 8. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said one or more therapeutically active polypeptides is selected from the group of:
 - a) a full-length polypeptide;
 - b) a therapeutically active fragment of (a); and
 - c) a therapeutically active variant of (a) or (b) obtained by one or more structural modification selected from the group of: a mutation, a substitution, an addition and a deletion of one or more residues.
- 9. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the albumin or the variant thereof is selected from the group of:
 - a) a mature albumin;
 - b) an albumin;
 - c) a fragment from (a) or (b); and
 - d) a variant of (a) or (b) obtained by one or more structural modification selected from the group of: a mutation, a substitution, an addition and a deletion of one or more residues,

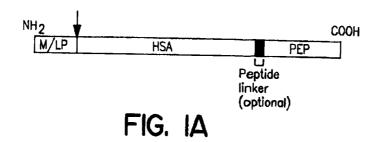
wherein said fragment or variant has a high plasma half-life.

- 10. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein said recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprises a N-terminal methionine.
- 11. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein said recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprises a linker peptide.
- 12. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein said recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprises a secretion signal sequence.
- 13. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to Claim 12, wherein said secretion signal sequence is a natural secretion signal sequence of said therapeutically active polypeptide.
- 14. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is coupled to the N-terminus of the albumin or variant thereof.
- 15. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein one or more of said therapeutically active polypeptides is coupled to the Cterminus of the albumin or variant thereof.
- 16. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 15, wherein said recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide comprises two or more therapeutically active polypeptides.
- 17. The recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to Claim 16, wherein said two or more therapeutically active polypeptides are different.

- 18. A nucleotide sequence encoding the recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 16.
- 19. An expression cassette comprising the nucleotide sequence according to Claim 18 under the control of a transcription initiation region.
- 20. The expression cassette according to Claim 19 further comprising a transcription termination element.
- 21. A self-replicating vector comprising the expression cassette according to Claim 19 or 20.
- 22. A recombinant cell comprising the nucleotide sequence according to Claim 18.
- 23. A recombinant cell comprising the expression cassette according to Claim 19 or 20.
- 24. A recombinant cell comprising the vector according to Claim 21.
- 25. The recombinant cell according to any one of Claims 22 to 24, wherein said recombinant cell is a yeast, animal, fungal or bacterial cell.
- 26. The recombinant cell according to Claim 25, wherein said recombinant cell is a yeast cell.
- 27. The recombinant cell according to Claim 26, wherein said yeast cell is from the genus Saccharomyces or Kluyveromyces.
- 28. The recombinant cell according to Claim 25, wherein said animal cell is a CHO or COS cell.
- 29. A process for producing the recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 comprising:

- (a) culturing the recombinant cell according to any one of Claims 24 to 28 under conditions permitting expression of said recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide; and
- (b) recovering the recombinant albumin fusion polypeptide.
- 30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more recombinant albumin fusion polypeptides according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more nucleotide sequences according to Claim 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more expression cassettes according to Claim 19 or 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more vectors according to Claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 34. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 1 in the treatment of a subject in need of hormone therapy.
- 35. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 2 in the treatment of a subject in need of interferon therapy.
- 36. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 3 in the treatment of a subject in need of interleukin therapy.
- 37. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 4 in the treatment of a subject in need of insulin therapy.

- 38. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 5 in the treatment of a subject in need of erythropoietin therapy.
- 39. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 6 in the treatment of a subject in need of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor therapy.
- 40. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of hormone therapy.
- 41. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 2 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of interferon therapy.
- 42. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 3 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of interleukin therapy.
- 43. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 4 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of insulin therapy.
- 44. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of erythropoietin therapy.
- 45. Use of the recombinant albumin fusion protein according to Claim 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a subject in need of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor therapy.



