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(54) Titre: DOMAINE EXTRACELLULAIRE DE HER2

(54) Title: HER2 EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

An extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, essentially free of transmembrane and cytoplasmic portions, which is antigenic in animals. Isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion; an expression vector containing the isolated DNA; and a cell containing the expression vector. A process for producing the extracellular domain. A vaccine containing the extracellular domain.







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(54) Title: HER2 EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN

(57) Abstract

An extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, essentially free of transmembrane and cytoplasmic portions, which is antigenic in animals. Isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion; an expression vector containing the isolated DNA; and a cell containing the expression vector. A process for producing the extracellular domain. A vaccine containing the extracellular domain.

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HER2 EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention is generally directed to the extracellular domain of p185^{HER2}, a receptor-like protein which is encoded by the human homolog of the rat neu oncogene.

More specifically, the present invention is directed to a form of the extracellular domain which is essentially free of transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains, to the DNA encoding this form, and to a process for producing this form of the extracellular domain in a host cell.

Description of Background and Relevant Materials

Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2, also known as NGL and human c-erbB-2, or ERBB2), is the human homolog of the rat proto-oncogene neu. HER2 encodes a 1,255 amino acid tyrosine kinase receptor-like glycoprotein with homology to the human epidermal growth factor receptor. Although no ligand binding to this probable growth factor receptor has yet been isolated, the HER2 gene product, p185HER2, has the structural and functional properties of subclass I growth factor receptors (Yarden et al., Ann. Rev. Biochem., 57:443-478 (1988); Yarden et al., Biochem., 27:3113-3119 (1988)).

The receptor tyrosine kinases all have the same general structural motif; an extracellular domain that binds ligand, and an intracellular tyrosine kinase domain that is necessary for signal transduction, or in aberrant

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cases, for transformation. These 2 domains are connected by a single stretch of approximately 20 mostly hydrophobic amino acids, called the transmembrane spanning sequence. This sequence is thought to play a role in transferring the signal generated by ligand binding from the outside of the cell to the inside. It has also been suggested to play a role in the proper positioning of the receptor in the plasma membrane.

Consistent with this general structure, the p185HER2 glycoprotein, which is located on the cell surface, may be divided into three principle portions: an extracellular domain, or ECD (also known as XCD); a transmembrane spanning sequence; and a cytoplasmic, intracellular tyrosine kinase domain. While it is presumed that the extracellular domain is a ligand receptor, as stated above the corresponding ligand has not yet been identified.

The HER2 gene is of particular interest because its amplification has been correlated with certain types of cancer. Amplification of the HER2 gene has been found in human salivary gland and gastric tumor-derived cell lines, gastric and colon adenocarcinomas, and mammary gland adenocarcinomas. Semba et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82:6497-6501 (1985); Yokota et al., Oncogene, 2:283-287 (1988); Zhou et al., Cancer Res., 47:6123-6125 (1987); King et al., Science, 229:974-976 (1985); Kraus et al., EMBO J., 6:605-610 (1987); van de Vijver et al., Mol. Cell. Biol., 7:2019-2023 (1987); Yamamoto et al., Nature, 319:230-234 (1986). Gene transfer experiments have shown that

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overexpression of HER2 will transform NIH 3T3 cells and also cause an increase in resistance to the toxic macrophage cytokine tumor necrosis factor. Hudziak et al., "Amplified Expression of the HER2/ERBB2 Oncogene Induces Resistance to Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha in NIH 3T3 Cells", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85, 5102-5106 (1988).

