



US008592584B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Hergenrother et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,592,584 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 26, 2013**

(54) **COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS
INCLUDING CELL DEATH INDUCERS AND
PROCASPASE ACTIVATION**

(75) Inventors: **Paul J. Hergenrother**, Champaign, IL (US); **Karson S. Putt**, Champaign, IL (US); **Quinn P. Peterson**, Savoy, IL (US); **Valerie Fako**, Naperville, IL (US)

(73) Assignee: **The Board of Trustees of the of The University of Illinois**, Urbana, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/087,595**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 15, 2011**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2011/0257398 A1 Oct. 20, 2011

Related U.S. Application Data

- (63) Continuation of application No. 12/597,287, filed as application No. PCT/US2008/061510 on Apr. 25, 2008, now abandoned, said application No. 12/597,287 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/420,425, filed on May 25, 2006, now abandoned.
- (60) Provisional application No. 60/914,592, filed on Apr. 27, 2007, provisional application No. 60/684,807, filed on May 26, 2005, provisional application No. 60/743,878, filed on Mar. 28, 2006.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 31/495 (2006.01)
C07D 211/62 (2006.01)
C07D 295/13 (2006.01)
C07D 295/15 (2006.01)
C07D 403/12 (2006.01)
C07D 211/34 (2006.01)
C07D 401/06 (2006.01)
C07D 241/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **544/357**; 544/360; 544/400; 546/245

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,702,879 A	11/1972	Hellmut et al.
3,847,866 A	11/1974	Iliopoulos et al.
3,879,498 A	4/1975	Iliopoulos et al.
4,463,159 A	7/1984	Besecke et al.
5,569,673 A	10/1996	More et al.
6,303,329 B1	10/2001	Heinrikson et al.
6,403,765 B1	6/2002	Alnemri
6,444,638 B2	9/2002	Schwartz et al.
6,489,476 B1	12/2002	Dang et al.
6,534,267 B1	3/2003	Wang et al.
6,548,536 B2	4/2003	Hara et al.
6,558,900 B2	5/2003	Wang et al.

6,605,589 B1	8/2003	Uckun et al.
6,608,026 B1	8/2003	Wang et al.
6,627,623 B2	9/2003	Ho et al.
6,762,045 B2	7/2004	Krebs et al.
6,878,743 B2	4/2005	Choong et al.
7,041,784 B2	5/2006	Wang et al.
7,053,071 B2	5/2006	Dawson et al.
7,632,972 B2	12/2009	Hergenrother et al.
2003/0032045 A1	2/2003	Wang et al.
2003/0148966 A1	8/2003	Jayaram et al.
2003/0198949 A1	10/2003	Goldmakher et al.
2004/0077542 A1	4/2004	Wang et al.
2004/0180828 A1	9/2004	Shi
2005/0197511 A1	9/2005	Hergenrother et al.
2007/0049602 A1	3/2007	Hergenrother et al.
2011/0257398 A1	10/2011	Hergenrother et al.
2012/0040995 A1	2/2012	Hergenrother et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO	WO 02/083114	10/2002
WO	WO 2005/044191	5/2005
WO	WO 2005/090370	9/2005
WO	WO 2006/128173	11/2006
WO	WO 2007/008529	1/2007
WO	WO 2008/134474	11/2008
WO	WO 2010/091382	8/2010

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Putt et al., *Nature Chemical Biology*, 2006, vol. 2, 543-550.*
T. Bunyapaiboonri et al., "Generation of Bis-Cationic Heterocyclic Inhibitors of *Bacillus subtilis* HPr Kinase/Phosphatase from a Ditopic Dynamic Combinatorial Library," *J. Med. Chem.* 46:5803-5811, 2003.

A. Ling et al., "Identification of Alkylidene Hydrazides as Glucagon Receptor Antagonists" *J. Med. Chem.* 44:3141-3149, 2001.

Q. Peterson et al., "Procaspase-3 Activation as an Anti-Cancer Strategy: Structure-Activity Relationship of Procaspase-Activating Compound 1 (PAC-1) and its Cellular Co-Localization with Caspase-3," *J. Med. Chem.* 52:5721-5731, 2009.

A. Silva et al., "Synthesis and Vasodilatory Activity of New N-acylhydrazone Derivatives, Designed as LASSBio-295 Analogs," *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry* 13:3431-3437, 2005.

M. Tiecco et al., "Factors Controlling the Selenium-Induced Cyclizations of Alkenyl Hydrazines to Pyridazine or Pyrrolidinamine Derivatives," *Tetrahedron* 53(30):10591-10602, 1997.

Adjei et al. (2003) "Novel Anticancer Agents in Clinical Development," *Cancer Biol. Ther.* S1:S5-S15.

Adler et al. (1997) "Protection by the Heavy Metal Chelator N,N,N',N"-Tetrakis (2-Pyridylmethyl)ethylenediamine (TPEN) Against the Lethal Action of Botulinum Neurotoxin A and B," *Toxicon* 35(7):1089-1100.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Sun Jae Loewe

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lathrop & Gage LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Compositions and methods are disclosed in embodiments relating to induction of cell death such as in cancer cells. Compounds and related methods for synthesis and use thereof, including the use of compounds in therapy for the treatment of cancer and selective induction of apoptosis in cells are disclosed. Compounds are disclosed in connection with modification of procaspases such as procaspase-3. In embodiments, compositions are capable of activation of procaspase-3.

1 Claim, 21 Drawing Sheets

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Aiuchi et al. (1998) "Zinc Ions Prevent Processing of Caspase-3 During Apoptosis Induced by Geranylgeraniol in HL-60 Cells," *J. Biochem.* 124:300-303.
- Alley et al. (Feb. 1, 1988) "Feasibility of Drug Screening with Panels of Human Tumor Cell Lines Using a Microculture Tetrazolium Assay," *Cancer Res.* 48:589-601.
- Anderson et al. (1996) "A Phase I Study of a 24 Hour Infusion of Gemcitabine in Previously Untreated Patients with Inoperable Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer," *Br J Cancer* 74:460-462.
- Becattini et al. (2004) "Rational Design and Real Time, In-Cell Detection of the Proapoptotic Activity of a Novel Compound Targeting Bcl-XL," *Chem. Biol.* 11:389-395.
- Beyersmann et al. (2001) "Functions of Zinc in Signaling, Proliferation and Differentiation of Mammalian Cells," *BioMetals* 14:331-341.
- Bhattacharya et al. (1981) "The Michaelis-Arbuzov Rearrangement," *Chem. Rev.* 81:415-430.
- Blake et al. (Jun. 1997) "Estrogen Can Protect Splenocytes from the Toxic Effects of the Environmental Pollutant 4-*tert*-Octylphenol," *Endocrine* 6:243-249.
- Blatt et al. (2001) "Signaling Pathways and Effector Mechanisms Pre-Programmed Cell Death," *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 9:1371-1384.
- Boatright et al. (2003) "Mechanisms of Caspase Activation," *Curr. Opin. Cell. Biol.* 15:725-731.
- Boisselle et al. (1962) "Acetylene-Allene Rearrangements. Reactions of Trivalent Phosphorous Chlorides with Alpa-Acetylenic Alcohols and Glycols," *J. Org. Chem.* 27(5):1828-1833.
- Bose et al. (2003) "An Uncleavable ProCaspase-3 Mutant has a Lower Catalytic Efficiency but an Active Site Similar to that of Mature Caspase-3," *Biochemistry* 42:12298-12310.
- Boyd et al. (1995) "Some Practical Considerations and Applications of the National Cancer Institute In Vitro Anticancer Drug Discovery Screen," *Drug Dev. Res.* 34:91-109.
- Breen et al. (2008) "Evolutionarily Conserved Cytogenetic Changes in Hematological Malignancies of Dogs and Humans—Man and his Best Friend Share More than Companionship," *Chromosome Res.* 16:145-154.
- Buckley et al. (Feb. 11, 1999) "RGD Peptides Induce Apoptosis by Direct Caspase-3 Activation," *Nature* 397:534-539.
- Bundgaard, H. (1985) "Design of Prodrugs," *Methods Enzymol.* 42:309-396.
- Bundgaard, (1988) "Glycolamide Esters as Biodegradable Prodrugs of Carboxylic Acid Agents: Synthesis, Stability, Bioconversion, and Physicochemical Properties," *J. Pharm. Sci.* 77(4):285-298.
- Bundgaard, H. (1991) "Design and Application of Prodrugs," In: *A Textbook of Drug Design and Development*, Krosgaard et al. eds., Ch. 5, pp. 113-191.
- Bundgaard, H. (1992) "(C) Means to Enhance Penetration: (1) Prodrugs as a Means to Improve the Delivery of Peptide Drugs," *Adv. Drug Deliv. Rev.* 8:1-38.
- Cannon-Albright et al. (Nov. 13, 1992) "Assignment of a Locus for Familial Melanoma, MLM, to Chromosome 9p13-p22," *Science* 258:1148-1152.
- Chai et al. (1999) "Regulation of Caspase Activation and Apoptosis by Cellular Zinc Fluxes and Zinc Depreciation: A Review," *Immunol. Cell Biol.* 77:272-278.
- Charkoudian et al. (2006) "A Pro-Chelator Triggered by Hydrogen Peroxide Inhibits Iron-promoted Hydroxyl Radical Formation," *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 128:12424-12425.
- Chemical Abstracts Service Accession No. 488086-61-9, Abstract, Feb. 10, 2003.
- Chemical Abstracts Service Accession No. 315198-34-6, Abstract, Jan. 19, 2001.
- Chimenti et al. (2001) "Role of Cellular Zinc in Programmed Cell Death: Temporal Relationship Between Zinc Depletion, Activation of Caspases, and Cleavage of Sp Family Transcription Factors," *Biochem. Pharmacol.* 62:51-62.
- Chun et al. (2000) "Evaluation of a High-Dose Chemotherapy Protocol with no Maintenance Therapy for Dogs with Lymphoma," *J. Vet. Intern. Med.* 14:120-124.
- Ciardiello et al. (2000) "Antitumor Effect and Potentiation of Cytotoxic Drugs Activity in Human Cancer Cells by ZD-1839 (Iressa), an Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor-selective Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor," *Clinical Cancer Research* 6:2053-2063.
- Clark, D.E. (2003) "Silico Prediction of Blood-Brain Barrier Permeation," *Drug Discov Today* 8(20):927-933.
- Cossarizza et al. (2001) "Analysis of Mitochondria During Cell Death," *Methods Cell Biol.* 63:467-486.
- Dauzonne et al. (1997) "Synthesis and in Vitro Cytotoxicity of a Series of 3-Aminoflavones," *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 32(1):71-82.
- De Graaff et al. (1999) "In Vitro Antagonistic Cytotoxic Interactions Between Platinum Drugs and Taxanes on Bone Marrow Progenitor Cell CFU-GM," *Anticancer Drugs* 10:213-218.
- Degterev et al. (2001) "Identification of Small-Molecule Inhibitors of Interaction Between the BH3 Domain and Bcl-XL," *Nature Cell Biol.* 3:173-182.
- Denault et al. (2003) "Human Caspase-7 Activity and Regulation by its N-Terminal Peptide," *J. Biol. Chem.* 278:34042-34050.
- Denicourt et al. (2004) "Targeting Apoptotic Pathways in Cancer Cells," *Science* 305:1411-1413.
- Dominguez et al. (2003) "Zinc Chelation During Non-Lesioning Overexcitation Results in Neuronal Death in the Mouse Hippocampus," *Neuroscience* 116:791-806.
- Dominguez et al. (2006) "Neural Overexcitation and Implication of NMDA and AMPA Receptors in a Mouse Model of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy Implying Zinc Chelation," *Epilepsia* 47(5):887-899.
- Dothager et al. (Jun. 22, 2005) "Synthesis and Identification of Small Molecules that Potently Induce Apoptosis in Melanoma Cells Through G1 Cell Cycle Arrest," *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 127(24):8686-8696.
- Druker et al. (1996) "Effects of a Selective Inhibitor of the Abl Tyrosine Kinase on the Growth of Bcr-Abl Positive Cells," *Nat Med* 2(5):561-566.
- Earnshaw et al. (1999) "Mammalian Caspases: Structure, Activation, Substrates, and Functions During Apoptosis," *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 68:383-424.
- Edelmann et al. (Mar. 12, 2011) "Homo sapiens Caspase 7, Apoptosis-Related Cysteine Peptidase," NCBI Accession No. NM_001227.
- European Supplementary Search Report, Application No. EP 06771588, Jul. 19, 2010, 2 pages.
- European Supplementary Search Report, Application No. EP 10739254, Jul. 25, 2012, 3 pages.
- Fesik, S.W. (Nov. 2005) "Promoting Apoptosis as a Strategy for Cancer Drug Discovery," *Nat Rev Cancer* 5:876-885.
- Fingl et al. (1975) "General Principles," In: *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, Ch. 1, pp. 1-46.
- Fink et al. (2001) "Elevated ProCaspase Levels in Human Melanoma," *Melanoma Res.* 11:385-393.
- Fountain et al. (Nov. 1, 1992) "Homozygous Deletions Within Human Chromosome Band 9p21 in Melanoma," *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10557-10561.
- Frederickson et al. (Jun. 2005) "The Neurobiology of Zinc in Health and Disease," *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 6:449-462.
- Fujita et al. (1998) "Acceleration of Apoptotic Cell Death After the Cleavage of Bcl-XL Protein by Caspase-3-Like Proteases," *Oncogene* 17:1295-1304.
- Gallagher et al. (Sep. 1979) "Characterization of the Continuous, Differentiating Myeloid Cell Line (HL-6-4) from a Patient with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia," *Blood* 54:713-733.
- Garrett et al. (2002) "Evaluation of a 6-Month Chemotherapy Protocol with no Maintenance Therapy for Dogs with Lymphoma," *J. Vet. Intern. Med.* 16:704-709.
- Goode et al. (Aug. 4, 2005) "Using Peptidic Inhibitors to Systematically Probe the S1' Site of Caspase-3 and Caspase-7," *Org. Lett.* 7(16):3529-3532.
- Greyer et al. (Dec. 1992) "The National Cancer Institute: Cancer Drug Discovery and Development Program," *Seminars Oncology* 19(6):622-638.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Grossman et al. (1999) "Expression and Targeting of the Apoptosis Inhibitor, Survivin, in Human Melanoma," *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 113:1076-1081.
- Hanahan et al. (Jan. 7, 2000) "The Hallmarks of Cancer," *Cell* 100:57-70.
- Hartmann et al. (Mar. 14, 2000) "Caspase-3: A Vulnerable Factor and Final Effector in Apoptotic Death of Dopaminergic Neurons in Parkinson's Disease," *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 97:2875-2880.
- Haskell, C.M. (1980) *Cancer Treatment*, 1st Ed., W.B. Saunders Company, pp. 62-87.
- Haskell, C.M. (1991) *Cancer Treatment*, 3rd Ed., W.B. Saunders Company, pp. 62-87.
- Haskell, C.M. (2001) *Cancer Treatment*, 5th Ed., W.B. Saunders Company, pp. 78-87.
- Hatt, H.H. (1933) "The Constitutions of Some Phosphorus Derivatives of Triphenylmethane," *J. Chem. Soc.* :776-786.
- Helmbach et al. (2001) "Drug-Resistance in Human Melanoma," *Int. J. Cancer* 93:617-622.
- Hergenrother, P.J. (2006) "Obtaining and Screening Compound Collections: A User's Guide and a Call to Chemists," *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.* 10(3):213-218.
- Hsu et al. (Feb. 2009) "The Design, Synthesis and Evaluation of Procaspsase Activating Compounds as Potential Personalized Anti-Cancer Drugs," Poster, Presented at the "Chemistry in Cancer Research: A Vital Partnership in Cancer Drug Discovery and Development," Conference, Feb. 8-11, 2009, New Orleans, LA. <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~phgroup/comcollections.html>, 2013.
- Huang et al. (2007) "Highly Sensitive Fluorescent Probes for Zinc Ion Based on Triazolyl-Containing Tetradeinate Coordination Motifs," *Org. Lett.* 9(24):4999-5002.
- Huang et al. (Oct. 2002) "The Chemical Biology of Apoptosis: Exploring Protein-Protein Interactions and the Life and Death of Cells with Small Molecules," *Chem. Biol.* 9:1059-1072.
- Huesca et al. (2009) "A Novel Small Molecule with Potent Anticancer Activity Inhibits Cell Growth by Modulating Intracellular Labile Zinc Homeostasis," *Mol. Cancer Therapeutics* 8:2586-2596.
- Hwang et al. (2003) "N-Phenethyl-2-Phenylacetamide Isolated from *Xenorhabdus nematophilus* Induces Apoptosis Through Caspase Activation and Calpain-Mediated Bax Cleavage in U937 Cells," *Int. J. Oncol.* 22:151-157.
- Igney et al. (Apr. 2002) "Death and Anti-Death: Tumor Resistance to Apoptosis," *Nature Rev. Cancer* 2:277-288.
- International Search Report, International Application No. PCT/US2008/061510, Mailed Nov. 19, 2008, 3 pages.
- International Search Report, International Application No. PCT/US06/20910, Mailed Apr. 3, 2007, 1 page.
- International Search Report, International Application No. PCT/US04/35746, Mailed Jul. 22, 2005, 1 page.
- International Search Report, International Application No. PCT/US2010/023543, Mailed Apr. 12, 2010, 3 pages.
- Izban et al. (1999) "Characterization of the Interleukin-1 Beta-Converting Enzyme/Ced-3-Family Protease, Caspase-3/CPP32, in Hodgkin's Disease," *Am. J. Pathol.* 154:1439-1447.
- Jemal et al. (2002) "Cancer Statistics," *CA Cancer J. Clin.* 52:23-47.
- Jeong et al. (2000) "Aromatase Inhibitors from Isodon Excisus Var. Coreanus," *Arch. Pharm. Res.* 23(3):243-245.
- Jiang et al. (2003) "Distinctive Roles of PHAP Proteins and Prothymosin-Alpha in a Death Regulatory Pathway," *Science* 299:223-226.
- Johnstone et al. (Jan. 25, 2002) "Apoptosis: A Link Between Cancer Genetics and Chemotherapy," *Cell* 108:153-164.
- Karakas et al. (2009) "Structure of the Zinc-Bound Amino-Terminal Domain of the NMDA Receptor NR2B Subunit," *EMBO J.* 28:3910-3920.
- Kers et al. (Sep. 15, 1997) "Aryl H-Phosphonates. 7. Studies on the Formation of Phosphorus-Carbon Bond in the Reaction of Trityl and Benzyl Halides with Dialkyl and Diphenyl H-Phosphonates," *Terahedron* 53(37):12691-12698.
- Khan et al. (2003) "Three Tyrosine Inhibitors and Antioxidant Compounds from *Salsola foetida*," *Helvetica Chimica Acta* 86:457-464.
- Khanna et al. (1990) "Newer Poperazino Oxadiazoled, Formazans, and Tetrazolium Salts as Antiparkinsonian Agents," *Ind. J. Chem. B Org. Chem. Inc. Med. Chem.* 29B(1):91-94.
- Khanna et al. (2006) "The Dog as a Cancer Model," *Nat. Biotechnol.* 24(9):1065-1066.
- Kimura et al. (2006) "Homo sapiens Caspase 7, Apoptosis-Related Cysteine Peptidase (CASP7), Transcript Variant Alpha, mRNA," NCBI Accession No. NM_01227.
- Klotzbucher et al. (2004) "Identification of Low Molecular Weight Compounds Mediating Apoptosis by Directly Inducing Cleavage of Procaspsase 3," Abstract, In: *Proceedings of the 95th Annual Meeting, American Association for Cancer Research*, Mar. 27-31, Orlando Florida, Abstract No. 4894 (*Proc. Am. Assoc. Cancer Res.* vol. 45).
- Konstantinov et al. (1998) "Alkylphosphocholines: Effects on Human Leukemic Cell Lines and Normal Bone Marrow Cells," *Int. J. Cancer* 77:778-786.
- Koty et al. (1999) "Antisense Bcl-2 Treatment Increases Programmed Cell Death in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Cell Lines," *Lung Cancer* 23:115-127.
- Krepela et al. (Feb. 2004) "Increased Expression of Apaf-1 and Procaspsase-3 and the Functionality of Intrinsic Apoptosis Apparatus in Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma," *Biol. Chem.* 385:153-168.
- Kunishima et al. (2001) "Formation of Carboxamides by Direct Condensation of Carboxylic Acids and Amines in Alcohols Using a New Alcohol- and Water-Soluble Condensing Agent: DMT-MM," *Tetrahedron* 47:1551-1558.
- Kunishima et al. (2002) "Approach to Green Chemistry of DMT-MM: Recovery and Recycle of Coproduct to Chloromethane-Free DMT-MM," *Tetrahedron Lett.* 43:3323-3326.
- Lavoie et al. (2007) "Extracellular Chelation of Zinc Does Not Affect Hippocampal Excitability and Seizure-Induced Cell Death in Rats," *J. Physiol.* 578:275-89.
- Lee et al. (2001) "Two New Constituents of *Isodon Excisus* and Their Evaluation in an Apoptosis Inhibition Assay," *J. Nat. Prod.* 64:659-660.
- Lee et al. (2002) "Agastinal and Agastenol, Novel Lignans from *Agastache rugosa* and Their Evaluation in an Apoptosis Inhibition Assay," *J. Nat. Prod.* 65:414-416.
- Lev et al. (Jun. 1, 2004) "Exposure of Melanoma Cells to Dacarbazine Results in Enhanced Tumor Growth and Metastasis in Vivo," *J. Clin. Oncol.* 22:2092-2100.
- Li et al. (2000) "Immunotoxicity of *N,N*-Diethylaniline in Mice: Effect on Natural Killer Activity, Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Activity, Lymphocyte Proliferation Response and Cellular Components of the Spleen," *Toxicology* 150:179-189.
- Li et al. (2004) "A Small Molecule Smac Mimic Potentiates TRAIL- and TNF α -Mediated Cell Death," *Science* 305:1471-1474.
- Liang et al. (2002) "Role of Caspase 3-Dependent Bcl-2 Cleavage in Potentiation of Apoptosis by Bcl-2," *Mol. Pharmacol.* 61:142-149.
- Lo Russo et al. (1999) "Preclinical Antitumor Activity of XK469 (NSC 656889)," *Invest. New Drugs* 16:287-296.
- Lowe et al. (2004) "Intrinsic Tumor Suppression," *Nature* 432:307-315.
- Lucas et al. (2011) "Pharmacokinetics and Derication of an Anticancer Dosing Regimen for PAC-1, A Preferential Small Molecule Activator of Procaspsase-3, in Healthy Dogs," *Invest. New Drugs* 29:901-911 (Published online May 25, 2010).
- Makin et al. (Jun. 2003) "Recent Advances in Understanding Apoptosis: New Therapeutic Opportunities in Cancer Chemotherapy," *Trends Mol. Med.* 9:251-255.
- Marvel Library Compound Collection, <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~phgroup/comcollections.html>, Downloaded on Jul. 18, 2006.
- Marx, J. (Sep. 21, 2001) "New Leads on the 'How' of Alzheimers," *Science* 293:2192-2194.
- Mattson et al. (Nov. 2000) "Apoptosis in Neurodegenerative Disorders," *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.* 1:120-129.
- McGovern et al. (1985) "Pathology of Melanoma: An Overview," In: *Cutaneous Melanoma: Clinical Management and Treatment Results Worldwide*, Ch 3, Balch et al. eds., J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, pp. 29-42.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Meergans et al. (2000) "The Short Prodomain Influences Caspase-3 Activation in HeLa Cells," *Biochem. J.* 349:135-140.
- Middleton et al. (2000) "A Randomized Phase III Study Comparing Dacarbazine, BCNU, Cisplatin and Tamoxifen with Dacarbazine and Interferon in Advanced Melanoma," *Br. J. Cancer* 82:1158-1162.
- Migianu et al. (2005) "New Efficient Synthesis of 1-Hydroxymethylene-1,1-Bisphosphonate Monomethyl Esters," *Synlett.* 3:425-428.
- Monks et al. (Oct. 1997) "The NCI Anti-Cancer Drug Screen: A Smart Screen to Identify Effectors of Novel Targets," *Anti-Cancer Drug Design* 12(7):533-541.
- Mühlenbeck et al. (1996) "Formation of Hydroxycinnamoylamides and Alpha-Hydroxyacetovanillone in Cell Cultures of *Solanum khasianum*," *Phytochem.* 42(6):1573-1579.
- Naganawa et al. (2006) "Further Optimization of Sulfonamide Analogs as EP1 Receptor Antagonists: Synthesis and Evaluation of Bioisosteres fr the carboxylic Acid Group," *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* 14:7121-7137.
- Nakagawara et al. (1997) "High Levels of Expression and Nuclear Localization of Interleukin-1 Beta Converting Enzyme (ICE) and CPP32 in Favorable Human Neuroblastomas," *Cancer Res.* 57:4578-4584.
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Database of the National Library of Medicine / National Institutes of Health (NIH) website: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> using the Gene database to search for CASP3 (caspase 3, apoptosis-related cysteine protease [Homo sapiens] GeneID: 836 Locus tag: HGNC:1504; MIM: 600636 updated May 15, 2005.
- Negrel et al. (1996) "Ether-Linked Ferulic Acid Amides in Natural and Wound Periderms of Potato Tuber," *Phytochem.* 43(6):1195-1199.
- Nesterenko et al. (2003) "The Use of pH to Influence Regio- and Chemoslectivity in the Asymmetric Aminohydroxylation of Styrenes," *Org. Lett.* 5(3):281-284.
- Nesterenko et al. (Dec. 3, 2003) "Identification from a Combinatorial Library of a Small Molecule that Selectively Induces Apoptosis in Cancer Cells," *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125(48):14672-14673.
- Newmeyer et al. (Feb. 21, 2003) "Mitochondria: Releasing Power for Life and Unleashing the Machineries of Death," *Cell* 112:481-490.
- Nguyen et al. (Jun. 24, 2003) "Direct Activation of the Apoptosis Machinery as a Mechanism to Target Cancer Cells," *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 100:7533-7538.
- Nielsen et al. (Apr. 1988) "Glycoamide Esters as Biolabile Prodrugs of Carboxilic Acid Agents: Synthesis, Stability, Bioconversion, and Physicochemical Properties," *J. Pharm. Sci.* 77(4):285-298.
- Norgrady (1985) "Pro-Drugs and Soft Drugs," In: *Medicinal Chemistry A Biochemical Approach*, Oxford University Press, New York, pp. 388-392.
- O'Donovan et al. (2003) "Caspase 3 in Breast Cancer," *Clin Cancer Res* 9:738-742.
- Okada et al. (2004) "Pathways of Apoptotic and Non-Apoptotic Death in Tumour Cells," *Nature Rev. Cancer* 4:592-603.
- Oltersdorf et al. (Jun. 2005) "An Inhibitor of Bcl-2 Family Proteins Induces Regression of Solid Tumours," *Nature* 435:677-681.
- Oredipe et al. (2003) "Limits of Stimulation of Proliferation and Differentiation of Bone Marrow Cells of Mice Treated with Swainsonine," *Internation. Immunopharm.* 3:1537-1547.
- Padhani et al. (2001) "The RECIST (Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors) Criteria: Implications for Diagnostic Radiologists," *Br. J. Radiol.* 74:983-986.
- Paoloni et al. (2008) "Translation of New Cancer Treatments from Pet Dogs to Humans," *Nat Rev Cancer* 8:147-156.
- Papadopoulos et al. (Aug. 2006) "The Role of Companion Diagnostics in the Development and use of Mutation-Targeted Cancer Therapies," *Nat Biotechnol* 24(8):985-995.
- Patton et al. (2004) "Some Precautions in using Chelatos to Buffer Metals in Biological Solutions," *Cell Calcium* 35:427-431.
- Persad et al. (2004) "Overexpression of Caspase-3 in Hepatocellular Carcinomas," *Modern Patholo.* 17:861-867.
- Peterson et al. (Web Release Aug. 26, 2009) "Procaspace-3 Activation as an Anti-Cancer Strategy: Structure-Activity Relationship of Procaspace-Activating Compound 1 (PAC-1) and its Cellular Co-Localization with Caspase-3," *J. Med. Chem.* 52(18):5721-5731.
- Peterson et al. (Web Release Mar. 10, 2009) "PAC-1 Activates Procaspace-3 in Vitro Through Relief of Zinc-Mediated Inhibition," *J. Mol. Biol.* 388:144-158.
- Peterson et al. (Web Release Sep. 7, 2010) "Discovery and Canine Preclinical Assessment of a Nontoxic Procaspace-3-Activating Compound," *Cancer Res.* 70(18):7232-7241.
- Plowman, J. (1995) "Efficacy of the Quinocarmycins KW2152 and DX-52-1 Against Human Melanoma Lines Growing in Culture and in Mice," *Cancer Res.* 55(4):862-867.
- Pop et al. (2003) "Mutations in the Procaspace-3 Dimer Interface Affect the Activity of the Zymogen," *Biochem.* 42:12311-12320.
- Prater et al. (2002) "Single-Dose Topical Exposure to the Pyrethroid Insecticide, Permethrin in C57BL/6N Mice: Effects on Thymus and Spleen," *Food Chem. Toxicol.* 40:1863-1873.
- Putt et al. (2005) "Direct Quantification of Poly(ADP-ribose) Polymerase (PARP) Activity as a Means to Distinguish Necrotic and Apoptotic Death in Cell and Tissue Samples," *ChemBioChem* 6:53-55.
- Putt et al. (Aug. 27, 2006) "Small-Molecule Activation of Procaspace-3 to Caspase-3 as a Personalized Anticancer Strategy," *Nat. Chem. Biol.* 2(10):543-550.
- Putt et al. (Mar. 1, 2004) "An Enzymatic Assay for Poly(ADP-ribose) Polymerase-1 (PARP-1) Via the Chemical Quantitation of NAD(+): Application to the High-Throughput Screening of Small Molecules as Potential Inhibitors," *Anal. Biochem.* 326(1):78-86.
- Putt et al. (Oct. 15, 2004) "A Nonradiometric, High-Throughput Assay for Poly(ADP-ribose) Glycohydrolase (PARG): Application to Inhibitor Identification and Evaluation," *Anal. Biochem.* 333(2):256-264.
- Rassnick et al. (2002) MOPP Chemotherapy for Treatment of Resistant Lymphoma in Dogs: A Retrospective Study of 117 Cases (1989-2000) *J. Vet Intern. Med.* 16:576-580.
- Reed et al. (Feb. 2002) "Apoptosis-Based Therapies," *Nat. Rev. Drug Dis.* 1:111-121.
- Ren et al. (2008) "Characterization of the in Vivo and in Vitro Metabolic Profile of PAC-a Using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry," *J. Chromatogr. B* 876(1):47-53.
- Roy et al. (2001) "Maintenance of Caspase-3 Proenzyme Dormancy by an Intrinsic "Safety Catch" Regulatory Tripeptide," *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 98:6132-6137.
- Sala et al. (Published online May 5, 2008) "BRAF Silencing by Short Hairpin RNA or Chemical Blockade by PLX4032 Leads to Different Responses in Melanoma and Thyroid Carcinoma Cells," *Mol Cancer Res* 6:751-759.
- Salerno et al. (Jan. 2010) Cytostatic Activity of Adenosine Triphosphate-Competitive Kinase Inhibitors in BRAF Mutant Thyroid Carcinoma Cells. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 95(1): 450-455.
- Satoh et al. (Published online May 26, 2009) "Phase I Study of YM155, a Novel Survivin Suppressant, in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors," *Clin. Cancer Res.* 15:3872-3880.
- Satyamoorthy et al. (May 2001) "No Longer a Molecular Black Box—New Clues to Apoptosis and Drug Resistance in Melanoma," *Trends Mol. Med.* 7:191-194.
- Schadendorf et al. (Jan. 1, 1994) "Chemosensitivity Testing of Human Malignant Melanoma. A Retrospective Analysis of Clinical Response and in Vitro Drug Sensitivity," *Cancer* 73:103-108.
- Sengupta et al. (1978) "Search for Potential Psychotropic Agents. Part II. N-Benzylidene Derivatives of 4-Arylpiperazine-1-Acetic Acid Hydrazides," *Polish J. Pharm. Pharmacy* 30(1):89-94.
- Serrone et al. (2000) "Dacarbazine-Based Chemotherapy for Metastatic Melanoma: Thirty-Year Experience Overview," *J. Exp. Clin. Cancer Res.* 19:21-34.
- Shermolovich et al. (1980) "Reactions of Fuchsone with Dialkyl Hydrogen and Trialkyl Phosphites," *J. Gen. Chem. USSR* 50(4):649-652, 811-815.
- Shi, Y. (2002) "Mechanisms of Caspase Activation and Inhibition During Apoptosis," *Mol. Cell* 9:459-470.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Silverman et al. (2006) "Combinatorial Chemistry and Molecular Diversity Tools for Molecular Diversification and Their Applications in Chemical Biology," *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.* 10(3):185-187.
- Singh et al. (Jan. 2004) "Sulforaphane Induces Caspase-Mediated Apoptosis in Cultured PC-3 Human Prostate Cancer Cells and Retards Growth of PC-3 Xenografts in Vivo," *Carcinogenesis* 25(1):83-90.
- Slee et al. (Apr. 1, 1996) "Benzoyloxycarbonyl-Val-Ala-Asp (OMe) Fluoromethylketone (Z-VAD.FMK) Inhibits Apoptosis by Blocking the Processing of CPP32," *Biochem. J.* 315(1):21-24.
- Soengas et al. (2003) "Apoptosis and Melanoma Chemosensitivity," *Oncogene* 22:3138-3151.
- Soengas et al. (Jan. 11, 2001) "Inactivation of the Apoptosis Effector Apaf-1 in Malignant Melanoma," *Nature* 409:207-211.
- Stennicke et al. (1998) "Pro-Caspase-3 Is a Major Physiologic Target of Caspase-8," *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:27084-27090.
- Sun et al. (Oct. 2008) "Design of Small-Molecule Peptidic and Nonpeptidic Smac Mimetics," *Acc. Chem. Res.* 41(10):1264-1277.
- Sundström et al. (1976) "Establishment and Characterization of a Human Histiocytic Lymphoma Cell Line (U-937)," *Int. J. Cancer* 17:565-577.
- Supplementary European Search Report, Corresponding to European Application No. EP 06 77 1588, Completed Jul. 19, 2010.
- Supplementary European Search Report, Corresponding to European Application No. EP 10 73 9254, Completed Jul. 25, 2012.
- Svingen et al. (2004) "Components of the Cell Death Machine and Drug Sensitivity of the National Cancer Institute Cell Line Panel," *Clin. Cancer Res.* 10:6807-6820.
- Tagawa et al. (1985) "Low-Dose Cytosine Arabinoside Regimen Induced a Complete Remission with Normal Karyotypes in a Case with Hypoplastic Acute Myeloid Leukaemia with No. 8-Trisomy: In Vitro and In Vivo Evidence for Normal Haematopoietic Recovery," *Br J Haematol* 60:449-455.
- Tomita et al. (Dec. 1990) "A New Screening Method for Melanin Biosynthesis Inhibitors Using *Streptomyces bikiniensis*," *J. Antibiotics* 43(12):1601-1605.
- Tovar et al. (Feb. 7, 2006) "Small-Molecule MDM2 Antagonists Reveal Aberrant p53 Signalling in Cancer: Implications for Therapy," *PNAS* 103(6):1888-1893.
- Traven et al. (2004) "Protein Hijacking: Key Proteins Held Captive Against Their Will," *Cancer Cell* 5:107-108.
- Vassilev et al. (2004) "In Vivo Activation of the p53 Pathway by Small-Molecule Antagonists of MDM2," *Science* 303:844-848.
- Vail et al., (2004) "Veterinary Co-operative Oncology Group—Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (VCOG-CTCAE) Following Chemotherapy of Biological Antineoplastic Therapy in Dogs and Cats v1.0," *Vet Comp. Oncol.* 2:195-213.
- Vichai et al. (Published online Aug. 17, 2006) "Sulforhodamine B Colorimetric Assay for Cytotoxicity Screening," *Nat. Protocols* 1(3):1112-1116.
- Vogelstein et al. (2001) "Achilles' Heel of Cancer," *Nature* 412:865-866.
- Vogelstein et al. (Aug. 2004) "Cancer Genes and the Pathways they Control," *Nat Med* 10(8):789-799.
- Wadsworth et al. (1973) "Ethyl Cyclohexylideneacetate," *Organic Synthesis Coll.* 5:547, 45:44.
- Wajant et al. (2003) "Targeting the FLICE Inhibitory Protein (FLIP) in Cancer Therapy," *Mol. Interv.* 3:124-127.
- Wang et al. (2000) "Structure-Based Discovery of an Organic Compound that Binds Bcl-2 Protein and Induces Apoptosis of Tumor Cells," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 97:7124-7129.
- Wright et al. (Oct. 6, 1997) "Activation of CPP32-Like Proteases is Not Sufficient to Trigger Apoptosis: Inhibition of Apoptosis by Agents that Suppress Activation of AP24, but not CPP32-Like Activity," *J. Exp. Med.* 186(7):1107-1117.
- Yamaura et al. (Feb. 2002) "Inhibition of the Antibody Production by Acetaminophen Independent of Liver Injury in Mice," *Bio. Pharm. Bull.* 25(2):201-205.
- Young et al. (1956) "The Use of Phosphorous Acid Chlorides in Peptide Synthesis," *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 78:2126-2131.
- Zalupski et al. (Jul. 3, 1991) "Phase III Comparison of Doxorubicin and Dacarbazine Given by Bolus Versus Infusion in Patients With Soft-Tissue Sarcomas: A Southwest Oncology Group Study," *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 83(13):926-932.
- Zornig et al. (2001) "Apoptosis Regulators and their Role in Tumorigenesis," *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1551:F1-F37, abstract only.
- Dorn et al. (1970) "The Epidemiology of Canine Leukemia and Lymphoma," *Bibl Haematol.* :403-415.
- Franklin et al. (2005) "Zinc and Zinc Transporters in Normal Prostate and the Pathogenesis of Prostate Cancer," *Front. Biosci.* 10:2230-2239.
- Kahl, B. (2008) "Chemotherapy Combinations with Monoclonal Antibodies in non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma," *Semin Hematol* 45:90-94.
- Wang et al. (Jan. 2002) "CPP32 Expression and its Significance in Multidrug-Resistant Tumor Cells and their Parent Cells," *Di Yi Jun Yi Da Xue Xue Bao* 22(1):32-34.