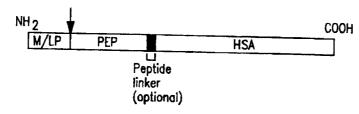


FIG. IB

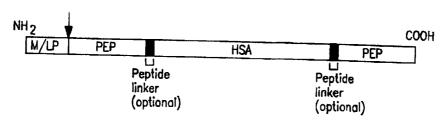


FIG. IC

SEO. ID NO: 1

AAGCT TTACAACAAA TATAAAAACA	A ATG AAG TOG GTA	ACC TTT ATT TCC CTT :	CTT TTT CTC TTT
	Met Lys Trp Val	Thr Phe Ile Ser Leu	Leu Phe Leu Phe -12
AGC TCG GCT TAT TCC AGG GGT Ser Ser Ala Tyr Ser Arg Gly			
CGG TTT AAA GAT TTG GGA GAA Arg Phe Lys Asp Leu Gly Glu			
TAT CTT CAG CAG TGT CCA TTT Tyr Leu Gln Gln Cys Pro Phe			
GCA AAA ACA TGT GTT GCT GAT	GAG TCA GCT GAA	AAT TGT GAC AAA TCA	CTT CAT ACC CTT
Ala Lys Thr Cys Val Ala Asp	Glu Ser Ala Glu	Asn Cys Asp Lys Ser	Leu His Thr Leu 69
TTT CGA GAC AAA TTA TCC ACA	GTT GCA ACT CTT	CGT GAA ACC TAT GGT (GAA ATG GCT GAC
Phe Gly Asp Lys Leu Cys Thr	Val Ala Thr Leu	Arg Glu Thr Tyr Gly	Glu Met Ala Asp 89
TGC TGT GCA AAA CAA GAA CCT	GAG AGA AAT GAA	TGC TTC TTG CAA CAC (AAA GAT GAC AAC
Cys Cys Ala Lys Gln Glu Pro	Glu Arg Asn Glu	Cys Phe Leu Gln His	Lys Asp Asp Asn 109
CCA AAC CTC CCC CGA TTG GTG	AGA CCA GAG GTT	GAT GTG ATG TGC ACT (GCT TTT CAT GAC
Pro Asn Leu Pro Arg Leu Val	Arg Pro Glu Val	Asp Val Met Cys Thr (Ala Phe His Asp 129
AAT GAA GAG ACA TIT TTG AAA	A AAA TAC TTA TAT	GAA ATT GCC AGA AGA (CAT CCT TAC TIT
Asn Glu Glu Thr Phe Leu Lys		Glu Ile Ala Arg Arg)	His Pro Tyr Phe 149
TAT GCC CCG GAA CTC CTT TTC	TTT GCT AAA AGG	TAT AAA GCT GCT TTT /	ACA GAA TOT TOC
Tyr Ala Pro Glu Leu Leu Phe		Tyr Lys Ala Ala Phe '	Thr Glu Cys Cys 169
CAA GCT GCT GAT AAA GCT GCC	TGC CTG TTG CCA	AAG CTC GAT GAA CTT (CCG GAT GAA GCG
Gln Ala Ala Asp Lys Ala Ala		Lys Leu Asp Glu Leu	Arg Asp Glu Gly 189
AAG GCT TCG TCT GCC AAA CAG	G AGA CTC AAG TGT O	GCC.AGT CTC CAA AAA'	TTT GGA GAA AGA
Lys Ala Ser Ser Ala Lys Gln	N Arg Leu Lys Cys	Ala Ser Leu Gln Lys	Phe Gly Glu Arg 209
GCT TTC AAA GCA TGG GCA GTA	A GCT CGC CTG AGC	CAG AGA TTT CCC AAA G	GCT GAG TTT GCA
Ala Phe Lys Ala Trp Ala Val		Gln Arg Phe Pro Lys	Ala Glu Phe Ala 229
GAA GTT TCC AAG TTA GTG ACA	A GAT CTT ACC AAA	GTC CAC ACG GAA TGC '	TGC CAT GGA GAT
Glu Val Ser Lys Leu Val Thr	A Asp Leu Thr Lys	Val His Thr Glu Cys	Cys His Gly Asp 249

Figure 2(a)