Because amplification of the HER2 gene results in greatly increased numbers of the p185^{HER2} protein residing on the surfaces of affected cells, there may be an interrelationship between increased amounts of p185^{HER2} extracellular domain on the surfaces of affected cells and the resistance of these cells to treatment. It would therefore be highly desirable to be able to manipulate the p185^{HER2} extracellular domain in order to investigate several possibilities for the treatment of conditions associated with amplification of the HER2 gene. These therapeutic modes relate not only to the extracellular domain, but also to the putative ligand, which it should be possible to isolate and characterize using the purified p185^{HER2} extracellular domain.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is accordingly directed to an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule containing at least 9 amino acids, and/or containing an immune epitope, which is essentially free of transmembrane and intracellular portions of the HER2 molecule. The extracellular portion may be substantially pure, or at least about 99% pure, and may extend to the entire

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extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule. Moreover, the extracellular portion may be antigenic in animals, and may conjugated with a peptide having be properties; this peptide may contain an immune epitope.

another embodiment, the present invention is directed to isolated DNA encoding the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule. This isolated DNA terminates upstream of the DNA portion encoding the transmembrane domain of the HER2 molecule. The termination may occur at least 1 base pair upstream of the portion encoding the 10 transmembrane domain of the HER2 molecule, and preferably occurs about 24 base pairs upstream of this portion.

The isolated DNA of the present invention encodes a sequence of at least 9 amino acids of the extracellular portion, and none of the transmembrane or intracellular portions of the HER2 molecule.

In a further embodiment, the present invention contemplates an expression vector, such as a plasmid or virus, containing the isolated DNA as described above, as well as a cell containing the expression vector. This cell may be eukaryotic or prokaryotic.

The present invention also extends to a process for producing an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, which includes the steps of ligating the isolated DNA as described above into an expression vector capable of expressing the isolated DNA in a suitable host; transforming the host with the expression vector;

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culturing the host under conditions suitable for expression of the isolated DNA and production of the extracellular portion; and isolating the extracellular portion from the host. The host cell may be a prokaryote, such as a bacterium, or a eukaryote.

In a yet further embodiment, the present invention extends to a vaccine comprising the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule, which may be combined with suitable adjuvants.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

- Fig 1. HER2 expression vector and full-length and mutant HER2 proteins. The HER2 expression vector contained eukaryotic transcriptional units for the mouse dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) cDNA and the bacterial neomycin phosphotransferase (neo) gene, both under SV40 early promoter control. Transcription of the full-length HER2 cDNA was also driven by the early SV40 promoter. full-length HER2 protein contains an extracellular domain with two cysteine-rich clusters (hatched rectangle), separated by the transmembrane-spanning region (filled 20 rectangle) from the intracellular tyrosine kinase domain (open rectangle). The mutant protein p185HER2ATH has a deletion of 28 amino acids, including the transmembrane-spanning region. The truncated p185HER2XCD protein contains all N-terminal sequences up to 8 amino 25 acids before the transmembrane-spanning region.
 - Fig. 2. Amplification of HER2 and HER2ATM genes. Cell lines transfected with plasmids expressing wild type

or the ATM mutant HER2 cDNAs were amplified to resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. Cultures were metabolically labeled with [35]-methionine and proteins immunoprecipitated with the G-H2CT17 antibody. Lane 1: CVN-transfected NIH 3T3 vector control line. Lanes 2 and 3: Parental and amplified HER2-3 line. Lanes 4, 5, and 6, 7: Parent and amplified lines derived from two independent clones, A1 and B2, of the ATM mutant. The arrows indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 175 and 185 kDa.

Fig. 3. Autophosphorylation of p185HER2 and p185HERATM proteins. Triton X-100* lysates of control, $HER2-3_{400}$, and ATM-expressing cell lines were prepared and immunoprecipitated with the G-H2CT17 antibody. The immune complexes were incubated in 50 ul of HNTG, 5 mM MnCl2 with 15 3 uCi [Y-32P] for 20 min, electrophoresed on a 7.5% polyacrylamide gel, and labeled bands visualized by autoradiography. Lane 1: CVN vector control. Lane 2: HER2-3400 cells expressing full-length HER2. Lanes 3 and 4: Two independent lines expressing pl85HER2ATM. The arrows 20 indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 66.2, 97, 175, and 185 KDa.

Fig 4. Secretion assay of ATM mutants. Cell lines CVN, HER2-3400, Δ TM-A1400, and Δ TM-B2400 were labeled with [35 S]methionine overnight. Triton X-100 cell extracts were 25 prepared and the labeling medium collected. Cells and cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with G-H2CT17 antibody and analyzed on 7.5% SDS-PAGE gels.