* cited by examiner

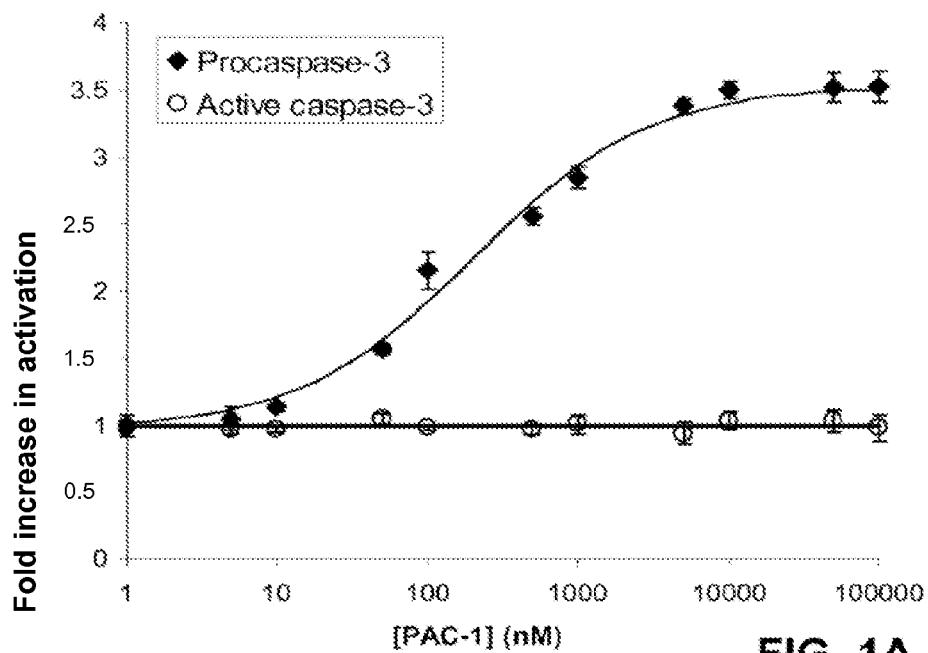


FIG. 1A

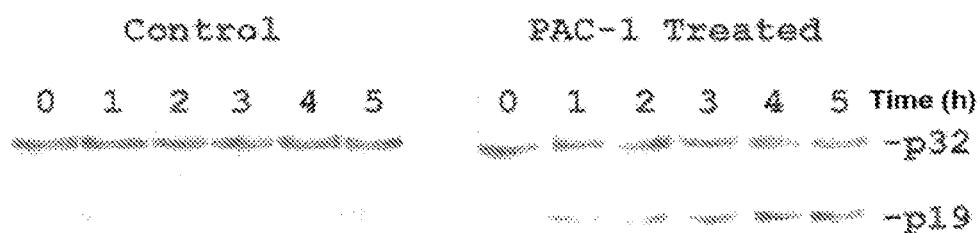


FIG. 1B

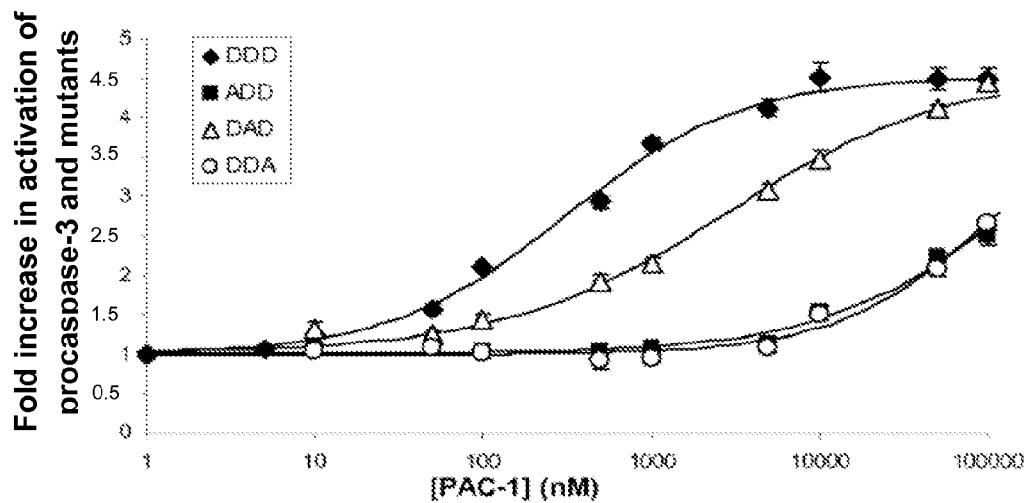
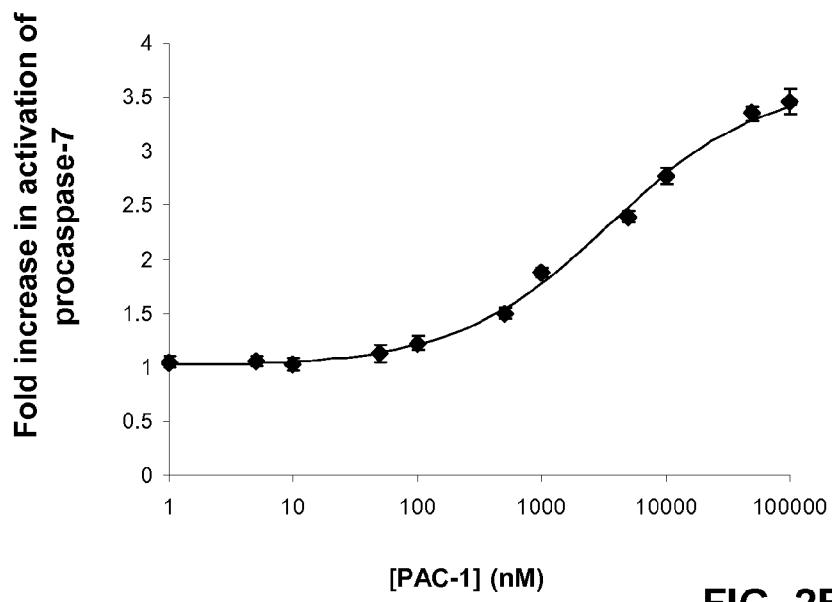
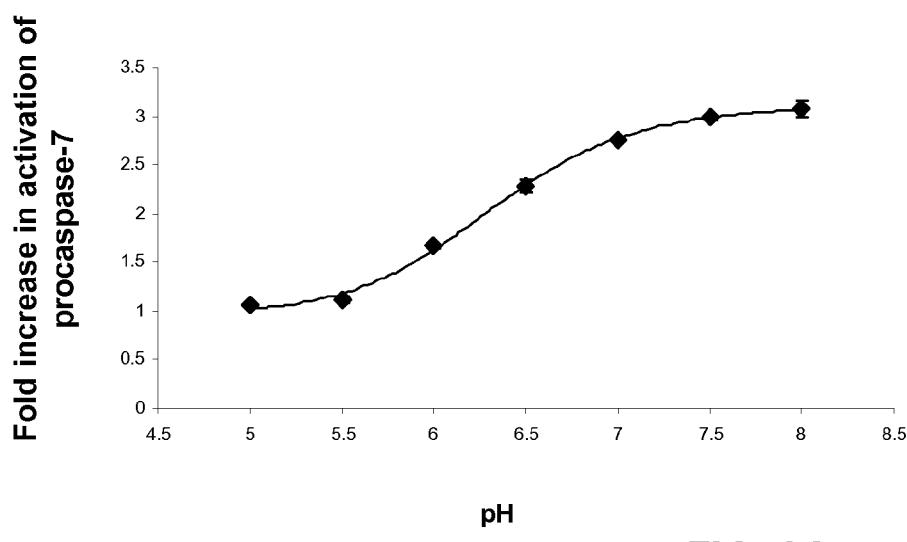
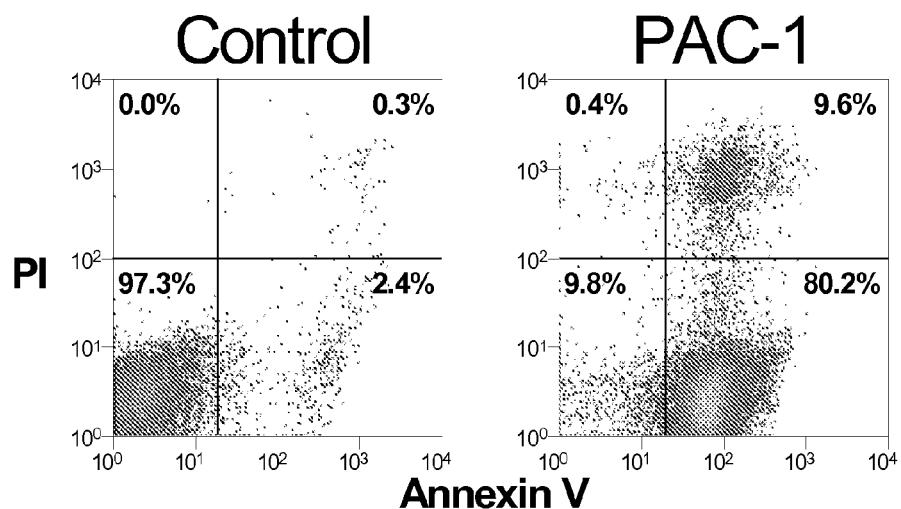
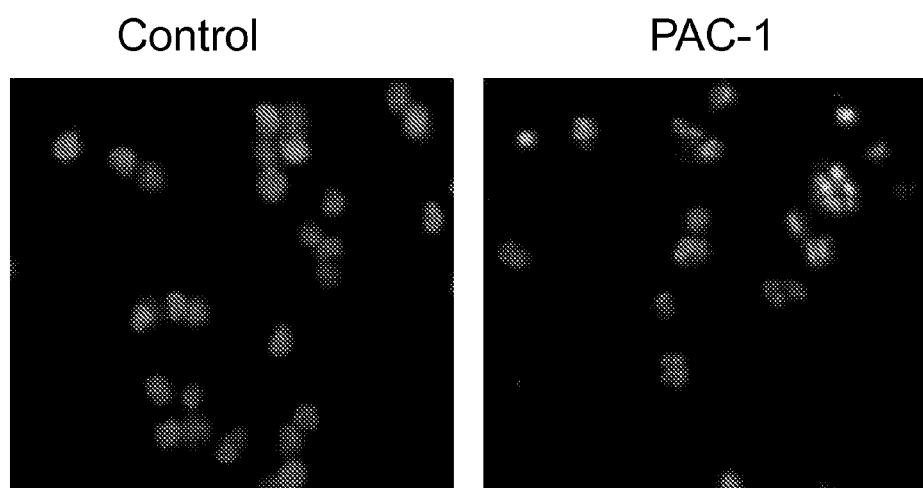


FIG. 2A

**FIG. 2B****FIG. 2C**

**FIG. 3A (color)****FIG. 3B (color)**

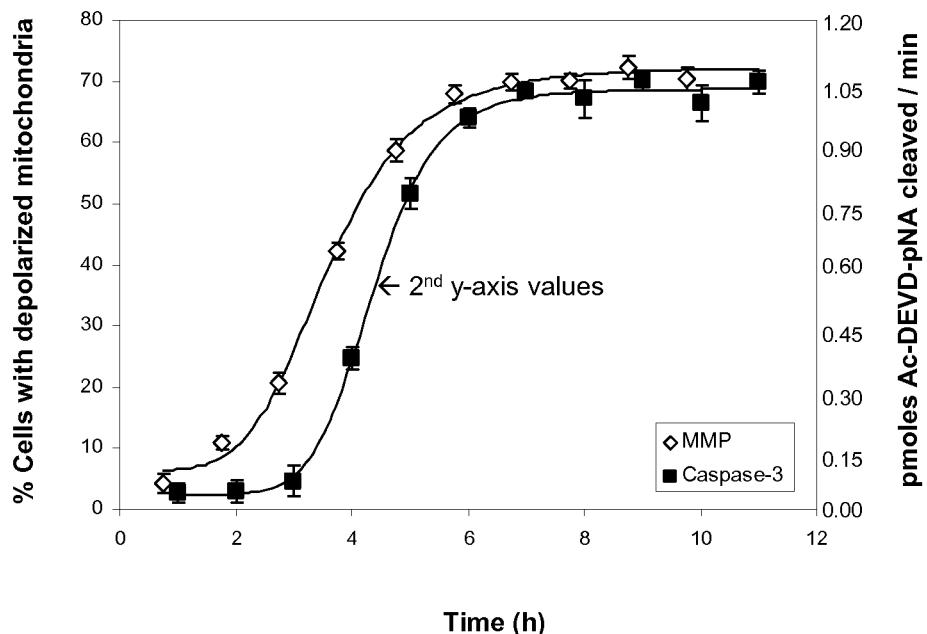


FIG. 4A

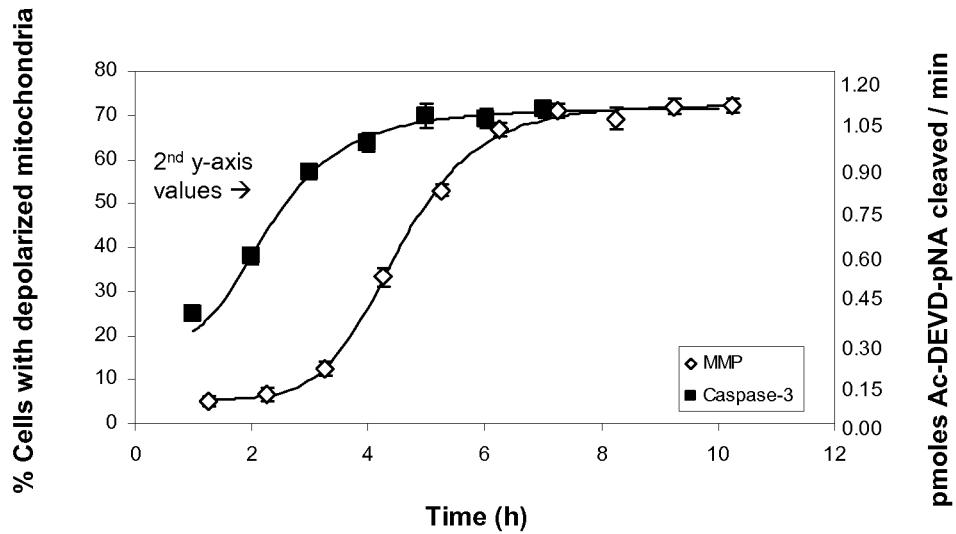


FIG. 4B

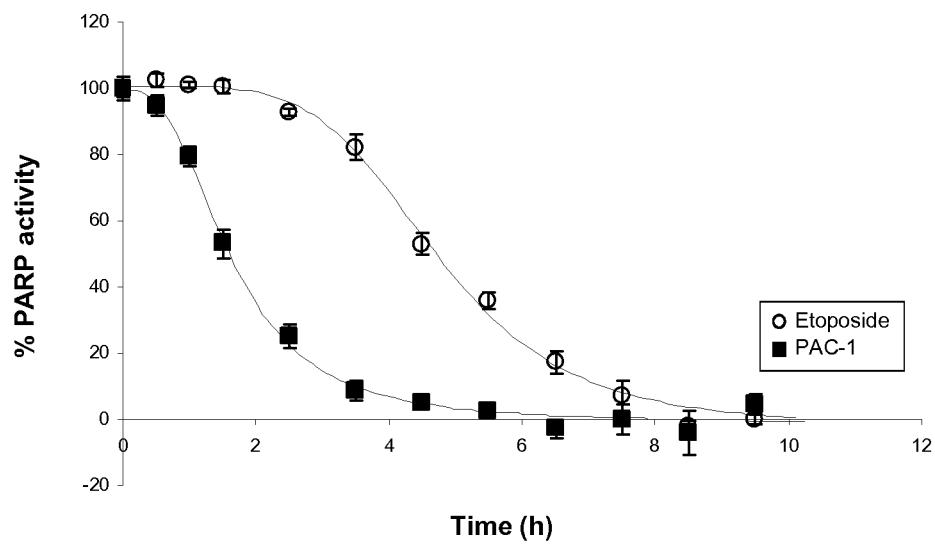


FIG. 4C

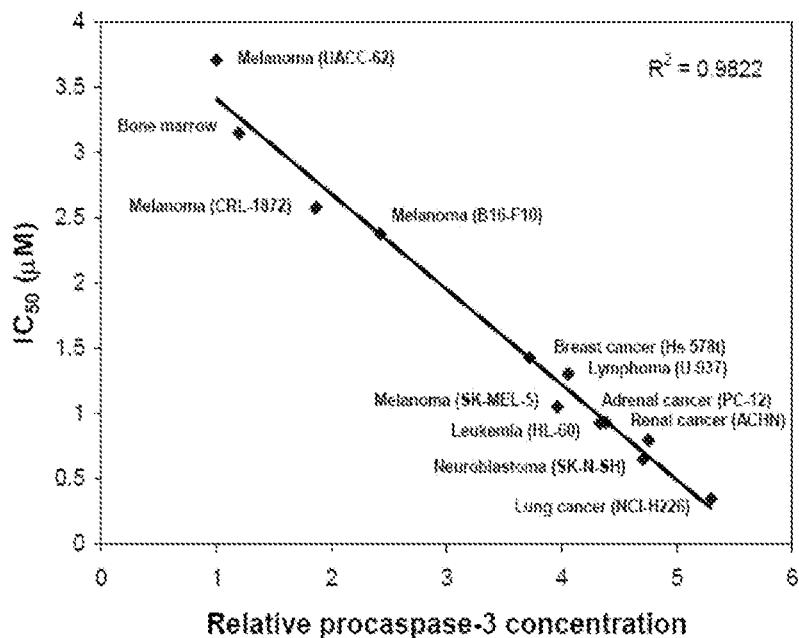


FIG. 4D

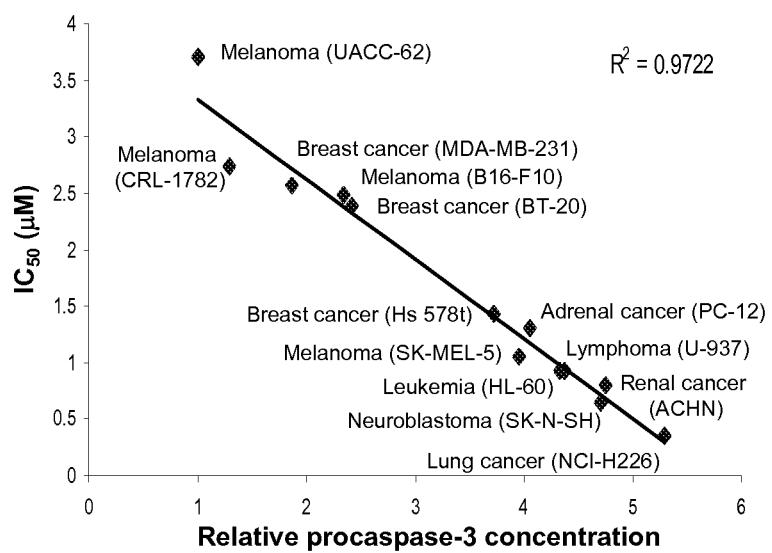
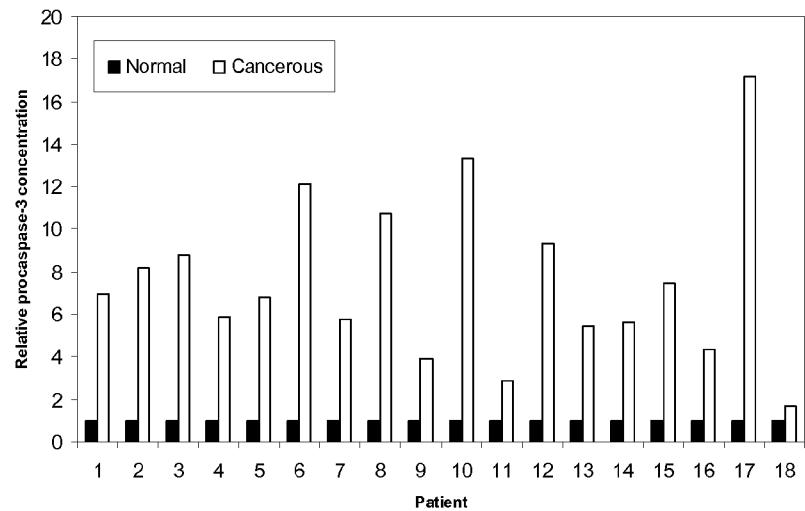
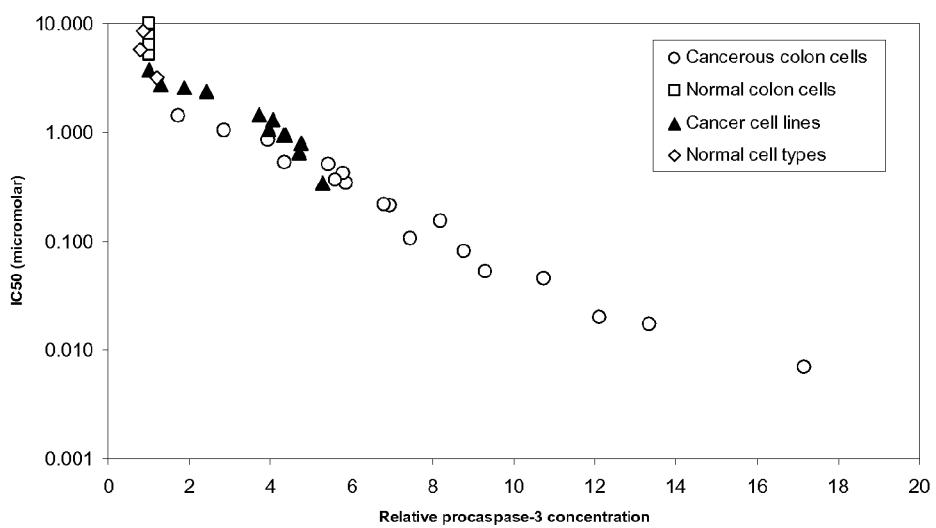


FIG. 4E

**FIG. 5A****FIG. 5B**

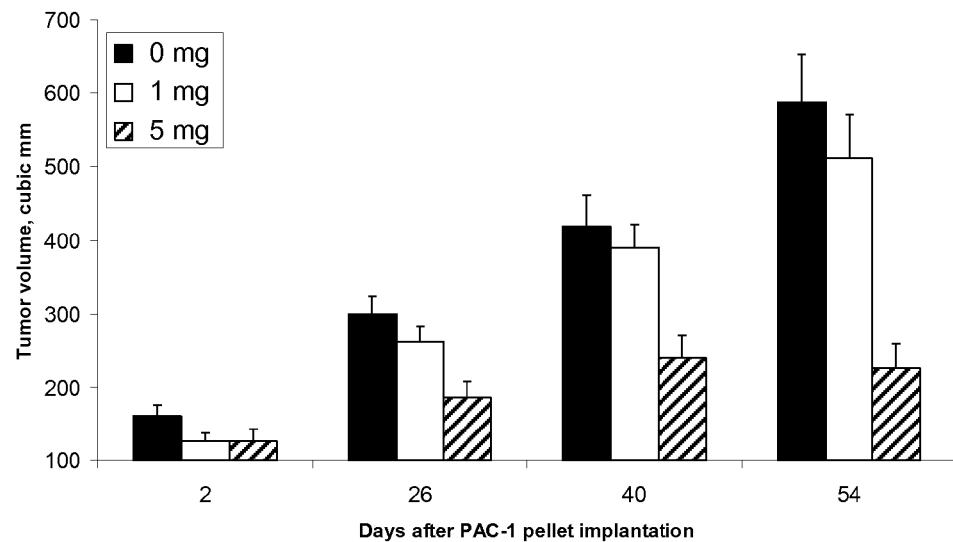


FIG. 5C

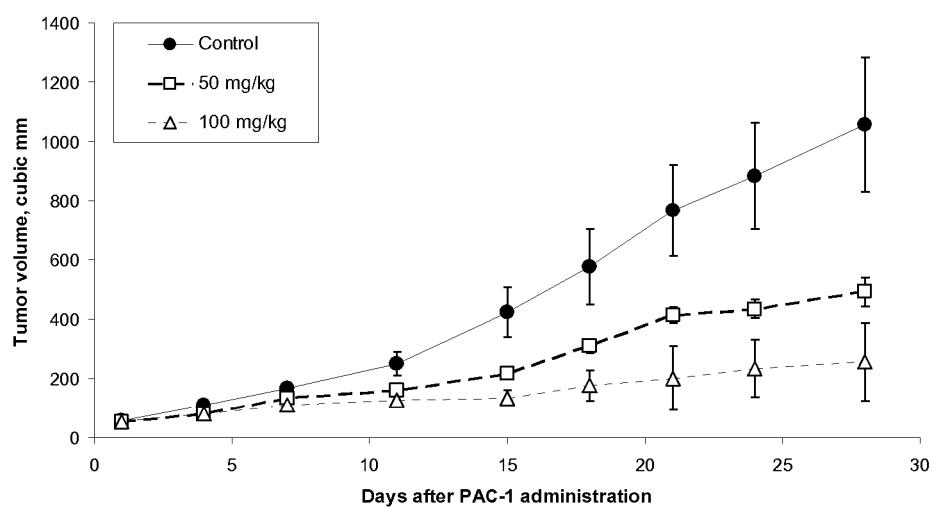


FIG. 5D

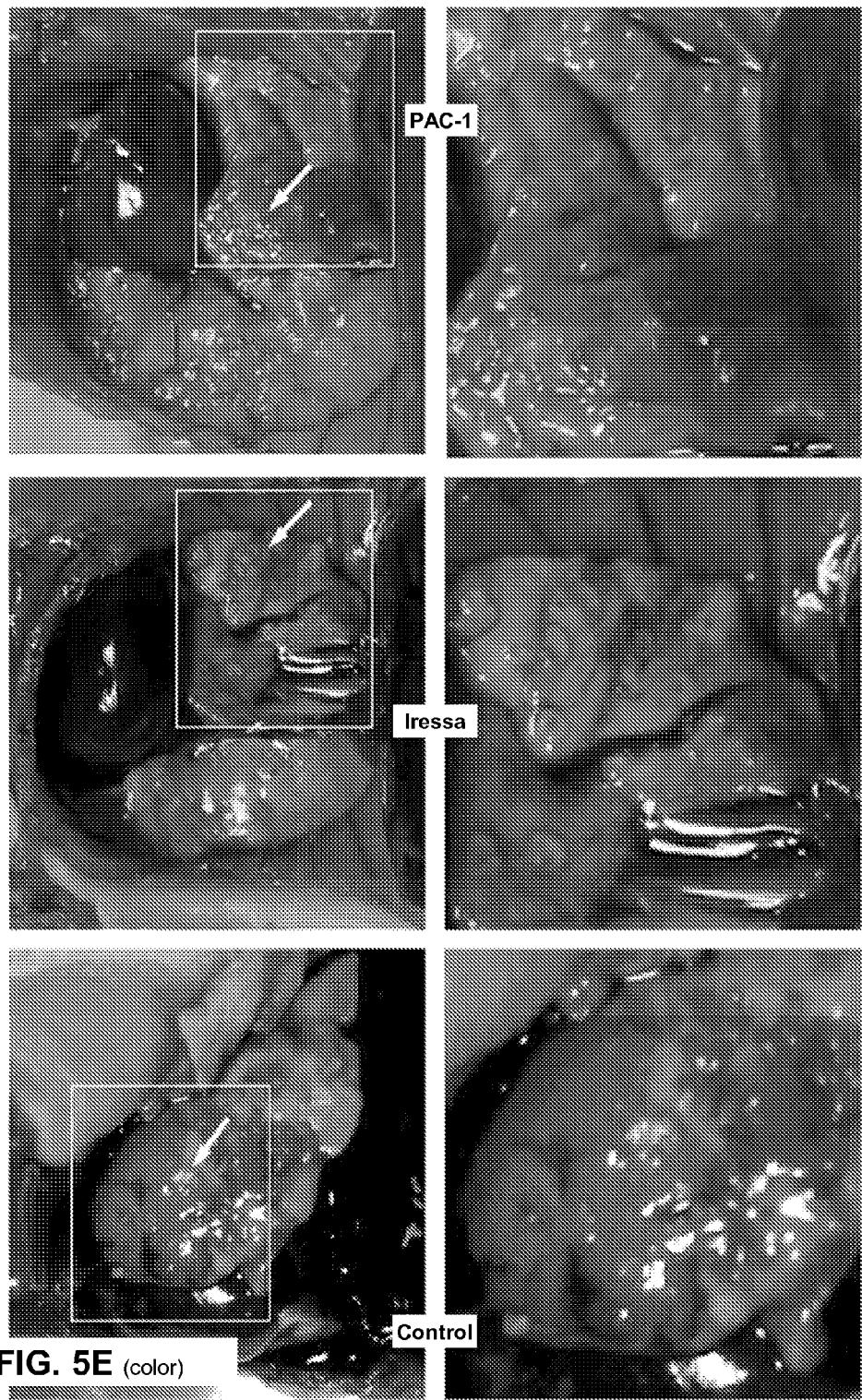
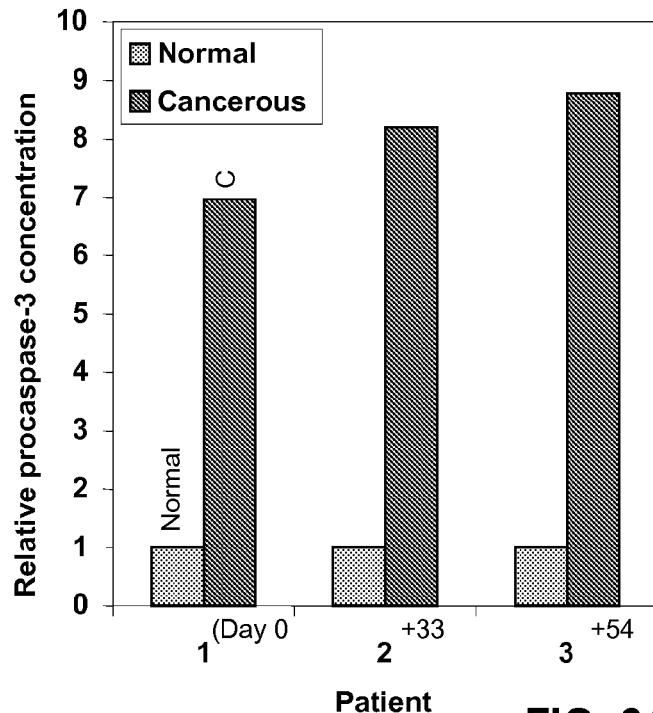
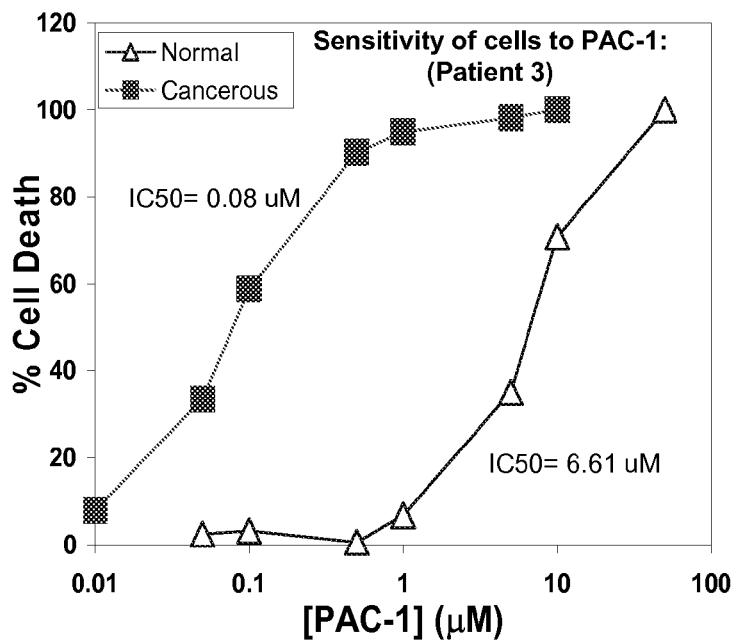


FIG. 5E (color)

Procaspace-3 levels:

**FIG. 6A****FIG. 6B**

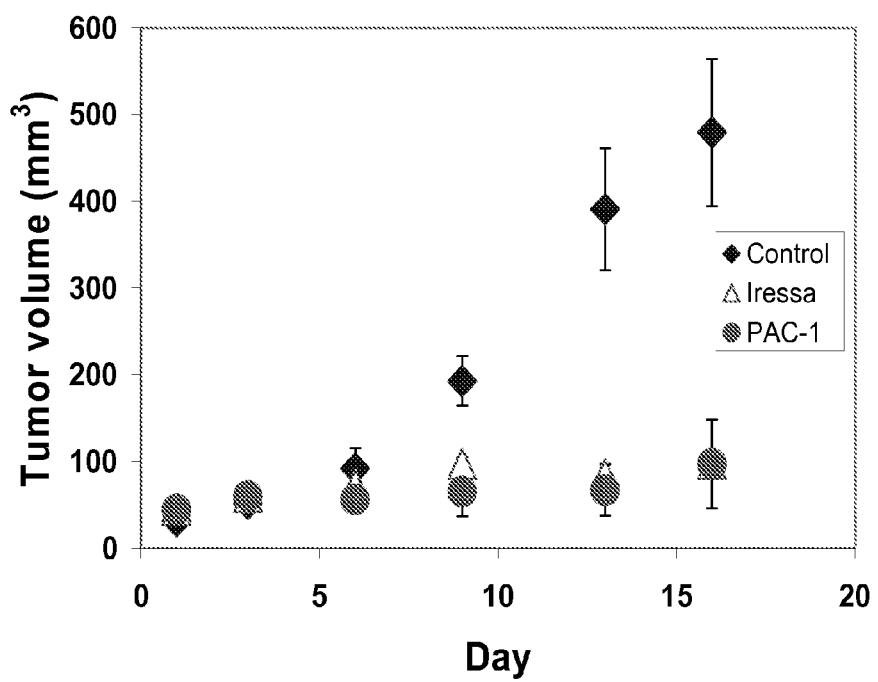


FIG. 7

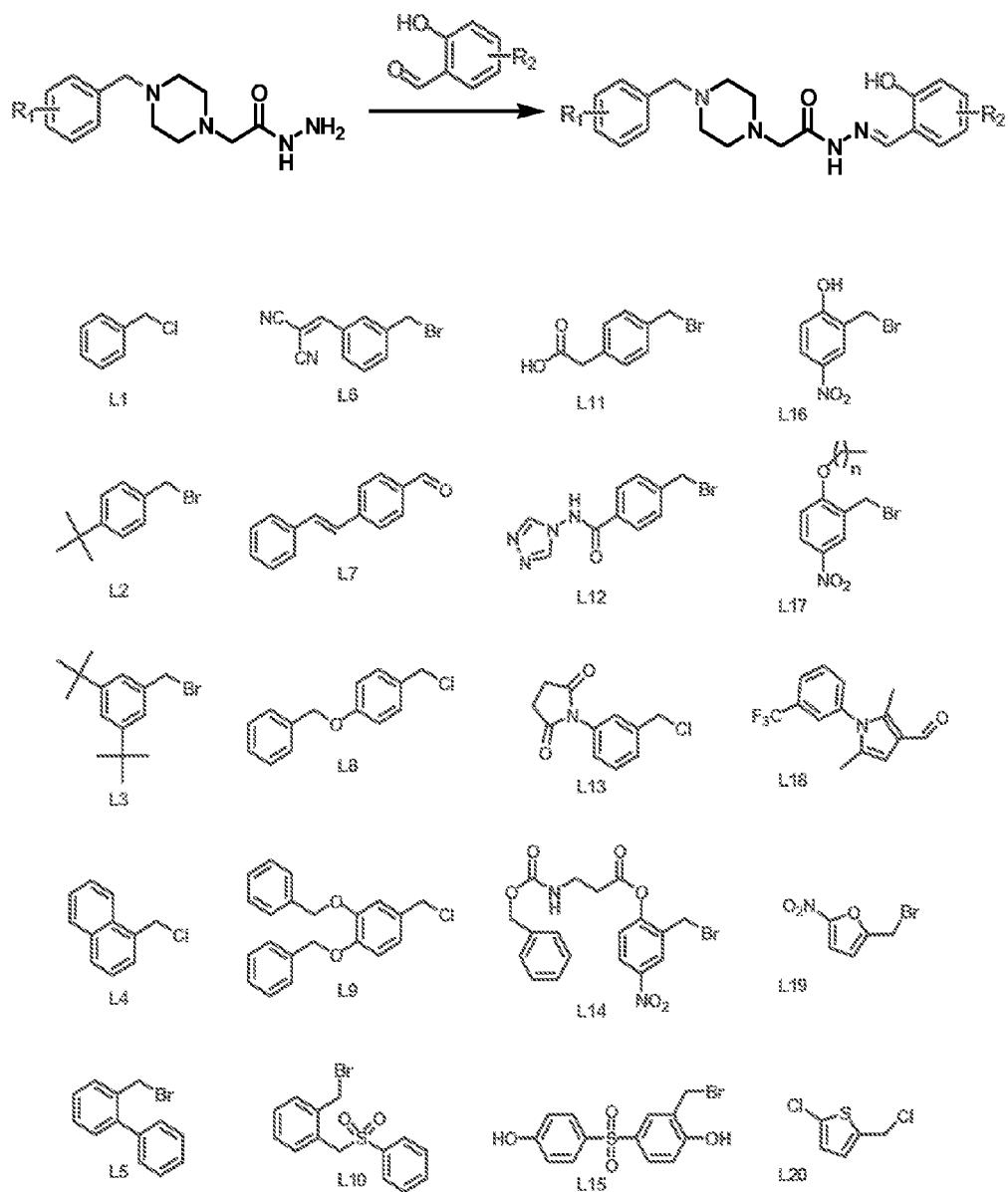


FIG. 8A

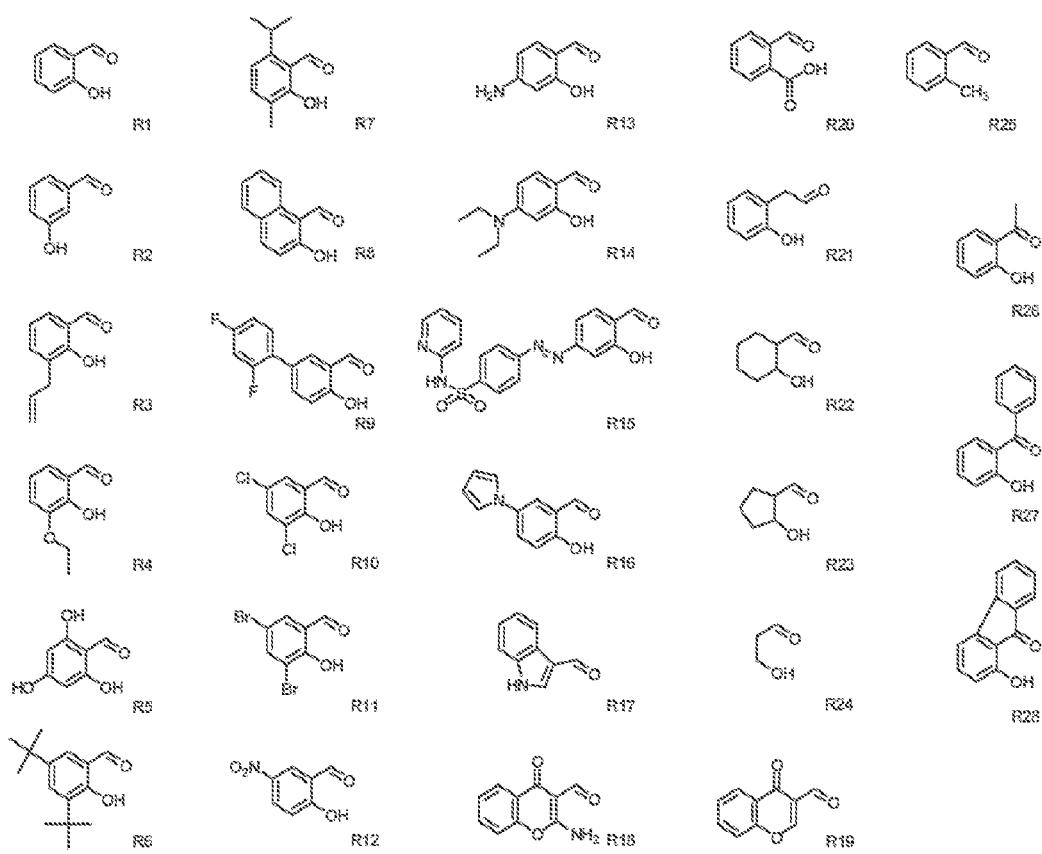


FIG. 8B

- Homo sapiens caspase 3 (CASP3), Accession No. NM_004346
1 acatccccg gcggcgggcc gcggaagcag tgcagacgcg gtccttagcg gatgggtgc
61 attgtgagggc gtttttagaa gagtttgcgt agtgctcgca gtcataacct gtggctgtgt
121 atccgtggcc acagctgggt ggcgtcgcc tggaaatccca gcccgtgagg agtttagcag
181 ccctgcgtcac actcggcgct ctgggttcg gtgggtgtgc cctgcacctg cctcttcccc
241 cattctcatt aataaaggta tccatggaga acactgaaaa ctcagtgat tcaaaaatcca
301 ttaaaaatggaaaccaaatg atcatacatg gaagcgaatc aatggactct ggaatataatccc
361 tggacaacag ttataaaatg gattatccgt agatgggtt atgtataataatataatata
421 agaattttca taaaaggact ggaatgacat ctcggctcgg tacagatgtc gatgcagca
481 acctcaggaa aacattcaga aacttggaaat atgaagtca gaaataaaat gatcttac
541 gtgaagaaat tggaaatggatg atgcgtatg tttctaaaga agatcacagc aaaaggagca
601 gttttgttttggatg tggcttctg agccatgggt aagaaggaaat aatttttggaa acaaataggc
661 ctgttgacccat gaaaaaaaata acaaactttt tcagagggga tcgtttaga agtctaactg
721 gaaaacccaa acttttcatt attcaggcct gccgtgtac agaactggac tggcatttgc
781 agacagacag tgggtgtatg gatgacatgg cgtgtcataa aataccagtg gaggccact
841 tcttgtatgc atactccaca gcacctgggtt attattcttgc gcaaaattca aaggatggc
901 cctggttcat ccagtcgtt tggccatgc tgaaacagta tgccgacaag cttgaattta
961 tgcacatttc taccgggtt aaccggaaagg tggcaacaga atttggatcc ttttccttgc
1021 acgctacttt tcatgcaaaag aaacagattt catgtattgt tttcatgtc acaaaaagaaac
1081 tctattttta tcaactaaaga aatgggttgg tgggtgtttt ttttagtttgc tatgccaatg
1141 gagaagatgg tatattttgtt actgtatttc cctctcattt tgacctactc tcatgctgc
1201 gagggtactt taagacatac tccttccatc aaatagaacc actatgaagc tacctcaaaac
1261 ttccagtcgtt gtagttgca ttgaattttttaa ttaggaaataa ataaaaatgg atactggc
1321 agtcattatg agaggcaatg attgttaatt tacagctttc atgatttagca agttac
1381 atgctgtgtt atgaattttc aagtaattttgtt gaaaaaggta aacattgaag taatgaattt
1441 ttatgtatatttccccactt aagactgtgtt attctagttt tgcataactg tagaaatgt
1501 gatgtggaag aacttaggca tctgtggca tggtaaaagg ctcaaacctt tattttggaa
1561 ttgtatataca cggatgactt aactgcattt ttagaccattt tatctggat tatgggttttgc
1621 ttagtgggtt cctgaacact tttgttggtaa aaaaataata ataatgttta atattggaaaa
1681 agaaactaat attttatgtt gtagggaaatg tgaccaactt aacttgactt ttaaggctaa
1741 aacttaacat tcatagaggg gttggatgtt aactgtaaagg tgctacaatg cccctggatc
1801 taccagcata aatatcttgc gatgggttcc tatgtatatac agttgagctt catataccag
1861 caatataatctt gaaagactat tatataaaaaa ccccaactt tgatttattt gccaggtat
1921 gtgaataaaat tctataggaa catatgaaaaa tacaacttaa ataaaaaaaca gtggaaatata
1981 agggaaagcaaa taaatgttgc ggctgagctg cctgtaaactt gagagtagat ggtttggcc
2041 tgagcagaga catgacttcg cctgttccat gaaggcagag ccatggacca cgcaggaaagg
2101 gcctacagcc catttctcca tacgcacttgg tatgtgtgg ttagtgcgtcc agggccat
2161 cggcaagttaa gaaagtgtt gaaatcagaa acttggatgtt gggaaatgtt ctaaagggtgg
2221 tgaggcaataaaaatcatag tactctttgtt agcaaaatcc ttaagttatgtt tattttctgt
2281 tgaagtttac aatcaaaggaa aatagtaat gttttataactt gttactgtt aaaaaaaagac
2341 ctatgagcac ataggactctt agacggcatc cagccggagg ccagagctga gcccctcagcc
2401 cgggaggcag gctccaggcc tcagcagggtt cggagccgtc actgcacccaa gtctcactgg
2461 ctgtcgttat gacatttcac gggagatttgc ttgttgcgttca aaaaatggc tgcattttgt
2521 caatgacagt ttcttttttgc ttacttagacc tgtaactttt gtaaatacac atagcatgt
2581 atggtatctt aaagtgttgc tctatgttgc aatgggttgc aaatgggttta tttccatttgc
2641 ttattttcaaa atatacatttca aactttaaaa taaaaaaaatggaa aaaaaaaaatggc