CTG	CTT	GAA	TGT	GCT	GAT	GAC	AGG	GCG	GAC	CTT	GCC	AAG	TAT	ATC	TGT	GAA	AAT	CAA	GAT	269
Leu	Leu	Glu	Cys	Ala	Asp	Asp	Arg	Ala	Asp	Leu	Ala	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Cys	Glu	Asn	Glr	Asp	
TCG	ATC	TCC	AGT	AAA	CTG	AAG	GAA	TGC	TGŢ	GAA	AAA	CCT	CTG	TTG	GAA	AAA	TCC	CAC	TGC	
Ser	Ile	Ser	Ser	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu	Cys	Cys	Glu	Lys	Pro	Leu	Leu	Glu	Lys	Ser	His	Cys	289
ATT	GCC	GAA	GTG	GAA	AAT	GAT	GAG	ATG	CCT	GCT	gac	TTG	CCT	TCA	TTA	GCT	GCT	GAT	ŢTT	309
Ile	Ala	Glu	Val	Glu	Asn	Asp	Glu	Met	Pro	Ala	Asp	Leu	Pro	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ala	Asp	Phe	
GTT Val	GAA Glu	AGT Ser	AAG Lys	GAT Asp	GTT Val	TGC Cys	AAA Lys	AAC Asn	TAT Tyr	GCT Ala	GAG Glu	GCA Ala	AAG Lys	GAT Asp	GTC Val	TTC Phe	CTG Leu	GGC Gly	ATG Met	329
TTT	TTG	TAT	GAA	TAT	GCA	AGA	AGG	CAT	CCT	GAT	TAC	TCT	GTC	GTA	CTG	CTG	CTG	AGA	CTT	349
Phe	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Tyr	Ala	Arg	Arg	His	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Val	Val	Leu	Leu	Leu	Arg	Leu	
GCC	AAG	ACA	TAT	GAA	ACC	ACT	CTA	GAG	AAG	TGC	TGT	GCC	GCT	GCA	GAT	CCT	CAT	GAA	TGC	369
Ala	Lys	Thr	Tyr	Glu	Thr	Thr	Leu	Glu	Lys	Cys	Cys	Ala	Ala	Ala	Asp	Pro	His	Glu	Cys	
TAT Tyr	GCC Ala	AAA Lys	GTG Val	TTC Phe	GAT Asp	GAA Glu	TTT Phe	AAA Lys	CCT Pro	CTT Leu	GTG Val	GAA Glu	GAG Glu	CÇT Pro	CAG Gln	AAT Asn	TTA Leu	ATC Ile	AAA Lys	389
CAA	AAT	TGT	GAG	CTT	TTT	GAG	CAG	CTT	GGA	GAG	TAC	AAA	TTC	CAG	AAT	GCG	CTA	TTA	GTT	409
Gln	Asn	Cys	Glu	Leu	Phe	Glu	Gln	Leu	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Lys	Phe	Gln	Asn	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	
CGT	TAC	ACC	AAG	AAA	GTA	CCC	CAA	GTG	TCA	ACT	CCA	ACT	CTT.	GTA	GAG	GTC	TCA	AGA	AAC	429
Arg	Tyr	Thr	Lys	Lys	Val	Pro	Gln	Val	Ser	Thr	Pro	Thr	Leu	Val	Glu	Val	Ser	Arg	Asn	
CTA	GGA	AAA	GTG	GGC	AGC	AAA	TGT	TGT	AAA	CAT	CCT	GAA	GCA	AAA	AGA	ATG	CCC	TGT	GCA	449
Leu	Gly	Lys	Val	Gly	Ser	Lys	Cys	Cys	Lys	His	Pro	Glu	Ala	Lys	Arg	Met	Pro	Cys	Ala	
GAA	GAC	TAT	CTA	TCC	GTG	GTC	CTG	AAC	CAG	TTA	TGT	GTG	TTG	CAT	GAG	AAA	ACG	CCA	GTA	469
Glu	Asp	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Val	Val	Leu	Asn	Gln	Leu	Cys	Val	Leu	His	Glu	Lys	Thr	Pro	Val	
AGT	GAC	AGA	GTC	ACC	AAA	TGC	TGC	ACA	GAA	TCC	TTG	GTG	AAC	AGG	CGA	CCA	TGC	TTT	TCA	489
Ser	Asp	Arg	Val	Thr	Lys	Cys	Cys	Thr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Val	Asn	Arg	Arg	Pro	Cys	Phe	Ser	
GCT	CTG	GAA	GTC	GAT	GAA	ACA	TAC	GTT	CCC	AAA	GAG	TTT	AAT	GCT	GAA	ACA	TTC	ACC	TTC	509
Ala	Leu	Glu	Val	Asp	Glu	Thr	Tyr	Val	Pro	Lys	Glu	Phe	Asn	Ala	Glu	Thr	Phe	Thr	Phe	
CAT (GCA Ala	GAT Asp	ATA Ile	TGC Cys	ACA Thr	CTT Leu	TCT Ser	GAG Glu	AAG Lys	GAG Glu	AGA Arg	CAA Gln	ATC Ile	AAG Lys	AAA Lys	CAA Gln	ACT Thr	GCA Ala	CTT Leu	529
TT (Val (GAG (CTT Leu	GTG Val	AAA Lys	CAC His	AAG Lys	CCC Pro	AAG Lys	GCA Ala	ACA Thr	AAA Lys	GAG Glu	CAA Gln	CTG Leu	AAA Lys	GCT Ala	GTT Val	ATG Met	GAT Asp	549
TAE Asp 1	Phe	GCA Ala	GCT Ala	TTT Phe	GTA Val	GAG Glu	AAG Lys	TGC Cys	TGC Cys	AAG Lys	GCT Ala	GAC Asp	GAT Asp	AAG Lys	GAG Glu	ACC Thr	TGC Cys	TTT Phe	GCC Ala	569
GAG (GAG (GGT Gly	AAA Lys	AAA Lys	CTT Leu	GTT Val	GCT Ala	GCA Ala	AGT Ser	CAA Gln	GCT Ala	M G <u>CC</u> Ala	stII TTA Leu	GGC	TTA Leu	(NNI (X)	g (TAA ***	GCTT	