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Lanes 1-4 are immunoprecipitations of cell extracts from the various lines, and lanes 5-8 are immunoprecipitations from the corresponding cell-conditioned media. Lanes 1 and 5: CVN vector control. Lanes 2 and 6: HER2-3₄₀₀ cell lines expressing full-length p185^{HER2}. Lanes 3, 4 and 7, 8: ATM-A1₄₀₀ and ATM-B2₄₀₀ cell lines expressing mutant p185^{HER2}. The arrows indicate the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 175 and 185 KDa.

- Fig 5. Secretion of p185 HER2XCD from 3T3 and CHO cells. NIH 3T3 and CHO cell lines expressing full-length and 10 truncated p185 MER2 and vector controls were labeled with [35S]-methionine overnight. Cell extracts and cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody 3E8 and analyzed on 7.5% SDS-PAGE gels. Lanes 1 and 2: NIH 3T3 control cell line, 15 extract and conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: NIH 3T3 line A1 expressing p185 HER2XCD, cells and medium. Lanes 5 and 6: NIH 3T3 line 3400 expressing full-length p185HER2, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 7 and 8: CHO control line, cell extract and conditioned medium. Lanes 9 and 10: CHO 20 line 2, expressing p185 HER2XCD, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 11 and 12: CHO line HER2500, expressing full-length p185 HER2, cells and conditioned medium. The arrows indicate the molecular mass of the indicated protein bands.
- Fig 6. Increase in expression of p185HER2XCD with amplification. The CHO-derived cell line HER2XCD-2 was selected for growth in 500 nM and then 3000 nM methotrexate. The parent line, the two amplified

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derivatives, and control vector-transfected cells were labeled with [35]-methionine. Cell extracts and cell-conditioned media were immunoprecipitated with the anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody 3E8 and analyzed on a 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel. Lanes 1 and 2: CVN cell extract and conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: HER2XCD-2, unamplified cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 5 and 6: HER2XCD-2 amplified to resistance to 500 nM methotrexate, cells and conditioned medium. Lanes 7 and 8: HER2XCD-2 amplified to resistance to 3000 nM methotrexate, cells and conditioned 10 medium. For comparative purposes, one-fifth as much sample of the 3000 nm line was loaded compared to the control, 0 nM, and 500 nM lines. The band intensities were quantitated with an LKB2202 laser densitometer. The arrows show the positions of proteins of apparent molecular mass of 88 and 103 KDa.

Fig 7. Biosynthesis of p185HER2XCD. The CHO line HER2XCD23000 was labeled with [35S]-methionine and cell extracts, and cell-conditioned media prepared. Lanes 1 and 2: Cell extract and cell-conditioned medium. Lanes 3 and 4: The same conditioned medium incubated or mock-incubated with endo H. Lanes 5 and 6: Cell extract and conditioned medium from cells treated with tunicamycin. The arrows show the positions expected for proteins of apparent molecular mass of 73, 88, and 103 KDa.

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Fig 8. Morphology of NIH 3T3 cells transfected with HER2 and HER2ΔTM expression constructs. A and D: Parental and amplified cells from NIH 3T3 cells transfected with

vector alone. B and E: NIH 3T3 cells expressing p185HER2ATM (line A1), parent and amplified derivative selected for resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. C and F: NIH 3T3 cells expressing wild type p185HER2 (line 3), parent and amplified derivative selected for resistance to 400 nM methotrexate.

- Fig 9. Cell surface and cytoplasmic immunofluorescence staining of control, HER2, and HER2ΔTM lines.
 The top photos are intact cells labeled with anti-HER2
 monoclonal antibody. The bottom photos are the same cell
 lines treated with 0.15% Triton X-100 detergent before
 addition of antibody. A and D: Control NIH 3T3 cells
 transfected with vector only. B and E: Cell line HER2
 ΔTM-Al₄₀₀, expressing p185HER2ΔTM. C and F: Cell line
 HER2-3₄₀₀ expressing p185HER2ΔTM.
- Fig 10. Fluorescence-activated cell sorter histograms of control, HER2 and HER2ΔTM cells binding anti-p185HER2 monoclonal antibody 4D5. Binding by the control antibody, 368, directed against human tissue plasminogen activator, light, broken line. Binding by the anti-HER2 antibody 4D5, dark unbroken line. Panel A: Control NIH 3T3 cells transfected with vector only. Panel B: Cell line HER2-3400, expressing p185HER2. Panel C: Cell line HER2 ΔTMA1400 expressing p185ATM.
- Fig 11. Biosynthesis of p185^{HER2} and p185^{HER2} proteins.