FIG. 9

Homo sapiens caspase 7 (CASP7), Accession No. NM_001227

1 cccccgcgcg cgggctcaac tttagagac gagggggccaa ctggcagag cgccggccca
61 gcttgcaga gagcgcctc caggactat gcgtgcgggg acacgggtcg ctggggctc
121 ttccacccct gcgagcga ctaccccgag ccaggggcg tgcaagcccc gcccggccct
181 acccaggcgc gctccctccct ccgcagcgcg gagactttt gttcgcttt cgctaaaggg
241 gccccagacc cttgctgcgg agcgcacggag agagactgtg ccagtcctcag ccgcctacc
301 gccgtggaa cgatggcaga tgatcaggc tgatttgaag agcagggggt tgaggattca
361 gcaaataaag attcagtgga tgctaaagcc gaccggtoct cgtttgtacc gtcctcttc
421 agtaagaaga agaaaaatgt caccatgcga tccatcaaga ccacccggga cgcgtgcct
481 acatatacgta caaacaatgaa ttttggaaag ctgggcaaat gcatcataat aaacaacaag
541 aactttgata aagtgcacagg tatgggcgtt cgaaacggaa cagacaaaaga tgccgaggcg
601 ctcttcagaat gcttccgaag cctgggtttt gacgtgattt tctataatga ctgtcttgc
661 gccaagatgc aagatctgc taaaaaaagct tctgaagagg accataaaaa tgccgcctgc
721 ttgcgcgtca tccttcattaa ccatggagaa gaaaatgtaa ttatggaa agatgggtgc
781 acaccaataa aggatttgac agccactttt aggggggata gatgcacaaac ctttttagag
841 aaacccaaac tcttcattcat tcaggcttgc cgaggggaccg agttgtatga tggcatcccg
901 gccgactcgg ggcccatcaa tgacacagat gctaattcctc gatacaagat cccagttggaa
961 gctgacttcc tcttcgccta ttccacgggtt ccaggctatt actcgtggag gagccaggaa
1021 agaggctcct ggtttgcga agccctctgc tccatcctgg aggagcacgg aaaagacctg
1081 gaaatcatgc agatcctcacc cagggtgaat gacagagttt ccaggcactt ttagtctcag
1141 tctgtatgacc cacacttcca tgagaagaag cagatccccct gtgtgtctc catgtcacc
1201 aaggaactct acttcagtc atagccatat caggggtaca ttctagctga gaagcaatgg
1261 gtcacttcatt aatgaatcac attttttat gctttgaaa tattcagaaa ttctccaggaa
1321 ttttaatttc aggaaaatgtt attgattcaa cagggaaagaa actttctggt gctgtcttt
1381 gttctctgaa ttttcagaga cttttttat aatgttattt atttggtgac tggtaactt
1441 tctcttaaga ttaattttct ctttgtatgt ctgttacctt gttatagac ttaatacatg
1501 caacagaagt gacttctgga gaaagctcat ggctgtgtcc actgcaattt gtggtaacag
1561 tggtagagtc atgtttgcac ttggcaaaaa gaatcccaat gtttgacaaa acacagccaa
1621 ggggatattt actqctctt attgcagaat gtgggtattt agtqgtattt qaatgatttt
1681 tcattggctt agggcagatt ttcatgcaaa agttctcata tgagtttagag gagaaaaaaagg
1741 ttaatgattc tgatatgtat ccatcaggat ccagtcgttgcgaa acacagaaac cattcttagt
1801 gttcaacag agggagttt atacaggaaa ttgacttaca tagatgataa aagagaagcc
1861 aaacagcaag aagctgttac cacacccagg gctatgagga taatggaaag aggtttgggtt
1921 tcctgtgtcc agtagtggga tcatccagag gagctggaaac catgggggg gctgcctagt
1981 gggagtttagg accaccaatg gatttgtggaa aatggagccca tgacaagaac aaagccactg
2041 actgagatgg agtgagctga gacagataag agaataaccctt ggtctcacctt atccctccct
2101 cacatcttcc accagcacct tactqcccag gcctatctgg aagccaccc accaaggacc
2161 ttggaaagagc aaggggacagt gaggcaggag aagaacaaga aatggatgtt aqccctggcc
2221 ataatgtgaa cataagtaat cactaatgtt caacaatttta tccattcaat catttattca
2281 ttgggttgc agatagtcata tgtagtgcata aaacaatctg ttttggctt atgtcaaaa
2341 tctgttatag cttaaaaata tatctggaaac ttttttagattt attccaaagcc ttatggtag
2401 taaatatttg ttacttttag ttctataatgtt gaggaaagagt ttatggcaaa gatggggc
2461 actttgtttt caagatggt ttatcttttgc aattcttgcattt aatgtactgt tttttctgc
2521 ctaatagtaa ctggtaaaa aacaaatgtt catatttattt gattaaaaat gtgggttgctt
2581 aattcctaaa aaaaaaaaaaaa aaaaaa

FIG. 10

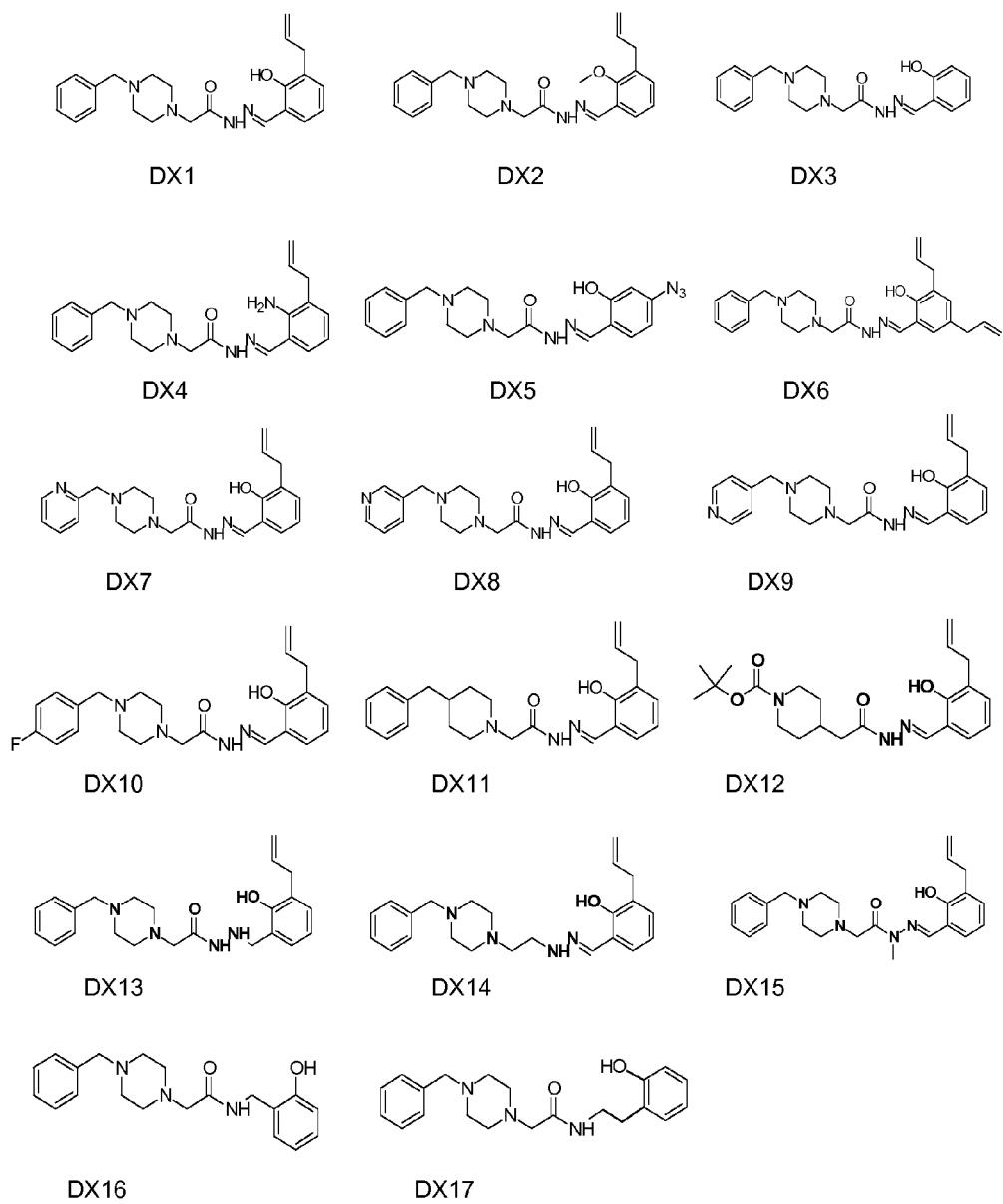


FIG. 11

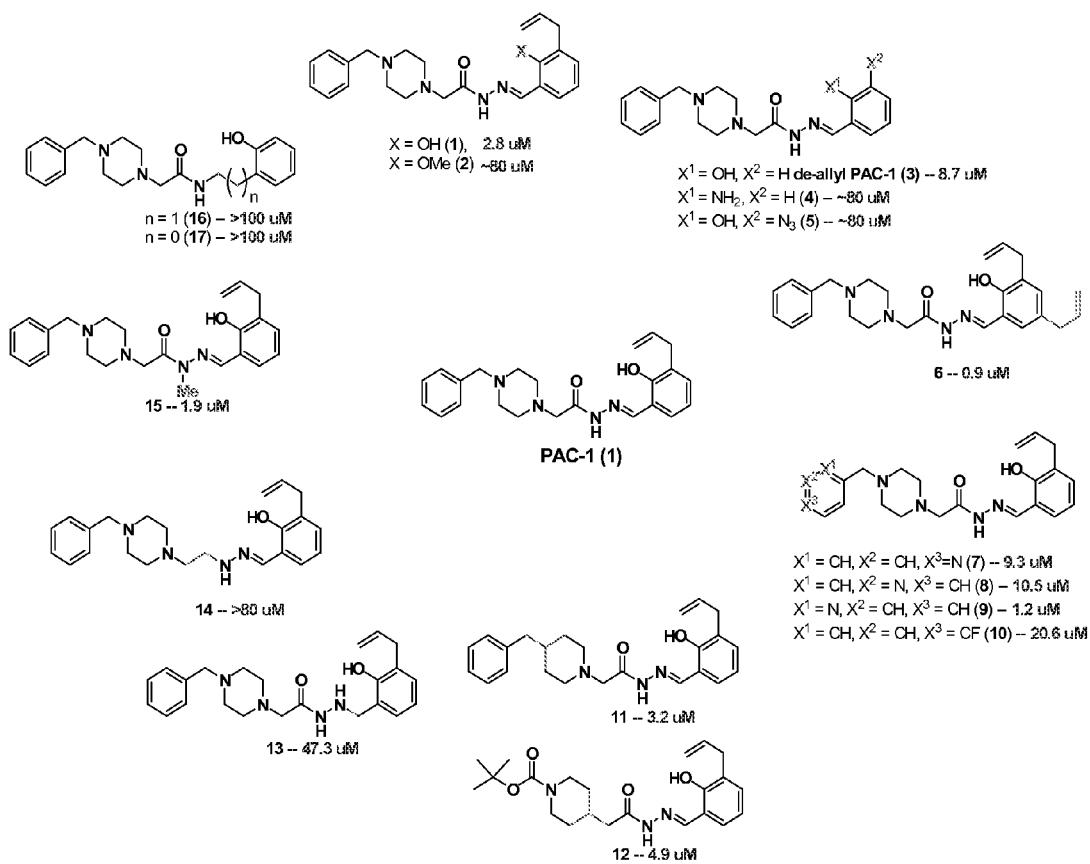
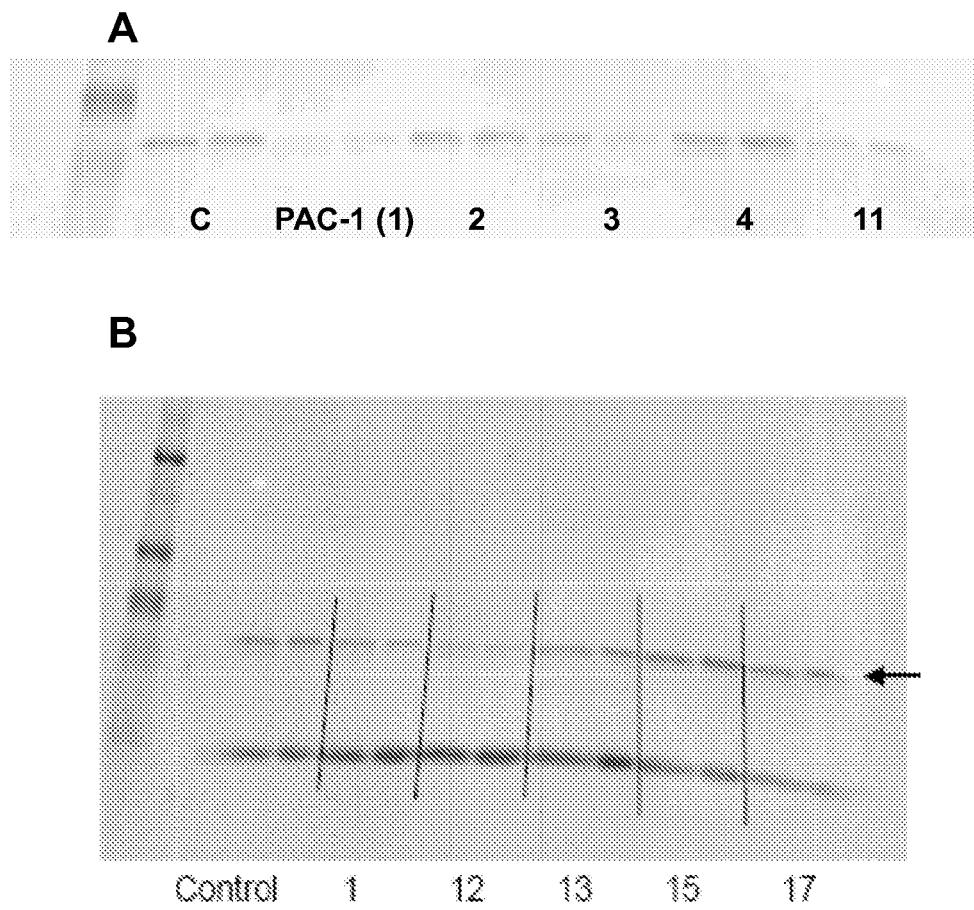


FIG. 12

**FIG. 13**

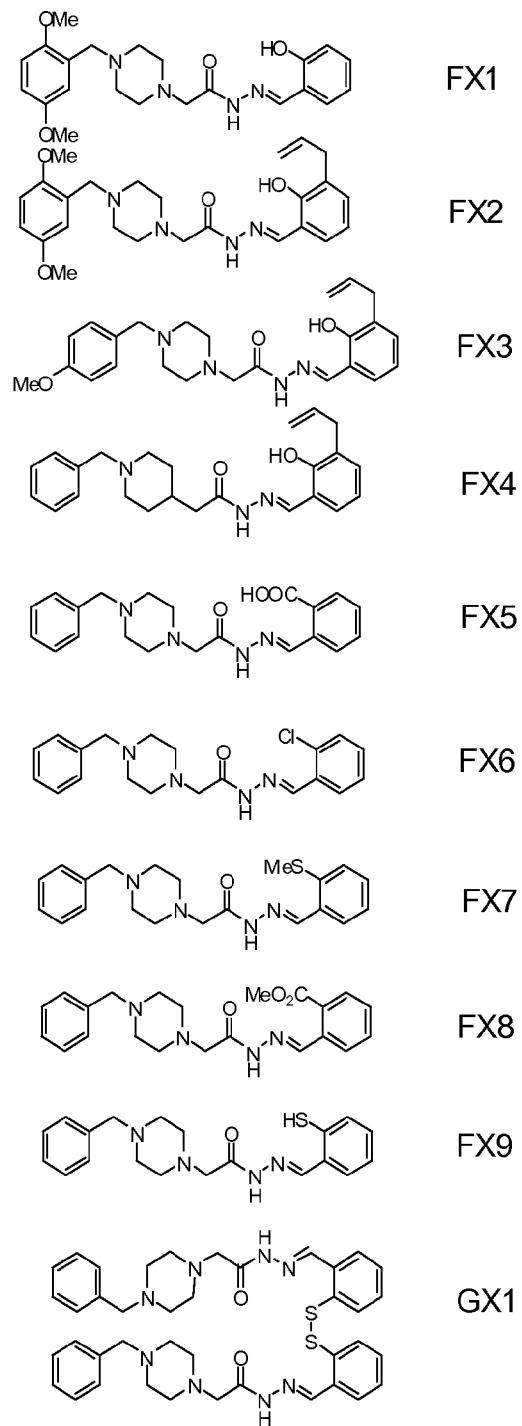


FIG. 14

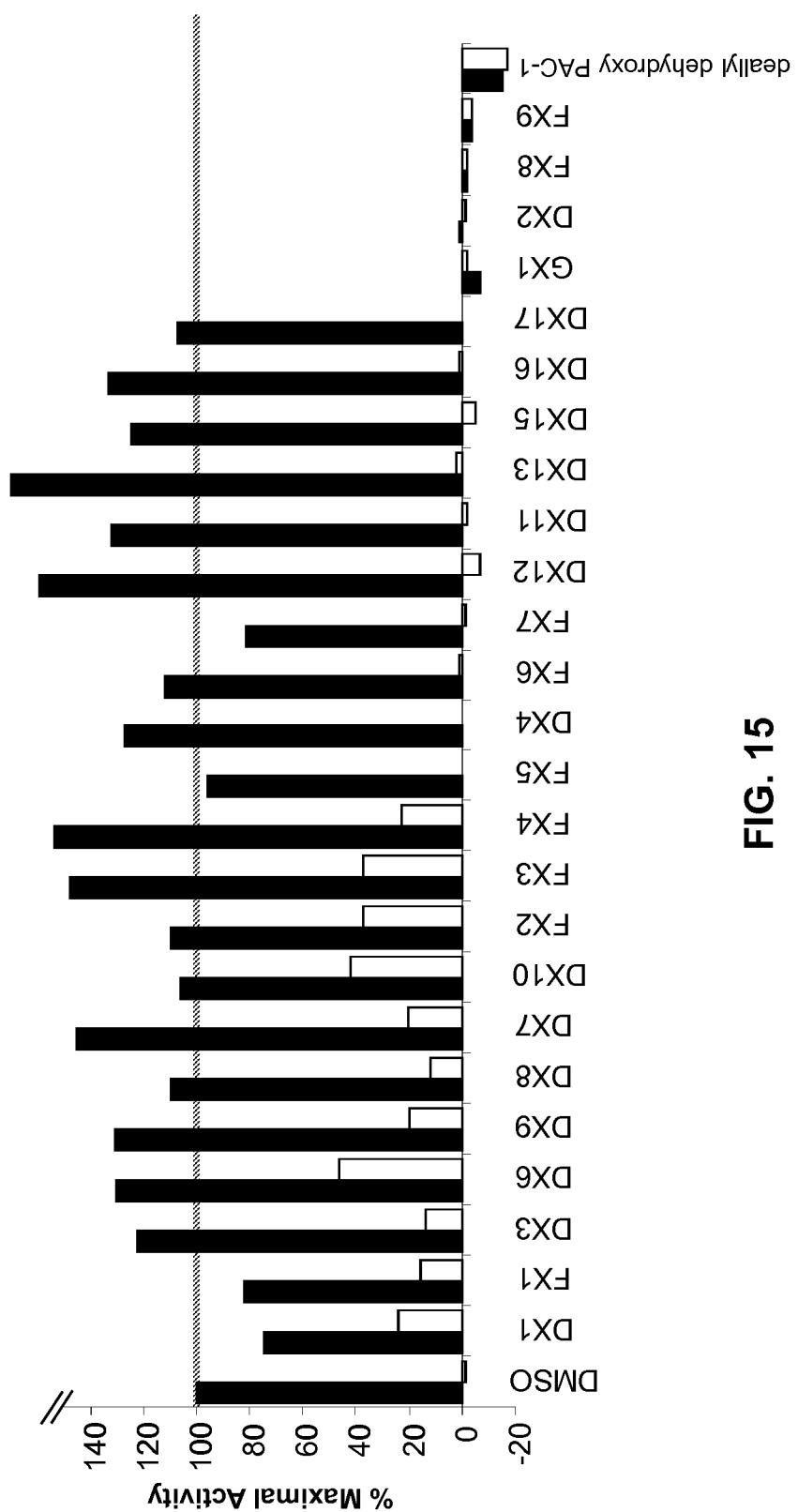


FIG. 15

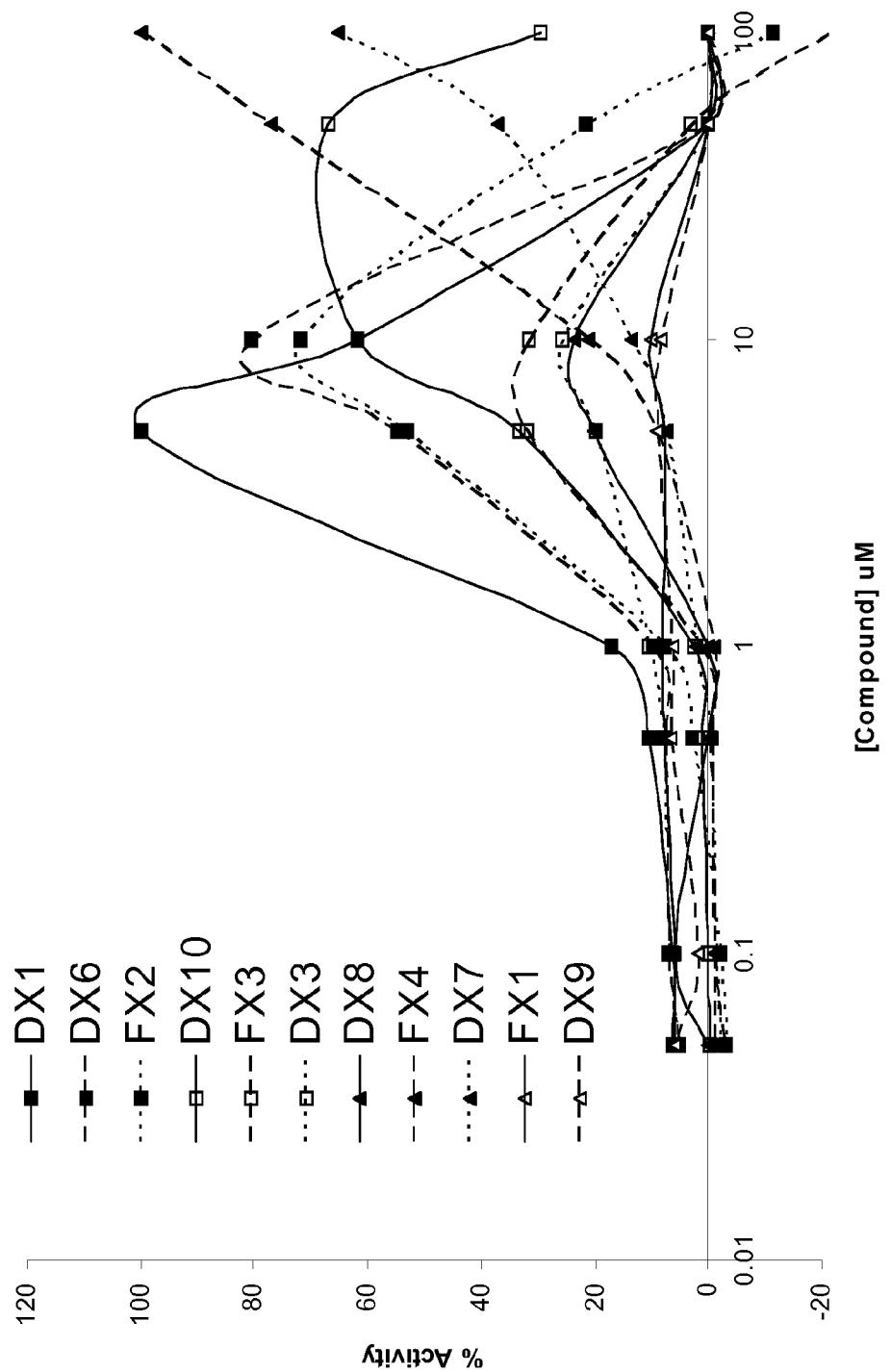


FIG. 16

1

**COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS
INCLUDING CELL DEATH INDUCERS AND
PROCASPASE ACTIVATION**

**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/597,287, filed Oct. 23, 2009, which is the U.S. National Stage of PCT International Application No. PCT/US2008/061510, filed Apr. 25, 2008, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application 60/914,592, filed Apr. 27, 2007, and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/420,425, filed May 25, 2006, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/684,807, filed May 26, 2005 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/743,878, filed Mar. 28, 2006; all of which are incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

**STATEMENT ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED
RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, plays a central role in the development and homeostasis of all multicellular organisms (Shi Y, 2002, *Molecular Cell* 9:459-470). A frequent hallmark of cancer is resistance to natural apoptotic signals. Depending on the cancer type, this resistance is typically due to up- or down-regulation of key proteins in the apoptotic cascade or to mutations in genes encoding these proteins. Such changes occur in both the intrinsic apoptotic pathway, which funnels through the mitochondria and caspase-9, and the extrinsic apoptotic pathway, which involves the action of death receptors and caspase-8. For example, alterations in proper levels of proteins such as p53, Bim, Bax, Apaf-1, FLIP and many others have been observed in cancers. The alterations can lead to a defective apoptotic cascade, one in which the upstream pro-apoptotic signal is not adequately transmitted to activate the executioner caspases, caspase-3 and caspase-7.

As most apoptotic pathways ultimately involve the activation of procaspase-3, upstream genetic abnormalities are effectively “breaks” in the apoptotic circuitry, and as a result such cells proliferate atypically. Given the central role of apoptosis in cancer, efforts have been made to develop therapeutics that target specific proteins in the apoptotic cascade. For instance, peptidic or small molecule binders to cascade members such as p53 and proteins in the Bcl family or to the inhibitor of apoptosis (IAP) family of proteins have pro-apoptotic activity, as do compounds that promote the oligomerization of Apaf-1. However, because such compounds target early (or intermediate to high) positions on the apoptotic cascade, cancers with mutations in proteins downstream of those members can still be resistant to the possible beneficial effects of those compounds.

For therapeutic purposes it would be advantageous to identify a small molecule that directly activates a proapoptotic protein far downstream in the apoptotic cascade. The approach to our invention involves such a relatively low position in the cascade, thus enabling the killing of even those cells that have mutations in their upstream apoptotic machinery. Moreover, the therapeutic strategies disclosed herein can have a higher likelihood of success if that proapoptotic protein were upregulated in cancer cells. In the present invention,

2

our efforts to identify small molecules began with targeting the significant downstream effector protein of apoptosis, procaspase-3.

The conversion or activation of procaspase-3 to caspase-3 results in the generation of the active “executioner” caspase form that subsequently catalyzes the hydrolysis of a multitude of protein substrates. Active caspase-3 is a homodimer of heterodimers and is produced by proteolysis of procaspase-3. In vivo, this proteolytic activation typically occurs through the action of caspase-8 or caspase-9. To ensure that the proenzyme or zymogen is not prematurely activated, procaspase-3 has a 12 amino acid “safety catch” that blocks access to the IETD site (amino acid sequence, ile-glu-thr-asp) of proteolysis. See Roy, S. et al.; Maintenance of caspase-3 proenzyme dormancy by an intrinsic “safety catch” regulatory tripeptide, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 98, 6132-6137 (2001).

This safety catch enables procaspase-3 to resist autocatalytic activation and proteolysis by caspase-9. Mutagenic studies indicate that three consecutive aspartic acid residues appear to be the critical components of the safety catch. The position of the safety catch is sensitive to pH; thus, upon cellular acidification (as occurs during apoptosis) the safety catch is thought to allow access to the site of proteolysis, and active caspase-3 can be produced either by the action of caspase-9 or through an autoactivation mechanism.

In particular cancers, the expression of procaspase-3 is upregulated. A study of primary isolates from 20 colon cancer patients revealed that on average, procaspase-3 was upregulated six-fold in such isolates relative to adjacent non-cancerous tissue (Roy et al., 2001). In addition, procaspase-3 is upregulated in certain neuroblastomas, lymphomas, and liver cancers (Nakagawara, A. et al., 1997, *Cancer Res.* 57:4578-4584; Izban, K. F. et al., *Am. J. Pathol.* 154:1439-1447; Persad, R. et al., *Modern Pathol.* 17:861-867). Furthermore, a systematic evaluation was performed of procaspase-3 levels in the 60 cell-line panel used for cancer screening by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Developmental Therapeutics Program. The evaluation revealed that certain lung, melanoma, renal, and breast cancers show greatly enhanced levels of procaspase-3 expression (Svingen, P. A. et al., *Clin. Cancer Res.* 10:6807-6820).

Due to the role of active caspase-3 in achieving apoptosis, the relatively high expression levels of procaspase-3 in certain cancerous cell types, and the intriguing safety catch-mediated suppression of its autoactivation, we reasoned that small molecules that directly modify procaspase-3 could be identified and that such molecules could have great applicability in targeted cancer therapy.

Herein we disclose, *inter alia*, compositions and methods including small molecules capable of inducing cell death. In embodiments, compositions and methods involve compounds which can interact directly or indirectly with programmed cell death pathway members such as procaspase-3.

U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/684,807 filed May 26, 2005; U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/743,878 filed Mar. 28, 2006; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/420,425 filed May 25, 2006 (published as US 20070049602, Mar. 1, 2007); PCT International Application Serial PCT/US 06/020910 filed May 26, 2006 (published as WO2006/128173, 30 Nov. 2006), which are incorporated by reference herein, relate to the subject matter of the present application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention broadly provides compounds, methods of therapeutic treatment, methods of screening for compounds, and methods of screening for cell and patient suitability for

treatment in connection with modifiers of procaspases. In an embodiment, the modifiers are inhibitors. In an embodiment, the modifiers are activators. In an embodiment, the invention provides such compounds and methods in connection with activators of procaspase-3 and procaspase-7. In embodiments, the inventions are applicable in the context of a variety of cancer diseases and cancer cell types such as breast, lymphoma, adrenal, renal, melanoma, leukemia, neuroblastoma, lung, brain, and others known in the art.

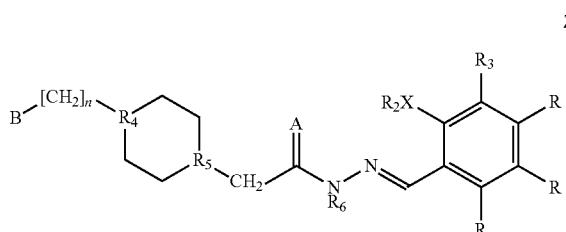
As a further introduction, compounds capable of activating an enzyme that is often overexpressed in its inactive form in cancer cells have been discovered. The compound induces programmed cell death (apoptosis) in cancer cells, including those that have upregulated procaspase-3. Many cancers resist standard chemotherapy. Compounds of the invention can take advantage of a biological target that may be upregulated in cancer cells and thus can prove effective even in cells with defects in their apoptotic machinery. These compounds can also be successful in targeted cancer therapy, where there can be advantages of selectivity in the killing of cancer cells with comparably reduced toxicity to non-cancerous cells having lower levels of procaspase-3.

Without wishing to be bound by a particular theory, it is believed that embodiments of compounds and methods of the invention may act via the mechanism of modulation of apoptosis or programmed cell death to be effective in the treatment of cancer cells. In a preferred embodiment, the modulation of apoptosis is by induction of apoptosis. In another embodiment, the modulation of apoptosis is by inhibition of apoptosis.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of selectively inducing apoptosis in a cancer cell, comprising: (a) administering to said cancer cell an effective amount of a compound capable of modifying a procaspase-3 molecule of said cancer cell; and (b) modifying said procaspase-3 molecule so as to induce apoptosis. In an embodiment, said cancer cell is in a patient in need of treatment.

In an embodiment, compounds and methods may act indirectly in connection with a programmed cell death pathway member, e.g., procaspase-3, such as by chelating or otherwise interacting directly or indirectly with a molecule which is necessary for the pathway member. In an embodiment the molecule is a metal such as zinc.

In an embodiment, said compound is of formula Z:



and salts thereof,

wherein n=0, 1 or 2;

each R, independently of other R, is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy or alkenyl;

R₂X is a halogen or X is O, S, NR₇, CO, OCO, or OCS, when

X is O or S, R₂=hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, R₈CO—, R₈OCO—,

R₈SCO, R₈OCS— or a moiety that is removable under

physiological conditions, where R₅ is alkyl or aryl, when X

is NR₇, R₂ and R₇, independently, are selected from hydro-
gen, alkyl, aryl, R₈CO—, R₈OCO—, or a moiety that is

removable under physiological conditions; when X is CO, OCO or OCS, R₂ is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or a moiety that is removable under physiological conditions;

R₃ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, alk-
enyl, alkenol, alkanol, or haloalkenyl;

R₄ and R₅ are both N; R₄ is N and R₅ is CH; R₄ is CH and R₅ is N or R₄ and R₅ are both CH;

R₆ is hydrogen or alkyl;

A=oxygen or sulfur; and

¹⁰ B is aryl, heteroaryl or R₉—O—CO—, where R₉ is alkyl or aryl.

In a more specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

¹⁵ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

²⁰ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

²⁵ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

³⁰ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

³⁵ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

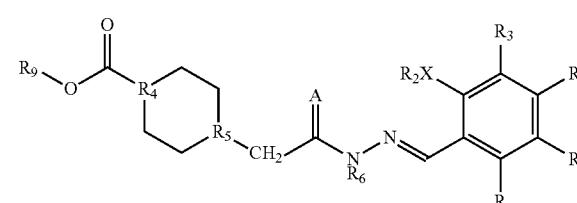
In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

⁴⁰ In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups.

In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula Z, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula Z, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment, A is O. In a specific embodiment, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 2-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 3-pyridinyl. In a specific embodiment of formula Z, n is 1 and B is 4-pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is alkyl. In specific embodiments of formula Z, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO— and R₉ is t-butyl.

In an embodiment, said compound is of formula ZA:

ZA



and salts thereof;

⁵⁵ wherein each R, independently of other R, is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, or alkenyl;

R₂X is a halogen or X is O, S, NR₇, CO, OCO, or OCS, when X is O or S, R₂=hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, R₈CO—, R₈OCO—, R₈SCO, R₈OCS— or a moiety that is removable under physiological conditions, where R₈ is alkyl or aryl, when X is NR₇, R₂ and R₇, independently, are selected from hydro-
gen, alkyl, aryl, R₈CO—, R₈OCO—, or a moiety that is removable under physiological conditions; when X is CO, OCO or OCS, R₂ is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or a moiety that is removable under physiological conditions;

R₃ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, alk-
enyl, alkenol, alkanol, or haloalkenyl;

R₄ and R₅ are both N; R₄ is N and R₅ is CH; R₄ is CH and R₅ is N or R₄ and R₅ are both CH;

R₆ is hydrogen or alkyl;

A=oxygen or sulfur; and

R_4 and R_5 are both N; R_4 is N and R_5 is CH; R_4 is CH and R_5 is N or R_4 and R_5 are both CH;

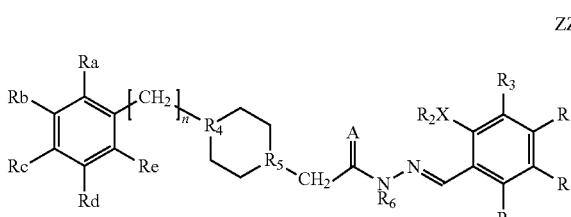
R_6 is hydrogen or alkyl;

A=oxygen or sulfur; and

R_9 is alkyl or aryl.

In a more specific embodiment of formula ZA, R_3 is allyl. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, R_9 is an alkyl group. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, R_9 is a C1-C6 alkyl group. In specific embodiments, R_9 is a t-butyl group. In another embodiment of formula ZA, R_2X is OH. In another embodiment of formula ZA, R_2X is NH_2 . In specific embodiments of formula ZA, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZA, R_6 is hydrogen or methyl. In a specific embodiment of formula ZA, A is O. In a specific embodiment of formula ZA, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZA, at least one R or R_3 is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZA, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZA, R_2X is OH and R_3 is allyl.

In an embodiment, said compound is of formula ZZ:



and salts thereof,

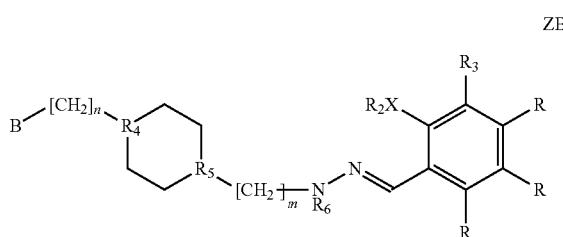
wherein n=1 or 2; Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, and Re are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, and aryl and other variables are as defined in formula Z.

In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, n is 1. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R_2X is OH. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R_2X is NH_2 . In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, A is O. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R_3 is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R_6 is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, one or two of Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd and Re are C1-C3 alkyl, C1-C3 alkoxy or halogens and the remaining groups are hydrogens. In a specific embodiment, Rc is a C1-C3 alkyl or a C1-C3 alkoxy and Ra, Rb, Rd, and Re are all hydrogens. In a specific embodiment, all of Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd and Re are hydrogens. In a specific embodiment, Rc is fluorine and Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd and Re are all hydrogens. In a specific embodiment, R_2X is chlorine. In a specific embodiment, R_2X is OH. In a specific embodiment, R_2X is SH. In a specific embodiment, R_2X is CH_3S . In a specific embodiment, R_2X is $HO-CO-$. In a specific embodiment, R_2X is CH_3O-CO- .

In additional embodiments of formula ZZ, R_4 and R_5 are both N, A is oxygen, and other variable groups are as defined above. In an embodiment of formula ZZ, R_4 and R_5 are both N, A is oxygen, R_2 is hydrogen, and other variable groups are as defined above. In an embodiment of formula ZZ, R_4 and R_5 and both N, A is oxygen, R_2 is hydrogen, R_3 is allyl, and other variable groups are as defined above. In an embodiment of

ZZ, one of R is a fluorine. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, at least one R or R_3 is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, R_2X is OH and R_3 is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, at least one of Ra-Re is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZZ, at least one R or R3 is a substituent other than hydrogen, and at least one of Ra-Re is a substituent other than hydrogen.

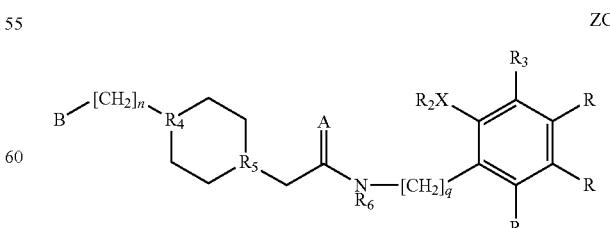
In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of formula ZB:



or salts thereof, where m is 1-4 and other variables are as defined for formula Z.

Z. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, m is 2. In additional embodiments of formula ZB, R_4 and R_5 are both N. In an embodiment of formula ZB, R_3 is allyl. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, B is aryl. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, B is $R_9-O-CO-$. In another embodiment of formula ZB, R_2X is OH. In another embodiment of formula ZB, R_2X is NH_2 . In specific embodiments of formula ZB, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, R_9 is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, R_6 is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments of formula ZB, n is 0 and B is $R_9-O-CO-$. In specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment of formula ZB, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZB, at least one R or R_3 is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZB, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZB, R_2X is OH and R_3 is allyl.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of formula ZC:

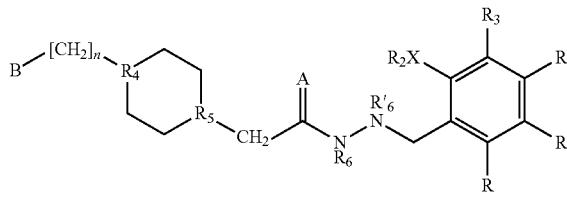


and salts thereof, where q is 1 or 2 and other variables are as defined for formula Z.

In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, q is 2. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, R₃ is allyl. In another embodiment of formula ZC, R₂X is OH. In another embodiment of formula ZC, R₂X is NH₂. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, aryl groups are phenyl groups substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, alkyl groups are C1-C6 alkyl groups or C1-C3 alkyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, alkenyl groups are C2-C6 alkenyl groups or C2-C4 alkenyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, alkenyl groups are allyl groups. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, B is a R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, B is a phenyl substituted with one or more R substituents. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, R₉ is a t-butyl group. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments of formula ZC, n is 1 or 2 and B is aryl. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, A is O. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, R is hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, at least one R or R₃ is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formula ZC, R₂X is OH and R₃ is allyl.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of formula ZD:

ZD



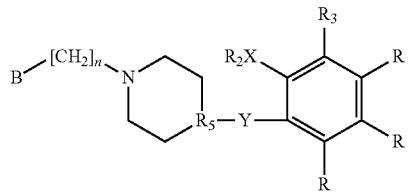
and salts thereof,

where each of R₆ and R'₆ is independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl and other variables are as defined in formula Z.

In specific embodiments of formula ZD, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl and R'₆ is hydrogen. In specific embodiments of formula ZD, R'₆ is hydrogen. In specific embodiments of formula ZD, n is 1 and B is aryl. In specific embodiments of formula ZD, n is 1 and B is phenyl substituted with one or more R groups as defined above. In specific embodiments of formula ZD, A is O.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of formula ZY:

ZY



and salts thereof,

where Y is selected from any one of:

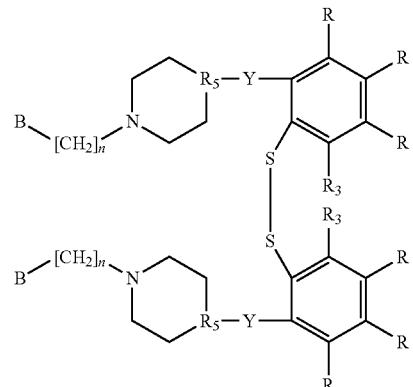
- Y1=—CH₂—CO—NR₆—N=CH—
- Y2=—CH₂—CO—NR₆—NR'₆—CH₂
- Y3=—CH₂—CH₂—NR₆—N=CH—
- Y4=—CH₂—CH₂—NR₆—NR'₆—CH₂
- Y5=—CH₂—CO—NH—CH₂—CH₂—, or
- Y6=—CH₂—CO—NH—CH₂—,

R₅ is CH or N and other variables are as defined in above formulas.