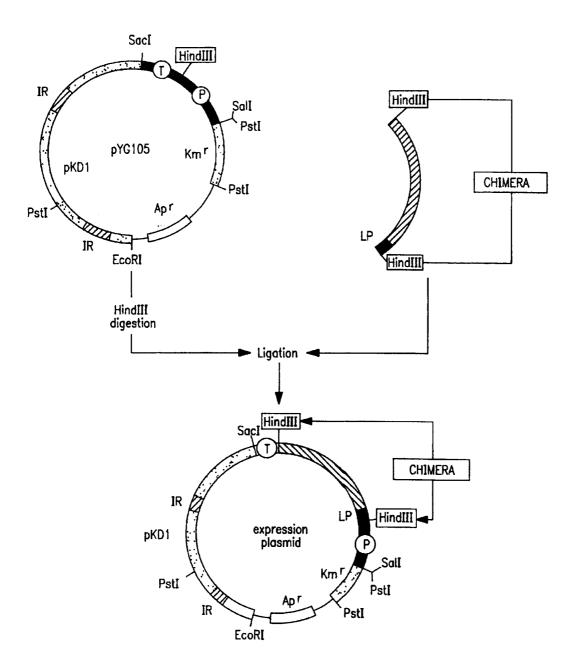


FIG. 3

CC TTA GGC TTA (NNN)244 TAA GCTT Leu Gly Leu (Thr470->Val713) ***

FIG. 4A

CC TTA GGC TTA (NNN) 29 TAA GCTT
Leu Gly Leu (Thr470->Asp498) ***

FIG. 4B

CC TTA GGC CTC (NNN)14 TAA GCTT

Leu Gly Leu (Cys695->Pro708) ***

<----- D5 ----->

FIG. 4C

CC TTA GGC TTA (NNN)90 TAA GCTT
Leu Gly Leu (Thr470->Tyr508,Arg663->Val713) ***

FIG. 4D

SEO. ID NO: 2

cc	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Cys	Glu	GCC Ala >713	TGC Cys	CAG Gln	GAG Glu	CCĞ Pro	GGA Gly	GCGC	CTG Leu	GTG Val	GTG Val	CCT Pro	CCC	ACA Thr	ć	501
GAT Asp	GCC Ala	CCG Pro	GTG Val	AGC Ser	CCC Pro	ACC Thr	ACT Thr	CTG Leu	TAT Tyr	GTG Val	GA.G Glu	GAC ASD	ATC	TCG Ser	GAA Glu	Pro CCG	CCG Pro	TTG Leu	CAC His	.6	5 2 1 ·
											TTC Phe								CTG Leu	•	541
TCC Ser	GAG Glu	GCT Ala	GAG Glu	TIT Phe	GAA Glu	GTG Val	CTG Leu	AAG Lys	GCC Ala	TTT Phe	grg Va l	GTG Val	GAC Asp	ATG Met	ATG Met	GAG Glu	CGG Arg	CTG Leu	C G C Arg		5 6 1
ATC Ile	TCC Ser	CAG Gln	AA G Lys	TGG Trp	GTC Val	CGC Arg	GTG Val	GCC Ala	GTG Val	GTG Val	GAG Gl u	TAC Tyr	CAC His	GAC Asp	GGC Gly	TCC Ser	CAC His	GCC Ala	TAC	· (5 8 1
											CTG Leu									7	701
TAT Tyr	GCG Ala	Gly	AGC Ser	CAG Gln	GTG Val	GCC Ala	TCC Ser	ACC Thr	AGC Ser	GAG Glu	GTC Val	TTG Leu	AAA Lys	TAC Tyr	ACA Thr	CTG Leu	TTC Phe	CAA Gln	ATC Ile	•	721
TTC Phe	AGC Ser	AAG Lys	ATC Ile	GAC Asp	CGC Arg	CCT Pro	GAA Glu	GCC Ala	TCC Ser	CGC Arg	ATC Ile	GCC Ala	CTG Leu	CTC Leu	CTG Leu	ATG Met	GCC Ala	AGC Ser	CAG Gln	7	741
GAG Glu	CCC Pro	C AA Gln	CGG Arg	DTA Nec	TCC Ser	CGG Arg	AAC Asn	TTT Phe	GTC Val	CGC Arg	TAC Tyr	GTC Val	CAG Gln	Gly	CTG Leu	AAG Lys	AAG Lys	AAG Lys	AAG Lys	7	761
GTC Val	ATT Ile	GTG Val	ATC Ile	CCG Pro	GTG Val	GJY GGC	ATT Ile	GCG Gly	CCC	CAT His	CCC Ala	AAC Asn	CTC Leu	AAG Lys	CAG Gln	ATC Ile	CGC	CTC Leu	ATC Ile	•	781
GAG Glu	AAG Lys	CAG Gln	GCC Ala	CCT Pro	GAG Glu	AAC Asn	AAG Lys	GCC Ala	TTC Phe	GTG Val	CTG Leu	.AGC. Ser	AGT Ser	GTG Val	GAT Asp	GAG Glu	CTG Leu	GAG Glu	CAG Gln	1	801
CAA Gln	AGG Arq	GAC Asp	GAG Glu	ATC Ile	GTT Val	AGC Ser	TAC Tyr	CTC <u>Leu</u>	TCT Cys	GAC Asp	CTT Leu	GCC Ala	CCT Pro	GAA Glu	GCC Ala	CCT Pro	CCT Pro	CCT Pro	ACT Thr		821
							GTC Val		GCT	r										į	829