 25 Cell lines HER2-3₄₀₀ and HER2ATM-A1₄₀₀ were labeled with [³⁵S]-methionine and p185^{HER2} and p185^{HER2} proteins collected by immunoprecipitation and analyzed on a 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel.

 Lane 1: Vector control. Lane 2: Untreated p185^{HER2} Lanes

3 and 4: Aliquots of the same cell extract treated or mock-treated with endo H. Lane 5: Nonglycosylated p185HER2 from cells treated with tunicamycin. Lane 6: Untreated p185HER2. Lanes 7 and 8: Aliquots of the same cell extract treated or mock-treated with endo H. Lane 9: Nonglycosylated p185HER2ATM from cells treated with tunicamycin. The arrows show the positions of proteins of apparent molecular weight of 175 and 185 kDa.

Fig. 12. Purification of the HER2 extracellular domain. Purified HER2 extracellular domain samples were analysed using PhastSystem* SDS-Gel electrophoresis and silver stained protocols as recommended by Pharmacia. SDS polyacrylamide gel (10-15% gradient) electrophoretic analysis was performed according to Pharmacia protocol File No. 110. Silver staining was performed according Pharmacia protocol File No. 210. Lane 1 contains molecular weight markers (BRL). Lane 2: Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell 15 X concentrate (1 microliter). Lanes 3 and 4: immunoaffinity purified HER2 extracellular domain (1.6 micrograms and 0.16 microgram, respectively). Lanes 5 and 20 6: immunoaffinity purified HER2 extracellular domain after DEAE chromatography (0.25 micrograms and 0.083 micrograms, respectively). Lanes 7 and 8: HER2 extracellular domain after formulation in PBS (0.32 micrograms and 0.082 micrograms, respectively).

Fig. 13. The predicted amino acid sequence of the HER2 extracellular domain, with the corresponding nucleic acid sequence. The boxed sequences show potential T-cell

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epitopes, using the algorithm developed by Margolit et al., J. Immunol. 138:2213-2229(4) (1987).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

It was initially hypothesized that removal of the transmembrane spanning sequence would yield a protein which would be secreted from the cell. As previously indicated, the transmembrane spanning sequence is principally composed of hydrophobic amino acids, which effectively anchor the protein in the cell membrane. Removal of this sequence would therefore be expected to permit passage of the protein through the membrane.

A first construct was accordingly prepared which deleted exactly in-frame the 22 amino acid transmembrane spanning sequence of HER2, and 3 amino acids on either side (Figure 1). The construct was prepared as follows:

The central EcoR1 fragment containing the transmembrane spanning segment was cloned into the EcoR1 site of the bacteriophage vector M13 mp18 (Yanisch-Perron et al., Gene, 33:103-119 (1985). The noncoding strand was used as template for oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis. The construct deleted the transmembrane spanning sequence, and an additional 3 amino acids before and after.

Residues 651-678 were deleted by priming double stranded DNA synthesis with a 30 base pair oligonucleotide of sequence 5' CAG AGA GCC AGC CCT CAG CAG AAG ATC CGG 3'. The double stranded DNA was transformed into SR101 cells and mutants identified by hybridization to the same oligonucleotide 5' end labeled by polynucleotide kinase and

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 $[\gamma^{-32}P]$ ATP (Amersham, 5000 Ci/mmol). An EcoR1 fragment containing the deletion was recombined into a plasmid expressing the HER2 cDNA, replacing the wild type sequence.