In specific embodiments of formula ZX, n is 1 and B is aryl or heteroaryl. In specific embodiments of formula ZX, n is 1 and B is phenyl, R-substituted phenyl or pyridinyl. In specific embodiments of formula ZX, Y is Y2, Y3, or Y4. In specific embodiments of formula ZX, Y is Y5 or Y6. In specific embodiments, R₅ is CH or N. IN specific embodiments, R₅ is N. In specific embodiments, Y is Y1, n is 0 and B is R₉—O—OCO—. In specific embodiments, n is 0 and B is B is R₉—O—CO—. In specific embodiments R²X is OH. In specific embodiments, R₂X is —NH₂. In specific embodiments R²X is OH and R₃ is allyl. In specific embodiments, R₂X is —NH₂ and R₃ is allyl. In specific embodiments, at least one of R is a non-hydrogen substituent. In specific embodiments, R₆ is hydrogen or methyl. In specific embodiments, R'₆ is hydrogen.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of formula GX:

GX



and salts thereof,

where variables are as defined above. In specific embodiments Y is Y1. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y1 and B is aryl. In other specific embodiments R₅ is N. In other specific embodiments, R and R₃ are all hydrogens. In other specific embodiments, B is aryl. In other specific embodiments, n is 1 or 2. In other specific embodiments, B is phenyl and R₄ represents substitution with hydrogens on the phenyl ring. IN other embodiments, Y is Y1, A is O and R₆ is hydrogen. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y1, n is 1, B is optionally substituted phenyl. In other embodiments, B is R₉—OCO—. In other embodiments R₉ is C1-C6 alkyl and more specifically is t-butyl. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y1, R₅ is N, n is 0 and B is optionally substituted phenyl. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y1, R₅ is N, n is 0 and B is R₉—OCO—. In specific embodiments Y is Y2 or Y4. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y1 or Y3. In other specific embodiments, Y is Y5 or Y6.

In an embodiment, a compound is provided wherein B is a phenyl with at least one substituent other than hydrogen. In an embodiment, a compound is provided wherein the aromatic ring shown on the right side of compound ZY (or its analogous equivalent in other compounds described herein) has at least one substituent other than hydrogen. In an embodiment, a compound is provided wherein both rings have at least one substituent other than hydrogen.

In an embodiment, the method further comprises the step of assessing a procaspase-3 or caspase-3 parameter in a cancer cell; wherein said parameter is one or more of a semi-quantitative or quantitative amount, a functional amount, and an activity level of said procaspase-3 or caspase-3.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of direct *in vitro* screening for a compound capable of modifying a procaspase-3 molecule, comprising: (a) providing a test compound; (b) providing a purified procaspase-3; (c) exposing the test compound to the purified procaspase-3; (d) measuring a procaspase-3 activity following exposure to the test compound; (e) identifying a modifying compound by comparing a test activity upon the exposure to the test compound with an unmodified activity in the absence of exposure to the test compound; thereby screening for a compound capable of modifying a procaspase-3 molecule. In an embodiment, the method further comprises comparing said modified activity or said unmodified activity with a reference activity; wherein said reference activity is due to exposure of procaspase-3 to a compound selected from the group consisting of structural formula Z, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZZ, PAC-1 or Compound 5.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of screening for a compound capable of activating procaspase-3 comprising: a) providing procaspase-3; providing a test compound, preferably a small molecule; b) reacting the procaspase-3 with the test compound, thereby putatively generating caspase-3; and c) measuring caspase-3 activity. In a particular embodiment, the measuring caspase-3 activity employs a substrate, Ac-DEVD-pNA. In a particular embodiment, the measuring uses a wavelength readout parameter of about 410 nm. In a particular embodiment, the screening is carried out in parallel using multiple test compounds.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of screening which uses the detection of a subunit of procaspase-3 as an indicator that the full length (inactive) procaspase-3 is processed to caspase-3. In a particular embodiment, the subunit has a molecular weight of about 19 kD as measured by a protein gel migration technique, for example in a Western blot.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of in cellular screening for a compound capable of modifying a procaspase-3 molecule, comprising: (a) providing a test compound; (b) providing a cell, wherein the cell putatively expresses procaspase-3; (c) exposing the cell to the test compound; (d) measuring a cell parameter following exposure to the test compound; wherein said parameter comprises one or more of cell viability, apoptotic indicator, and other parameters; (e) identifying a modifying compound by comparing a tested cell parameter upon the exposure to the test compound with an unmodified cell parameter in the absence of exposure to the test compound; thereby screening for a compound capable of modifying a procaspase-3 molecule. In an embodiment, the method further comprises comparing said modified activity or said unmodified activity with a reference activity; wherein said reference activity is due to exposure to a com-

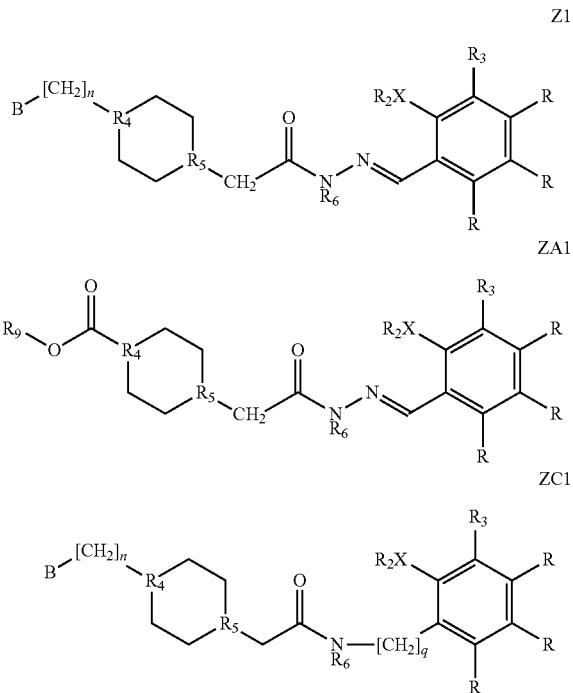
pound selected from the group consisting of formula Z, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, or ZZ or subsets of compounds of such formula, PAC-1, and Compound 5.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying or diagnosing a potential susceptibility to treatment for a cancer cell with a procaspase activator compound, comprising (a) assessing a procaspase parameter in said cancer cell; and (b) determining if said parameter allows an increased susceptibility to activation of a procaspase. In an embodiment, said procaspase parameter is a procaspase-3 level and said procaspase is procaspase-3. In an embodiment, said procaspase parameter is a procaspase-7 level and said procaspase is procaspase-7. A level can be a semi-quantitative or quantitative amount, or functional amount (e.g. an activity-based amount, e.g. a standardized unit or international unit).

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating a cancer cell, comprising (a) identifying a potential susceptibility to treatment of a cancer cell with a procaspase activator compound; and (b) exposing said cancer cell to an effective amount of the procaspase activator compound. In an embodiment, the procaspase activator compound is selected from the group consisting of formula ZZ or subsets of compounds of such formula, PAC-1, and Structure 5. In an embodiment, the method of claim 16 wherein said procaspase activator compound is capable of activating procaspase-3, procaspase-7, or both procaspase-3 and procaspase-7.

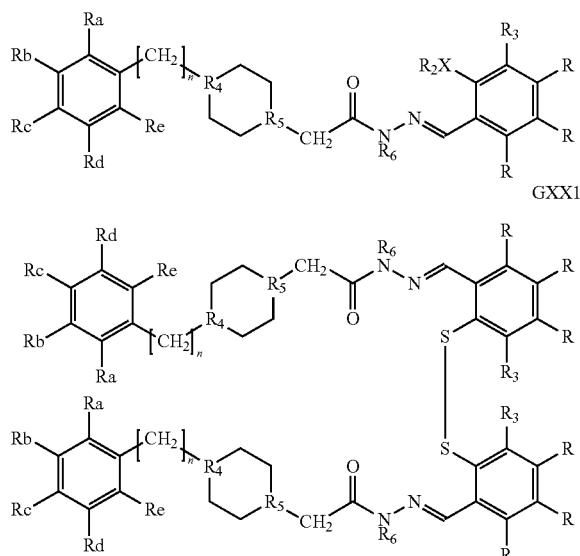
In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing PAC-1, comprising the steps of Scheme 1. In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing Compound 5, comprising the steps of Scheme 1 with appropriate modification. In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing compounds of the formula Z as disclosed herein and as would be understood in the art.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of the formula Z1, ZA1, ZC1 or ZZ1:



11

-continued



and salts thereof where variables are as defined above.

In specific embodiments of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, R_2X is OH. In specific embodiments of formulas Z1 and ZA1, both R_4 and R_5 are N. In specific embodiments of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, R_6 is hydrogen. In specific embodiments of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, R_3 is allyl. In a specific embodiment of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, at least one R or R_3 is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, at least one R is a substituent other than hydrogen. In a specific embodiment of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, R_2X is OH and R_3 is allyl. In specific embodiments of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, one or two of Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd or Re are halogens, C1-C3 alkyl or C1-C3 alkoxy groups and the remaining groups are hydrogens. In specific embodiments of formulas Z1, ZA1, ZC1 and ZZ1, all of Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, and Re are hydrogens.

In specific embodiments of GXX1, R_3 and R are all hydrogens. In specific embodiments of GXX1, R_a , Rb, Rc, Rd, and Re are all hydrogens. In specific embodiments of GXX1, n is 1.

In specific embodiments of GXX1, R_6 is hydrogen.

In specific embodiments, the invention provides compounds of formula DX1, DX2, DX3, DX4, DX5, DX6, DX7, DX8, DX9, DX10, DX11, DX12, DX13, DX14, DX15, DX16, or DX17.

In specific embodiments, the invention provides compounds of formulas illustrated in FIG. 12.

In specific embodiments, the invention provides compounds of formulas FX1, FX2, FX3, FX4, FX5, FX6, FX7, FX8, and FX9.

In specific embodiments, the invention provides a compound of formula GX1.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a therapeutic composition comprising one or more compounds of any of the formulas herein and for each compound a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; wherein the compounds are present in the composition in an amount or in a combined amount effective for obtaining the desired therapeutic benefit. The therapeutic compositions of this invention optionally further comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable components, for example carriers and excipients as known in the art.

12

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of screening a candidate cancer patient for possible treatment with a procaspase activator by identifying an elevated level of a procaspase in the candidate, comprising obtaining a cell or tissue test sample from the candidate, assessing the procaspase level in the test sample, and determining whether the procaspase level is elevated in the test sample relative to a reference level, thereby screening a candidate cancer patient for possible treatment with a procaspase activator. In an embodiment, the procaspase is selected from the group consisting of procaspase-2, -3, -6, -7, -8, and -9. In a particular embodiment, the procaspase is procaspase-3.

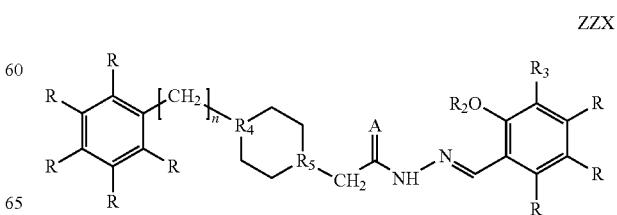
In an embodiment, an elevated level of the test sample is at least about 2-fold greater than the reference level. In an embodiment, an elevated level of the test sample is at least about 4-fold greater than the reference level. In an embodiment, the reference level is from a second test sample from the same patient. In an embodiment, the reference level is from a normal cell or tissue sample. The reference level can be from a cell line, such as a cancer cell line or a normal cell line. In an embodiment, the reference level is an absolute threshold amount. See Svingen, P. A. et al., Clin. Cancer Res. 10:6807-6820 which describes various amounts of levels of procaspases including numbers of molecules per cell.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of inducing apoptosis in a cell, comprising administering to said cell a compound of the invention. In an embodiment, the cell is a cancer cell. In an embodiment, the compound has structural formula Z, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD or ZZ.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of inducing death in a cancer cell, comprising administering to said cancer cell a compound capable of activating a procaspase molecule of said cancer cell. In an embodiment the procaspase is one or more of procaspase-3 and procaspase-7. In a preferred embodiment the procaspase is procaspase 3. In an embodiment, the compound has structural formula Z, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD or ZZ.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a medicament comprising one or more compounds of formulas Z, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, or ZZ as well as a method for making a medicament comprising such compounds. More specifically, the medicament further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for a selected means of administration of the medicament. In a more specific method of making the medicament, one or more compounds of the recited formulas are combined with the selected pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compositions and methods where a compound of the composition or method is not a compound disclosed in: U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/684,807 filed May 26, 2005; U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/743,878 filed Mar. 28, 2006; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/420,425 filed May 25, 2006 (published as US 20070049602, Mar. 1, 2007); PCT International Application Serial PCT/US 06/020910 filed May 26, 2006 (published as WO2006/128173, 30 Nov. 2006). In an embodiment herein, said compound is not a compound of formula ZZ;



wherein n=1 or 2; R, independently of other R, is hydrogen, halogen, allyl, or short alkyl; R2=hydrogen, short alkyl, ester, or other moiety that is removable under physiological conditions; R3=hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, allyl, alkenyl, alkenol, alkanol, or haloalkenyl; R4 and R5 are N; or R4=N and R5=C; or R4 and R5=C; and A=oxygen or sulfur.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1. A) In vitro activation of procaspase-3 and active caspase-3 by PAC-1. PAC-1 activates procaspase-3 with an $EC_{50}=0.22\text{ }\mu\text{M}$. Error bars represent standard deviations from the mean. B) Cleavage of procaspase-3 to active caspase-3 as induced by PAC-1. Procaspsase-3 was recombinantly expressed in *E. coli* with an N-terminal His-6 tag and purified. Immunoblotting was performed with an anti-His-6 antibody. In the absence of PAC-1, no maturation of procaspase-3 is observed. In the presence of 100 μM PAC-1, cleavage to generate the p19 fragment is observed within 1 hour, and >50% cleavage is observed after 4 hours.

FIG. 2. A) Activation of mutants in the “safety catch” region of procaspase-3 by PAC-1. PAC-1 has an EC_{50} for activation of 0.22 μM on wild type procaspase-3 (DDD), and corresponding EC_{50} values of 2.77 μM (DAD), 113 μM (DDA), and 131 μM (ADD) for certain mutants. B) PAC-1 activates procaspase-7 with an EC_{50} of 4.5 μM . C) Dependence of PAC-1 activation of procaspase-3 on pH. At low pH the safety catch is “off”, and procaspase-3 is essentially maximally activated. Error bars represent standard deviations from the mean.

FIG. 3. PAC-1 induces apoptosis in HL-60 cells. A) Phosphatidylserine exposure (as measured by Annexin-V staining) after a 20 hour treatment with 100 μM PAC-1. B) Chromatin condensation as visualized by Hoechst staining after a 20 hour treatment with 100 μM PAC-1.

FIG. 4. A) Mitochondrial membrane depolarization (MMP) and caspase-3 like activity in HL-60 cells treated with 10 μM etoposide. B) Mitochondrial membrane depolarization (MMP) and caspase-3 like activity in HL-60 cells treated with 100 μM PAC-1. C) PAC-1 treatment (100 μM) induces a rapid decrease in cellular PARP activity in HL-60 cells, consistent with an immediate activation of cellular caspase-3/-7. In contrast, etoposide (10 μM) treated cells show a decrease in PARP activity at much later time points. D) PAC-1 induces cell death in a procaspase-3 dependent manner. For a number of diverse cancer cell lines, the procaspase-3 levels were determined (by flow cytometry) and the IC_{50} of PAC-1 was measured ($R2=0.9822$). PAC-1 is quite potent ($IC_{50}=0.35\text{ }\mu\text{M}$) in the NCI-H226 lung cancer cell line known to have high levels of procaspase-3, but markedly less potent in normal white blood cells derived from the bone marrow of a healthy human donor. E) A graph showing the correlation between relative procaspase-3 concentration and IC_{50} (μM).

FIG. 5A illustrates relative procaspase-3 levels in normal and cancerous cells from several patients.

FIG. 5B illustrates IC_{50} levels for PAC-1 in a variety of cell types having a range of relative procaspase-3 levels.

FIG. 5C illustrates the effect of treating animals with PAC-1 on outcomes of tumor growth.

FIG. 5D illustrates the effect of oral treatment of animals with PAC-1 on outcomes of tumor growth.

FIG. 5E illustrates results of progression of cancer in a lung cancer model for control, PAC-1, and gefitinib (IressaTM; AstraZeneca) treatment groups. Tumor cells were injected into mice by i.v. administration; Iressa and PAC-1 were given orally at 100 mg/kg.

FIG. 6A illustrates relative procaspase-3 levels in normal and cancerous cells of three patients.

FIG. 6B illustrates the sensitivity of normal and cancerous cells from Patient 3 to treatment with PAC-1.

FIG. 7 illustrates results of administering PAC-1 intraperitoneally in the context of a mouse model of lung cancer.

FIGS. 8A and 8B illustrate structures for compounds of PAC-1 derivatives and a combinatorial library.

FIG. 9 illustrates a nucleotide sequence for *Homo sapiens* caspase 3, apoptosis-related cysteine peptidase (CASP3), transcript variant alpha, mRNA (Accession No. NM_004346; 2689 bp mRNA linear; obtained from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez>).

FIG. 10 illustrates a nucleotide sequence for *Homo sapiens* caspase 7, apoptosis-related cysteine peptidase (CASP7), transcript variant alpha, mRNA (Accession No. NM_001227; 2605 bp; mRNA linear; obtained from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez>).

FIG. 11 illustrates structures for compounds designated DX1-DX17 (see, e.g., Examples 9 and 10).

FIG. 12 illustrates activity levels (IC_{50} values) next to structures of compounds DX1-17 from apoptosis induction assays using HL-60 cells.

FIG. 13 illustrates results of testing certain compounds for the ability to effect activation of procaspase-3.

FIG. 14 illustrates the structures of certain compounds including FX1-FX9 and GX1.

FIG. 15 illustrates results from activity testing of compounds including such in the series DX, FX, and GX. Test conditions used 2.5 μM procaspase-3 ($D_3\text{A}$) with the indicated test compound at 100 μM (filled columns); and further with 10 μM zinc (open columns).

FIG. 16 illustrates results from activity testing of compounds in the series DX and FX, plotted as percent activity versus compound concentration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In general, the terms and phrases used herein have their art-recognized meaning, which can be found by reference to standard texts, journal references and contexts known to those skilled in the art.

The following abbreviations are applicable. IAP, inhibitor of apoptosis; PAC-1, procaspase activating compound 1; PARP, Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase.

The following definitions are provided to clarify their specific use in the context of the invention.

When used herein, the term “chemotherapeutic agent” refers to any substance capable of reducing or preventing the growth, proliferation, or spread of a cancer cell, a population of cancer cells, tumor, or other malignant tissue. The term is intended also to encompass any antitumor or anticancer agent.

When used herein, the term “effective amount” is intended to encompass contexts such as a pharmaceutically effective amount or therapeutically effective amount. For example, in embodiments the amount is capable of achieving a beneficial state, beneficial outcome, functional activity in a screening assay, or improvement of a clinical condition.

When used herein, the term “cancer cell” is intended to encompass definitions as broadly understood in the art. In an embodiment, the term refers to an abnormally regulated cell that can contribute to a clinical condition of cancer in a human or animal. In an embodiment, the term can refer to a cultured cell line or a cell within or derived from a human or animal body. A cancer cell can be of a wide variety of differentiated cell, tissue, or organ types as is understood in the art.

The term "alkyl" refers to a monoradical branched or unbranched saturated hydrocarbon chain preferably having from 1 to 22 carbon atoms and to cycloalkyl groups having one or more rings having 3 to 22 carbon atoms. Short alkyl groups are those having 1 to 6 carbon atoms including methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl and hexyl groups, including all isomers thereof. Long alkyl groups are those having 8-22 carbon atoms and preferably those having 12-22 carbon atoms as well as those having 12-20 and those having 16-18 carbon atoms.

The term "cycloalkyl" refers to cyclic alkyl groups of from 3 to 22 carbon atoms having a single cyclic ring or multiple condensed rings. Cycloalkyl groups include those having 3-8 member rings and those having 5 and 6 member rings. Cycloalkyl groups include, by way of example, single ring structures such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclooctyl, and the like, or multiple ring structures such as adamantanyl, and the like.

The term "alkenyl" refers to a monoradical of a branched or unbranched unsaturated hydrocarbon group preferably having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms and to cycloalkenyl groups having one or more rings having 3 to 22 carbon atoms wherein at least one ring contains a double bond. Alkenyl groups may contain one or more double bonds (C=C) which may be conjugated. Preferred alkenyl groups are those having 1 or 2 double bonds. Short alkenyl groups are those having 2 to 6 carbon atoms including ethylene (vinyl) propylene, butylene, pentylene and hexylene groups, including all isomers thereof. Long alkenyl groups are those having 8-22 carbon atoms and preferably those having 12-22 carbon atoms as well as those having 12-20 carbon atoms and those having 16-18 carbon atoms. The term "cycloalkenyl" refers to cyclic alkenyl groups of from 3 to 22 carbon atoms having a single cyclic ring or multiple condensed rings in which at least one ring contains a double bond (C=C). Cycloalkenyl groups include, by way of example, single ring structures such as cyclopropenyl, cyclobutenyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclooctenyl, cyclooctadienyl and cyclooctatrienyl. The term allyl refers to the alkenyl group —CH₂—CH=CH₂.

The term "alkynyl" refers to a monoradical of an unsaturated hydrocarbon preferably having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms and having one or more triple bonds (C≡C). Alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propargyl, and the like. Short alkynyl groups are those having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, including all isomers thereof. Long alkynyl groups are those having 8-22 carbon atoms and preferably those having 12-22 carbon atoms as well as those having 12-20 carbon atoms and those having 16-18 carbon atoms.

The term "aryl" refers to a group containing an unsaturated aromatic carbocyclic group of from 6 to 22 carbon atoms having a single ring (e.g., phenyl), one or more rings (e.g., biphenyl) or multiple condensed (fused) rings, wherein at least one ring is aromatic (e.g., naphthyl, dihydrophenanthrenyl, fluorenyl, or anthryl). Aryls include phenyl, naphthyl and the like. Aryl groups may contain portions that are alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl in addition to the unsaturated aromatic ring(s). The term "alkaryl" refers to the aryl groups containing alkyl portions, i.e., -alkylene-aryl and -substituted alkylene-aryl. Such alkaryl groups are exemplified by benzyl (—CH₂-phenyl), phenethyl and the like.

Alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and aryl groups are optionally substituted as described herein (the term(s) can include substituted variations) and may contain 1-8 non-hydrogen substituents dependent upon the number of carbon atoms in the group and the degree of unsaturation of the group. All such variable as described herein can be unsubstituted (in which any variables groups that can be hydrogen are hydrogen) or substi-

tuted with one or more non-hydrogen substituents selected from halogen, including fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine, C1-C3 haloalkyl, hydroxyl (OH), thiol (HS—), C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C3 alkyl, C1-C6 alkoxy, C1-C3 alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, alkenyl, C2-C4 alkenyl, alkynyl, C2-C4 alkynyl, —NH₂, —NR'H, —NR'R", R'CO—, R'R"NO—, R'CO—NH—, or R'CO—NR'—, where R' and R" are C1-C6 alkyl, C1-C3 alkyl or phenyl.

The term "amino" refers to the group —NH₂ or to the group —NR'R" where each R' and R" is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl or aryl groups.

Haloalkyl" refers to alkyl as defined herein substituted by one or more halo groups as defined herein, which may be the same or different. Representative haloalkyl groups include, by way of example, trifluoromethyl, 3-fluorododecyl, 12,12, 12-trifluorododecyl, 2-bromoethyl, 3-bromo-6-chloroheptyl, and the like.

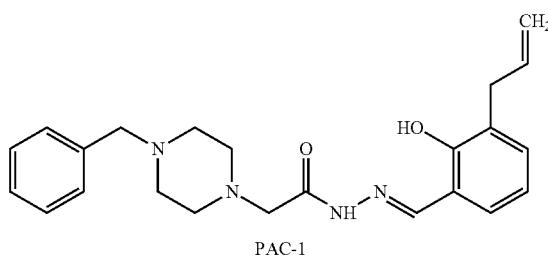
The term "heteroaryl" refers to an aromatic group of from 2 to 22-carbon atoms having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur within at least one ring (if there is more than one ring). Heteroaryl groups may be optionally substituted. Heteroaryl groups include among others those having 5 and 6-member rings and those having one or two nitrogens in the ring, those having one or two oxygens in the ring as well as those having one or two sulfurs in the ring.

The term "heterocycle" or "heterocyclic" refers to a monoradical saturated or unsaturated group having a single ring or multiple condensed rings, from 2-22 carbon atoms and from 1 to 6 hetero atoms, preferably 1 to 4 heteroatoms, selected from nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus, and/or oxygen within at least one ring. Heterocyclic groups may be substituted. Rings preferably have 3-10 members and more specifically have 5 or 6 members.

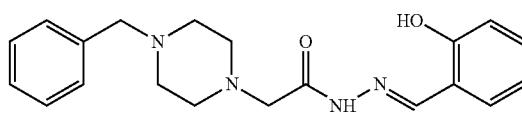
The term "ester" refers to chemical entities as understood in the art and in particular can include groups of the form (RCO—).

As to any of the above groups which contain one or more substituents, it is understood, that such groups do not contain any substitution or substitution patterns which are sterically impractical and/or synthetically non-feasible. The compounds of this invention include all novel stereochemical isomers arising from the substitution of disclosed compounds.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds of the formula Z excluding PAC-1, wherein the structure of PAC-1 is:

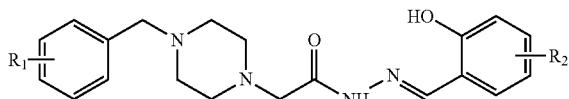


In an embodiment, the invention provides a compound of compound 5, which is:



In an embodiment, the invention provides a compound of formula Z other than compound 5.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a compound having the formula Z2:



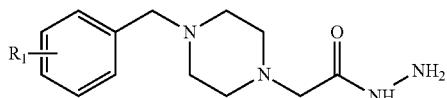
wherein R₁ and R₂ independently represent substitution on the indicated rings with one or more hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, allyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkenol, alkanol, or haloalkenyl. In an embodiment, R₁ and R₂ independently represent substitution on the indicated rings with one or more hydrogen, halogen, allyl, or C1-C3 alkyl.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a compound selected from the group consisting of a PAC-1 derivative combinatorial library comprising a hydrazide compound combined with an aldehyde compound. In an embodiment, the hydrazide compound is selected from the group consisting of hydrazides generated from AX compounds described herein.

In an embodiment, the aldehyde compound is selected from the group consisting of BX compounds described herein. In an embodiment, the hydrazide compound is selected from the group consisting of AX compounds described herein and the aldehyde compound is selected from the group consisting of BX compounds described herein.

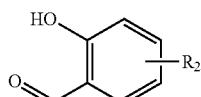
In an embodiment, the invention provides a method of synthesizing a PAC-1 derivative compound comprising providing a hydrazide compound, providing an aldehyde compound, and reacting the hydrazide compound with the aldehyde compound, thereby synthesizing a PAC-1 derivative compound.

In an embodiment, the hydrazide compound has the formula ZZ3:



where R₁ represents substitution on the indicated ring of one or more R groups as defined in formula Z.

In an embodiment, the aldehyde compound has the formula ZZ4:



where R₂ represents substitution on the indicated ring of one or more R₃ or R groups as defined in formula Z.

In an embodiment, the hydrazide compound has the formula ZZ3 and the aldehyde compound has the formula ZZ4.

In an embodiment, the invention provides a compound selected from the group consisting of: L01R06, L02R03, L02R06, L08R06, L09R03, L09R06, and L09R08.

In an embodiment, a composition of the invention is a chemotherapeutic agent.

In an embodiment, the invention provides compounds and methods involving effective concentrations preferably from about 10 nM to about 100 μ M of the disclosed structural

formulas. In another preferred embodiment, the effective concentrations are from about 200 nM to about 5 μ M. In an embodiment, the effective concentration is considered to be a value such as a 50% activity concentration in a direct pro-caspase activation assay, in a cell apoptosis induction assay, or in an animal clinical therapeutic assessment. In a preferred embodiment, such value is less than about 200 μ M. In a preferred embodiment, the value is less than about 10 μ M.

Compounds of the invention and compounds useful in the methods of this invention include those of the disclosed formulas and salts and esters of those compounds, including preferably pharmaceutically-acceptable salts and esters.

In an embodiment, the invention provides prodrug forms of compositions. Prodrugs of the compounds of the invention are useful in the methods of this invention. Any compound that will be converted in vivo to provide a biologically, pharmaceutically or therapeutically active form of a compound of the invention is a prodrug. Various examples and forms of prodrugs are well known in the art. A biomolecule such as a precursor protein or precursor nucleic acid can be a prodrug. Examples of prodrugs are found, *inter alia*, in Design of Prodrugs, edited by H. Bundgaard, (Elsevier, 1985), Methods in Enzymology, Vol. 42, at pp. 309-396, edited by K. Widder, et. al. (Academic Press, 1985); A Textbook of Drug Design and Development, edited by Krosgaard-Larsen and H. Bundgaard, Chapter 5, "Design and Application of Prodrugs," by H. Bundgaard, at pp. 113-191, 1991; H. Bundgaard, Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews, Vol. 8, p. 1-38 (1992); H. Bundgaard, et al., Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vol. 77, p. 285 (1988); and Nogradi (1985) Medicinal Chemistry A Biochemical Approach, Oxford University Press, New York, pages 388-392).

In an embodiment, a composition of the invention is in a form that is isolated or purified.

It is recognized that regardless of the ultimate correctness of any mechanistic explanation or hypothesis believed or disclosed herein, an embodiment of the invention can nonetheless be operative and useful.

When a group of substituents is disclosed herein, it is understood that all individual members of that group and all subgroups, including any isomers and enantiomers of the group members, are disclosed separately. When a Markush group or other grouping is used herein, all individual members of the group and all combinations and subcombinations possible of the group are intended to be individually included in the disclosure. It is intended that any one or more members of any Markush group or listing provided in the specification can be excluded from the invention if desired. When a compound is described herein such that a particular isomer or enantiomer of the compound is not specified, for example, in a formula or in a chemical name, that description is intended to include each isomers and enantiomer of the compound described individual or in any combination. Additionally, unless otherwise specified, all isotopic variants of compounds disclosed herein are intended to be encompassed by the disclosure. For example, it will be understood that any one or more hydrogens in a molecule disclosed can be replaced with deuterium or tritium. Isotopic variants of a molecule are generally useful as standards in assays for the molecule and in chemical and biological research related to the molecule or its use. Specific names of compounds are intended to be exemplary, as it is known that one of ordinary skill in the art can name the same compounds differently.

Molecules disclosed herein may contain one or more ionizable groups [groups from which a proton can be removed (e.g., —OH, —COOH, etc.) or added (e.g., amines) or which can be quaternized (e.g., amines)]. All possible ionic forms of

such molecules and salts thereof are intended to be included individually in the disclosure herein. With regard to salts of the compounds herein, one of ordinary skill in the art can select from among a wide variety of available counterions those that are appropriate for preparation of salts of this invention for a given application. For example, in general any anions can be employed in the formation of salts of compounds herein; e.g. halide, sulfate, carboxylate, acetate, phosphate, nitrate, trifluoroacetate, glycolate, pyruvate, oxalate, malate, succinate, fumarate, tartarate, citrate, benzoate, methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, salicylate and others.

Compounds of the present invention, and salts or esters thereof, may exist in their tautomeric form, in which hydrogen atoms are transposed to other parts of the molecules and the chemical bonds between the atoms of the molecules are consequently rearranged. It should be understood that all tautomeric forms, insofar as they may exist, are included within the invention. Additionally, the compounds may have trans and cis isomers and may contain one or more chiral centers, therefore existing in enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms. The invention can encompass all such isomers, individual enantiomers, as well as mixtures of cis and trans isomers, mixtures of diastereomers; non-racemic and racemic mixtures of enantiomers (optical isomers); and the foregoing mixtures enriched for one or more forms; except as stated otherwise herein. When no specific mention is made of the configuration (cis, trans or R or S) of a compound (or of an asymmetric carbon), then any one of the isomers or a mixture of more than one isomer is intended. The processes for preparation can use racemates, enantiomers, or diastereomers as starting materials. When enantiomeric or diastereomeric products are prepared, they can be separated by conventional methods, for example, by chromatographic or fractional crystallization. The inventive compounds may be in the free or hydrate form.

Every formulation or combination of components described or exemplified herein can be used to practice the invention, unless otherwise stated.

Whenever a range is described in the present application, for example, a temperature range, a time range, or a composition or concentration range, all intermediate ranges and subranges, as well as all individual values included in the ranges given are intended to be included in the disclosure.

Information in any references disclosed herein can in some cases indicate the state of the art, for example for patent documents as of their effective filing dates; it is intended that such information can be employed herein, if needed, to exclude specific embodiments that are actually found to be in the prior art. For example, when a compound is disclosed and/or claimed, it should be understood that compounds qualifying as prior art with regard to the present invention, including compounds for which an enabling disclosure is provided in the references, are not intended to be included in the composition of matter claims herein.

Some references provided herein are incorporated by reference to provide details concerning sources of starting materials, additional starting materials, additional reagents, additional methods of synthesis, additional methods of analysis, and additional uses of the invention. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that starting materials, reagents, solid substrates, synthetic methods, purification methods, and analytical methods other than those specifically exemplified can be employed in the practice of the invention based on knowledge in the art and without resort to undue experimentation.

The invention may be further understood by the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLE 1

Pro caspase Activating Compounds

5 Mutation or aberrant expression of proteins in the apoptotic cascade is a frequent hallmark of cancer. These changes can prevent proapoptotic signals from being transmitted to the executioner caspases, thus preventing apoptotic cell death and allowing cellular proliferation. Caspase-3 and caspase-7 10 are key executioner caspases, existing as inactive zymogens that are activated by upstream signals. Importantly, expression levels of pro caspase-3 are significantly higher in certain cancerous cells relative to non-cancerous controls. Here we 15 report the identification of small molecules that directly activate pro caspase-3 to active caspase-3. A particular compound, PAC-1, effects activation in vitro with an EC₅₀ on the order of 220 nanomolar and induces apoptosis in a multitude of cancerous cell lines.

In contrast to many known anti-cancer drugs, cells treated 20 with PAC-1 show an immediate activation of pro caspase-3, and the toxicity of PAC-1 is shown to be directly proportional to the amount of pro caspase-3 contained in a cell. Thus PAC-1 directly activates pro caspase-3 to caspase-3 in vivo, allowing this compound to induce apoptosis even in cells that have 25 defective apoptotic machinery. PAC-1 is the first small molecule known to directly activate pro caspase-3; the direct activation of executioner caspases is a novel anti-cancer strategy that may prove beneficial in a variety of cancers, including the many cancers in which pro caspase-3 is upregulated.

30 A collection of about 20,000 structurally diverse small molecules was screened for the ability to activate pro caspase-3 in vitro. Pro caspase-3 was expressed and purified in *E. coli* (Roy et al., 2001). Pro caspase-3 (at a concentration of 50 ng/mL) was added to the wells of a 384-well plate, and 35 the compounds were added to a final concentration of approximately 40 μM. Each plate was then incubated for two hours at 37° C., after which the caspase-3 peptidic substrate Ac-Asp-Glu-Val-Asp-p-nitroanilide (Ac-DEVD-pNa) was added to a concentration of 200 μM. The formation of the p-nitroaniline chromophore was followed at 405 nm over the course of two hours.

40 Of the compounds evaluated, four induced a significant increase over background in the hydrolysis of the peptidic caspase-3 substrate. Of those four, one showed a strong dose-dependent effect on in vitro pro caspase-3 activation. As 45 shown in FIG. 1A, this first pro caspase activating compound (PAC-1) gives half-maximal activation of pro caspase-3 at a concentration of 0.22 μM. This compound is not simply increasing the activity of caspase-3 itself, as it has no effect on the catalytic activity of the fully processed caspase-3 enzyme (FIG. 1A).

50 Pro caspase-3 has an N-terminal pro domain (residues 1-28), followed by a large subunit (17 kDa) and a small subunit (12 kDa) that are separated by an intersubunit linker (Pop et al., 2003). In vivo, two pro caspase-3 monomers 55 assemble to form a catalytically inactive homodimer that can be activated by cleavage at D175 in the intersubunit linker. The precise role of the pro domain is unclear, and it has been shown that cleavage in the intersubunit region alone is sufficient for full catalytic activity (Stennicke, H. R. et al., 1998). 60 Although pro caspase-3 is catalytically competent, it is highly resistant to autoactivation due to the presence of the 12 amino acid safety catch; however, when the safety catch is mutated significant autoactivation of pro caspase-3 is observed (Roy et al., 2001). Compounds that interact with this important regulatory region or at other positions can allow the autoactivation 65 of pro caspase-3.

To directly assess the ability of PAC-1 to catalyze the autoactivation of pro caspase-3, the pro caspase-3 protein was incubated with 100 μ M of PAC-1 for time points ranging from one to five hours. As shown by the Western blot in FIG. 1B, PAC-1 induces the cleavage of pro caspase-3 in a time-dependent fashion, with >50% processing observed after 4 hours. In contrast, pro caspase-3 incubated in buffer shows virtually no autoactivation over that same time span. In an attempt to pinpoint the region of pro caspase-3 with which PAC-1 is interacting, alanine substitutions were made in the key aspartic acid triad in the safety catch region, residues Asp179, Asp180 and Asp181. Mutations at these positions all dramatically decreased the ability of PAC-1 to activate pro caspase-3, with certain mutations more detrimental to activation of pro caspase-3 by PAC-1 (FIG. 2A).

Like caspase-3, caspase-7 also exists as an inactive zymogen that is activated by proteolysis. Caspase-3 and caspase-7 are both executioner caspases and have considerable sequence and structural homology (Denault, J.-B. et al., 2003). Pro caspase-7 may also have a similar safety catch region, although it has only two aspartic acids in the key triad (Asp-Thr-Asp), instead of three. As indicated by the data in FIG. 2B, PAC-1 can also activate pro caspase-7, although in a less efficient manner than its activation of pro caspase-3 (EC_{50} of 4.5 μ M versus 0.22 μ M for pro caspase-3 activation). The potency of pro caspase-7 activation by PAC-1 is similar to its effect on the Asp-Ala-Asp mutant of pro caspase-3 (EC_{50} =2.77 μ M). The effect of PAC-1 is abolished at low pH values where pro caspase-3 undergoes rapid autoactivation (FIG. 2C).

The ability for a small molecule that activates pro caspase-3 to induce apoptosis in human cell lines was tested, and PAC-1 was found to induce apoptosis in a variety of cancer cell lines. In HL-60 cells addition of PAC-1 leads to considerable phosphatidylserine exposure on the cell membrane accompanied by significant chromatin condensation (FIGS. 3A and B). In addition, the compound induces cleavage of PARP-1 (as assessed by an in vivo PARP activity assay; Putt K S et al., 2005) and causes mitochondrial membrane depolarization (see below). Significant cellular blebbing was also observed by microscopy. Furthermore, the toxicity of PAC-1 could be abolished in the presence of the caspase inhibitor z-VAD-fmk (data not shown; see Slee et al., 1996).

If PAC-1 is indeed inducing apoptosis via direct activation of pro caspase-3, the time course of apoptotic events should be altered relative to that observed with standard proapoptotic agents. Etoposide is well known to induce apoptosis through the intrinsic pathway; thus, mitochondrial membrane depolarization is followed by pro caspase-3 activation in etoposide-treated cells. Indeed, in HL-60 cells treated with 10 μ M etoposide, mitochondrial membrane depolarization is observed, followed by detection of caspase-3-like activity (FIG. 4A). In contrast, treatment of cells with PAC-1 gives a markedly different result. With PAC-1, the first observed biochemical hallmark of apoptosis is caspase-3-like enzymatic activity. This activity is noted within minutes of compound addition, and 50% activation takes place in just over 2 hours and well before any significant mitochondrial membrane depolarization (FIG. 4B). In addition, PARP activity is rapidly reduced in cells treated with PAC-1, whereas this reduction is observed at later time points in etoposide treated cells (FIG. 4C). Control experiments show that PAC-1 does not directly inhibit enzymatic activity of PARP-1. In the typical sequence of apoptotic events, the mitochondrial membrane depolarizes, caspases are activated, and caspase substrates (such as PARP-1) are cleaved. The observation that cells treated with PAC-1 show a rapid activation of caspase-

3/7 (before mitochondrial membrane depolarization) and a rapid cleavage of a caspase substrate is indicative of this compound exerting its cellular toxicity through the direct activation of pro caspase-3.

To further define the potency of PAC-1, the ability of this compound to induce cell death in cancer cell lines with varying levels of pro caspase-3 was assessed. A determination was made of the amount of pro caspase-3 present in multiple cancer cell lines (leukemia, lymphoma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, breast cancer, lung cancer and renal cancer) and in the white blood cells isolated from the bone marrow of a healthy donor. The IC_{50} values for cell death induction were obtained for PAC-1 in these cell lines. The combined data shows a strong correlation between cellular concentration of pro caspase-3 and sensitivity to PAC-1 (FIG. 4D). Notably, the white blood cells derived from the bone marrow of a healthy human donor are among those with the lowest amount of pro caspase-3, and PAC-1 is comparatively less toxic to these cells. PAC-1 is most potent versus the lung cancer cell line NCI-H226, with an IC_{50} of 0.35 μ M. In accordance with data in the literature (Svingen et al., 2004), we found this cell line to have a concentration of pro caspase-3 that is greater than five times that of the non-cancerous control.

In contrast to these experiments with PAC-1, etoposide showed no such correlation between potency in cell culture and cellular levels of pro caspase-3. For instance, etoposide was ineffective ($IC_{50}>50$ μ M) in inducing death in three of the melanoma cell lines (UACC-62, CRL-1872, and B16-F10), the breast cancer cell line (Hs 578t), and the lung cancer cell line (NCI-H226); these cell lines have pro caspase-3 levels of 1.0, 2.4, 1.9, 3.7, and 5.3, respectively. Etoposide was effective ($IC_{50}<1$ μ M) versus HL-60, U-937, SK-N-SH and PC-12, which have pro caspase-3 levels of 4.3, 4.0, 4.7, and 4.4, respectively. Thus, overall there is no correlation between pro caspase-3 levels and IC_{50} for etoposide.