Figure 4 (E)

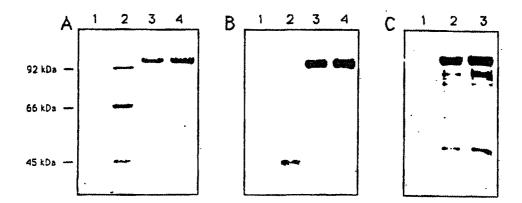


Figure 5

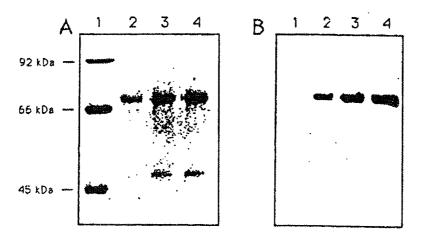


Figure 6

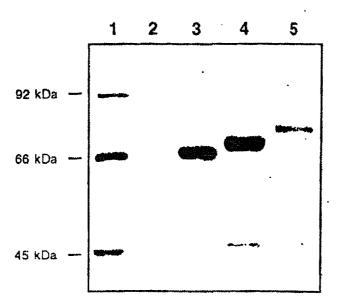


Figure 7

SEO. ID NO: 3

œ	Leu	GGC Gly SA ₹	Leu	Ser	Asn	GAA Glu	CTT Leu	CAT His	CAA Gln	GIT Val	CCA Pro	TCG Ser	AAC Asn	TCT Cys	GAC. Asp	TGT Cys	CTA Leu	TAA Asn	GJA GGY	601
											ATT Ile									621
						Glu	Ile	Asp	Lys	Ser	AAA Lys Kri	Thr	Cys							641
											GGC Gly									661
											AGA Arg									681
											CGG Arg									701
											GTG Val									720
GCTT	•																			

Figure 8

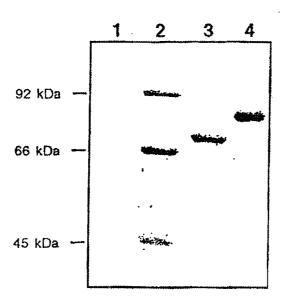


Figure 9

SEO. ID NO: 4

CC TTA GGC TTA ACC CCC CTG GGC CCT GCC AGC TCC CTG CCC CAG AGC TTC CTG CTC AAG Leu Gly Leu Thr Pro Leu Gly Pro Ala Ser Ser Leu Pro Gln Ser Phe Leu Leu Lys HSA <---I--->G-CSF TOC TTA GAG CAA GTG AGG AAG ATC CAG GGC GAT GGC GCA GCG CTC CAG GAG AAG CTG TGT Cys Leu Glu Gln Val Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly Asp Gly Ala Ala Leu Gln Glu Lys Leu Cys 621 GCC ACC TAC AAG CTG TGC CAC CCC GAG GAG CTG GTG CTG CTC GGA CAC TCT CTG GGC ATC Ala Thr Tyr Lys Leu Cys His Pro Glu Glu Leu Val Leu Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile 641 CCC TGG GCT CCC CTG AGC TCC TGC CCC AGC CAG GCC CTG CAG CTG GCA GGC TGC TTG AGC Pro Trp Ala Pro Leu Ser Ser Cys Pro Ser Gln Ala Leu Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser 661 CAA CTC CAT AGC GGC CTT TTC CTC TAC CAG GGG CTC CTG CAG GCC CTG GAA GGG ATA TCC Gln Leu His Ser Gly Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln Gly Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Glu Gly Ile Ser 681 CCC GAG TTG GGT CCC ACC TTG GAC ACA CTG CAG CTG GAC GTC GCC GAC TTT GCC ACC ACC Pro Glu Leu Gly Pro Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu Gln Leu Asp Val Ala Asp Phe Ala Thr Thr 701 ATC TGG CAG CAG ATG GAA GAA CTG GGA ATG GCC CCT GCC CTG CAG CCC ACC CAG GGT GCC Ile Trp Gln Gln Met Glu Glu Leu Gly Met Ala Pro Ala Leu Gln Pro Thr Gln Gly Ala 721 ATG CCG GCC TTC GCC TCT GCT TTC CAG CGC CGG GCA GGA GGG GTC CTG GTT GCT AGC CAT Met Pro Ala Phe Ala Ser Ala Phe Gln Arg Arg Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His 741 CTG CAG AGC TTC CTG GAG GTG TCG TAC CGC GTT CTA CGC CAC CTT GCG CAG CCC TGA AGCTT Leu Gln Ser Phe Leu Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg Val Leu Arg His Leu Ala Gln Pro *** 759