When expressed in NIH 3T3 cells, this mutant, designated HER2^{ATM}, produced a polypeptide, designated p185^{HER2ATM}, of apparent molecular weight 175 kD (Figure 2, lanes 5 and 7). Production took place at levels comparable to wild type p185^{HER2} amplified to the same level of resistance to methotrexate (Figure 2, lane 3). The mutant proteins also retained an active tyrosine kinase activity.

In the presence of $[\gamma^{-32}P]$ -ATP, the mutant proteins (Figure 3, lanes 3 and 4) were autophosphorylated to the same extent as unaltered p185^{HER} (Figure 3, lane 2). Figure 3 also shows autophosphorylated p185^{HER2ATM}-related proteins of lower molecular weight than the complete protein. These smaller proteins may represent degradation products and, since they are not observed with p185^{HER2}, could imply a difference in intracellular processing of the mutant form.

To determine whether the form lacking the transmembrane sequence was secreted, cells were metabolically labeled with ³⁵S-methionine. The culture conditions used herein were as follows: cells were cultured in a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium and Ham's nutrient mixture F-12 supplemented with glutamine (2 mM), penicillin (100 units/ml), streptomycin (100 ug/ml), and 10% serum. NIH 3T3-derived cell lines were cultured with calf serum (Hyclone). Chinese Hamster Ovary cells deficient in dihydrofolate reductase (CHO-DHFR) were

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cultured in fetal bovine serum (Gibco) supplemented with glycine (0.13 mM), hypoxanthine (0.11 mM), and thymidine (0.02 mM). (For selection of the transfected plasmid DHFR gene or to amplify introduced plasmids by methotrexate selection, the glycine, hypoxanthine, and thymidine were omitted and extensively dialyzed serum substituted for fetal bovine serum.)

Both cells and cell-conditioned medium were assayed for p185^{HER2}. Figure 4 demonstrates that all p185^{HER2} remained cell associated (lanes 2, 3, 4), and neither the wild type protein nor the mutant form was secreted (lanes 6, 7, 8).

Thus, contrary to expectations, deletion of the transmembrane spanning sequence was not sufficient to yield a secreted form of $p185^{HER2}$.

The discovery that p185HER^{2ATM} is not secreted suggested that perhaps there are sequences distal to the transmembrane spanning region that prevent passage of p185^{HER2} through the plasma membrane. A second mutant was accordingly made that contained a UAA stop codon 8 amino acids before the beginning of the proposed transmembrane spanning sequence (Figure 1).

The second construct truncated p185HER2 8 amino acids before the start of the transmembrane spanning region at residue 645 by addition of a polypeptide chain-terminating TAA codon. The oligonucleotide 5' AAG GGC TGC CCC GCC GAG TAA TGA TCA CAG AGA GCC AGC CCT 3' was used to prime synthesis of double-stranded DNA from the same template used to construct the ATM mutant. Mutant plaques were

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identified by hybridization to the 5' end-labeled oligonucleotide, and confirmed by checking for the presence of a Bcl 1 site also introduced directly after the ochre codon. The chain-terminated mutant, designated HER2^{XCD}, was then recombined into the HER2 cDNA expression plasmid. The structure of the plasmid and the 2 mutant HER2 derivatives is shown in Figure 1.

Secretion of the resulting form of p185HER2, designated p185 HER2XCD, was assayed by first metabolically labeling the cells with 35S-methionine, followed by immunoprecipitation 10 of p185HER2-related proteins from both the cells and cell-conditioned media. In the immunoprecipitation procedure (Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84:7159-7163 (1987)), cells were harvested trypsinization, counted electronically with a Coulter 15 counter, and plated at least 6 hrs. before labeling. The plating medium was removed, cells washed with PBS, and the cells re-fed with methionine-free Dulbecco's modified minimal medium. [35]-methionine (Amersham, 800 Ci/mmol, 29.6 TBq/mmol) was added at 100 uCi/6 cm plate in a volume 20 of 3 ml. Cells were lysed at 4°C with 0.4 ml of HNEG lysis buffer per 6 cm plate. After 10 min, 0.8 ml of lysis dilution buffer (HNEG buffer with 1% bovine serum albumin, 0.1% Triton X-100 detergent) was added to each plate and the extracts were clarified by microcentrifugation for 5 25 min. Medium to be assayed for secretion of p185HER2 related was collected and clarified proteins by microcentrifugation.