Cancerous cells typically have a reduced sensitivity to proapoptotic signals due to the mutation or aberrant expression of an assortment of proteins in the apoptotic cascade. As such, many types of cancer are notoriously resistant to not only the endogenous signals for apoptotic cell death, but also to chemotherapeutic agents that act through similar mechanisms. The paradoxical upregulation of pro caspase-3 expression levels in certain cancers provides an opportunity to use this existing intracellular pool of protein to directly induce apoptosis, thus bypassing the often non-functional or compromised upstream portion of the cascade. Although pro caspase-3 is notorious for its relative inability to undergo autoactivation, it is dependent upon a 12 amino acid safety catch to keep itself in the inactive state. PAC-1 induces the autoactivation of pro caspase-3 in vitro, and this activation is greatly diminished by mutation of the key tri-aspartate region of the safety catch. This data is consistent with the notion that PAC-1 is directly interfering with the ability of the safety catch to maintain pro caspase-3 dormancy.

In cell culture, PAC-1 treatment induces rapid caspase-3-like activity. It is likely that the caspase-3 mediated cleavage of anti-apoptotic proteins (Bcl-2, Bcl-XL, etc.) then induces depolarization of the mitochondrial membrane and amplifies apoptosis. Further, the potency of PAC-1 toward a variety of cancer cell lines is directly proportional to the concentration of pro caspase-3 in the cell. It is worth noting that several of the cell lines that PAC-1 is effective against have faulty apoptotic pathways that make them resistant to apoptosis; for instance, Apaf-1 expression is dramatically decreased in SK-MEL-5 cells, and Bcl-2 is overexpressed in the NCI-H226 lung cancer cell line.

Data presented herein fully support the notion that procaspase-3 activating compounds can be exceedingly effective against common cancers. The effectiveness can be enhanced for situations in which procaspase-3 levels are aberrantly high.

Assessment of procaspase-3 levels in cancer biopsies can be simple and rapid; as such, the potential effectiveness of a compound such as PAC-1 can be assessed a priori with a high degree of accuracy. Procaspsase-3 activators and methods herein thus provide personalized medicine strategies that can be preferential to therapies that rely on general cytotoxins in the realm of anti-cancer treatments.

Materials and Methods

Materials: Ni-NTA resin and anti-Penta His Alexa Fluor 647 antibody was purchased from Qiagen (Valencia, Calif.). Bradford dye was purchased from Bio-Rad (Hercules, Calif.). Pin transfer devices were purchased from V & P Scientific (San Diego, Calif.). The reagent z-vad-fmk was purchased from Calbiochem (San Diego, Calif.). Rosetta *E. coli* was purchased from Novagen (Madison, Wis.). Anti-caspase-3 antibody was purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, Mo.). Annexin V Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate, JC-9, and propidium iodide were purchased from Molecular Probes (Eugene, Oreg.). IPTG and MTS/PMS CellTiter 96 Cell Proliferation Assay reagent were purchased from Promega (Madison, Wis.). Fetal Bovine Serum was purchased from Biomeda (Foster City, Calif.). 96 and 384-well microtiter plates, microscope slides, microscope coverslips, horse serum and all other reagents were purchased from Fisher (Chicago, Ill.).

Methods: Cell Culture Conditions. U-937, HL-60, CRL-1872, ACHN, NCI-H226, SK-MEL-5 and UACC-62 cells were grown in RPMI 1640 media supplemented with 10% FBS. SK-N-SH, B16-F10 and Hs 578t cells were grown in Eagle's minimal essential medium with Earle's BSS, 1.5 g/L sodium bicarbonate and supplemented with 10% FBS. PC-12 cells were grown in RPMI 1640 media supplemented with 5% FBS and 10% horse serum. Human bone marrow was grown in IDMEM supplemented with 40% FBS. All cell lines were incubated at 37° C. in a 5% CO₂, 95% air atmosphere. U-937 and HL-60 cells were split every two to three days as needed. Human bone marrow was thawed from frozen stock and immediately diluted and used for experiments. All other cells were split when they reached approximately 80% confluency.

Protein Expression and Purification. 1 mL of an overnight culture of Rosetta *E. coli* containing the procaspase-3 or procaspase-7 expression plasmid was seeded into 1 L of LB media containing proper antibiotic. Cells were induced with 1 mM IPTG for 30 minutes. Cells were then spun down and re-suspended in NTA binding buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, 10 mM Imidazole, pH 7.9). The cells were lysed by passing twice through a French press. The cell lysate was then spun at 14,000×g for 30 min. The supernatant was decanted and 1 mL of nickel-NTA resin was added. The cell lysate was incubated for 1 hour at 4° C. The resin was loaded on a column, washed with 10 mL NTA binding buffer followed by 10 mL NTA wash buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, 20 mM Imidazole, pH 7.9). The proteins were eluted in 1 mL fractions with 10 mL of NTA elution buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, 250 mM Imidazole, pH 7.9). Fractions containing protein were pooled and the amount of protein was determined using the Bradford assay.

Library Screen. Isolated procaspase-3 was diluted to 50 ng/mL in caspase assay buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM DTT, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.1% CHAPS and 10% glycerol, pH 7.4). 45 μL of the procaspase-3 solution was added to each well of a Nunc 384-well flat bottom microtiter plate. Approximately 20,000 compounds were screened.

About 6,000 of the compounds were collected from various sources within the department of chemistry at the University of Illinois; their structures are available at: <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~phgroup/comcollections.html>. The other approximately 14,000 compounds were purchased from Chembridge Corporation (San Diego, Calif.). PAC-1 was a member of the compounds purchased from Chembridge Corporation.

The compounds, made up as 10 mM stock solutions in 10 DMSO, were transferred into the wells using a 384-pin transfer apparatus that transfers 0.2 μL of compound. This yielded a final compound concentration of about 40 μM. Controls were performed in which only DMSO (containing no compound) was pin-transferred. The plates were then incubated 15 for 2 hours at 37° C. 5 μL of a 2 mM solution of Ac-DEVD-pNA (N-acetyl-ASP-Glu-Val-Asp-p-nitroanilide) in caspase assay buffer was added to each well. The plate was then read every 2 minutes at 405 nm for 2 hours in a Spectra Max Plus 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale Calif.). The 20 slope of the linear portion for each well was used to determine the activity of caspase-3.

Activation curves. The dose dependence of procaspase-3 activators was determined by adding various concentrations of compound to 90 μL of a 50 ng/mL procaspase-3, active 25 caspase-3, procaspase-7 or active caspase-7 in caspase assay buffer in a 96-well plate. The plate was then incubated for 12 hours at 37° C. 10 μL of a 2 mM solution of Ac-DEVD-pNA in caspase assay buffer was then added to each well. The plate was read every 2 minutes at 405 nm for 2 hours in a Spectra 30 Max Plus 384 well plate reader. The slope of the linear portion for each well was determined and the fold increase in activation from non-treated control wells was calculated.

PAC-1 activation gel. Procaspsase-3 was expressed and isolated exactly as above. Procaspsase-3 was diluted to about 50 35 μg/mL in caspase assay buffer. The procaspsase-3 was then incubated in the presence or absence of 100 μM PAC-1 for varying times at 37° C. After this incubation, an equal volume of load buffer (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, 2% SDS, 20% glycerol, pH 8.0) was added to each procaspsase-3 sample. All 40 samples were then stored at -80° C. until the time-course was completed. All samples were then incubated at 95° C. for 5 minutes and run on a 12% SDS-PAGE gel. Proteins were then transferred to nitrocellulose paper overnight. Blots were washed in TTBS (150 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, 0.1% Tween-20, pH 7.4) and blocked with a 10% milk solution for 2 hours. Blots were then incubated in a 1:5000 dilution of anti-Penta His Alexa Fluor 647 antibody for 2 hours. The blot was then washed with TTBS and scanned on a Typhoon fluorescence scanner (Amersham Biosciences, SunnyVale Calif.).

Safety catch mutations. The DDD procaspsase-3 safety catch (SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:9) was mutated to ADD (SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:10), DAD (SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:11) and DDA (SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:12) using the quickchange strategy with the following primers, gacagacagtggtgttGGgatgacatggcggtgcataaaatacc (SEQ ID NO:13), gacagacagtggtgttggatCtgacatggcggtgcataaaatacc (SEQ ID NO:14) and gacagacagtggtgttggatgtgcatggcggtgcataaaatacc (SEQ ID NO:15) 55 respectively. See also FIG. 9 and FIG. 10. Mutated bases are underlined and capitalized. All mutant plasmids were sequenced to ensure proper sequence throughout the gene. All mutant plasmids were expressed exactly as wild-type procaspsase-3 as described above. The ability of PAC-1 to activate 60 each procaspsase-3 mutant was determined by adding various concentrations of PAC-1 to 90 μL of a 50 ng/mL wild-type procaspsase-3 and mutant procaspsase-3 in caspase assay

buffer in a 96-well plate. The plate was then incubated for 12 hours at 37° C. 10 μ L of a 2 mM solution of Ac-DEVD-pNA in caspase assay buffer was then added to each well. The plate was read every 2 minutes at 405 nm for 2 hours in a Spectra Max Plus 384 well plate reader. The slope of the linear portion for each well was determined and the fold increase in activity for each mutant was calculated.

Effect of pH on PAC-1 activation of pro caspase-3. The effect of pH on pro caspase-3 activation by PAC-1 was determined by diluting pro caspase-3 in pH caspase assay buffer (25 mM MES, 25 mM Tris, 25 mM HEPES, 25 mM PIPES, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM DTT, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.1% CHAPS and 10% glycerol) to a concentration of 50 ng/mL. The buffer was then changed to various pH values and 90 μ L was added to each well of a 96-well plate. PAC-1 was added to a concentration of 100 μ M or DMSO was added as a control for each pH value. The plate was then incubated for 12 hours at 37° C. 10 μ L of a 2 mM solution of Ac-DEVD-pNA in caspase assay buffer was then added to each well. The plate was read every 2 minutes at 405 nm for 2 hours in a Spectra Max Plus 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale Calif.). The slope of the linear portion for each well was determined and the fold increase in activation for each pH value was calculated.

Annexin V staining. 500 μ L of media containing 200 μ M PAC-1 or only DMSO as a control was added to the wells of a 24-well plate. 500 μ L HL-60 cells at a concentration of 2 \times 10 6 cells/mL were then added to the 24-well plate. The plate was incubated for 20 hours at 37° C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and washed twice in PBS. The cells were then washed in Annexin V binding buffer (10 mM HEPES, 140 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.4) and resuspended in 100 μ L of Annexin V binding buffer. 5 μ L of annexin V, Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate was added and the tubes were incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes protected from light. 400 μ L of Annexin V binding buffer was then added, followed by the addition of 1 μ L of a 1 mg/mL solution of propidium iodide. The fluorescent intensity of each cell was determined by flow cytometry at 525 nm (green channel) and 675 nm (red channel). At least 50,000 cells were analyzed in each experiment.

Condensed chromatin staining. 500 μ L of media containing 200 μ M PAC-1 or only DMSO as a control was added to the wells of a 24-well plate. 500 μ L HL-60 cells at a concentration of 2 \times 10 6 cells/mL were then added to the 24-well plate. The cells were incubated for 20 hours and harvested by centrifugation. The cells were then washed in PBS buffer followed by the addition of ice-cold 100% ethanol. The cells were fixed overnight at 4° C. Fixed cells were incubated with 2 μ g/mL Hoechst-33258 for 30 minutes at room temperature. A drop of cells was then added to a microscope slide and covered with a No. 1 thickness coverslip. Condensed chromatin was observed at 400 \times magnification on a Zeiss Axio-vert 100 microscope.

Cell death inhibition by z-vad-fmk. 100 μ L HL-60 cells at a concentration of 5 \times 10 5 cells/mL were added to the wells of a 96-well plate. The cells were then incubated for 1 hour in the presence or absence of 100 μ M z-vad-fmk, a cell-permeable pan caspase inhibitor. PAC-1 was then added at various concentrations, and the cells were incubated for an additional 24 hours. Cell death was quantitated by the addition of 20 μ L of the MTS/PMS CellTiter 96 Cell Proliferation Assay reagent to each well. The plates were incubated at 37° C. for approximately 45 minutes until the colored product formed. The absorbance was then measured at 490 nm in a Spectra Max Plus 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale Calif.).

In vivo determination of mitochondrial membrane potential. 1 mL of HL-60 cells at a concentration of 1 \times 10 6 cells/mL were added to the wells of a 24-well plate. PAC-1 was then added to a concentration of 100 μ M or only DMSO was added as a control. The cells were incubated for various times, and the cells then were harvested by centrifugation. The cells were washed in PBS and resuspended in 1 mL of PBS. 10 μ g of the JC-9 dye was added and the cells were incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes protected from light. The cells were then washed two times with PBS and brought up in 500 μ L PBS. The fluorescent intensity of each cell was determined by flow cytometry at 525 nm (green channel) and 675 nm (red channel). 50,000 cells were analyzed in each experiment. The shift in the red channel was then used to determine the amount of mitochondrial membrane depolarization.

In vivo determination of caspase-3 like activity. The amount of caspase-3 like protease activity was determined by the amount of Ac-DEVD-pNA (N-acetyl-ASP-Glu-Val-Asp-p-nitroanilide) cleaved per minute by cell lysates. To accomplish this, 50 μ L of media containing varying concentrations of PAC-1 was added to the wells of a 96-well plate. 50 μ L of HL-60 cells at a concentration of 5 \times 10 6 cells/mL were added to the plate and incubated for various times. After the incubation period, the plate was spun at 1000 \times g for 5 minutes to pellet the cells. The cells were then washed with 100 μ L of PBS and resuspended in 150 μ L of ice cold Caspase Assay Buffer. Each well was then sonicated to lyse the cells. 90 μ L of cell lysate was transferred from each well into a new plate. Ac-DEVD-pNA was added into each well to give a final concentration of 200 μ M. The plate was then read every 2 minutes at 405 nm for 2 hours in a Spectra Max Plus 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale Calif.). The slope of the linear portion for each well was determined and the amount of Ac-DEVD-pNA cleaved per minute was calculated.

In vivo determination of PARP cleavage. The amount of PARP cleavage was determined by using an in vivo PARP activity assay. To accomplish this, 50 μ L of media containing 200 μ M NAD⁺ was added to the control wells of a 96-well plate. 50 μ L of media containing 200 μ M PAC-1 and 200 μ M NAD⁺ was then added to the experimental wells. 25 μ L of HL-60 cells at a concentration of 5 \times 10 6 cells/mL were then added to each well. The cells were incubated for various times and then spun at 1000 \times g for 5 minutes. The cell media was removed and replaced with 50 μ L Lysing PARP Buffer (50 mM Tris, 10 mM MgCl₂, pH 8.0, 1% Triton X-100) containing 25 mM H₂O₂. The plate was then incubated for 60 minutes at 37° C. To determine the amount of NAD⁺ still present, 20 μ L of 2 M KOH and 20 μ L of a 20% (v/v) acetophenone (in ethanol) solution was added to each well of the 96-well plate. The plate was then incubated for 10 minutes at 4° C. 90 μ L of an 88% (v/v) formic acid solution was added to each well of the 96-well plate. The plate was then incubated for 5 min. in an oven set to 110° C. The plate was allowed to cool and then read on a Criterion Analyst AD (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, Calif.) with an excitation of 360 nm, an emission of 445 nm and a 400 nm cutoff dichroic mirror. The fluorophore was excited using a 1000 W continuous lamp for 1.6 \times 10 5 μ s with 5 reads performed per well. The number of moles of NAD⁺ cleaved per minute was then calculated and the remaining PARP activity as compared to control wells was determined.

Relative concentration of pro caspase-3 in various cell lines. U-937, HL-60 and human bone marrow cells were harvested by centrifugation while all other cell lines were first trypsinized to release the cells and then harvested by centrifugation. All cells were washed in PBS and resuspended in 1 mL of ice-cold 100% ethanol. Cells were fixed overnight at 4°

C. The cells were spun at 1000×g for 5 minutes, washed with PBS and 100 μL of a 1:100 dilution of anti-caspase-3 antibody in PBS was then added. The cells were incubated for 2 hours at room temperature followed by five PBS washes. The cells were then resuspended in 1 mL of a 1:10,000 dilution of anti-mouse Ab Cy3 labeled antibody for 2 hours at room temperature protected from light. The cells were washed five times with PBS and resuspended in 500 μL of PBS. The fluorescent intensity of each cell was determined by flow cytometry at 675 nm (red channel). At least 20,000 cells were analyzed in each experiment. The median of the population was used to determine the relative concentration of pro-caspase-3 in each cell line.

Determination of IC₅₀ values in various cell lines. 50 μL of media containing various concentrations of PAC-1 or etoposide was added to each well of a 96-well plate except control wells, which contained only DMSO. U-937, HL-60 and human bone marrow cells were harvested by centrifugation, while all other cell lines were first trypsinized before centrifugation. Cells were then resuspended in media and diluted to either 1×10⁶ cells/mL for U-937, HL-60 and human bone marrow cells or 50,000 cells/mL for all other cell lines. 50 μL of the cell solutions were then added to each well and the plates were incubated for either 24 or 72 hours for etoposide and PAC-1 respectively. Cell death was quantitated by the addition of 20 μL of the MTS/PMS CellTiter 96 Cell Proliferation Assay reagent to each well. The plates were then incubated at 37° C. for approximately one hour until the colored product formed. The absorbance was measured at 490 nm in a Spectra Max Plus 384 plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale Calif.).

Data Analysis: The data from all flow cytometry experiments was analyzed using Summit Software (Cytomation, Fort Collins Colo.). All graphs were analyzed using Table Curve 2D.

Professor Ronald Hoffman (University of Illinois-Chicago Cancer Center) provided human bone marrow. Professor Guy Salvesen (Burnham Institute) provided the pro-caspase-3 and pro-caspase-7 expression vectors.

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING—Appendix A. The separately accompanying sequence listing information, designated Appendix A, is to be considered and incorporated as part of the specification herewith.

TABLE 1

Overview of Sequence Listing information.

SEQ ID	NO:	Brief Description	Type
1		Procaspase-3; with amino acid DDD wild-type safety catch sequence (ACCESSION Number NM_004346)	DNA/RNA
2		automatic translation	PRT
3		procaspase-3 mutant ADD	DNA/RNA
4		automatic translation	PRT
5		procaspase-3 mutant DAD	DNA/RNA
6		automatic translation	PRT
7		procaspase-3 mutant DDA	DNA/RNA
8		automatic translation	PRT
9		procaspase-3 wild-type DDD	PRT
10		procaspase-3 mutant ADD	PRT
11		procaspase-3 mutant DAD	PRT
12		procaspase-3 mutant DDA	PRT
13		PCR primer1	DNA
14		PCR primer2	DNA
15		PCR primer3	DNA
16		Procaspase-7 with amino acid DTD wild-type safety catch sequence (Accession Number NM_001227)	DNA/RNA

TABLE 1-continued

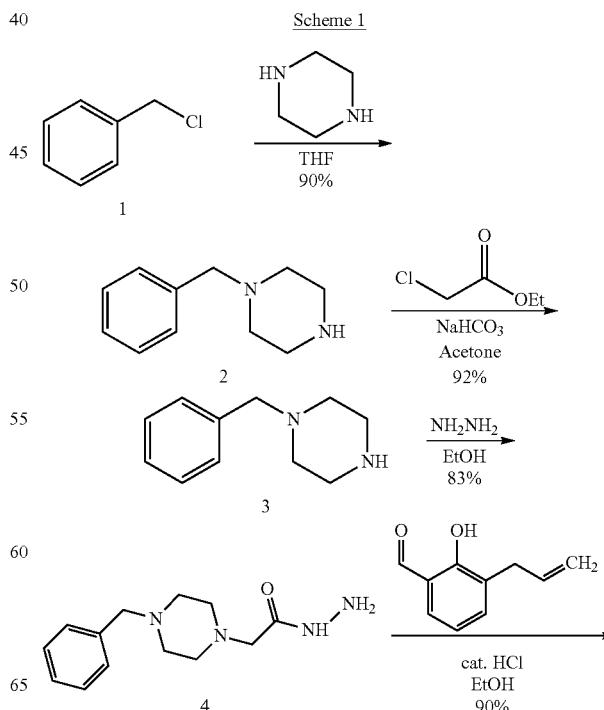
Overview of Sequence Listing information.

SEQ ID	NO:	Brief Description	Type
17		automatic translation	PRT
18		Procaspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch sequence	DNA/RNA
19		automatic translation	PRT
20		Procaspase-7 DTD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence	DNA/RNA
21		automatic translation	PRT
22		Procaspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence	DNA/RNA
23		automatic translation	PRT
24		Procaspase-7 with amino acid DTD	PRT
25		Procaspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch sequence	PRT
26		Procaspase-7 DTD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence	PRT
27		Procaspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence	PRT

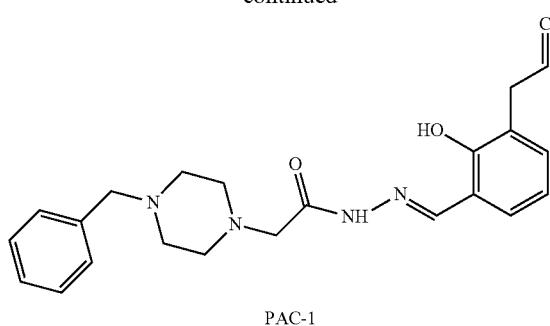
EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of Procaspase Activating Compounds

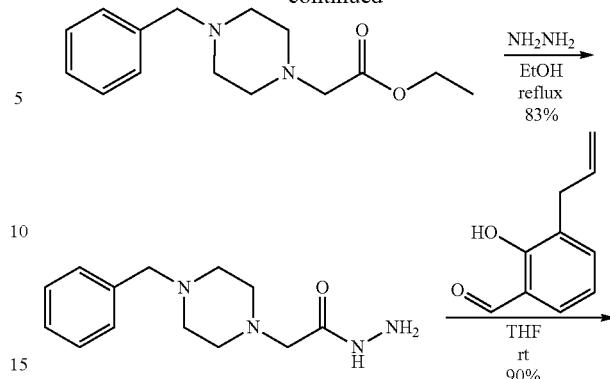
PAC-1 and other compounds are prepared according to the following schemes, e.g., Scheme 1 and/or Scheme 2. Further variations are prepared according to methods known in the art.



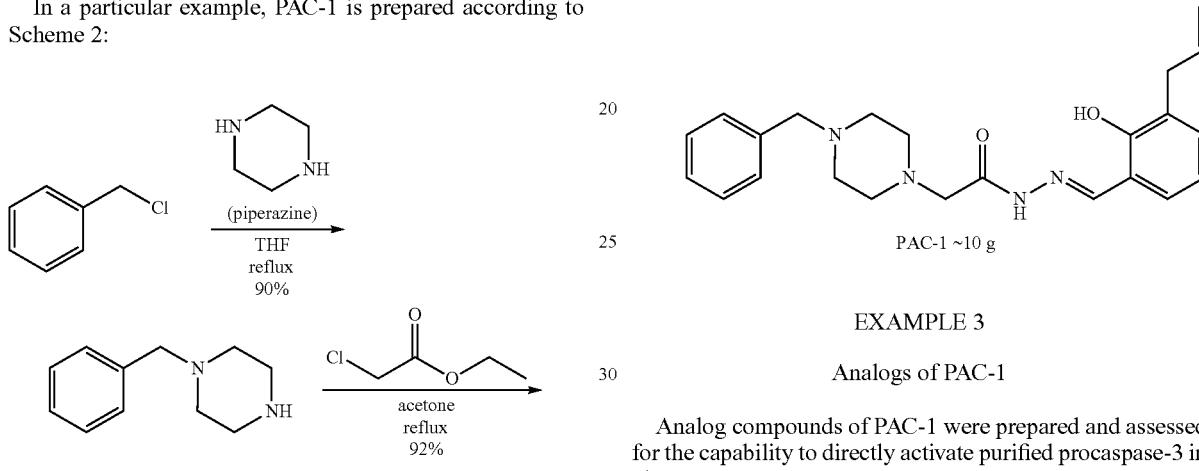
29
-continued



30
-continued



In a particular example, PAC-1 is prepared according to Scheme 2:



EXAMPLE 3

Analogs of PAC-1

Analog compounds of PAC-1 were prepared and assessed for the capability to directly activate purified procaspase-3 in vitro.

TABLE 2

Activity of PAC-1 and analog compounds.

Compound/ Structure designation	Structure	Activity
PAC-1		Active
5		Active
6		Inactive

TABLE 2-continued

Activity of PAC-1 and analog compounds.		
Compound/ Structure designation	Structure	Activity
7		Inactive
2		Inactive
4		Inactive

EXAMPLE 4

Pharmaceutical Embodiments

The following describes information relevant to pharmaceutical and pharmacological embodiments and is further supplemented by information in the art available to one of ordinary skill. The exact formulation, route of administration and dosage can be chosen by an individual physician in view of a patient's condition (see e.g. Fingl et. al., in *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, 1975, Ch. 1 p. 1).

It should be noted that the attending physician would know how to and when to terminate, interrupt, or adjust administration due to toxicity, or to organ dysfunctions, etc. Conversely, the attending physician would also know to adjust treatment to higher levels if the clinical response were not adequate (in light of or precluding toxicity aspects). The magnitude of an administered dose in the management of the disorder of interest can vary with the severity of the condition to be treated and to the route of administration. The severity of the condition may, for example, be evaluated, in part, by standard prognostic evaluation methods. Further, the dose and perhaps dose frequency, can also vary according to circumstances, e.g. the age, body weight, and response of the individual patient. A program comparable to that discussed above also may be used in veterinary medicine.

Depending on the specific conditions being treated and the targeting method selected, such agents may be formulated and administered systemically or locally. Techniques for formulation and administration may be found in Alfonso and Gennaro (1995) and elsewhere in the art. Suitable routes may include, for example, oral, rectal, transdermal, vaginal, transmucosal, or intestinal administration; parenteral delivery, including intramuscular, subcutaneous, or intramedullary injections, as well as intraocular, intrathecal, intravenous, or intraperitoneal administration.

For injection or other routes, agents of the invention may be formulated in aqueous solutions, preferably in physiologically compatible buffers such as Hanks' solution, Ringer's solution, water for injection, physiological saline buffer, or

other solution. For transmucosal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated can be used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art.

Use of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers to formulate the compounds herein disclosed for the practice of the invention into dosages suitable for systemic or other administration is within the scope of the invention. With proper choice of carrier and suitable manufacturing practice, the compositions of the present invention, in particular those formulated as solutions, may be administered parenterally, such as by intravenous injection, or other routes. Appropriate compounds can be formulated readily using pharmaceutically acceptable carriers well known in the art into dosages suitable for oral administration. Such carriers enable the compounds of the invention to be formulated as tablets, pills, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, elixirs, solutions, suspensions and the like, e.g. for oral ingestion by a patient to be treated. For other routes, formulations can be prepared for creams, ointments, lotions, and the like.

Agents intended to be administered intracellularly may be administered using techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, such agents may be encapsulated into liposomes, other membrane translocation facilitating moieties, or other targeting moieties; then administered as described above. Liposomes can include spherical lipid bilayers with aqueous interiors. All molecules present in an aqueous solution at the time of liposome formation can be incorporated into the aqueous interior. The liposomal contents are both protected from the external microenvironment and, because liposomes fuse with cell membranes, are efficiently delivered into the cell cytoplasm. Additionally, due to hydrophobicity attributes, small organic molecules may be directly administered intracellularly.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for use in the present invention include compositions wherein the active ingredients are contained in an effective amount to achieve the intended purpose. Determination of the effective amounts is well within the capability of those skilled in the art, especially in light of the disclosure provided herein and other information in the art.

In addition to the active ingredients, these pharmaceutical compositions may contain suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers comprising excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the active compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. The preparations formulated for oral administration may be in the form of tablets, dragees, capsules, or solutions, including those formulated for delayed release or only to be released when the pharmaceutical reaches the small or large intestine.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be manufactured in a manner that is itself known, e.g., by means of conventional mixing, dissolving, suspending, granulating, dragee-making, levitating, emulsifying, encapsulating, entrapping, lyophilizing, and other processes.

Pharmaceutical formulations for parenteral administration include aqueous solutions of the active compounds in water-soluble form. Additionally, suspensions of the active compounds may be prepared as appropriate oily injection suspensions. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils such as sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, such as ethyl oleate or triglycerides, or liposomes. Aqueous injection suspensions may contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension, such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, or dextran. Optionally, the suspension may also contain suitable stabilizers or agents which increase the solubility of the compounds to allow for the preparation of highly concentrated solutions.

Pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained by combining the active compounds with solid excipient, optionally grinding a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable auxiliaries, if desired, to obtain tablets or dragee cores. Suitable excipients are, in particular, fillers such as sugars, including lactose, sucrose, mannitol, or sorbitol; cellulose preparations such as, for example, maize starch, wheat starch, rice starch, potato starch, gelatin, gum tragacanth, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). If desired, disintegrating agents may be added, such as the cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, or alginic acid or a salt thereof such as sodium alginate.

Dragee cores are optionally provided with suitable coatings. For this purpose, concentrated sugar solutions may be used, which may optionally contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, carbopol gel, polyethylene glycol, and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. Dyestuffs or pigments may be added to the tablets or dragee coatings for identification or to characterize different combinations of active compound doses.

Pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a plasticizer, such as glycerol or sorbitol. The push-fit capsules can contain the active ingredients in admixture with filler such as lactose, binders such as starches, and/or lubricants such as talc or magnesium stearate and, optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active compounds may be dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, liquid paraffin, or liquid polyethylene glycols. In addition, stabilizers may be added.

EXAMPLE 5

Direct Induction of Apoptosis in Cancer Cells with a Small Molecule Activator of Procaspsase-3

ABSTRACT: Mutation or aberrant expression of proteins in the apoptotic cascade is a hallmark of cancer. These

changes prevent proapoptotic signals from being transmitted to the executioner caspases, thus preventing apoptotic cell death and allowing cellular proliferation. Caspase-3 and caspase-7 are the key executioner caspases, existing as inactive zymogens that are activated by upstream signals. Importantly, levels of procaspase-3 are significantly higher in certain cancerous cells relative to non-cancerous controls. Here we report the identification of a small molecule (PAC-1) that directly activates procaspase-3 to active caspase-3 in vitro with an EC₅₀ of 220 nanomolar, and induces apoptosis in a variety of cancer cell lines. In contrast to many known anti-cancer drugs, cells treated with PAC-1 show an immediate activation of procaspase-3, and the efficacy of PAC-1 is shown to be proportional to the amount of procaspase-3 contained in a cell. Derivatives of PAC-1 that do not activate procaspase-3 in vitro also have no proapoptotic activity. Cancerous cells isolated from primary colon tumors are considerably more sensitive to apoptotic induction by PAC-1 than the cells from adjacent non-cancerous tissue from the same patient; these cancerous cells contain on average about 7-fold more procaspase-3 than the cells from the adjacent non-cancerous primary tissue. In addition, the sensitivity to PAC-1 of the primary cells from the colon cancer tumors strongly correlates with the level of the procaspase-3 target. Finally, PAC-1 as a single entity was shown as active to retard the growth of tumors in three different mouse models, including two models where PAC-1 was administered orally. Thus PAC-1 directly activates procaspase-3 to caspase-3 in vivo, thereby allowing this compound to induce apoptosis even in cells that have defective apoptotic machinery. PAC-1 is the first small molecule known to directly activate procaspase-3; the direct activation of executioner caspases is an anti-cancer strategy that may prove beneficial in the many cancers in which procaspase-3 levels are elevated.

INTRODUCTION. A hallmark of cancer is its resistance to natural apoptotic signals. Depending on the cancer type, this resistance is typically due to either up- or down-regulation of key proteins in the apoptotic cascade, or to mutations in genes encoding these proteins. Such changes occur in both the intrinsic apoptotic pathway, which funnels through the mitochondria and caspase-9, and the extrinsic apoptotic pathway, which involves the action of death receptors and caspase-8. For example, alterations in proper levels of p53, Bim, Bax, Apaf-1, FLIP and many others have been observed in cancers and lead to a defective apoptotic cascade, one in which the upstream pro-apoptotic signal is not properly transmitted to activate the executioner caspases, caspase-3 and caspase-7. As most apoptotic pathways ultimately involve the activation of procaspase-3, these genetic abnormalities are effectively “breaks” in the apoptotic circuitry, and as a result such cells proliferate uncontrolled.

Given the central role of apoptosis in cancer, efforts have been made to develop therapeutics that target specific proteins in the apoptotic cascade. For instance, peptidic or small molecule binders to p53, proteins in the Bcl family, or to the IAPs have pro-apoptotic activity, as do compounds that promote the oligomerization of Apaf-1. However, because many of these compounds target early or intermediate positions on the apoptotic cascade, cancers with mutations in downstream proteins will likely be resistant to their effects. For therapeutic purposes it would be ideal to identify a small molecule that directly activates a proapoptotic protein far downstream in the apoptotic cascade. In addition, such a therapeutic strategy would have a higher likelihood of success if levels of that proapoptotic protein were elevated in cancer cells.

The conversion of procaspase-3 to caspase-3 results in the generation of the active “executioner” caspase that subse-

quently catalyzes the hydrolysis of a multitude of protein substrates. Active caspase-3 is a homodimer of heterodimers and is produced by proteolysis of pro-caspase-3. In vivo, this proteolytic activation typically occurs through the action of caspase-8 or caspase-9. To ensure that this zymogen is not prematurely activated, pro-caspase-3 has a tri-aspartic acid "safety catch" that blocks access to the IETD site of proteolysis. This safety catch enables pro-caspase-3 to resist autocatalytic activation and proteolysis by caspase-9. The position of the safety catch is sensitive to pH; thus, upon cellular acidification (as occurs during apoptosis) the safety catch is thought to allow access to the site of proteolysis, and active caspase-3 can be produced either by the action of caspase-9 or through an autoactivation mechanism.

Cells from certain types of cancerous tissue have elevated levels of pro-caspase-3. A study of primary isolates from 20 colon cancer patients revealed that on average pro-caspase-3 was elevated six-fold in such isolates relative to adjacent non-cancerous tissue. In addition, pro-caspase-3 levels are elevated in certain neuroblastomas, lymphomas, and liver cancers. In fact, a systematic evaluation of pro-caspase-3 levels in the 60 cell-line panel used by the NCI revealed that particular lung, melanoma, renal, and breast cancers show greatly enhanced levels of pro-caspase-3. Given the central importance of active caspase-3 to successful apoptosis, the high levels of pro-caspase-3 in certain cancerous cell types, and the intriguing safety catch-mediated suppression of its autoactivation, we reasoned that small molecules that directly activate pro-caspase-3 could be identified and that such molecules could have great potential in targeted cancer therapy. In this manuscript we report the *in vitro* identification of a small molecule activator of pro-caspase-3, PAC-1. PAC-1 is powerfully proapoptotic in cancer cell lines in a manner proportional to pro-caspase-3 levels, its proapoptotic effect is due to its direct and immediate activation of pro-caspase-3, and it is effective against primary colon cancer isolates and in three different mouse models of cancer.

Approximately 20,500 structurally diverse small molecules were screened for the ability to activate pro-caspase-3 *in vitro*. Pro-caspase-3 was expressed and purified in *E. coli* according to standard procedures. Pro-caspase-3 was added to the wells of a 384-well plate, and the compounds were added to a final concentration of about 40 μ M (the final concentration of pro-caspase-3 was 50 ng/mL). Each plate was then incubated for two hours at 37° C., after which the caspase-3 peptidic substrate Ac-Asp-Glu-Val-Asp-p-nitroanilide (Ac-DEVD-pNa) was added to a concentration of 200 μ M. The formation of the p-nitroaniline chromophore was followed at 405 nm over the course of two hours. Of the ~20,500 compounds evaluated, four induced a significant increase over background in the hydrolysis of the peptidic caspase-3 substrate. Of those four, one showed a strong dose dependent effect on *in vitro* pro-caspase-3 activation. As shown in FIG. 1A, this first pro-caspase-activating compound (PAC-1) gives half-maximal activation of pro-caspase-3 at a concentration of 0.22 μ M. This compound is not simply increasing the activity of caspase-3 itself, as it has no effect on the catalytic activity of the fully processed caspase-3 enzyme (FIG. 1A).

Pro-caspase-3 consists of a N-terminal pro domain (residues 1-28), followed by a large subunit (17 kDa) and a small subunit (12 kDa) that are separated by an intersubunit linker.²² In vivo, two pro-caspase-3 monomers assemble to form a homodimer that can be activated by cleavage at D175 in the intersubunit linker. The precise role of the pro domain is unclear, and it has been shown that cleavage in the intersubunit region alone is sufficient for full catalytic activity. Although pro-caspase-3 has enough catalytic activity to drive

its own proteolytic maturation, it is highly resistant to this autoactivation due to the presence of the three amino acid safety catch. However, when the safety catch is mutated significant autoactivation of pro-caspase-3 is observed. To directly assess the ability of PAC-1 to catalyze the maturation of pro-caspase-3 to the active caspase-3, the pro-caspase-3 protein was incubated with 100 μ M of PAC-1 for time points ranging from one to five hours. As shown by the Western blot in FIG. 1B, PAC-1 induces the cleavage of pro-caspase-3 in a time-dependant fashion, with >50% processing observed after 4 hours. In contrast, pro-caspase-3 incubated in buffer shows virtually no autoactivation over that same time span. PAC-1 was also effective in this assay at a concentration of 5 μ M.

Alanine substitutions were then made in the key aspartic acid triad in the safety catch region of pro-caspase-3, residues Asp179, Asp180 and Asp181. Mutations at these positions all dramatically decreased the ability of PAC-1 to activate pro-caspase-3, with certain mutations more detrimental to activation of pro-caspase-3 by PAC-1 (FIG. 2A). Like caspase-3, caspase-7 also exists as an inactive zymogen that is activated by proteolysis. Caspase-3 and caspase-7 are both executioner caspases and have considerable structural homology. Pro-caspase-7 is also predicted to have a similar safety catch region, although it has only two aspartic acids in the key triad (Asp-Thr-Asp), instead of three. As indicated by the data in FIG. 2B, PAC-1 can also activate pro-caspase-7, although in a less efficient manner than its activation of pro-caspase-3 (EC₅₀ of 4.5 μ M versus 0.22 μ M for pro-caspase-3 activation). The potency of pro-caspase-7 activation by PAC-1 is similar to its effect on the Asp-Ala-Asp mutant of pro-caspase-3 (EC₅₀=2.77 μ M). As expected, the effect of PAC-1 is abolished at low pH values where pro-caspase-3 undergoes rapid autoactivation (FIG. 2C).

PAC-1 was found to induce apoptosis in a variety of cancer cell lines. In HL-60 cells addition of PAC-1 leads to considerable phosphatidylserine exposure on the cell membrane accompanied by significant chromatin condensation (FIGS. 3A, 3B). In addition, the compound induces cleavage of the caspase substrate PARP-1 (as assessed by an *in vivo* PARP activity assay) and causes mitochondrial membrane depolarization (see below). Significant cellular blebbing of PAC-1 treated cells was also observed by microscopy. Furthermore, the toxicity of PAC-1 could be abolished in the presence of the caspase inhibitor z-VAD-fmk.

If PAC-1 is indeed inducing apoptosis via direct activation of pro-caspase-3, then the time course of apoptotic events should be altered relative to that observed with standard proapoptotic agents. Etoposide is well known to induce apoptosis through the intrinsic pathway; thus, mitochondrial membrane depolarization is followed by pro-caspase-3 activation in etoposide-treated cells. Indeed, in HL-60 cells treated with 10 μ M etoposide, mitochondrial membrane depolarization is observed, followed by detection of caspase-3-like activity (FIG. 4A). In contrast, treatment of cells with PAC-1 gives a markedly different result. With this compound, the first observed biochemical hallmark of apoptosis is caspase-3-like enzymatic activity, with activity noted within minutes of PAC-1 addition and 50% activation taking place in just over 2 hours and well before any significant mitochondrial membrane depolarization (FIG. 4B). In addition, PARP-1 activity is rapidly reduced in cells treated with PAC-1, whereas this reduction is observed at later time points in etoposide treated cells (FIG. 4C); control experiments show that PAC-1 does not directly inhibit enzymatic activity of PARP-1. In the typical sequence of apoptotic events the mitochondrial membrane depolarizes, caspases are activated, and

caspase substrates (such as PARP-1) are cleaved. The observation that cells treated with PAC-1 show a rapid activation of caspase-3/-7 (before mitochondrial membrane depolarization) and a rapid cleavage of a caspase substrate (PARP-1) is indicative of PAC-1 exerting its cellular toxicity through the direct activation of procaspase-3.

To further define the potency of PAC-1, the ability of this compound to induce cell death in cancer cell lines with varying levels of procaspase-3 was assessed. A determination was first made of the levels of procaspase-3 present in multiple cancer cell lines (leukemia, lymphoma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, breast cancer, lung cancer, adrenal cancer and renal cancer). The IC_{50} values for cell death induction were obtained for PAC-1 versus these cell lines. The combined data shows a strong correlation between cellular concentration of procaspase-3 and sensitivity to PAC-1 (FIG. 4D, FIG. 4E). PAC-1 is most potent versus the lung cancer cell line NCI-H226, with an IC_{50} of 0.35 μ M. We found this cell line to have a concentration of procaspase-3 that is greater than five times that of baseline levels. Importantly, there is one cancer cell line (MCF-7, breast cancer cells) that is known to have no expression of procaspase-3. PAC-1 has virtually no effect on MCF-7 cells, inducing death with an $IC_{50}>75$ μ M.