Figure 10

SEO. ID NO: 5

AAGCT TTACAACAAA TATAAAAACA	A ATG AAG TGG GTA ACC Met Lys Trp Val Thi	Phe Ile Ser Leu Leu	TTT CTC TTT Phe Leu Phe -12
AGC TCG GCT TAT TCC AGG GGG Ser Ser Ala Tyr Ser Arg Gly	Val Phe Arg Arg Thi	ApaI CCCCCT <u>G GGC CC</u> T GCC Pro Leu Gly Pro Ala ->d-CSF	AGC TCC CTG Ser Ser Leu 9
CCC CAG AGC TTC CTG CTC AAC Pro Gln Ser Phe Leu Leu Lys	TOC TTA GAG CAA GTO	AGG AAG ATC CAG GGC	GAT GGC GCA Asp Gly Ala 29
GCG CTC CAG GAG AAG CTG TG Ala Leu Gln Glu Lys Leu Cys			
CTC GGA CAC TCT CTG GGC ATC Leu Gly His Ser Leu Gly Ile	Pro Trp Ala Pro Leu	AGC TCC TGC CCC AGC Ser Ser Cys Pro Ser	Gln Ala Leu 69
CAG CTG GCA GGC TGC TTG AGG Gln Leu Ala Gly Cys Leu Ser	Gln Leu His Ser Gly	Leu Phe Leu Tyr Gln	Gly Leu Leu 89
CAG GCC CTG GAA GGG ATA TCC Gln Ala Leu Glu Gly Ile Ser	Pro Glu Leu Gly Pro	Thr Leu Asp Thr Leu	Gln Leu Asp 109
GTC GCC GAC TTT GCC ACC ACC Val Ala Asp Phe Ala Thr Thr	: Ile Trp Gln Gln Met	Glu Glu Leu Gly Met	Ala Pro Ala 129
CTG CAG CCC ACC CAG GGT GCC Leu Gln Pro Thr Gln Gly Ala GGG GTC CTG GTT GCT AGC CAN	Met Pro Ala Phe Ala	Ser Ala Phe Gln Arg	Arg Ala Gly 149
Gly Val Leu Val Ala Ser His	: Leu Gln Ser Phe Leu	Glu Val Ser Tyr Arg	Val Leu Arg 169
His Leu Ala Gln Pro Gly Gly	<u>Gly Gly</u> Asp Ala His aker I>HSA	Lys Ser Glu Val Ala	His Arg Phe 189
Lys Asp Leu Gly Glu Glu Ass CAG CAG TGT CCA TTT GAA GAT	Phe Lys Ala Leu Val	Leu Ile Ala Phe Ala	Gln Tyr Leu 209
Gln Gln Cys Pro Phe Glu Asp ACA TGT GTT GCT GAT GAG TCJ	His Val Lys Leu Val	Asn Glu Val Thr Glu	Phe Ala Lys 229
Thr Cys Val Ala Asp Glu Ser GAC AAA TTA TGC ACA GTT GC	: Ala Glu Asn Cys Asp A ACT CTT CGT GAA ACC	Lys Ser Leu His Thr TAT GGT GAA ATG GCT	Leu Phe Gly 249
Asp Lys Leu Cys Thr Val Ala GCA AAA CAA GAA CCT GAG AGA	A Thr Leu Arg Glu Thi A AAT GAA TGC TTC TTC	Tyr Gly Glu Met Ala CAA CAC AAA GAT GAC	Asp Cys Cys 269
Ala Lys Gin Glu Pro Glu Arg	, Asn Glu Cys Phe Leu A GAG GTT GAT GTG ATC	Gln His Lys Asp Asp TGC ACT GCT TTT CAT	Asn Pro Asn 289
Leu Pro Arg Leu Val Arg Pro GAG ACA TIT TTG AAA AAA TAG	TTA TAT GAA ATT GCC	AGA AGA CAT COT TAG	حال شتش لششن
Glu Thr Phe Leu Lys Lys Tyr	: ren làt eta lle Vig	Wid Wid HIR blo 1.5.2	Phe Tyr Ala 329