Antibodies were added to cell extracts or conditioned medium and allowed to bind at 4°C for 2-4 h. The polyclonal antibody, G-H2CT17(0), recognizing the carboxy-terminal 17 amino acids of p185 HER2, was used for characterization of cell lines expressing the transmembrane-deleted form of p185 HER2. The monoclonal antibody 3E8, recognizing an epitope on the extracellular domain (Hudziak et al., Mol. Cell. Bio., 9:1165-1172 (1989)), was used at 8 ug/reaction to immunoprecipitate the truncated form. Seven ug of rabbit anti-mouse IgG was added to immunoprecipitations 10 using this monoclonal to improve its binding to protein A-sepharose. Immune complexes were collected by absorption to protein A-sepharose beads and washed (Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:5102-5106 (1988); Hudziak et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84:7159-7163 (1987)). Proteins were separated on 7.5% sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gels (SDS-PAGE) and analyzed by autoradiography.

This revealed a form of p185HER2XCD of M_r 88,000 kD that
is associated with the cells (Figure 5, lanes 3 and 9);
however, the cell-conditioned media from both the NIH 3T3
cells and Chinese hamster ovary-derived lines also contains
larger amounts of a protein of M_r 103,000, which is
immunoprecipitated by anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody (Figure
5, lanes 4 and 10). Full length p185HER2 was also expressed
in both NIH 3T3 and CHO cells (Figure 5), lanes 5 and 11.
There is no secretion of native p185HER2 from either of these
cell types (Figure 5, lanes 6 and 12).

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The larger size of the observed proteins in the cells and cell-conditioned medium (88,000 and 103,000, respectively) compared to the size predicted by the amino acid sequence (71,644) suggested that the truncated form was being glycosylated.

This was confirmed by treating the cells with the antibiotic tunicamycin, which prevents N-linked glycosylation. Treatment with tunicamycin resulted in the appearance of a cell-associated protein of M_r 73,000, which is close to that predicted by the amino acid sequence (Figure 7, lane 5). It also almost completely inhibited secretion of p185HER2XCD into the medium (Figure 7, lane 6). Cell-conditioned medium from tunicamycin treated cells contains only small amounts of the mature 103,000 form, and none of the smaller forms (lane 6). This further suggests that secretion of p185HER2XCD is coupled to glycosylation.

The extent of glycosylation of the secreted form was investigated with the enzyme endoglycanase H (endo H, Boehringer Manheim). This enzyme will hydrolyze asparagine-linked oligosaccharides of the high mannose type. High mannose oligosaccharides are biosynthetic intermediates in the glycosylation process. Final maturation of the carbohydrate side chains involves trimming off some mannose and addition of other sugars such as fucose. Such mature oligosaccharide side chains are resistant to endo H.

To determine if secreted p185 HER2XCD is resistant to this enzyme, cell conditioned medium labeled with 35S-methionine

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was immunoprecipitated. The immuno-precipitates were collected onto protein A sepharose beads and incubated with endo H. Neither mock incubated (lane 3) nor endo H-treated p185HERZXCD (lane 4) showed any decrease in mobility associated with hydrolysis of the glycosyl side chains, demonstrating that the glycosylation is complete.

Without being bound by any particular theory, these results taken together suggest that the cell-associated form of p185HER2XCD is an intermediate, and that fully mature glycosylated p185HER2 extracellular domain is being synthesized and secreted. The lack of secretion of the p185HER2ATM protein could be hypothesized to result from the presence of processing information in the transmembrane spanning sequence which is necessary for Golgi transport and targeting of the plasma membrane; however, from these studies it appears instead that transport of tyrosine kinase receptor (or receptor-like) extracellular domain to the cell surface is coupled to proper glycosylation.

Therefore, insertion of the UAA stop codon 8 amino acids before the beginning of the proposed transmembrane spanning sequence yields a fully mature glycosylated p185HER2 extracellular domain which is freely secreted by the cell.