In contrast, etoposide showed no such correlation between potency in cell culture and cellular levels of procaspase-3. For instance, etoposide was ineffective ($IC_{50}>50$ μ M) in inducing death in three of the melanoma cell lines (UACC-62, CRL-1872, and B16-F10), the breast cancer cell line (Hs 578t), and the lung cancer cell line (NCI-H226); these cell lines have procaspase-3 levels of 1.0, 2.4, 1.9, 3.7, and 5.3, respectively. Etoposide was effective ($IC_{50}<1$ μ M) versus HL-60, U-937, SK-N-SH and PC-12, which have procaspase-3 levels of 4.3, 4.0, 4.7, and 4.4, respectively. Thus, overall there is no correlation between procaspase-3 levels and IC_{50} for etoposide.

Several derivatives of PAC-1 were synthesized and evaluated for both their procaspase-3 activating properties and their effects on cancer cells in cell culture (Table 3). The PAC-1 derivative that lacks the allyl group (de-allyl PAC-1) is able to induce procaspase-3 activation and cell death at levels similar to PAC-1. However, all other derivatives showed no activity in either assay. Thus, while it appears the allyl group is dispensable for biological activity, the phenolic hydroxyl and aromatic rings are all critical for PAC-1 activity. This data is also consistent with the proposed mechanism of action of PAC-1; compounds that do not activate procaspase-3 in vitro have no proapoptotic effect on cancer cells in culture.

To test this direct, small molecule-mediated procaspase-3 activation strategy in clinical isolates of cancer, we obtained freshly resected colon tumors (together with adjacent non-cancerous tissue) from 18 patients from Carle Foundation Hospital (Urbana, Ill.). The cancerous and non-cancerous tissue was separated, and the cells derived from these were evaluated for their levels of procaspase-3 and their sensitivity to PAC-1. As shown in FIG. 5A, in all cases the cancerous cells had elevated levels (1.7- to 17.2-fold, with an average of 7.6-fold elevation) of procaspase-3 relative to the cells from the adjacent non-cancerous tissue from the same patient. Further, these cancerous cells were quite susceptible to death induction by PAC-1. PAC-1 induced cell death in the primary cancerous cells with IC_{50} values from 0.007-1.41 μ M, while PAC-1 induced cell death in the adjacent non-cancerous tissue with IC_{50} values from 5.02-9.98 μ M (FIG. 5B and Table 4). The cancerous tissue that had elevated levels of procaspase-3 was extremely sensitive to PAC-1. For example, PAC-1 induced death in the cancer cells from patient 17 with an IC_{50} of 7 nM, and these cells were over 700-fold more sensitive to PAC-1 than cells from the adjacent normal tissue.

See also FIG. 6A showing relative procaspase-3 concentrations in normal and cancerous samples from Patients 1, 2, and 3 over a period of time of about 54 days; FIG. 6B illustrates that cells in cancerous tissue can be greater than about 80-fold more sensitive to PAC-1 in comparison with normal tissue.

In addition to cells from the non-cancerous tissue of the 18 patients, PAC-1 was also evaluated against four other non-cancerous cell types: white blood cells isolated from the bone marrow of a healthy donor, Hs888Lu (lung fibroblast cells), 10 MCF-10A (breast fibroblast cells), and Hs578Bst (breast epithelial cells). Notably, the non-cancerous cell types are among those with the lowest amount of procaspase-3, and PAC-1 is comparatively less able to induce death in these 15 cells, with IC_{50} values of 3.2-8.5 μ M (FIG. 5B, green diamonds). As is apparent from FIG. 5B, PAC-1 induces death in a wide variety of cell types (non-cancerous cell lines, non-cancerous primary cells, cancerous cell lines, primary cancerous cells) in a manner directly related to the level of 20 procaspase-3. The elevation of procaspase-3 in cancerous cells allows PAC-1 to selectively induce death in these cell types.

PAC-1 was evaluated in a mouse xenograft model using a slow release mode of drug delivery. In this model, subcutaneous tumors were formed in ovariectomized female athymic BALB/c (nude) mice using the ACHN (renal cancer) cell line. Once the tumors were measured to be greater than about 30 mm^2 , drug was administered via the implantation of a pellet of PAC-1 and cholesterol, providing for slow and steady 25 levels of compound release. Three groups of mice were used, 30 with pellets containing 0 mg, 1 mg, and 5 mg of PAC-1, six mice per group, with four tumors per mouse. Tumor sizes were monitored for about 8 weeks. As shown in FIG. 5C, tumor growth is significantly retarded in the mice that were implanted with the pellet containing 5 mg of PAC-1. Food 35 intake evaluation in the last week of the experiment showed no difference in food consumption between the three groups of mice. After the mice were sacrificed, plasma samples were 40 taken from each mouse, and the PAC-1 content of each was analyzed. For mice that received a 5 mg pellet of PAC-1, this analysis revealed PAC-1 to be present at a concentration of 5 nM in the plasma after the 54 day experiment.

PAC-1 was evaluated in a second mouse xenograft model, this one using oral administration as the drug delivery mode. In this model, subcutaneous xenograft tumors were formed in male athymic BALB/c-nu/nu mice (5 weeks old, SLC, 45 Hamamatsu, Japan) using the NCI-H226 (lung cancer) cell line, eight mice per group, three tumors per mouse. After formation of the tumors in the mice, the mice were treated with PAC-1 via oral gavage once a day for 21 days at a 50 concentration of 0, 50, or 100 mg/kg and sacrificed 1 week later. As clearly indicated by the graph in FIG. 5D, oral administration of PAC-1 significantly retards tumor growth in a dose-dependent manner.

Finally, PAC-1 was evaluated in a mouse model where the 55 NCI-H226 cells were injected into male athymic BALB/c-nu/nu mice via tail vein injection. The total experiment lasted 28 days; the mice were treated once a day with PAC-1 (100 mg/kg) via oral gavage on days 1-4 and 7-11. On other days the mice did not receive PAC-1. A second group of mice received only vehicle. After 28 days the mice were sacrificed, and their lungs were examined. As shown in FIG. 5E, there is 60 a clear difference between the lung of the control mouse (with obvious gray tumor mass) and the lung of the PAC-1 treated mouse. Results are also shown in a panel from an animal received only vehicle. After 28 days the mice were sacrificed, and their lungs were examined. As shown in FIG. 5E, there is 65 a clear difference between the lung of the control mouse (with obvious gray tumor mass) and the lung of the PAC-1 treated mouse. Results are also shown in a panel from an animal treated with gefitinib (IressaTM; AstraZeneca).

Cancerous cells typically have a reduced sensitivity to proapoptotic signals due to the mutation or aberrant expres-

sion of an assortment of proteins in the apoptotic cascade. As such, many types of cancer are notoriously resistant to not only the endogenous signals for apoptotic cell death, but also to chemotherapeutic agents that act through similar mechanisms. The paradoxical elevation of procaspase-3 levels in certain cancers provides an opportunity to use this existing intracellular pool of protein to directly induce apoptosis, thus bypassing the often non-functional upstream portion of the cascade. PAC-1 induces the autoactivation of procaspase-3 in vitro. In cell culture, PAC-1 treatment induces rapid caspase-3-like activity. It is likely that the caspase-3 mediated cleavage of anti-apoptotic proteins (Bcl-2, Bcl-XL, etc.) then induces depolarization of the mitochondrial membrane and amplifies apoptosis. Further, the potency of PAC-1 toward a variety of cancerous and non-cancerous cell types is proportional to the concentration of procaspase-3 in the cell. As the primary cancerous cells isolated from resected colon tumors have elevated levels of procaspase-3, these cells are considerably more sensitive to PAC-1 than cells from adjacent non-cancerous tissue. It is worth noting that several of the cell lines against which PAC-1 is effective have faulty apoptotic pathways that make them resistant to apoptosis; for instance, Apaf-1 expression is dramatically decreased in SK-MEL-5 cells, and Bcl-2 is overexpressed in the NCI-H226 lung cancer cell line. Finally, PAC-1 is effective in three different mouse models of cancer, including two where PAC-1 is administered orally.

Data presented herein support the notion that procaspase-3 activating compounds can be exceedingly effective against a variety of common cancers in which procaspase-3 levels are aberrantly high. Assessment of procaspase-3 levels in cancer biopsies is simple and rapid; as such, the potential effectiveness of a compound such as PAC-1 can be assessed a priori with a high degree of accuracy. Such personalized medicine strategies can be preferential to therapies that rely on general cytotoxins and can be valuable in anti-cancer therapy.

Professor Guy Salvesen (Burnham Institute) provided the procaspase-3 and procaspase-7 expression vectors.

Figure Legends

FIGS. 1 and 2. The structure of PAC-1 is shown elsewhere in the specification. FIG. 1A) In vitro activation of procaspase-3 and active caspase-3 by PAC-1. PAC-1 activates procaspase-3 with an $EC_{50}=0.22\text{ }\mu\text{M}$. FIG. 1B) Cleavage of procaspase-3 to active caspase-3 as induced by PAC-1. Procaspsase-3 was recombinantly expressed in *E. coli* with an N-terminal His-6 tag and purified. Immunoblotting was performed with an anti-His-6 antibody. In the absence of PAC-1 no maturation of procaspase-3 is observed. In the presence of 100 μM PAC-1, cleavage to generate the p19 fragment is observed within 1 h, and >50% cleavage is observed after 4 h. PAC-1 is also effective at 5 μM in this assay. FIG. 2A) Activation of mutants in the "safety catch" region of procaspase-3 by PAC-1. PAC-1 has an EC_{50} for activation of 0.22 μM on wild type procaspase-3 (DDD), and corresponding EC_{50} values of 2.77 μM (DAD), 113 μM (DDA), and 131 μM (ADD) for the mutants. FIG. 2B) PAC-1 activates procaspase-7 with an EC_{50} of 4.5 μM . FIG. 2C) Dependence of PAC-1 activation of procaspase-3 on pH. At low pH the safety catch is off and procaspase-3 is essentially maximally activated. Error bars represent standard deviations from the mean.

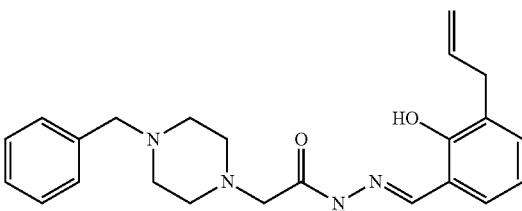
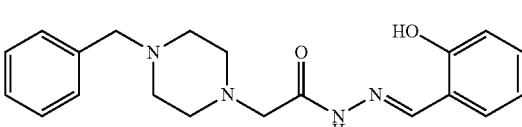
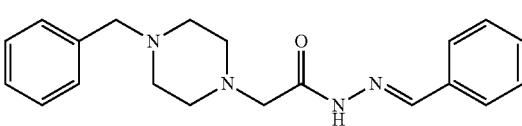
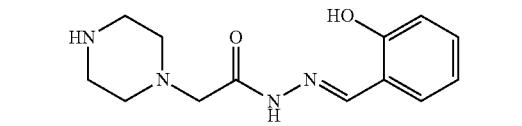
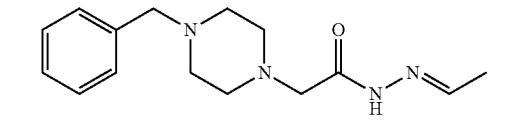
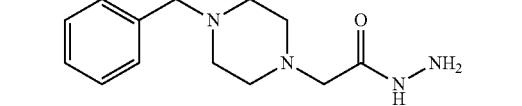
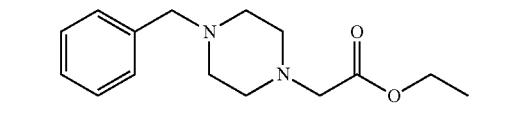
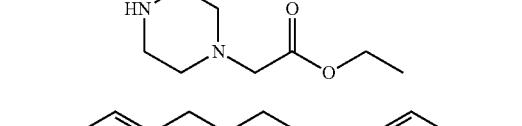
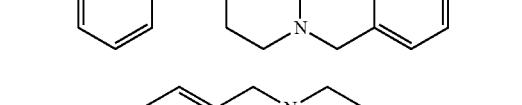
FIGS. 3 and 4. PAC-1 induces apoptosis in HL-60 cells. FIG. 3A) Phosphatidylserine exposure (as measured by Annexin-V staining) after a 20 h treatment with 100 μM PAC-1. PAC-1 is also effective at 5 μM in this assay (see Supporting FIG. 2). FIG. 3B) Chromatin condensation as visualized by Hoechst staining after a 20 h treatment with 100 μM PAC-1. FIG. 4A) Mitochondrial membrane depolariza-

tion (MMP) and caspase-3 like activity in HL-60 cells treated with 10 μM etoposide. FIG. 4B) Mitochondrial membrane depolarization (MMP) and caspase-3 like activity in HL-60 cells treated with 100 μM PAC-1. FIG. 4C) PAC-1 treatment (100 μM) induces a rapid decrease in cellular PARP activity in HL-60 cells, consistent with an immediate activation of cellular caspase-3/-7. In contrast, etoposide (10 μM) treated cells show a decrease in PARP activity at much later time points. FIG. 4D and FIG. 4E) PAC-1 induces cell death in a procaspase-3 dependant manner. For a number of diverse cancerous cell lines, the procaspase-3 levels were determined (by flow cytometry with an antibody to procaspase-3) and the IC_{50} of PAC-1 was measured (through a 72 h treatment with a range of PAC-1 concentrations and quantitation using the MTS assay). PAC-1 is quite potent ($IC_{50}=0.35\text{ }\mu\text{M}$) in the NCI-H226 lung cancer cell line known to have high levels of procaspase-3. Error bars represent standard deviations from the mean.

Table 3. PAC-1 and de-allyl PAC-1 activate procaspase-3 in vitro and induce death in cancer cells in cell culture, but other structural analogues have no procaspase-3 activating effect in vitro and give no induction of death in cell culture.

FIG. 5. FIG. 5A) Procaspsase-3 levels are elevated in cells derived from freshly resected colon cancer tissue. Freshly resected primary colon tumors (together with adjacent non-cancerous tissue) were obtained from 18 different patients, the cancerous and non-cancerous tissue were separated, and the procaspase-3 levels were measured for each using an antibody to procaspase-3 and flow cytometry. On average, cells from the cancerous tissue have a 7.6-fold elevation in procaspase-3 as compared to the cells derived from the adjacent non-cancerous tissue from the same patient. FIG. 5B) PAC-1 induces cell death in a manner proportional to the cellular level of procaspase-3. The red circles represent the primary cancerous cells from the 18 colon tumors. The black triangles represent the same cancer cell lines depicted in FIG. 4D. The green diamonds are four non-cancerous cell types: Hs888Lu (lung fibroblast cells), MCF-10A (breast fibroblast cells), Hs578Bst (breast epithelial cells), and white blood cells isolated from the bone marrow of a healthy donor. The blue squares are the primary non-cancerous cells isolated from the tumor margins of the 18 patients. Table 4) Cells derived from primary colon cancer tissue are considerably more sensitive to death induction by PAC-1 than are cells derived from adjacent non-cancerous tissue from the same patient. FIG. 5C) PAC-1 reduces the growth of tumors in a xenograft model of cancer. Tumors were formed with the ACHN (renal cancer) cell line by subcutaneous injection, with six mice in each group, and four tumors per mouse. Once the tumors grew to about 30 mm^2 , PAC-1 was implanted as a cholesterol pellet. Error bars represent standard error from the mean. FIG. 5D) Oral administration of PAC-1 significantly retards tumor growth in a mouse xenograft model. Tumors were formed using the NCI-H226 (lung cancer) cell line by subcutaneous injection, eight mice in each group, and three tumors per mouse. PAC-1 or vehicle was administered once a day by oral gavage on days 1-21. Error bars represent standard error from the mean. FIG. 5E) Oral administration of PAC-1 significantly retards tumor growth in an i.v. injection model. Mice were injected i.v. with the NCI-H226 (lung cancer) cell line. The mice were treated with PAC-1 (100 mg/kg) via oral gavage following the protocol as described in the text. Images show the lungs of the mice that did not receive PAC-1 and have a large amount of gray tumor mass on the lung. In contrast, the mice that did receive PAC-1 have almost no visible gray matter.

TABLE 3

Compound	EC ₅₀ (μM) for procaspase-3 activation	IC ₅₀ (μM) for death induction in HL-60 cells
	0.22	0.92
PAC-1		
	0.43	1.74
de-allyl PAC-1		
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100
	>50	>100

43

TABLE 4

Patient	Concentration levels of PAC-1 activity in patients.	
	Normal	Cancerous
1	6.78	0.212
2	9.79	0.154
3	6.61	0.080
4	9.50	0.340
5	6.88	0.216
6	6.28	0.020
7	7.34	0.422
8	5.67	0.045
9	6.54	0.844
10	9.98	0.017
11	5.94	1.030
12	5.63	0.052
13	5.50	0.499
14	7.58	0.366
15	5.96	0.106
16	5.02	0.527
17	5.17	0.007
18	6.39	1.410

EXAMPLE 6

Testing of PAC-1 in Mouse Model of Lung Cancer

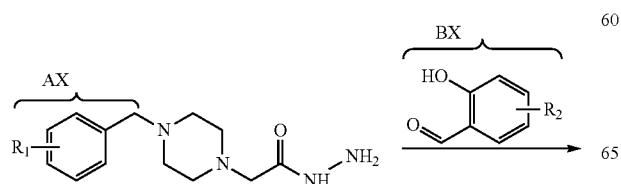
A xenograft model was employed using NCI-H226 (lung cancer) cells. PAC-1 was given intraperitoneally (i.p.) at 10 mg/kg. A comparison of efficacy was performed with gefitinib (Iressa™; AstraZeneca, Wilmington, Del.) at 40 mg/kg using 5 mice per group. Results are shown in FIG. 7, indicating that PAC-1 was associated with reducing growth in tumor volume.

EXAMPLE 7

Combinatorial Derivatives, Synthesis, and Therapeutic Use

A number of compounds are prepared as derivatives of the PAC-1 structure. A hydrazide group is reacted with an aldehyde group to yield a combinatorial library of derivative compounds.

Any one of hydrazide precursor groups (AX) designated L1-L20 are used to generate hydrazides which are reacted with any one of aldehyde groups (BX) designated 1-28, thus yielding 560 PAC-1 derivative compounds. A derivative compound is synthesized using methods as described herein and according to knowledge available in the art. See the scheme and component structures below in addition to FIGS. 8A and 8B.

44
-continued

60

65

10

15

20

25

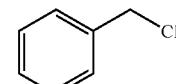
40

45

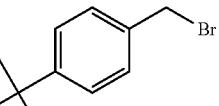
55

60

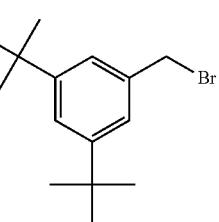
65



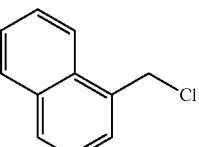
L1



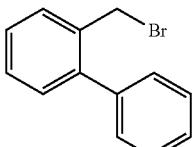
L2



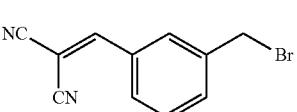
L3



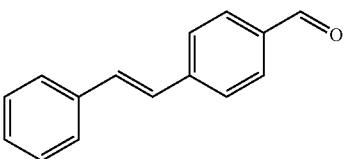
L4



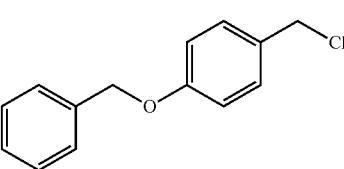
L5



L6



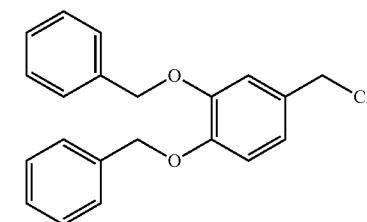
L7



L8

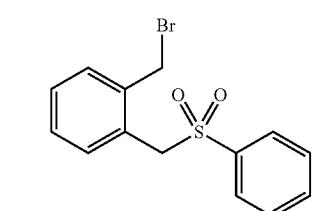
45

-continued



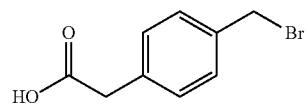
L9

5



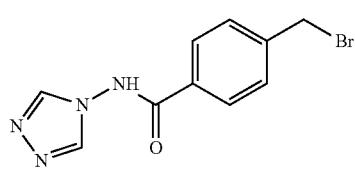
L10

15



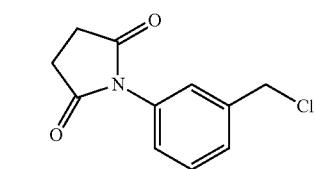
L11

20



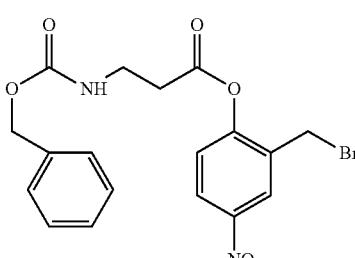
L12

30



L13

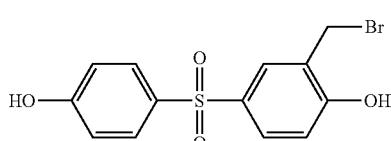
35



L14

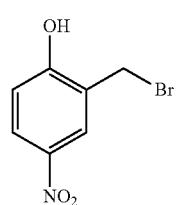
40

45



L15

50



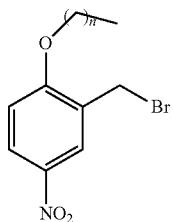
L16

60

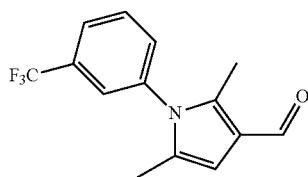
65

46

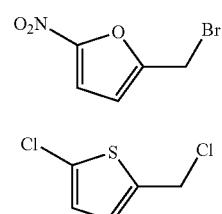
-continued



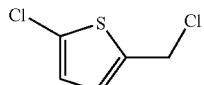
L17



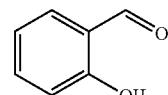
L18



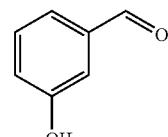
L19



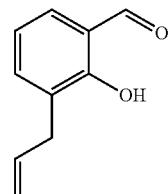
L20



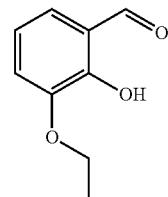
1



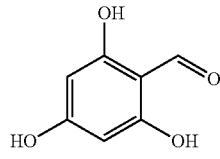
2



3

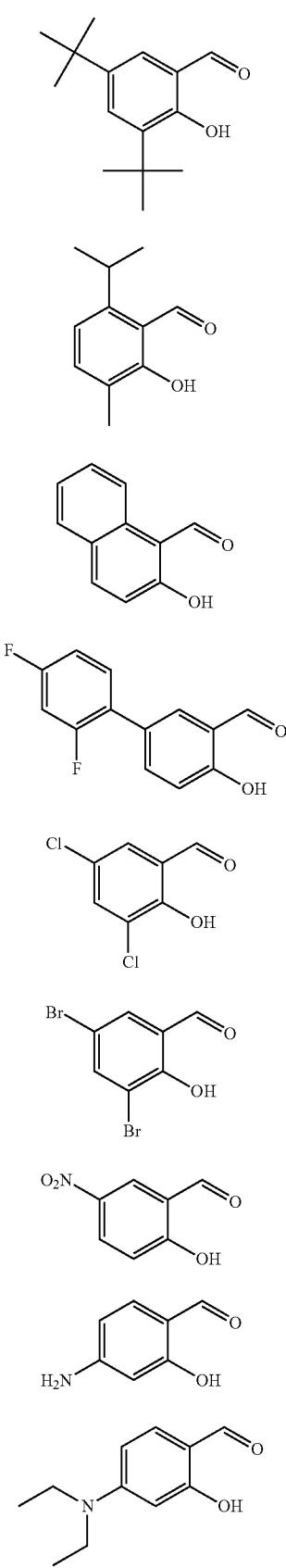


4

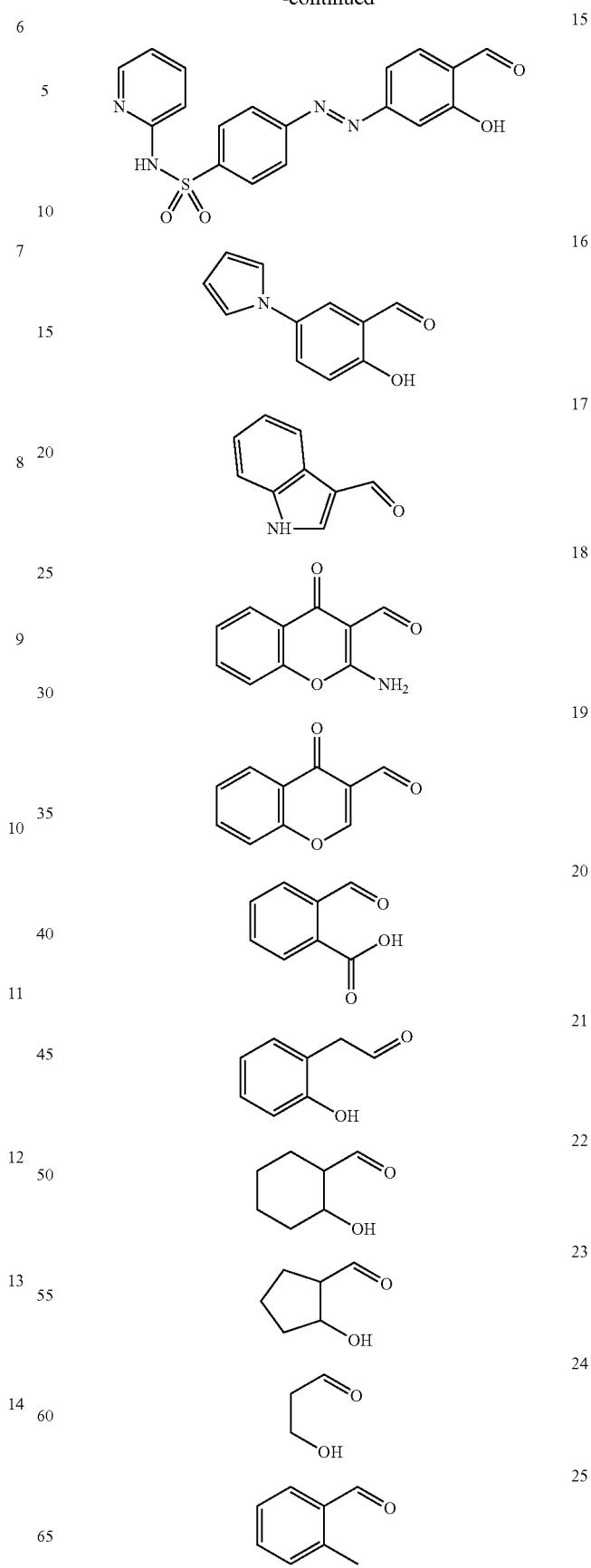


5

47
-continued

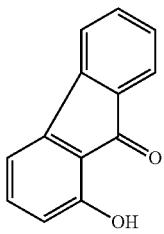
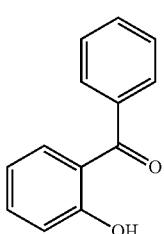
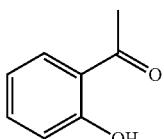


48
-continued



49

-continued

**50**

26 In an embodiment, such derivative compounds are further modified, e.g. to alter a property such as activity, solubility, toxicity, stability, and/or other properties in connection with pharmaceutical applications.

5 The derivative compounds are used as anti-cancer agents. Compounds are validated as capable of having antineoplastic activity, apoptosis regulation, and/or procaspase-3 activation. 27 For example, primary isolates of freshly removed colon cancer 10 cells to test compound levels, where a test compound is PAC-1 or a derivative compound. Compounds are classified regarding a propensity to induce cell death in cancerous cells versus normal cells.

15 In further assessing a derivative compound, *in vitro* and *in vivo* testing is performed. Stability in connection with exposure to liver microsomes is evaluated.

28

EXAMPLE 8

20 Activity of Certain Derivatives Relative to PAC-1

PAC-1 and certain derivatives were tested in the HL-60 cell line and IC₅₀ values were determined. The results are indicated in Table 5 (where L- and R-designations refer to structures shown in the AX and BX series above, respectively). 25 Several of the PAC-1 derivatives exhibited an activity level that was generally about one order of magnitude greater than that of the PAC-1 compound.

TABLE 5

NAME	STRUCTURE	IC ₅₀ vs. HL-60	Fold better than PAC-1
PAC-1 L01R03		54.6 uM	1.0
L01R06		5.63 uM	9.7-fold
L02R03		4.34 uM	12.6-fold

TABLE 5-continued

NAME	STRUCTURE	IC ₅₀ vs. HL-60	Fold better than PAC-1
L02R06		6.53 uM	8.4-fold
L08R06		5.31 uM	10.3-fold
L09R03		4.82 uM	11.3-fold
L09R06		4.17 uM	13.1-fold
L09R08		2.42 uM	22.6-fold

EXAMPLE 9

Further Compounds and Methods

Additional compounds were synthesized and tested for activity. These compounds are designated DX1-17 herein. Structures for these compounds are shown in FIG. 11. It is noted that compound DX1 is PAC-1 and that compound DX3 is de-allyl PAC-1.

Compounds DX1-DX17 were tested using the HL-60 cell line for the ability to effect apoptosis, and IC₅₀ values were

⁵⁵ determined. Activity levels of compounds from assays of 72 hrs duration with HL-60 cells are shown in Table 6 and along with structures in FIG. 12.

Results for compounds DX1-17 in HL-60 cells.		
	Compound (DX)	IC ₅₀ value, micromolar
65	1	2.8
	2	>80

TABLE 6-continued

Results for compounds DX1-17 in HL-60 cells.	
Compound (DX)	IC ₅₀ value, micromolar
3	8.7
4	>80
5	>80
6	0.9
7	9.3
8	10.5
9	1.2
10	20.6
11	3.2
12	4.9
13	47.3
14	>80
15	1.9
16	>100
17	>100

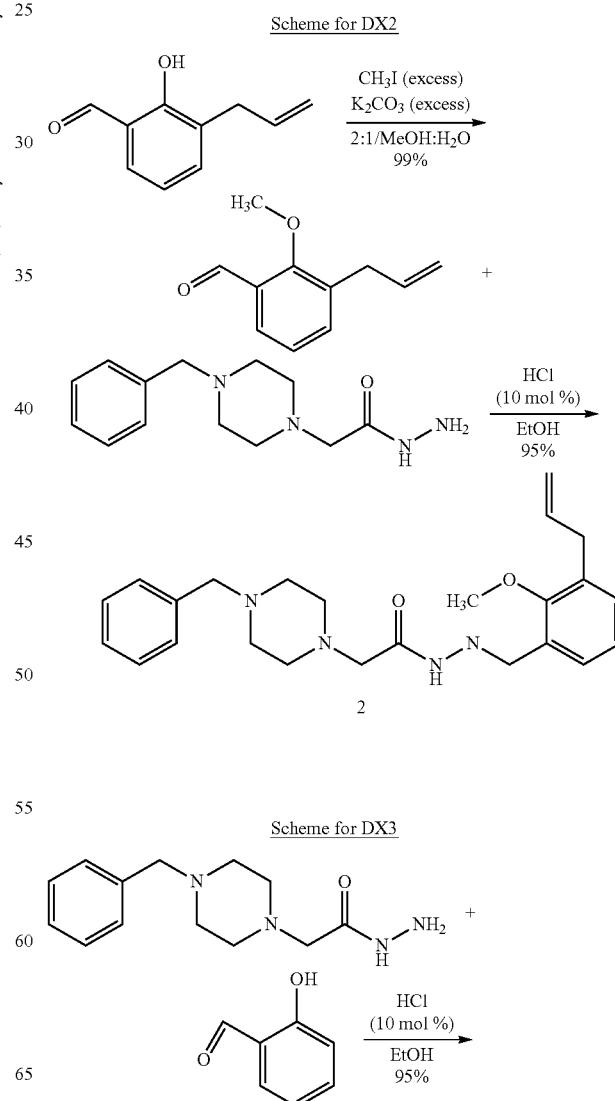
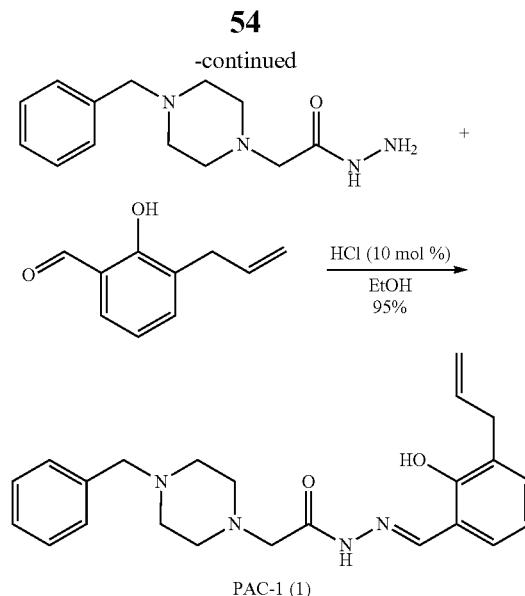
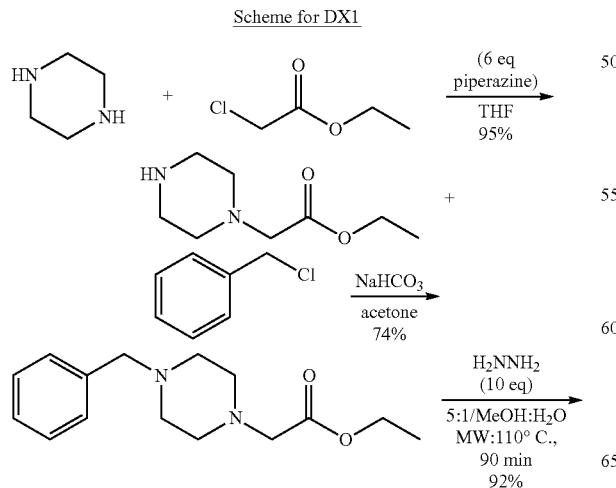
Certain compounds were also tested for the ability to effect in vitro activation of procaspase-3. Results of Western blots are shown in FIG. 13. FIG. 13A indicates substantial activity levels for compounds PAC-1 (alias DX1), DX3, and DX11 relative to the control levels (for lanes indicated with letter "C"). FIG. 13B also illustrates results of testing for activity of compounds DX1, DX12, DX13, DX15, and DX17; the arrow indicates the location of procaspase-3. Experimental conditions included compound concentrations of 50 micromolar, procaspase-3 levels of about 35 nanomolar, and treatment periods of 8 hr.

In an embodiment, a DX compound herein is capable of inducing or selectively inducing apoptosis in a cancer cell. In an embodiment, a compound is used as an anti-cancer drug. In an embodiment, a compound is used as a pro-apoptotic agent. In an embodiment, a preferred DX compound is DX6, DX7, DX8, DX9, DX10, DX11, DX12, or DX15.

EXAMPLE 10

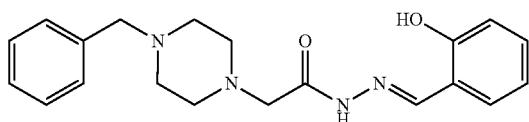
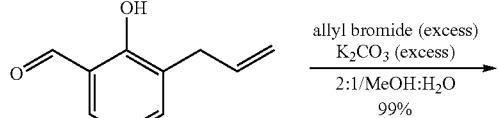
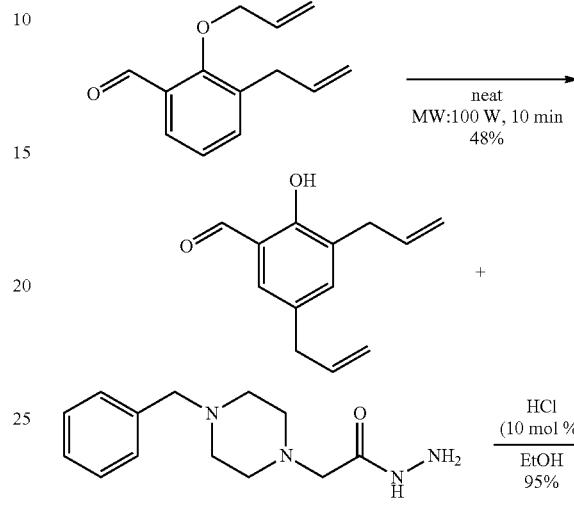
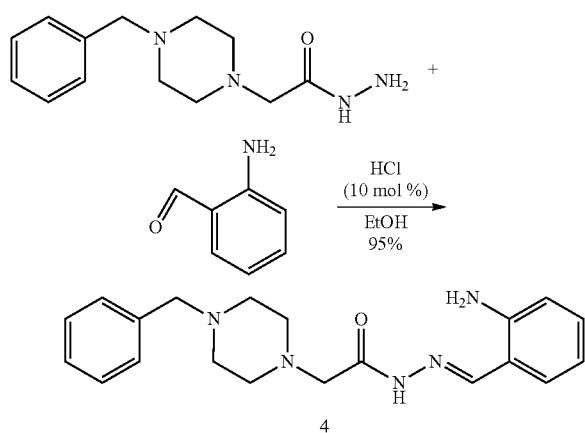
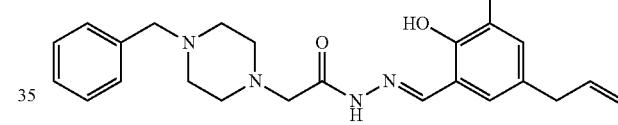
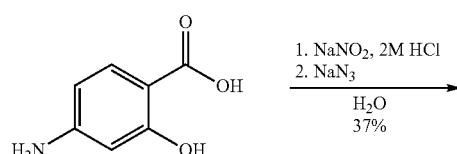
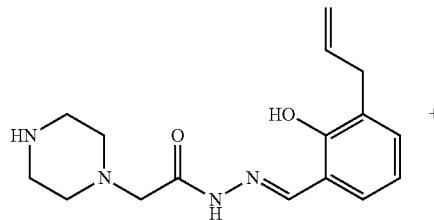
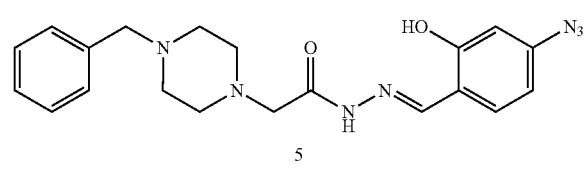
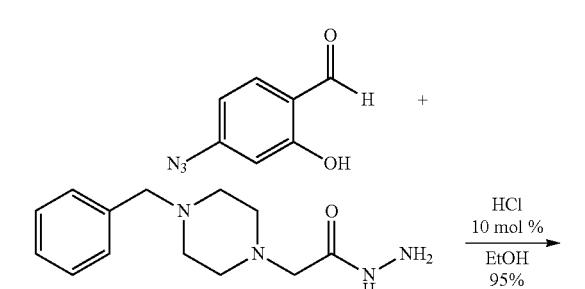
Synthetic Schemes for Certain Compounds and Methods

Schemes for synthesis of compounds including DX1-DX17 are shown herein.