CCC	GAA Glu	CTC Leu	CTT Leu	TTC Phe	TTT Phe	GCT Ala	AAA Lys	AGG Arg	TAT Tyr	AAA Lys	GCT Ala	GCT Ala	TTT Phe	ACA Thr	GAA Glu	TGT Cys	TGC Cys	CAA Gln	GCT Ala	34.
	GAT Asp																			369
TCC	TCT Ser	GCC Ala	AAA Lys	CAG Gln	AGA Arg	CTC Leu	AAG Lys	TGT Cys	GCC Ala	AGT Ser	CTC Leu	CAA Gln	AAA Lys	TTT Phe	GGA Gly	GAA Glu	AGA Arg	GCT Ala	TTC Phe	389
. AAA Lys	GCA Ala	TGG Trp	GCA Ala	GTA Val	GCT Ala	CGC Arg	CTG Leu	AGC Ser	CAG Gln	AGA Arg	TTT Phe	CCC Pro	AAA Lys	GCT Ala	GAG Glu	TTT Phe	GCA Ala	GAA Glu	GTT Val	409
Ser	AAG Lys	Leu	Val	Thr	Asp	Leu	Thr	Lys	Val	His	Thr	Glu	Cys	Cys	His	Gly	Asp	Leu	Leu .	429
Glu	_	Ala	Asp	Asp	Arg	Ala	Asp	Leu	Ala	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Cys	Glu	Asn	Gln	Asp	Ser	Ile	449
Ser	AGT Ser	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu	Cys	Cys	Glu	Lys	Pro	Leu	Leu	Glu	Lys	Ser	His	Cys	Ile	Ala	469
Glu	GTG Val	Glu	Asn	Asp	Glu	Met	Pro	Ala	Asp	Leu	Pro	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ala	Asp	Phe	Val	Glu	489
Ser	AAG Lys	Asp	Val	Cys	Lys	Asn	Tyr	Ala	Glu	Ala	Lys	Asp	Val	Phe	Leu	Gly	Met	Phe	Leu	509
Tyr		Tyr	Ala	Arg	Arg	His	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Val	Val	Leu	Leu	Leu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Lys ·	529
Thr	TAT Tyr	Glu	Thr	Thr	Leu	Glu	Lys	Суѕ	Сув	Ala	Ala	Ala	Asp	Pro	His	Glu	Cys	Tyr	Ala	5 4 9
Lys	GTG Val	Phe	ĄzĄ	Glu	Phe	Lys	Pro	Leu	Val	Glu	Glu	Pro	Gln	Asn	Leu	Ile	Lys	Gln	Asn	569
Cys	GAG Glu	Leu	Phe	Glu	Gln	Leu	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Lys	Phe	Gln	Asn	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	Arg	Tyr	589
Thr	AAG Lys	Lys	Val	Pro	Gln	Val	Ser	Thr	Pro	Thr	Leu	Val	Glu	Val	Ser	Arg	Asn	Leu	Gly	609
Lys	GTG Val	Gly	Ser	Lys	Cys	Cys	Lys	His	Pro	Glu	Ala	Lys	Arg	Met	Pro	Cys	Ala	Glu	Asp	629
Tyr	CTA Leu	Ser	Val	Val	Leu	Asn	Gln	Leu	Cys	Val	Leu	His	Glu	Lys	Thr	Pro	Val	Ser	Asp	649
Arg	GTC Val	Thr	Lys	Cys	Cys	Thr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Val	Asn	Arg	Arg	Pro	Суѕ	Phe	Ser	Ala	Leu	669
Glu	GTC Val	Asp	Glu	Thr	Tyr	Val	Pro	Lys	Glu	Phe	Asn	Ala	Glu	Thr	Phe	Thr	Phe	His	Ala	689
Asp	ATA	Cys	Thr	Leu	Ser	Glu	Lys	Glu	Arg	Gln	Ile	Lys	Lys	Gln	Thr	Ala	Leu	Val	Glu	709
Leu	GTG Val	Lys	His	Lys	Pro	Lys	Ala	Thr	Lys	Glu	Gln	Leu	Lys	Ala	Val	Met	Asp	Ąsp	Phe	729
Ala	GCT Ala	Phe	Val	Glu	Lys	Cys	Cys	Lys	Ala	Asp	Asp MstI	Lys I	Glu	Thr	Cys	Phe	Ala	GAG Glu	GAG Glu	749
	AAA Lys														CATC	ACAT	TT			763

AAAAGCATCT CAGCCTACCA TGAGAATAAG AGAAAGAAAA TGAAGATCAA AAGCTT

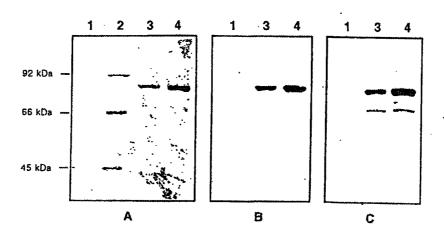
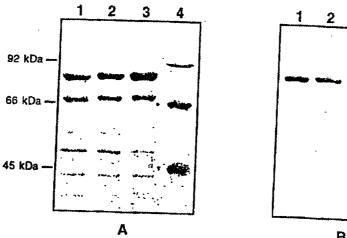