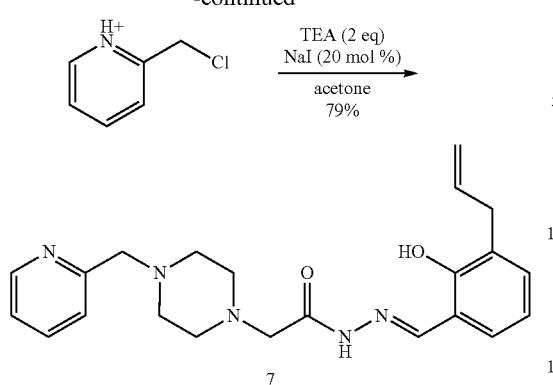
55

-continued

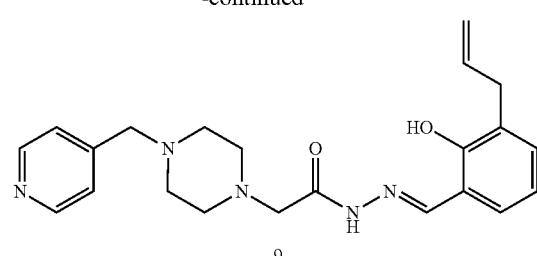
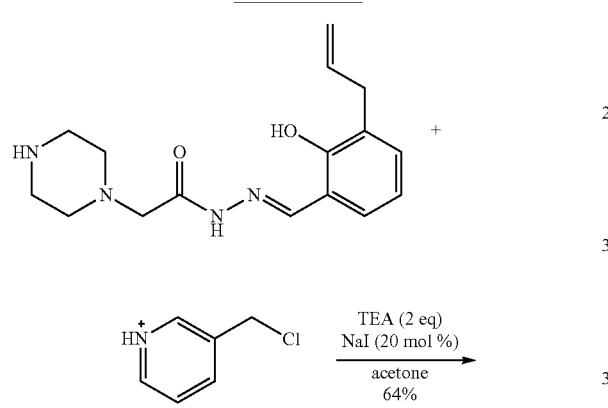
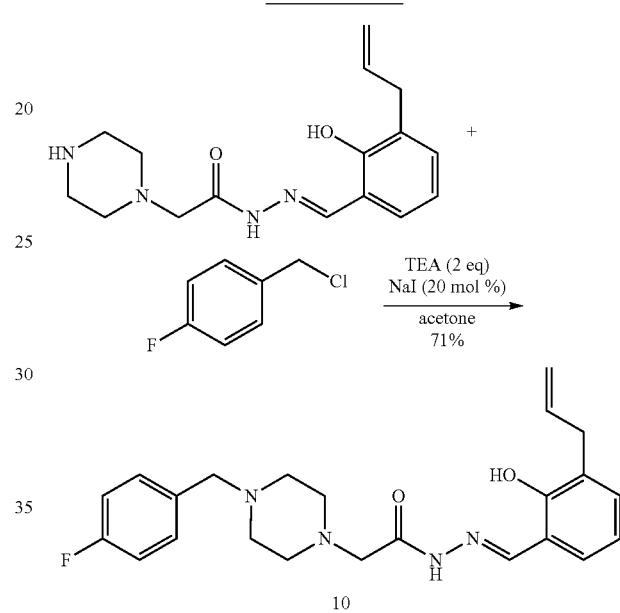
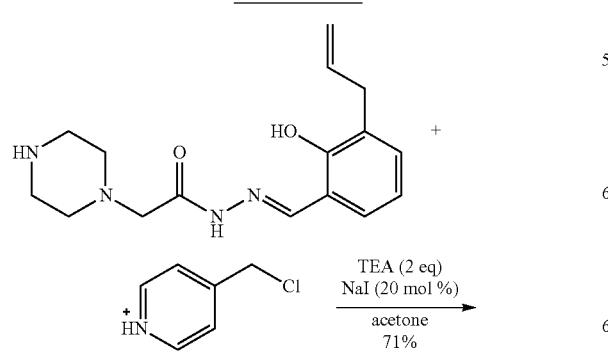
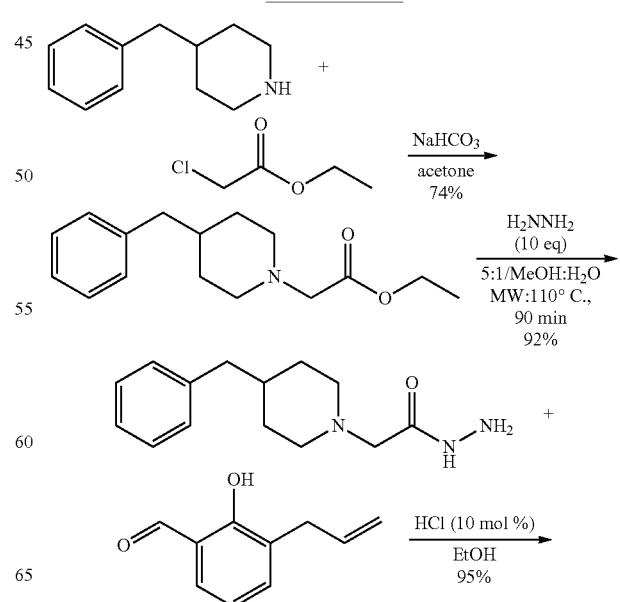
**56**Scheme for DX6Scheme for DX4Scheme for DX5Scheme for DX7

57

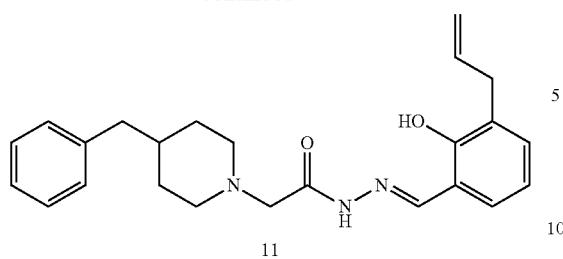
-continued

**58**

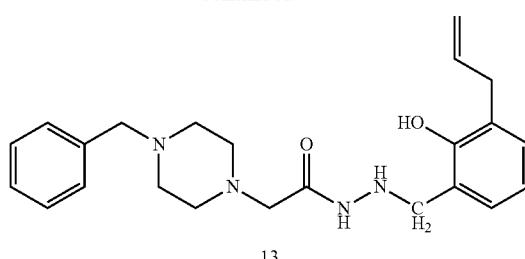
-continued

Scheme for DX8Scheme for DX10Scheme for DX9Scheme for DX11

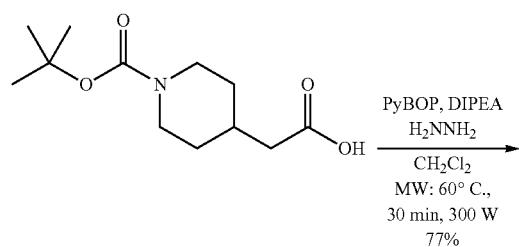
59
-continued



60
-continued



Scheme for DX12



15

20

25

30

35

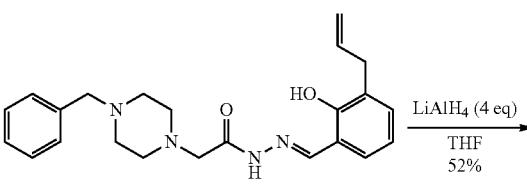
40

45

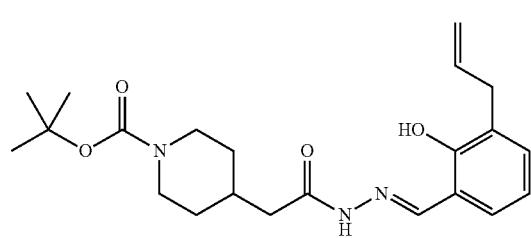
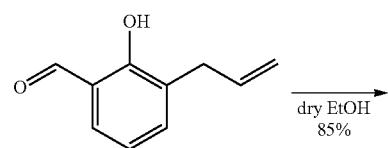
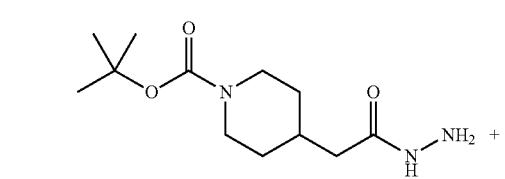
55

60

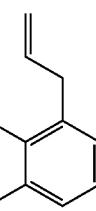
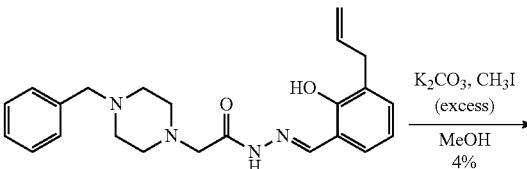
Scheme for DX14



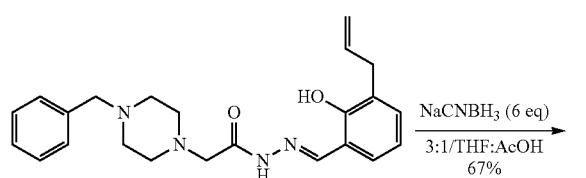
14



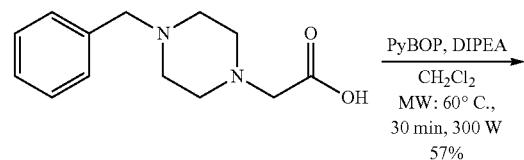
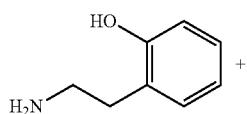
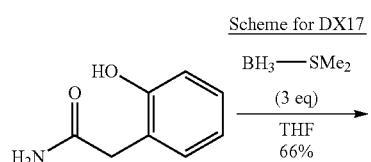
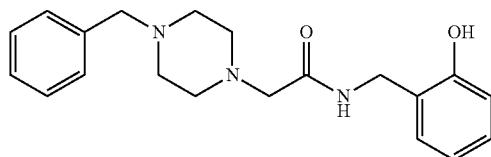
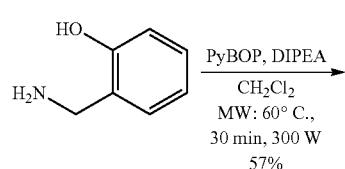
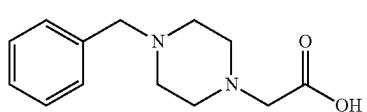
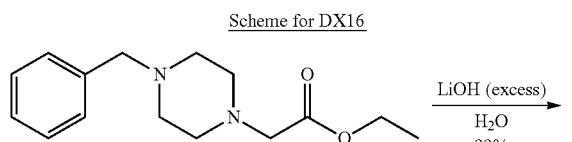
Scheme for DX15



Scheme for DX13



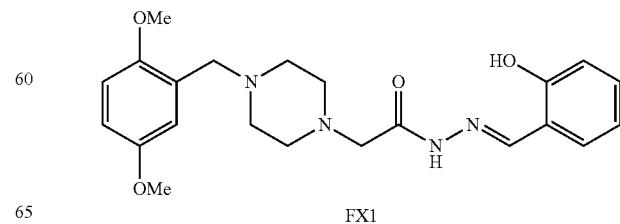
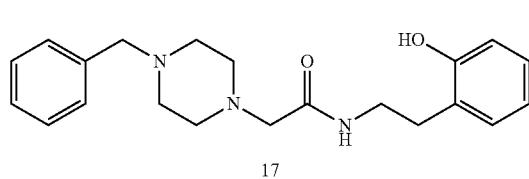
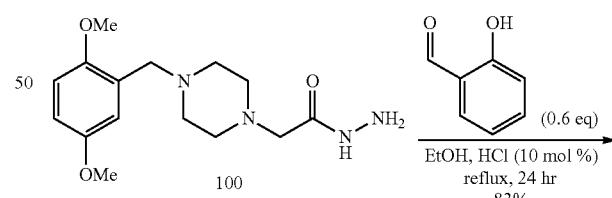
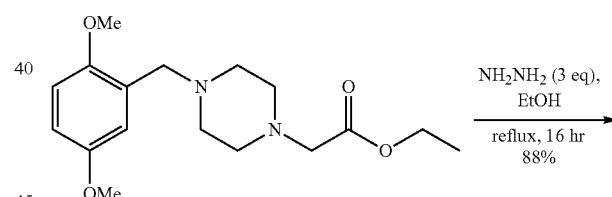
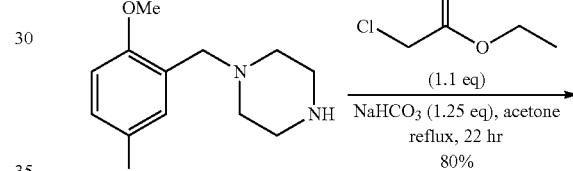
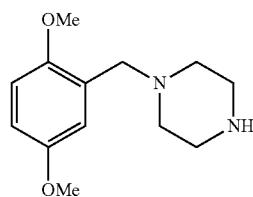
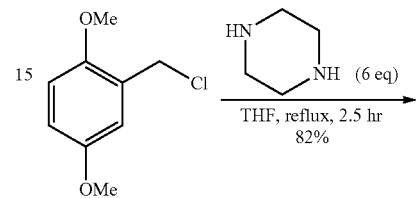
15



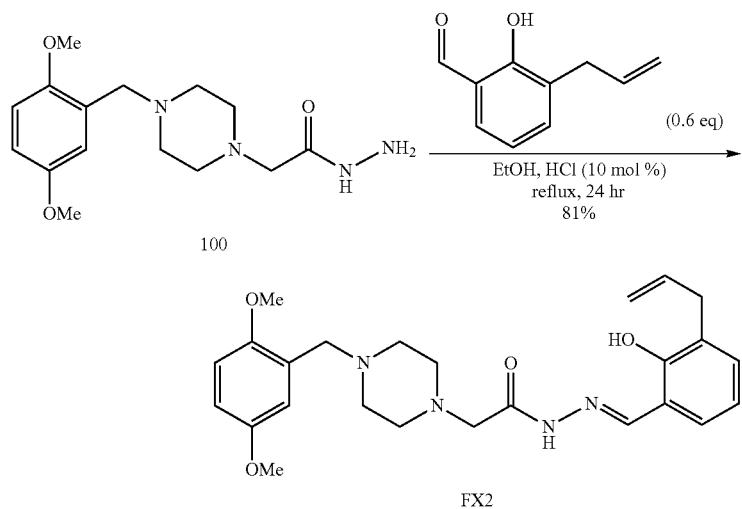
Synthetic Schemes for Certain Compounds and Methods

Schemes for synthesis of further compounds including FX1-FX9 and GX1 are shown herein.

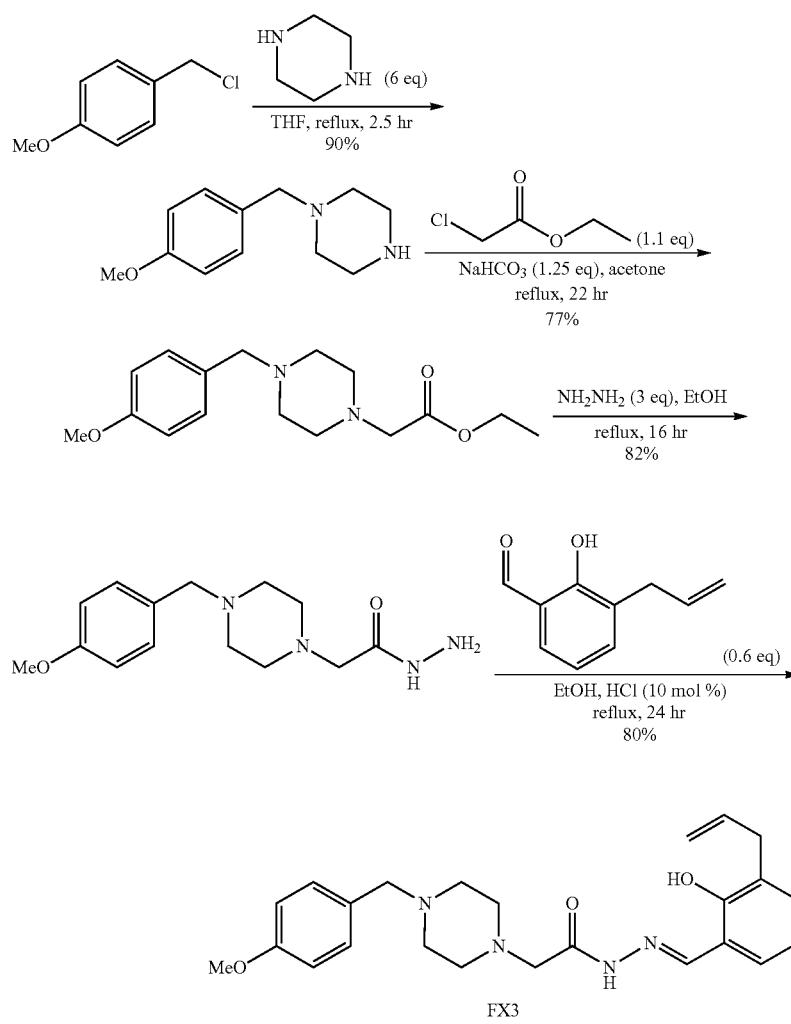
Scheme for FX1:



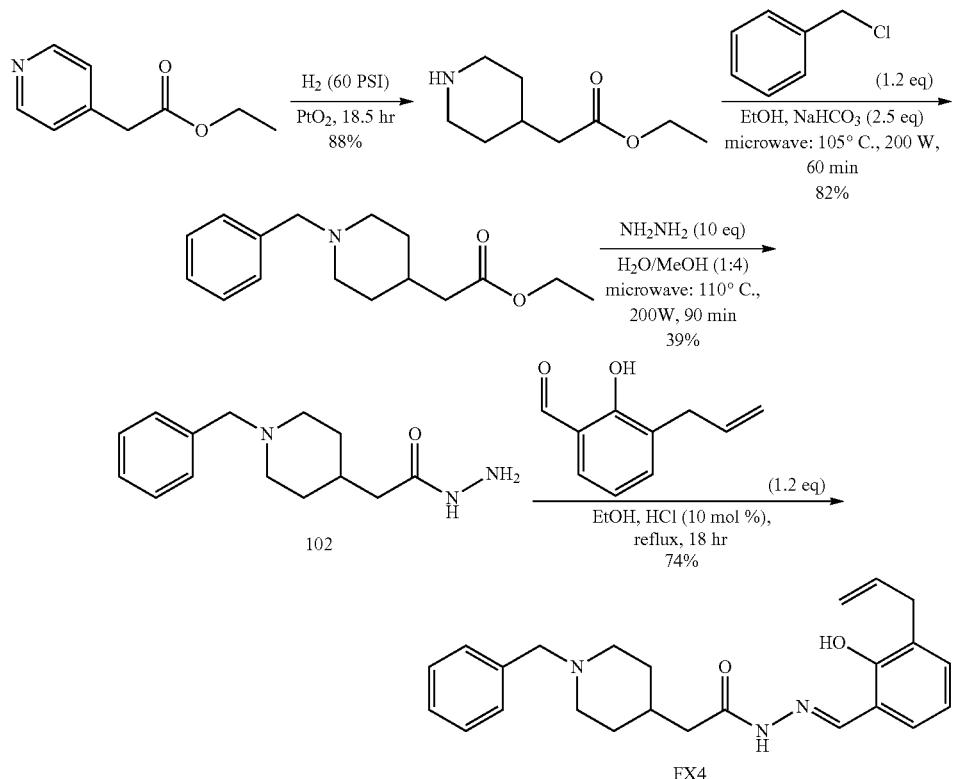
Scheme for FX2:



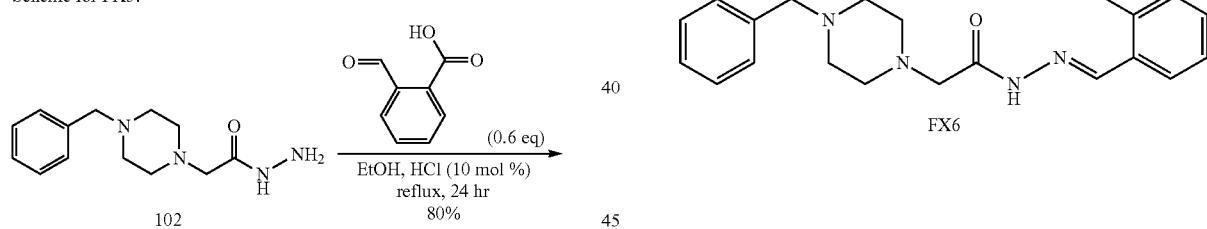
Scheme for FX3:



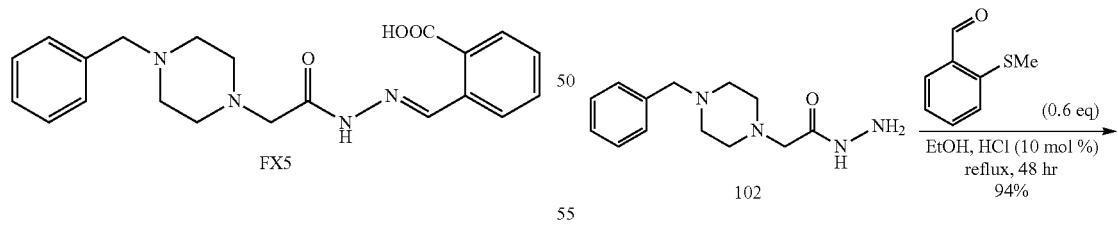
Scheme for FX4:



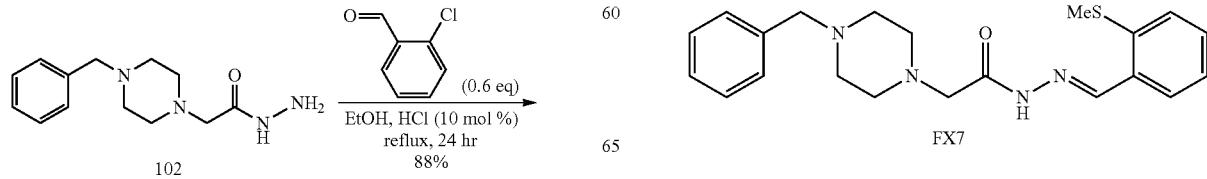
Scheme for FX5:



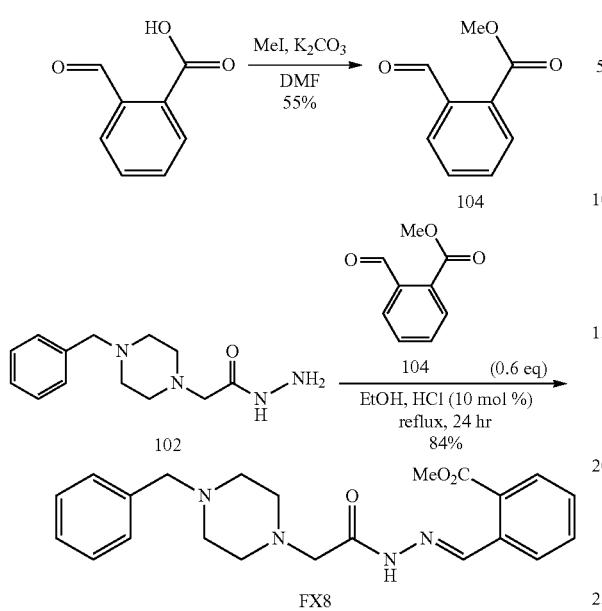
Scheme for FX7:



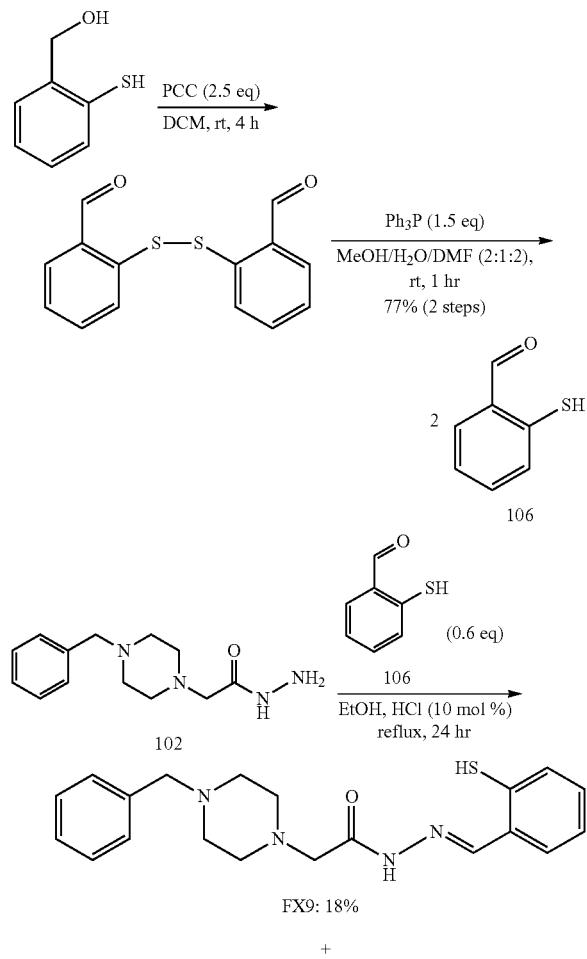
Scheme for FX6:



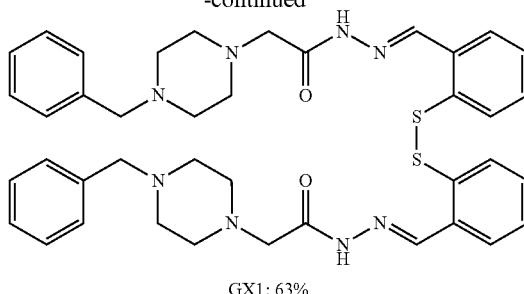
Scheme for FX8:



Scheme for FX9 and GX1:



-continued



EXAMPLE 12

Activity of Certain Compounds

20 Certain compounds were tested for activity. Results are indicated in FIGS. 15 and 16. FIG. 15 illustrates results from activity testing of compounds including such in the series DX, FX, and GX. Test conditions used 2.5 μ M procaspase-3 (D₃A) with the indicated test compound at 100 μ M (filled 25 columns); and further with 10 μ M zinc (open columns). FIG. 16 illustrates results from activity testing of compounds in the series DX and FX, plotted as percent activity versus compound concentration.

Assay description—Materials and methods. Compounds 30 were tested in an in vitro activity assay. In this assay, an “uncleavable” or cleavage-resistant form of procaspase-3 was used. In this protein, the cleavage sites have been mutated from aspartic acid residues to alanine residues (D₃A). This form of procaspase-3 generally cannot be cleaved through 35 autoactivation or by another protease. As such, the activity of the compounds on the zymogen can be monitored independent of proteolytic processing. In these experiments, 2.5 μ M Procaspase-3 (D₃A) was incubated for 1 hour in the presence and absence of 10 μ M zinc and the presence and absence of 40 compounds. The ability of the compounds to activate procaspase-3 (D₃A) was monitored by the use of 100 μ M Ac-DEVD-pNA substrate, and the absorbance was monitored at 45 405 nm. An amount of 10 μ M zinc is sufficient to fully inhibit 2.5 μ M Procaspase-3 (D₃A). This experiment revealed four 45 classes of compounds: Activators, Inhibitors, Dual mode, and Non-effectors. Compounds that were capable of relieving the inhibitory effect of zinc are considered activators. Compounds that inhibit procaspase-3 (D₃A) activity even in the absence of zinc are considered inhibitors. Some compounds 50 exhibit the characteristics of both an activator and an inhibitor, and some compounds had no effect in this assay.

Compounds that were activators or had dual activity were 55 further tested in a dose response experiment. In this experiment, 2.5 μ M Procaspase-3 (D₃A) was incubated with 10 μ M zinc and various concentrations of each compound. After 55 incubation for 1 hour, 200 μ M Ac-DEVD-pNA was added to each sample and the absorbance was monitored at 405 nm. In this experiment we find that the compounds are able to activate procaspase-3 in the presence of zinc to varying degrees. 60 Additionally, some of these compounds show inhibition at higher concentrations.

Statements Regarding Incorporation By Reference And Variations

All references throughout this application, for example 65 patent documents including issued or granted patents or equivalents; patent application publications; unpublished patent applications; and non-patent literature documents or

other source material; are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirieties, as though individually incorporated by reference, to the extent each reference is at least partially not inconsistent with the disclosure in this application (for example, a reference that is partially inconsistent is incorporated by reference except for the partially inconsistent portion of the reference).

Any appendix or appendices hereto are incorporated by reference as part of the specification and/or drawings.

Where the terms "comprise", "comprises", "comprised", or "comprising" are used herein, they are to be interpreted as specifying the presence of the stated features, integers, steps, or components referred to, but not to preclude the presence or addition of one or more other feature, integer, step, component, or group thereof. Separate embodiments of the invention are also intended to be encompassed wherein the terms "comprising" or "comprise(s)" or "comprised" are optionally replaced with the terms, analogous in grammar, e.g., "consisting/consist(s)" or "consisting essentially of/consist(s) essentially of" to thereby describe further embodiments that are not necessarily coextensive. For clarification, as used herein "comprising" is synonymous with "having," "including," "containing," or "characterized by," and is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps. As used herein, "consisting of" excludes any element, step, component, or ingredient not specified in the claim element. As used herein, "consisting essentially of" does not exclude materials or steps that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claim (e.g., not affecting an active ingredient). In each instance herein any of the terms "comprising", "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of" may be replaced with either of the other two terms. The invention illustratively described herein suitably may be practiced in the absence of any element or elements, limitation or limitations which is not specifically disclosed herein.

The invention has been described with reference to various specific and preferred embodiments and techniques. However, it should be understood that many variations and modifications may be made while remaining within the spirit and scope of the invention. It will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that compositions, methods, devices, device elements, materials, optional features, procedures and techniques other than those specifically described herein can be applied to the practice of the invention as broadly disclosed herein without resort to undue experimentation. All art-known functional equivalents of compositions, methods, devices, device elements, materials, procedures and techniques described herein; and portions thereof; are intended to be encompassed by this invention. Whenever a range is disclosed, all subranges and individual values are intended to be encompassed. This invention is not to be limited by the embodiments disclosed, including any shown in the drawings or exemplified in the specification, which are given by way of example or illustration and not of limitation. The scope of the invention shall be limited only by the claims.

References

These applications are particularly incorporated by reference in entirety: U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/516,556 by Hergenrother et al., filed Oct. 30, 2003; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/603,246 by Hergenrother et al., filed Aug. 20, 2004; U.S. Ser. No. 10/976,186 by Hergenrother et al., filed Oct. 27, 2004. U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/684,807 filed May 26, 2005; U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/743,878 filed Mar. 28, 2006; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/420,425 filed May 25, 2006; PCT International Application Serial

PCT/US 06/020910 filed May 26, 2006; U.S. Provisional Application Ser. 60/914,592 filed Apr. 27, 2007.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,762,045 Membrane derived caspase-3, compositions comprising the same and methods of use therefore; U.S. Pat. No. 6,534,267 Polynucleotides encoding activators of caspases; U.S. Pat. No. 6,403,765 Truncated Apaf-1 and methods of use thereof; U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,303,329; 6,878,743 by Choong, et al. issued Apr. 12, 2005; US 20040077542 by Wang, Xiaodong; et al., published Apr. 22, 2004; US 20040180828 by Shi, Yigong, published Sep. 16, 2004.

Slee E A et al., Benzyloxycarbonyl-Val-Ala-Asp (OMe) fluoromethylketone (Z-VAD.FMK) inhibits apoptosis by blocking the processing of CPP32, *Biochem J.* 1996 Apr. 1; 315 (Pt 1):21-4.

1. Hanahan, D. & Weinberg, R. A. The hallmarks of cancer. *Cell* 100, 57-70 (2000).

2. Okada, H. & Mak, T. W. Pathways of apoptotic and non-apoptotic death in tumour cells. *Nature Rev. Cancer* 4, 592-603 (2004).

3. Roy, S. et al. Maintenance of caspase-3 proenzyme dormancy by an intrinsic "safety catch" regulatory tripeptide. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 98, 6132-6137 (2001).

4. Svingen, P. A. et al. Components of the cell death machine and drug sensitivity of the National Cancer Institute Cell Line Panel. *Clin. Cancer Res.* 10, 6807-6820 (2004).

5. Lowe, S. W., Cepero, E. & Evan, G. Intrinsic tumor suppression. *Nature* 432, 307-315 (2004).

6. Vogelstein, B. & Kinzler, K. W. Achilles' heel of cancer. *Nature* 412, 865-866 (2001).

7. Traven, A., Huang, D. C. & Lithgow, T. Protein hijacking: key proteins held captive against their will. *Cancer Cell* 5, 107-108 (2004).

8. Soengas, M. S. et al. Inactivation of the apoptosis effector Apaf-1 in malignant melanoma. *Nature* 409, 207-211 (2001).

9. Wajant, H. Targeting the FLICE inhibitory protein (FLIP) in cancer therapy. *Mol. Interv.* 3, 124-127 (2003).

10. Denicourt, C. & Dowdy, S. F. Targeting apoptotic pathways in cancer cells. *Science* 305, 1411-1413 (2004).

11. Vassilev, L. T. et al. In vivo activation of the p53 pathway by small-molecule antagonists of MDM2. *Science* 303, 844-848 (2004).

12. Degterev, A. et al. Identification of small-molecule inhibitors of interaction between the BH3 domain and Bcl-XL. *Nature Cell Biol.* 3, 173-182 (2001).

13. Becattini, B. et al. Rational design and real time, in-cell detection of the proapoptotic activity of a novel compound targeting Bcl-XL. *Chem. Biol.* 11, 389-395 (2004).

14. Wang, J.-L. et al. Structure-based discovery of an organic compound that binds Bcl-2 protein and induces apoptosis of tumor cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 97, 7124-7129 (2000).

15. Li, L. et al. A small molecule Smac mimetic potentiates TRAIL- and TNFa-mediated cell death. *Science* 305, 1471-1474 (2004).

16. Nguyen, J. T. & Wells, J. A. Direct activation of the apoptosis machinery as a mechanism to target cancer cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 100, 7533-7538 (2003).

17. Jiang, X. et al. Distinctive roles of PHAP proteins and prothymosin- α in a death regulatory pathway. *Science* 299, 223-226 (2003).

18. Boatright, K. M. & Salvesen, G. S. Mechanisms of caspase activation. *Curr. Opin. Cell. Biol.* 15, 725-731 (2003).

19. Nakagawara, A. et al. High levels of expression and nuclear localization of interleukin-1 β converting enzyme

(ICE) and CPP32 in favorable human neuroblastomas. *Cancer Res.* 57, 4578-4584 (1997).

20. Izban, K. F. et al. Characterization of the interleukin-1 β -converting enzyme/Ced-3-family protease, caspase-3/ CPP32, in Hodgkin's disease. *Am. J. Pathol.* 154, 1439-1447 (1999).

21. Persad, R. et al. Overexpression of caspase-3 in hepatocellular carcinomas. *Modern Pathol.* 17, 861-867 (2004).

22. Pop, C., Feeney, B., Tripathy, A. & Clark, A. C. Mutations in the pro caspase-3 dimer interface affect the activity of the zymogen. *Biochemistry* 42, 12311-12320 (2003).

23. Stennicke, H. R. et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 273, 27084-27090 (1998).

24. Denault, J.-B. & Salvesen, G. S. Human caspase-7 activity and regulation by its N-terminal peptide. *J. Biol. Chem.* 278, 34042-24050 (2003).

25. Putt, K. S., Beilman, G. J. & Hergenrother, P. J. Direct quantitation of Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) activity as a means to distinguish necrotic and apoptotic death in cell and tissue samples. *ChemBioChem* 6, 53-55 (2005).

26. Liang, Y., Nylander, K. D., Yan, C. & Schor, N. F. Role of caspase 3-dependent Bcl-2 cleavage in potentiation of apoptosis by Bcl-2. *Mol. Pharmacol.* 61, 142-149 (2002).

27. Fujita, N., Nagahshi, A., Nagashima, K., Rokudai, S. & Tsuruo, T. Acceleration of apoptotic cell death after the cleavage of Bcl-XL protein by caspase-3-like proteases. *Oncogene* 17, 1295-1304 (1998).

28. Earnshaw, W. C., Martins, L. M. & Kaufmann, S. H. Mammalian caspases: structure, activation, substrates, and functions during apoptosis. *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 68, 383-424 (1999).

29. Koty, P. P., Zhang, H. & Levitt, M. L. Antisense bcl-2 treatment increases programmed cell death in non-small cell lung cancer cell lines. *Lung Cancer* 23, 115-127 (1999).

National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Database of the National Library of Medicine/National Institutes of Health (NIH) website: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> using the Gene database to search for CASP3 (caspase 3,

apoptosis-related cysteine protease [*Homo sapiens*] GeneID: 836 Locus tag: HGNC:1504; MIM: 600636 updated 15 May 2005. Other Aliases: HGNC:1504, APOPAIN, CPP32, CPP32B, SCA-1; Other Designations: Human pro caspase-3 coding sequence; PARP cleavage protease; SREBP cleavage activity 1; Yama; caspase 3; cysteine protease CPP32).

Hergenrother P J. Obtaining and screening compound collections: a user's guide and a call to chemists. *Curr Opin Chem Biol.* 2006

10 Silverman S K, Hergenrother P J. Combinatorial chemistry and molecular diversity Tools for molecular diversification and their applications in chemical biology. *Curr Opin Chem Biol.* 2006.

Goode D R, Sharma A K, Hergenrother P J. Using peptidic inhibitors to systematically probe the S1' site of caspase-3 and caspase-7. *Org Lett.* 2005 Aug. 4; 7(16):3529-32. PMID: 16048334

Dothager R S, Putt K S, Allen B J, Leslie B J, Nesterenko V, Hergenrother P J. Synthesis and identification of small molecules that potently induce apoptosis in melanoma cells through G1 cell cycle arrest. *J Am Chem Soc.* 2005 Jun. 22; 127(24):8686-96. PMID: 15954774

20 Putt K S, Hergenrother P J. A nonradiometric, high-throughput assay for poly(ADP-ribose) glycohydrolase (PARP): application to inhibitor identification and evaluation. *Anal Biochem.* 2004 Oct. 15; 333(2):256-64. PMID: 15450800

25 Putt K S, Hergenrother P J. An enzymatic assay for poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 (PARP-1) via the chemical quantitation of NAD(+): application to the high-throughput screening of small molecules as potential inhibitors. *Anal Biochem.* 2004 Mar. 1; 326(1):78-86. PMID: 14769338

Nesterenko V, Putt K S, Hergenrother P J. Identification from a combinatorial library of a small molecule that selectively induces apoptosis in cancer cells. *J Am Chem Soc.* 2003 Dec. 3; 125(48):14672-3. PMID: 14640619

30 Putt, Karsone et al., Small scale activation of pro caspase-3 as a personalized anticancer strategy, *Nature Chemical Biology* 2(10):543-550, S543/1-S543/29 (2006).

SEQUENCE LISTING

<160> NUMBER OF SEQ ID NOS: 27

<210> SEQ ID NO 1

<211> LENGTH: 834

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: *Homo sapiens*

<220> FEATURE:

<221> NAME/KEY: CDS

<222> LOCATION: (1)..(834)

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-3; with amino acid DDD wild-type safety catch sequence (ACCESSION Number NM_004346)

<400> SEQUENCE: 1

atg gag aac act gaa aac tca gtg gat tca aaa tcc att aaa aat ttg
Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
1 5 10 15

48

gaa cca aag atc ata cat gga agc gaa tca atg gac tct gga ata tcc
Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
20 25 30

96

ctg gac aac agt tat aaa atg gat tat cct gag atg ggt tta tgt ata
Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
35 40 45

144

ata att aat aat aag aat ttt cat aaa agc act gga atg aca tct cgg
Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg

192

-continued

50	55	60	
tct ggt aca gat gtc gat gca gca aac ctc agg gaa aca ttc aga aac Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn	65	70	75 80
ttg aaa tat gaa gtc agg aat aaa aat gat ctt aca cgt gaa gaa att Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile	85	90	95
gtg gaa ttg atg cgt gat gtt tct aaa gaa gat cac agc aaa agg agc Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser	100	105	110
agt ttt gtt tgt gtg ctt ctg agc cat ggt gaa gaa gga ata att ttt Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe	115	120	125
gga aca aat gga cct gtt gac ctg aaa aaa ata aca aac ttt ttc aga Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg	130	135	140
ggg gat cgt tgt aga agt cta act gga aaa ccc aaa ctt ttc att att Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile	145	150	155 160
cag gcc tgc cgt ggt aca gaa ctg gac tgt ggc att gag aca gac agt Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser	165	170	175
ggt gtt gat gat gac atg gcg tgt cat aaa ata cca gtg gag gcc gac Gly Val Asp Asp Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp	180	185	190
ttc ttg tat gca tac tcc aca gca cct ggt tat tat tct tgg cga aat Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn	195	200	205
tca aag gat ggc tcc tgg ttc atc cag tcg ctt tgt gcc atg ctg aaa Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys	210	215	220
cag tat gcc gac aag ctt gaa ttt atg cac att ctt acc cgg gtt aac Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn	225	230	235 240
cga aag gtg gca aca gaa ttt gag tcc ttt tcc ttt gac gct act ttt Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe	245	250	255
cat gca aag aaa cag att cca tgt att gtt tcc atg ctc aca aaa gaa His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu	260	265	270
ctc tat ttt tat cac taa Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His	275		834

<210> SEQ_ID NO 2
<211> LENGTH: 277
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 2

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
20 25 30

Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
35 40 45

Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg
50 55 60

Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn
65 70 75 80

-continued

Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Gly Val Asp Asp Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 3
<211> LENGTH: 1326
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: CDS
<222> LOCATION: (50)..(880)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-3; with amino acid DDD to ADD safety
  catch mutant sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (934)..(934)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (939)..(939)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (954)..(954)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (982)..(982)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (988)..(988)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1000)..(1000)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1024)..(1024)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
  
```

-continued

```

<222> LOCATION: (1036)..(1036)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1045)..(1045)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1051)..(1051)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1053)..(1053)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1063)..(1063)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1071)..(1071)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1075)..(1075)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1079)..(1079)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1086)..(1086)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1093)..(1093)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1095)..(1095)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1100)..(1100)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1104)..(1104)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1106)..(1106)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1125)..(1125)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1140)..(1140)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1146)..(1146)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1149)..(1150)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1155)..(1155)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1157)..(1157)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature

```

-continued