Figure 12



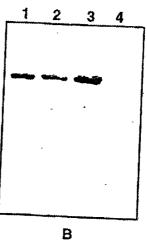


Figure 13

SEO. ID NO: 6

CC	Leu	Gly	TTA Leu	Gln	Val	Gln	CTC	GAG Glu	CAG Gln	TCT Ser	GGA Gly	CCT Pro	GAG Glu	CTG Leu	GTG Val	AAG Lys	CCT Pro	GCG	GCC Ala	601
TCA Ser	GTG	AAG	ATT	TCC	TGC	AAA	GCT Ala	TCT Ser	GGC Gly	TAC Tyr	GCA Ala	TTC Phe	AGT Ser	AGG Arg	TCT Ser	TGG Trp	ATG Met	AAC Asn	TGG Trp	621
												GGA Gly								641
												aca Thir								661
AGC Ser	ACA Thr	GCC Ala	TAC Tyr	ATG Met	CAG Gln	CTC Leu	AGC Ser	AGC Ser	CTG Leu	ACC Thr	TCT Ser	GTG Va.l	GGC GGC	TCT Ser	GCG Ala	GTC Val	TAT Tyr	TTC Phe	TGT Cy s	681
GCA Ala	AAA Lys	GAG Glu	AAC Asn	AAT A sn	AGG Arg	TTC Phe	GAC Asp	GAG Glu	AGG Arg	GGT Gly	TAC Tyr	TAT Tyr	GCT Ala	ATG Met	GAC Asp	TAC Tyr	TGG Trp	GGC Gly	CAA Gln	701
GGG Gly	ACC Thr	ACG Thr	GTC Val	ACC Thr	GTC Val	Ser	TCA Ser	Gly.	GGC Glv	GGT Glv	GGC Gly	TCG Ser syntl	GGC Gly hetic	Gly	Gly	GGG Gly	TCG Ser	GGT Gly	GGC Gly	721
GGC	GGA Gly	Ser	AAC Asn	Ile	CAG Gln	TTG Leu	ACC Thr	CAG Gln	TCT Ser	CCA Pro	AAT Asn	TCC Ser	ATG Met	TCC Ser	ACA Thr	TCA Ser	GTA Val	GGA Gly	GAC Asp	741
AGG Arg	GTC Val	AGC Ser	ATC Ile	ACC Thr	TGC Cys	AAG Lys	GCC Ala	AGT Ser	CAG Gln	GAT Asp	GTG Val	gat Asp	ACT Thr	TCT Ser	GTA Val	GCC Ala	TGG Trp	TAT Tyr	CAA Gln	761
CAG Gln	AAA Lys	CCA Pro	GGG GLY	CAA Gln	TCT Ser	CCT Pro	AAA Lys	CTA Leu	CTG Leu	ATT Ile	TAC Tyr	TGG Trp	GCA Ala	TCC Ser	ACC Thr	CGG Arg	CAC His	ACT Thr	GGA Gly	781
ביאויב																				
Val	CCT Pro	GAT Asp	CGC Arg	TTC Phe	ACA Thr	GGC Gly	AGT Ser	GGA Gly	TCT Ser	GGG Gly	ACA Thr	GAT Asp	TTC Phe	ACT Thr	CTC Leu	ACC Thr	ATT Ile	AGC Ser	AAT Asn	801
Val STG	Pro CAG	Asp TCT	Arg GAA	Phe GAC	Thr	Gly GCA	Ser GAT	Gly TAT	Ser	Gly TGT	Thr	GAT Asp CAA Gln	Phe TAT	Thr	Leu	Thr TAT	Ile CCG	Ser ;	Asn ACG	801 821

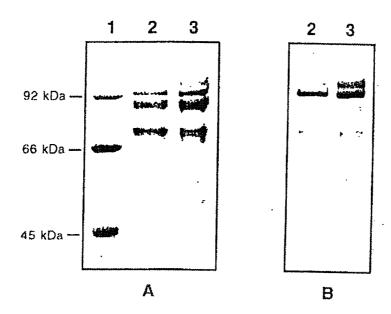


Figure 15

PRODUCT	IC ₅₀ (nM)
RG12986	50
HSA-vWF 694-708	50000
HSAvWF 470-713 C471,474-→G	20
HSA-vWF 470-704 C471,474-→G	<10

FIG. 16

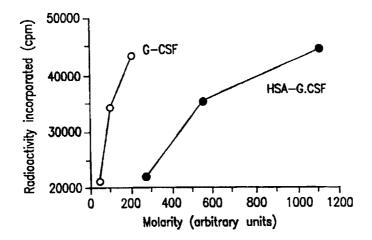


FIG. 17