```

<222> LOCATION: (1159)..(1159)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1190)..(1190)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1199)..(1200)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1209)..(1209)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1212)..(1212)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1223)..(1224)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1233)..(1233)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1235)..(1235)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1238)..(1238)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1241)..(1241)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1246)..(1246)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1256)..(1256)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1259)..(1259)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1262)..(1262)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1273)..(1273)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1276)..(1276)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1282)..(1282)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1285)..(1285)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1288)..(1288)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1294)..(1294)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature

```

-continued

<222> LOCATION: (1299)..(1299)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (1302)..(1302)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (1306)..(1306)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u

<400> SEQUENCE: 3

gtacattccc	tctgataat	tttgtaact	ttaagaagga	gatatacat	atg gag aac	58
					Met Glu Asn	
					1	
act gaa aac tca	gtg gat tca	aaa tcc att	aaa aat ttg	gaa cca aag		106
Thr Glu Asn Ser	Val Asp Ser	Lys Ser Ile	Lys Asn Leu	Glu Pro Lys		
5	10	15				
atc ata cat gga	agc gaa tca	atg gac tct	gga ata tcc	ctg gac aac		154
Ile Ile His	Gly Ser Glu	Ser Met Asp	Ser Gly Ile	Ser Leu Asp Asn		
20	25	30	35			
agt tat aaa atg	gat tat cct	gag atg ggt	tta tgt ata	ata att aat		202
Ser Tyr Lys Met	Asp Tyr Pro	Glu Met Gly	Leu Cys Ile	Ile Asn		
40	45	50				
aat aag aat ttt	cat aaa agc	act gga	atg aca	tct cgg tct	ggt aca	250
Asn Lys Asn Phe	His Lys Ser	Thr Gly	Met Thr Ser	Arg Ser Gly	Thr	
55	60	65				
gat gtc gat gca	gca aac ctc	agg gaa aca	ttc aga aac	ttg aaa tat		298
Asp Val Asp Ala	Ala Asn Leu	Arg Glu Thr	Phe Arg Asn	Leu Lys Tyr		
70	75	80				
gaa gtc agg aat	aaa aat gat	ctt aca cgt	gaa gaa att	gtg gaa ttg		346
Glu Val Arg Asn	Lys Asn Asp	Leu Thr Arg	Glu Ile Val	Glu Leu		
85	90	95				
atg cgt gat gtt	tct aaa gaa	gat cac agc	aaa agg agc	agt ttt gtt		394
Met Arg Asp Val	Ser Lys Glu	Asp His Ser	Lys Arg Ser	Ser Phe Val		
100	105	110	115			
tgt gtg ctt ctg	agc cat ggt	gaa gaa gga	ata att ttt	gga aca aat		442
Cys Val Leu	Leu Ser His	Gly Glu Gly	Ile Ile Phe	Gly Thr Asn		
120	125	130				
gga cct gtt gac	ctg aaa aaa	ata aca aac	ttt ttc	aga ggg gat		490
Gly Pro Val Asp	Leu Lys Ile	Thr Asn Phe	Phe Arg Gly	Asp Arg		
135	140	145				
tgt aga agt cta	act gga aaa	ccc aaa ctt	ttc att att	cag gcc tgc		538
Cys Arg Ser	Leu Thr Gly	Lys Pro	Lys Leu Phe	Ile Ile Gln	Ala Cys	
150	155	160				
cgt ggt aca gaa	ctg gac tgc	tgt ggc att	gag aca gac	agt ggt gtt		586
Arg Gly Thr Glu	Leu Asp Cys	Gly Ile Glu	Thr Asp Ser	Gly Val Ala		
165	170	175				
gat gac atg	gcg tgc	cat aaa ata	cca gtg gag	gcc gac ttc	ttg tat	634
Asp Asp Met	Ala Cys His	Lys Ile Pro	Val Glu Ala	Asp Phe Leu	Tyr	
180	185	190	195			
gca tac tcc aca	gca cct ggt	tat tat tct	tgg cga aat	tca aag gat		682
Ala Tyr Ser	Thr Ala Pro	Gly Tyr Ser	Trp Arg Asn	Ser Lys Asp		
200	205	210				
ggc tcc tgg ttc	atc cag tcg	ctt tgc	aaa cag tat	gcc		730
Gly Ser Trp	Phe Ile Gln	Ser Leu Cys	Ala Met Leu	Lys Gln	Tyr Ala	
215	220	225				
gac aag ctt gaa	ttt atg cac	att ctt acc	cgg gtt aac	cga aag gtg		778
Asp Lys Leu	Glu Phe Met	His Ile Leu	Thr Arg Val	Asn Arg Lys	Val	
230	235	240				
gca aca gaa ttt	gag tcc ttt	gac gct	act ttt	cat gca aag		826
Ala Thr Glu	Phe Ser Phe	Asp Ala	Thr Phe His	Ala Lys		
245	250	255				

-continued

aaa cag att cca tgt att gtt tcc atg ctc aca aaa gaa ctc tat ttt	874
Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe	
260 265 270 275	
tat cac ctcgagcacc accaccacca ccactgagat ccggctgcta caagccgaaa	930
Tyr His	
gganctgant tggctgctgc cccnctgacc atactacata cccccctgggg cnctaacngg	990
tctggggggg tttttgtga aggagactt tccngatggc aatgggnaccc cctgnccgccc	1050
ntnaccggc ggnngggggtt ncccnacngn acctancttg congnctan cccnncnttc	1110
cttttcccttc ttccnccgtt ccgggtcccn cagctnaann ggggnctng gtccattggc	1170
ttcgcccccc caaactgttn gggggtccnn ggccccccna angttccct tanngacccc	1230
ttnanggnt ntccnengacc ccccccncnt tnttttaagg tencncccg gnaanggnta	1290
aatnccttna anccntggg ttggggggccc tttttt	1326
<210> SEQ ID NO 4	
<211> LENGTH: 277	
<212> TYPE: PRT	
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens	
<400> SEQUENCE: 4	
Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu	
1 5 10 15	
Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser	
20 25 30	
Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile	
35 40 45	
Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg	
50 55 60	
Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn	
65 70 75 80	
Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile	
85 90 95	
Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser	
100 105 110	
Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe	
115 120 125	
Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg	
130 135 140	
Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile	
145 150 155 160	
Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser	
165 170 175	
Gly Val Ala Asp Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp	
180 185 190	
Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn	
195 200 205	
Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys	
210 215 220	
Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn	
225 230 235 240	
Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe	
245 250 255	
His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu	
260 265 270	

-continued

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
275

```

<210> SEQ_ID NO 5
<211> LENGTH: 1398
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: CDS
<222> LOCATION: (51)..(881)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-3; with amino acid DDD to DAD safety
  catch mutant sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (923)..(923)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (933)..(933)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (942)..(942)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (963)..(963)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (978)..(978)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (991)..(991)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (994)..(994)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1022)..(1022)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1031)..(1031)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1033)..(1033)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1045)..(1045)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1047)..(1047)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1061)..(1061)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1067)..(1067)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1069)..(1069)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1076)..(1076)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature

```

-continued

```

<222> LOCATION: (1091)..(1091)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1095)..(1095)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1098)..(1098)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1102)..(1102)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1105)..(1105)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1112)..(1112)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1116)..(1116)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1122)..(1123)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1126)..(1126)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1129)..(1129)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1134)..(1134)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1139)..(1139)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1144)..(1144)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1148)..(1148)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1150)..(1150)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1158)..(1158)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1175)..(1175)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1180)..(1180)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1190)..(1190)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1196)..(1196)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature

```

-continued

```

<222> LOCATION: (1200)..(1200)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1202)..(1202)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1206)..(1207)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1215)..(1215)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1224)..(1224)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1231)..(1231)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1238)..(1238)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1245)..(1245)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1249)..(1249)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1273)..(1273)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1276)..(1276)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1284)..(1284)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1299)..(1299)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1309)..(1309)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1312)..(1312)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1319)..(1319)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1321)..(1321)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1325)..(1325)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1328)..(1328)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1335)..(1335)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature

```

-continued

```

<222> LOCATION: (1337)..(1337)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1345)..(1345)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1348)..(1348)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1355)..(1355)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1358)..(1358)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1364)..(1364)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1369)..(1369)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1376)..(1376)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1379)..(1379)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1387)..(1387)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1390)..(1390)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

cgtagcattcc ctctgaataa ttttgtttac tttttaagaagg agatatacat atg gag      56
                                         Met Glu
                                         1

aac act gaa aac tca gtg gat tca aaa tcc att aaa aat ttg gaa cca      104
Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu Glu Pro
      5          10          15

aag atc ata cat gga agc gaa tca atg gac tct gga ata tcc ctg gac      152
Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser Leu Asp
      20          25          30

aac agt tat aaa atg gat tat cct gag atg ggt tta tgt ata ata att      200
Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile Ile Ile
      35          40          45          50

aat aat aag aat ttt cat aaa agc act gga atg aca tct cgg tct ggt      248
Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg Ser Gly
      55          60          65

aca gat gtc gat gca gca aac ctc agg gaa aca ttc aga aac ttg aaa      296
Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn Leu Lys
      70          75          80

tat gaa gtc agg aat aaa aat gat ctt aca cgt gaa gaa att gtg gaa      344
Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile Val Glu
      85          90          95

ttt atg cgt gat gtt tct aaa gaa gat cac agc aaa agg agc agt ttt      392
Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser Ser Phe
      100         105         110

gtt tgt gtg ctt ctg agc cat ggt gaa gaa gga ata att ttt gga aca      440
Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe Gly Thr
      115         120         125         130

```

-continued

aat gga cct gtt gac ctg aaa aaa ata aca aac ttt ttc aga ggg gat	488
Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg Gly Asp	
135 140 145	
cgt tgt aga agt cta act gga aaa ccc aaa ctt ttc att att cag gcc	536
Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile Gln Ala	
150 155 160	
tgc cgt ggt aca gaa ctg gac tgt ggc att gag aca gac agt ggt gtt	584
Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser Gly Val	
165 170 175	
gat gct gac atg gcg tgt cat aaa ata cca gtg gag gcc gac ttc ttg	632
Asp Ala Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu	
180 185 190	
tat gca tac tcc aca gca cct ggt tat tat tct tgg cga aat tca aag	680
Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn Ser Lys	
195 200 205 210	
gat ggc tcc tgg ttc atc cag tcg ctt tgt gcc atg ctg aaa cag tat	728
Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys Gln Tyr	
215 220 225	
gcc gac aag ctt gaa ttt atg cac att ctt acc cgg gtt aac cga aag	776
Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Arg Lys	
230 235 240	
gtg gca aca gaa ttt gag tcc ttt tcc ttt gac gct act ttt cat gca	824
Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe His Ala	
245 250 255	
aag aaa cag att cca tgt att gtt tcc atg ctc aca aaa gaa ctc tat	872
Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr	
260 265 270	
ttt tat cac ctcgagcacc accaccacca ccactgagat ccggctgcta	921
Phe Tyr His	
275	
cnaagccga angaagctga nttggctgct gcccccgctg ancaataact agcatanccc	981
cttggggccn ctnaacgggt ctgggggggt ttttgctgaa nggggacctn tntccggatt	1041
ggcnanggga cccccctgn accgcncntt aaccncgegg ggggggggtn cccncanggg	1101
ncncnctactc ngccngcccc nnacncncncc cnntccnnt ctnccctnct tcccccnctt	1161
cccggttcc cctnnggtna aacgggggncc cctnnggtna nattnngctt tccncccccc	1221
ccnaaacttn tagggggngt cccnggncc ccccggaaagg tttcccctg cnggnccccc	1281
ttnaaggact ttcccagnaa ccccccncg ncccttnntn aggnctnccc cccngnnaag	1341
ggtnaantcc gttanaancs ttnggctnng gggcnccntt ttttnttnc cccccc	1398

<210> SEQ ID NO 6

<211> LENGTH: 277

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu	
1 5 10 15	
Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser	
20 25 30	
Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile	
35 40 45	
Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg	
50 55 60	
Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn	
65 70 75 80	

-continued

Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Gly Val Asp Ala Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

```

<210> SEQ_ID NO 7
<211> LENGTH: 1316
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: CDS
<222> LOCATION: (51)..(881)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-3; with amino acid DDD to DAD safety
  catch mutant sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (914)..(914)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (942)..(942)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (958)..(958)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (982)..(982)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (986)..(986)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (988)..(988)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1006)..(1006)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1026)..(1026)
  
```

-continued

```

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1032)..(1032)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1038)..(1038)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1040)..(1041)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1051)..(1051)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1062)..(1062)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1067)..(1067)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1073)..(1073)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1097)..(1097)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1101)..(1101)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1106)..(1106)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1108)..(1108)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1114)..(1114)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1118)..(1118)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1123)..(1123)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1129)..(1129)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1134)..(1134)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1148)..(1149)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1151)..(1151)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1154)..(1154)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1156)..(1157)

```

-continued

```

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1173)..(1173)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1193)..(1193)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1200)..(1200)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1206)..(1206)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1215)..(1215)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1228)..(1230)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1232)..(1232)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1247)..(1247)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1250)..(1250)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1261)..(1261)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1263)..(1264)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1272)..(1272)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1275)..(1275)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1277)..(1277)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1286)..(1286)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1289)..(1289)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1291)..(1292)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1294)..(1294)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1299)..(1299)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
<222> LOCATION: (1301)..(1301)

```

-continued

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (1304)..(1304)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (1307)..(1307)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (1316)..(1316)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, t or u

<400> SEQUENCE: 7

cgtacattcc	ctctgaataa	ttttgttac	tttaagaagg	agatatacat	atg gag	56
					Met Glu	
					1	
aac act gaa aac tca	gtg gat tca	aaa tcc att	aaa aat ttg	gaa cca		104
Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser	Val Asp Ser Lys	Ile Lys Asn	Leu Glu Pro			
5	10	15				
aag atc ata cat gga	agc gaa tca	atg gac tct	gga ata tcc	ctg gac		152
Lys Ile Ile His Gly	Ser Glu Ser Met	Asp Ser Gly	Ile Ser Leu	Asp		
20	25	30				
aac agt tat aaa atg	gat tat cct	gag atg ggt	tta tgt	ata ata att		200
Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met	Asp Tyr Pro	Glu Met	Gly Leu	Cys Ile Ile		
35	40	45	50			
aat aat aag aat ttt	cat aaa agc	act gga	atg aca	tct cgg tct ggt		248
Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe	His Lys Ser Thr	Gly Met	Thr Ser Arg	Ser Gly		
55	60	65				
aca gat gtc gat gca	gca aac ctc	agg gaa aca	ttc aga aac	ttg aaa		296
Thr Asp Val Asp Ala	Ala Asn Leu Arg	Glu Thr Phe	Arg Asn Leu	Lys		
70	75	80				
tat gaa gtc agg aat	aaa aat gat	ctt aca cgt	gaa gaa	att gtg gaa		344
Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn	Lys Asn Asp Leu	Thr Arg Glu	Ile Val Glu			
85	90	95				
ttg atg cgt gat gtt	tct aaa gaa	gat cac agc	aaa agg agc	agt ttt		392
Leu Met Arg Asp Val	Ser Lys Glu Asp	His Ser Lys	Arg Ser Ser	Phe		
100	105	110				
gtt tgt gtg ctt ctg	agc cat ggt	gaa gaa gga	ata att ttt	gga aca		440
Val Cys Val Leu	Leu Ser His Gly	Glu Glu Gly	Ile Ile Phe	Gly Thr		
115	120	125	130			
aat gga cct gtt gac	ctg aaa aaa	ata aca aac	ttt ttc	aga ggg gat		488
Asn Gly Pro Val Asp	Leu Lys Ile	Thr Asn Phe	Phe Arg Gly	Asp		
135	140	145				
cgt tgt aga agt cta	act gga aaa ccc	aaa ctt ttc	att att cag	gcc		536
Arg Cys Arg Ser	Leu Thr Gly	Lys Pro	Lys Leu Phe	Ile Ile Gln Ala		
150	155	160				
tgc cgt ggt aca gaa	ctg gac tgt	ggc att gag	aca gac	agt ggt gtt		584
Cys Arg Gly Thr	Glu Leu Asp	Cys Gly Ile	Glu Thr Asp	Ser Gly Val		
165	170	175				
gat gat gcc atg	gct tgt cat	aaa ata cca	gtg gag	gcc gac ttc ttg		632
Asp Asp Ala Met	Ala Cys His	Lys Ile	Pro Val	Glu Ala Asp Phe	Leu	
180	185	190				
tat gca tac tcc aca	gca cct ggt	tat tat tct	tgg cga	aat tca aag		680
Tyr Ala Tyr Ser	Thr Ala Pro	Gly Tyr	Tyr Ser	Trp Arg Asn	Ser Lys	
195	200	205	210			
gat ggc tcc tgg	ttc atc cag	tcg ctt tgt	gcc atg	ctg aaa cag	tat	728
Asp Gly Ser Trp	Phe Ile Gln	Ser Leu Cys	Ala Met	Leu Lys Gln	Tyr	
215	220	225				
gcc gac aag ctt	gaa ttt atg	cac att ctt	acc cgg	gtt aac cga	aag	776
Ala Asp Lys Leu	Glu Phe Met	His Ile	Leu Thr Arg	Val Asn Arg	Lys	
230	235	240				

-continued

gtg gca aca gaa ttt gag tcc ttt tcc ttt gac gct act ttt cat gca	824
Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe His Ala	
245 250 255	
aag aaa cag att cca tgt att gtt tcc atg ctc aca aaa gaa ctc tat	872
Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr	
260 265 270	
ttt tat cac ctcgagcacc ccccccacac cactgagatc cgnctgctac	921
Phe Tyr His	
275	
aaagccgaa aggaagctga ntggctgtc gccccnctg accataccctt gcataccct	981
ngggncncta acgggtctgg ggggnnttgc ctgaaggggg acctnttccg natggcnann	1041
ggaccccccna gtacccgcct naaccnnggg gnggggggttc ccccacggac cctacntgcn	1101
gccccnnccc cncttnccct tntcttcntt cncccggtccg gttccnnnan ctnanngggc	1161
ccttggtcca tnggttcgc cccccccaaa ctttagggng gtccnngggc cccnaaaggt	1221
tcctttnnng nccctttaa ggactntcnc ggaccccccna cnntttttt nagntncctc	1281
cctgnaangn nttaaatncn ttnaancctt gggcn	1316

<210> SEQ ID NO 8

<211> LENGTH: 277

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 8

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu	
1 5 10 15	

Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser	
20 25 30	

Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile	
35 40 45	

Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg	
50 55 60	

Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn	
65 70 75 80	

Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile	
85 90 95	

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser	
100 105 110	

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe	
115 120 125	

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg	
130 135 140	

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile	
145 150 155 160	

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser	
165 170 175	

Gly Val Asp Asp Ala Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp	
180 185 190	

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn	
195 200 205	

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys	
210 215 220	

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn	
225 230 235 240	

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe

-continued

245

250

255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

<210> SEQ ID NO 9
 <211> LENGTH: 277
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(277)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-3; with amino acid DDD wild-type
 safety catch sequence (ACCESSION Number NM_004346)

<400> SEQUENCE: 9

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
 1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
 20 25 30

Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
 35 40 45

Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg
 50 55 60

Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn
 65 70 75 80

Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Gly Val Asp Asp Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

<210> SEQ ID NO 10
 <211> LENGTH: 277
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

-continued

<220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(277)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-3; with amino acid DDD to ADD safety
 catch mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 10

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
 1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
 20 25 30

Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
 35 40 45

Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg
 50 55 60

Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn
 65 70 75 80

Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Gly Val Ala Asp Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

<210> SEQ_ID NO 11
 <211> LENGTH: 277
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(277)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-3; with amino acid DDD to DAD safety
 catch mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 11

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
 1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
 20 25 30

-continued

Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
 35 40 45
 Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg
 50 55 60
 Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95
 Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110
 Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125
 Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140
 Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160
 Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175
 Gly Val Asp Ala Asp Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190
 Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205
 Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220
 Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240
 Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255
 His Xaa Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270
 Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

<210> SEQ ID NO 12
 <211> LENGTH: 277
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(277)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-3; with amino acid DDD to DAD safety
 catch mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 12

Met Glu Asn Thr Glu Asn Ser Val Asp Ser Lys Ser Ile Lys Asn Leu
 1 5 10 15
 Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile His Gly Ser Glu Ser Met Asp Ser Gly Ile Ser
 20 25 30
 Leu Asp Asn Ser Tyr Lys Met Asp Tyr Pro Glu Met Gly Leu Cys Ile
 35 40 45
 Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe His Lys Ser Thr Gly Met Thr Ser Arg
 50 55 60
 Ser Gly Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Ala Asn Leu Arg Glu Thr Phe Arg Asn
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Lys Tyr Glu Val Arg Asn Lys Asn Asp Leu Thr Arg Glu Glu Ile
 85 90 95

-continued

Val Glu Leu Met Arg Asp Val Ser Lys Glu Asp His Ser Lys Arg Ser
 100 105 110

Ser Phe Val Cys Val Leu Leu Ser His Gly Glu Glu Gly Ile Ile Phe
 115 120 125

Gly Thr Asn Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Lys Lys Ile Thr Asn Phe Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Gly Asp Arg Cys Arg Ser Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp Cys Gly Ile Glu Thr Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Gly Val Asp Asp Ala Met Ala Cys His Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp
 180 185 190

Phe Leu Tyr Ala Tyr Ser Thr Ala Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Asn
 195 200 205

Ser Lys Asp Gly Ser Trp Phe Ile Gln Ser Leu Cys Ala Met Leu Lys
 210 215 220

Gln Tyr Ala Asp Lys Leu Glu Phe Met His Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn
 225 230 235 240

Arg Lys Val Ala Thr Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe Ser Phe Asp Ala Thr Phe
 245 250 255

His Ala Lys Lys Gln Ile Pro Cys Ile Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu
 260 265 270

Leu Tyr Phe Tyr His
 275

<210> SEQ ID NO 13
 <211> LENGTH: 45
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligo

<400> SEQUENCE: 13

gacagacagt ggtgtgcgg atgacatggc gtgtcataaa atacc 45

<210> SEQ ID NO 14
 <211> LENGTH: 45
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligo

<400> SEQUENCE: 14

gacagacagt ggtgttgatg ctgacatggc gtgtcataaa atacc 45

<210> SEQ ID NO 15
 <211> LENGTH: 45
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligo

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

gacagacagt ggtgttgatg atgccatggc gtgtcataaa atacc 45

<210> SEQ ID NO 16
 <211> LENGTH: 912
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: CDS
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(912)

-continued

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-7 with amino acid DTD wild-type safety catch sequence (Accession Number NM_001227)

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

atg gca gat gat cag ggc tgt att gaa gag cag ggg gtt gag gat tca	48
Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser	
1 5 10 15	
gca aat gaa gat tca gtc gat gct aag cca gac cgg tcc tcg ttt gta	96
Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val	
20 25 30	
ccg tcc ctc ttc agt aag aag aaa aat gtc acc atg cga tcc atc	144
Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile	
35 40 45	
aag acc acc cgg gac cga gtc cct aca tat cag tac aac atg aat ttt	192
Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe	
50 55 60	
gaa aag ctg ggc aaa tgc atc ata ata aac aac aag aac ttt gat aaa	240
Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys	
65 70 75 80	
gtg aca ggt atg ggc gtt cga aac gga aca gac aaa gat gcc gag gcg	288
Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala	
85 90 95	
ctc ttc aag tgc ttc cga agc ctg ggt ttt gac gtc att gtc tat aat	336
Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn	
100 105 110	
gac tgc tct tgt gcc aag atg caa gat ctg ctt aaa aaa gct tct gaa	384
Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu	
115 120 125	
gag gac cat aca aat gcc gcc tgc ttc gcc tgc atc ctc tta agc cat	432
Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His	
130 135 140	
gga gaa gaa aat gta att tat ggg aaa gat ggt gtc aca cca ata aag	480
Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys	
145 150 155 160	
gat ttg aca gcc cac ttt agg ggg gat aga tgc aaa acc ctt tta gag	528
Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu	
165 170 175	
aaa ccc aaa ctc ttc ttc att cag gct tgc cga ggg acc gag ctt gat	576
Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp	
180 185 190	
gat ggc atc cag gcc gac tgc ggg ccc atc aat gac aca gat gct aat	624
Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Thr Asp Ala Asn	
195 200 205	
cct cga tac aag atc cca gtc gaa gct gac ttc ctc ttc gcc tat tcc	672
Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser	
210 215 220	
acg gtt cca ggc tat tac tgc tgg agg agc cca gga aga ggc tcc tgg	720
Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp	
225 230 235 240	
ttt gtg caa gcc ctc tgc tcc atc ctg gag gag cac gga aaa gac ctg	768
Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu	
245 250 255	
gaa atc atg cag atc ctc acc agg gtc aat gac aga gtt gcc agg cac	816
Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His	
260 265 270	
ttt gag tct cag tct gat gac cca cac ttc cat gag aag aag cag atc	864
Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile	
275 280 285	
ccc tgt gtg gtc tcc atg ctc acc aag gaa ctc tac ttc agt caa tag	912
Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln	
290 295 300	

-continued

<210> SEQ ID NO 17
 <211> LENGTH: 303
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
 20 25 30

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
 35 40 45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
 50 55 60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
 65 70 75 80

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
 100 105 110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
 115 120 125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His
 130 135 140

Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys
 145 150 155 160

Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu
 165 170 175

Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp
 180 185 190

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Thr Asp Ala Asn
 195 200 205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
 210 215 220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
 245 250 255

Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
 275 280 285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln
 290 295 300

<210> SEQ ID NO 18
 <211> LENGTH: 912
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: CDS
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(912)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

atg gca gat gat cag ggc tgt att gaa gag cag ggg gtt gag gat tca

-continued

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser	1	5	10	15	
gca aat gaa gat tca gtg gat gct aag cca gac cgg tcc tcg ttt gta					96
Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val					
20 25 30					
ccg tcc ctc ttc agt aag aag aag aaa aat gtc acc atg cga tcc atc					144
Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile					
35 40 45					
aag acc acc cgg gac cga gtg cct aca tat cag tac aac atg aat ttt					192
Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe					
50 55 60					
gaa aag ctg ggc aaa tgc atc ata ata aac aac aag aac ttt gat aaa					240
Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys					
65 70 75 80					
gtg aca ggt atg ggc gtt cga aac gga aca gac aaa gat gcc gag gcg					288
Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala					
85 90 95					
ctc ttc aag tgc ttc cga agc ctg ggt ttt gac gtg att gtc tat aat					336
Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn					
100 105 110					
gac tgc tct tgt gcc aag atg caa gat ctg ctt aaa aaa gct tct gaa					384
Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu					
115 120 125					
gag gac cat aca aat gcc gcc tgc ttc gcc tgc atc ctc tta agc cat					432
Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His					
130 135 140					
gga gaa gaa aat gta att tat ggg aaa gat ggt gtc aca cca ata aag					480
Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys					
145 150 155 160					
gat ttg aca gcc cac ttt agg ggg gat aga tgc aaa acc ctt tta gag					528
Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu					
165 170 175					
aaa ccc aaa ctc ttc att cag gct tgc cga ggg acc gag ctt gat					576
Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp					
180 185 190					
gat ggc atc cag gcc gac tcg ggg ccc atc aat gac gca gat gct aat					624
Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Ala Asp Ala Asn					
195 200 205					
cct cga tac aag atc cca gtg gaa gct gac ttc ctc ttc gcc tat tcc					672
Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser					
210 215 220					
acg gtt cca ggc tat tac tgc tgg agg agc cca gga aga ggc tcc tgg					720
Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp					
225 230 235 240					
ttt gtg caa gcc ctc tgc tcc atc ctg gag gag cac gca aaa gac ctg					768
Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu					
245 250 255					
gaa atc atg cag atc ctc acc agg gtg aat gac aga gtt gcc agg cac					816
Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His					
260 265 270					
ttt gag tct cag tct gat gac cca cac ttc cat gag aag aag cag atc					864
Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile					
275 280 285					
ccc tgt gtg gtc tcc atg ctc acc aag gaa ctc tac ttc agt caa tag					912
Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln					
290 295 300					

<210> SEQ ID NO 19

<211> LENGTH: 303

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

-continued

<400> SEQUENCE: 19

```

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser 1
      5           10           15

Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
20           25           30

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
35           40           45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
50           55           60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
65           70           75           80

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
85           90           95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
100          105          110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
115          120          125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His
130          135          140

Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys
145          150          155          160

Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu
165          170          175

Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp
180          185          190

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Ala Asp Ala Asn
195          200          205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
210          215          220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
225          230          235          240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
245          250          255

Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
260          265          270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
275          280          285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln
290          295          300

```

<210> SEQ_ID NO 20

<211> LENGTH: 936

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<220> FEATURE:

<221> NAME/KEY: CDS

<222> LOCATION: (1)..(936)

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-7 DTD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 20

```

atg gca gat gat cag ggc tgt att gaa gag cag ggg gtt gag gat tca 48
Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
1           5           10           15

gca aat gaa gat tca gtg gat gct aag cca gac cgg tcc tcg ttt gta 96
Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
20          25          30

```

ccg tcc ctc ttc agt aag aag aag aat gtc acc atg cga tcc atc Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile 35 40 45	144
aag acc acc cgg gac cga gtg cct aca tat cag tac aac atg aat ttt Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe 50 55 60	192
gaa aag ctg ggc aaa tgc atc ata ata aac aac aag aac ttt gat aaa Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys 65 70 75 80	240
gtg aca ggt atg ggc gtt cga aac gga aca gac aaa gat gcc gag gcg Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala 85 90 95	288
ctc ttc aag tgc ttc cga agc ctg ggt ttt gac gtg att gtc tat aat Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn 100 105 110	336
gac tgc tct tgt gcc aag atg caa gat ctg ctt aaa aaa gct tct gaa Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu 115 120 125	384
gag gac cat aca aat gcc gcc tgc ttc gcc tgc atc ctc tta agc cat Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His 130 135 140	432
gga gaa gaa aat gta att tat ggg aaa gat ggt gtc aca cca ata aag Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys 145 150 155 160	480
gat ttg aca gcc cac ttt agg ggg gat aga tgc aaa acc ctt tta gag Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu 165 170 175	528
aaa ccc aaa ctc ttc att cag gct gcc cga ggg acc gag ctt gat Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Ala Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp 180 185 190	576
gat ggc atc cag gcc gac tcg ggg ccc atc aat gac aca gat gct aat Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Thr Asp Ala Asn 195 200 205	624
cct cga tac aag atc cca gtg gaa gct gac ttc ctc ttc gcc tat tcc Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser 210 215 220	672
acg gtt cca ggc tat tac tcg tgg agg agc cca gga aga ggc tcc tgg Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp 225 230 235 240	720
ttt gtg caa gcc ctc tgc tcc atc ctg gag gag cac gga aaa gac ctg Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu 245 250 255	768
gaa atc atg cag atc ctc acc agg gtg aat gac aga gtt gcc agg cac Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His 260 265 270	816
ttt gag tct cag tct gat gac cca cac ttc cat gag aag aag cag atc Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile 275 280 285	864
ccc tgt gtg gtc tcc atg ctc acc aag gaa ctc tac ttc agt caa ctc Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln Leu 290 295 300	912
gag cac cac cac cac cac tga Glu His His His His His 305 310	936

<210> SEQ ID NO 21
<211> LENGTH: 311
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

-continued

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
 20 25 30

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
 35 40 45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
 50 55 60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
 65 70 75 80

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
 100 105 110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
 115 120 125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His
 130 135 140

Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys
 145 150 155 160

Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu
 165 170 175

Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Ala Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp
 180 185 190

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Thr Asp Ala Asn
 195 200 205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
 210 215 220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
 245 250 255

Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
 275 280 285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln Leu
 290 295 300

Glu His His His His His
 305 310

<210> SEQ ID NO 22
 <211> LENGTH: 936
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: CDS
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(936)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch, active
 site C to A mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 22

atg gca gat gat cag ggc tgt att gaa gag cag cgg gtt gag gat tca 48
 Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
 1 5 10 15

gca aat gaa gat tca gtg gat gct aag cca gac cgg tcc tcg ttt gta 96
 Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val

US 8,592,584 B2

125

126

-continued

20	25	30	
ccg tcc ctc ttc agt aag aag aag aat gtc acc atg cga tcc atc			144
Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile			
35	40	45	
aag acc acc cgg gac cga gtg cct aca tat cag tac aac atg aat ttt			192
Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe			
50	55	60	
gaa aag ctg ggc aaa tgc atc ata ata aac aac aag aac ttt gat aaa			240
Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys			
65	70	75	80
gtg aca ggt atg ggc gtt cga aac gga aca gac aaa gat gcc gag gcg			288
Val Thr Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala			
85	90	95	
ctc ttc aag tgc ttc cga agc ctg ggt ttt gac gtg att gtc tat aat			336
Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn			
100	105	110	
gac tgc tct tgt gcc aag atg caa gat ctg ctt aaa aaa gct tct gaa			384
Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu			
115	120	125	
gag gac cat aca aat gcc gcc tgc ttc gcc tgc atc ctc tta agc cat			432
Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His			
130	135	140	
gga gaa gaa aat gta att tat ggg aaa gat ggt gtc aca cca ata aag			480
Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys			
145	150	155	160
gat ttg aca gcc cac ttt agg ggg gat aga tgc aaa acc ctt tta gag			528
Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu			
165	170	175	
aaa ccc aaa ctc ttc ttc att cag gct gcc cga ggg acc gag ctt gat			576
Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Ala Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp			
180	185	190	
gat ggc atc cag gcc gac tcg ggg ccc atc aat gac gca gat gct aat			624
Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Ala Asp Ala Asn			
195	200	205	
cct cga tac aag atc cca gtg gaa gct gac ttc ctc ttc gcc tat tcc			672
Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser			
210	215	220	
acg gtt cca ggc tat tac tcg tgg agg agc cca gga aga ggc tcc tgg			720
Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp			
225	230	235	240
ttt gtg caa gcc ctc tgc tcc atc ctg gag gag cac gga aaa gac ctg			768
Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu			
245	250	255	
gaa atc atg cag atc ctc acc agg gtg aat gac aga gtt gcc agg cac			816
Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His			
260	265	270	
ttt gag tct cag tct gat gac cca cac ttc cat gag aag aag cag atc			864
Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile			
275	280	285	
ccc tgt gtg gtc tcc atg ctc acc aag gaa ctc tac ttc agt caa ctc			912
Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln Leu			
290	295	300	
gag cac cac cac cac cac tga			936
Glu His His His His His			
305	310		

<210> SEQ ID NO 23

<211> LENGTH: 311

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 23

Met	Ala	Asp	Asp	Gln	Gly	Cys	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gln	Gly	Val	Glu	Asp	Ser
1				5				10					15		

Ala	Asn	Glu	Asp	Ser	Val	Asp	Ala	Lys	Pro	Asp	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	Val
		20			25			30							

Pro	Ser	Leu	Phe	Ser	Lys	Lys	Lys	Asn	Val	Thr	Met	Arg	Ser	Ile
		35			40			45						

Lys	Thr	Thr	Arg	Asp	Arg	Val	Pro	Thr	Tyr	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Met	Asn	Phe
		50			55			60							

Glu	Lys	Leu	Gly	Lys	Cys	Ile	Ile	Asn	Asn	Lys	Asn	Phe	Asp	Lys
65				70				75				80		

Val	Thr	Gly	Met	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Gly	Thr	Asp	Lys	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ala
		85			90			95							

Leu	Phe	Lys	Cys	Phe	Arg	Ser	Leu	Gly	Phe	Asp	Val	Ile	Val	Tyr	Asn
		100			105			110							

Asp	Cys	Ser	Cys	Ala	Lys	Met	Gln	Asp	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ala	Ser	Glu
		115			120			125						

Glu	Asp	His	Thr	Asn	Ala	Ala	Cys	Phe	Ala	Cys	Ile	Leu	Leu	Ser	His
		130			135			140							

Gly	Glu	Glu	Asn	Val	Ile	Tyr	Gly	Lys	Asp	Gly	Val	Thr	Pro	Ile	Lys
145				150			155				160				

Asp	Leu	Thr	Ala	His	Phe	Arg	Gly	Asp	Arg	Cys	Lys	Thr	Leu	Leu	Glu
		165			170			175							

Lys	Pro	Lys	Leu	Phe	Phe	Ile	Gln	Ala	Ala	Arg	Gly	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp
		180			185			190							

Asp	Gly	Ile	Gln	Ala	Asp	Ser	Gly	Pro	Ile	Asn	Asp	Ala	Asp	Ala	Asn
		195			200			205							

Pro	Arg	Tyr	Lys	Ile	Pro	Val	Glu	Ala	Asp	Phe	Leu	Phe	Ala	Tyr	Ser
		210			215			220							

Thr	Val	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Tyr	Ser	Trp	Arg	Ser	Pro	Gly	Arg	Gly	Ser	Trp
225				230			235			240					

Phe	Val	Gln	Ala	Leu	Cys	Ser	Ile	Leu	Glu	Glu	His	Gly	Lys	Asp	Leu
		245			250			255							

Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Ile	Leu	Thr	Arg	Val	Asn	Asp	Arg	Val	Ala	Arg	His
		260			265			270							

Phe	Glu	Ser	Gln	Ser	Asp	Asp	Pro	Phe	His	Glu	Lys	Lys	Gln	Ile
		275			280			285						

Pro	Cys	Val	Val	Ser	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Phe	Ser	Gln	Leu
		290			295			300							

Glu	His	His	His	His	His	His									
305				310											

<210> SEQ_ID NO 24

<211> LENGTH: 303

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<220> FEATURE:

<221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE

<222> LOCATION: (1)..(303)

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-7 with amino acid DTD wild-type safety catch sequence (Accession Number NM_001227)

<400> SEQUENCE: 24

Met	Ala	Asp	Asp	Gln	Gly	Cys	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gln	Gly	Val	Glu	Asp	Ser
1				5				10					15		

Ala	Asn	Glu	Asp	Ser	Val	Asp	Ala	Lys	Pro	Asp	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	Val
		20			25			30							

-continued

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
 35 40 45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
 50 55 60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
 65 70 75 80

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
 100 105 110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
 115 120 125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His
 130 135 140

Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys
 145 150 155 160

Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu
 165 170 175

Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp
 180 185 190

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Thr Asp Ala Asn
 195 200 205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
 210 215 220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
 245 250 255

Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
 275 280 285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln
 290 295 300

<210> SEQ_ID NO 25
 <211> LENGTH: 303
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)..(303)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Procaspsase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 25

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
 20 25 30

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
 35 40 45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
 50 55 60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
 65 70 75 80

-continued

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
 100 105 110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
 115 120 125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His
 130 135 140

Gly Glu Glu Asn Val Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Gly Val Thr Pro Ile Lys
 145 150 155 160

Asp Leu Thr Ala His Phe Arg Gly Asp Arg Cys Lys Thr Leu Leu Glu
 165 170 175

Lys Pro Lys Leu Phe Phe Ile Gln Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Asp
 180 185 190

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Asp Asp Ala Asn
 195 200 205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
 210 215 220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
 245 250 255

Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
 275 280 285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln
 290 295 300

<210> SEQ ID NO 26
 <211> LENGTH: 303
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
 <222> LOCATION: (1)...(303)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-7 DTD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

Met Ala Asp Asp Gln Gly Cys Ile Glu Glu Gln Gly Val Glu Asp Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ala Asn Glu Asp Ser Val Asp Ala Lys Pro Asp Arg Ser Ser Phe Val
 20 25 30

Pro Ser Leu Phe Ser Lys Lys Lys Asn Val Thr Met Arg Ser Ile
 35 40 45

Lys Thr Thr Arg Asp Arg Val Pro Thr Tyr Gln Tyr Asn Met Asn Phe
 50 55 60

Glu Lys Leu Gly Lys Cys Ile Ile Ile Asn Asn Lys Asn Phe Asp Lys
 65 70 75 80

Val Thr Gly Met Gly Val Arg Asn Gly Thr Asp Lys Asp Ala Glu Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Phe Lys Cys Phe Arg Ser Leu Gly Phe Asp Val Ile Val Tyr Asn
 100 105 110

Asp Cys Ser Cys Ala Lys Met Gln Asp Leu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ser Glu
 115 120 125

Glu Asp His Thr Asn Ala Ala Cys Phe Ala Cys Ile Leu Leu Ser His

-continued

130	135	140													
Gly	Glu	Asn	Val	Ile	Tyr	Gly	Lys	Asp	Gly	Val	Thr	Pro	Ile	Lys	
145				150			155						160		
Asp	Leu	Thr	Ala	His	Phe	Arg	Gly	Asp	Arg	Cys	Lys	Thr	Leu	Leu	Glu
	165				170				175						
Lys	Pro	Lys	Leu	Phe	Phe	Ile	Gln	Ala	Ala	Arg	Gly	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp
	180				185				190						
Asp	Gly	Ile	Gln	Ala	Asp	Ser	Gly	Pro	Ile	Asn	Asp	Thr	Asp	Ala	Asn
	195				200				205						
Pro	Arg	Tyr	Lys	Ile	Pro	Val	Glu	Ala	Asp	Phe	Leu	Phe	Ala	Tyr	Ser
	210				215				220						
Thr	Val	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Tyr	Ser	Trp	Arg	Ser	Pro	Gly	Arg	Gly	Ser	Trp
	225				230				235				240		
Phe	Val	Gln	Ala	Leu	Cys	Ser	Ile	Leu	Glu	Glu	His	Gly	Lys	Asp	Leu
		245				250				255					
Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Ile	Leu	Thr	Arg	Val	Asn	Asp	Arg	Val	Ala	Arg	His
		260				265				270					
Phe	Glu	Ser	Gln	Ser	Asp	Asp	Pro	His	Phe	His	Glu	Lys	Lys	Gln	Ile
	275				280				285						
Pro	Cys	Val	Val	Ser	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Phe	Ser	Gln	
	290				295				300						

<210> SEQ ID NO 27
<211> LENGTH: 303
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: MISC_FEATURE
<222> LOCATION: (1) ..(303)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Pro caspase-7 DDD wild-type safety catch, active site C to A mutant sequence

<400> SEQUENCE: 27

Met	Ala	Asp	Asp	Gln	Gly	Cys	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gln	Gly	Val	Glu	Asp	Ser
1				5			10			15					
Ala	Asn	Glu	Asp	Ser	Val	Asp	Ala	Lys	Pro	Asp	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	Val
	20				25					30					
Pro	Ser	Leu	Phe	Ser	Lys	Lys	Lys	Asn	Val	Thr	Met	Arg	Ser	Ile	
	35				40					45					
Lys	Thr	Thr	Arg	Asp	Arg	Val	Pro	Thr	Tyr	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Met	Asn	Phe
	50				55					60					
Glu	Lys	Leu	Gly	Lys	Cys	Ile	Ile	Ile	Asn	Asn	Lys	Asn	Phe	Asp	Lys
	65				70				75			80			
Val	Thr	Gly	Met	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Gly	Thr	Asp	Lys	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ala
	85				90					95					
Leu	Phe	Lys	Cys	Phe	Arg	Ser	Leu	Gly	Phe	Asp	Val	Ile	Val	Tyr	Asn
	100				105				110						
Asp	Cys	Ser	Cys	Ala	Lys	Met	Gln	Asp	Leu	Leu	Lys	Lys	Ala	Ser	Glu
	115				120				125						
Glu	Asp	His	Thr	Asn	Ala	Ala	Cys	Phe	Ala	Cys	Ile	Leu	Leu	Ser	His
	130				135				140						
Gly	Glu	Glu	Asn	Val	Ile	Tyr	Gly	Lys	Asp	Gly	Val	Thr	Pro	Ile	Lys
	145				150				155				160		
Asp	Leu	Thr	Ala	His	Phe	Arg	Gly	Asp	Arg	Cys	Lys	Thr	Leu	Leu	Glu
	165				170				175						
Lys	Pro	Lys	Leu	Phe	Phe	Ile	Gln	Ala	Ala	Arg	Gly	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp
	180				185				190						

-continued

Asp Gly Ile Gln Ala Asp Ser Gly Pro Ile Asn Asp Asp Asp Ala Asn
 195 200 205

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Ile Pro Val Glu Ala Asp Phe Leu Phe Ala Tyr Ser
 210 215 220

Thr Val Pro Gly Tyr Tyr Ser Trp Arg Ser Pro Gly Arg Gly Ser Trp
 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Gln Ala Leu Cys Ser Ile Leu Glu Glu His Gly Lys Asp Leu
 245 250 255

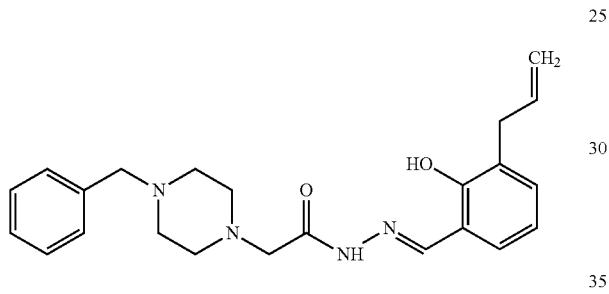
Glu Ile Met Gln Ile Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Asp Arg Val Ala Arg His
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Ser Gln Ser Asp Asp Pro His Phe His Glu Lys Lys Gln Ile
 275 280 285

Pro Cys Val Val Ser Met Leu Thr Lys Glu Leu Tyr Phe Ser Gln
 290 295 300

We claim:

1. A composition comprising a compound of formula:



and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

* * * * *