Having succeeded in producing a secreted form of p185HER2, the next stage involved investigating whether the amount of secreted protein could be increased by gene amplification. Using the CHO-derived cell line, it was found that the amount of extracellular domain could be increased by methotrexate selection. The amount of

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secreted product increased 29-fold in cells selected for resistance to 500 nm methotrexate, and a further 4.4-fold by selection for resistance to 3000 nm methotrexate (Fig. 6).

Thus, a total increase of 128-fold in secreted p185 HER2XCD was obtained when this cell line was amplified to resistance to 3000 nm methotrexate, making the production of relatively large quantities of p185 HER2XCD possible.

To determine whether overexpression of p185HER2ATM results in cell transformation, DNA was introduced in 10 mammalian cells by the CaHPO4 coprecipitation method (Graham et al., Virology, 52:456-467 (1973)). Five ug of plasmid DNA was added to half-confluent plates of cells (6.0 cm) in 1 ml for 4-6 h. The DNA was removed and the cells shocked with 20% (vol/vol) glycerol. After 2 days for phenotypic 15 expression the selective agent geneticin was added at 400 uq/ml. Clones were picked using glass cloning cylinders with petroleum jelly for the bottom seal. The introduced plasmids were amplified by the methotrexate selection procedure (Kaufman et al., J. Mol. Biol., 159:601-621 20 (1982).

When the ATM mutant was expressed in NIH 3T3 cells, primary unamplified colonies after selection had the normal flat nontransformed phenotype (Figure 8, compare photo B with vector control alone, photo A). After the expression level was increased by methotrexate selection, the cells took on the refractile, spindle-shaped appearance of transformed cells and also grew piled up in irregular

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clumps (photo E). This observation is similar to our earlier findings with the unaltered HER2 cDNA (photos C and F, parent and amplified derivatives respectively), and suggests that high levels of expression of the mutant ATM protein were also transforming.

The morphological changes seen at equivalent levels of amplification (400 nm methotrexate) are not as marked for the mutant, implying that the transforming potential of this form of $p185^{HER2}$ may be less. At higher levels of resistance to methotrexate, the ΔTM cells become even more transformed in appearance.

The plasmid was also negative in a focus-forming assay whereas the wild type HER2 plasmid was positive, further indicating that the transforming potential of p185HER2ATM protein is lower. Cells expressing high levels also 15 displayed another property of the transformed phenotype, growth in soft agar. Colony formation in soft agar was determined by harvesting each line to be assayed with trypsin, counting the cells (Coulter counter), and plating 80,000 cells per 6-cm dish. The top layer consisted of 4 20 ml of 0.25% agar (Difco, "purified") over a bottom layer of 5 ml of 0.5% agar. Colonies were counted after 3-4 weeks. Cells from 2 independent clones plated in soft agar gave rise to soft agar colonies with an efficiency comparable to cells expressing the wild type HER2 gene: 25

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Table I Soft Agar Colony Formation

	<u>Cell Line</u>	# of Soft Agar Colonies
	CVN	•
5	CVN ₄₀₀	0
	HER2-3 ₀	5 +/- 1
	HER2-3 ₄₀₀	208 +/- 27
	$\Delta TM-A1_0$	0
	ΔTM-A1 ₄₀₀	205 +/- 62
10	$\Delta TM-B2_0$	0
	ΔTM-B2 ₄₀₀	205 +/- 13

Two control lines were used; NIH 3T3 cells transfected with a plasmid expressing only the neo and DHFR genes, and the same line amplified to resistance to 400 nM methotrexate. The number of soft agar colonies arising was determined for both parental and amplified lines of clones expressing either p185HER2 or p185HER2ATM proteins. Each cell line was plated in triplicate and the value averaged.

Therefore, according to the present invention it has been determined that removal of only the transmembrane spanning sequence does not lead to secretion of p185HER2, unless the entire tyrosine kinase domain is also deleted. Removal of this domain results in proper glycosylation and secretion of the extracellular domain.

In order to obtain purified HER2 extracellular domain working material, Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell Harvest Fluid (CFF) containing recombinant HER2 ECD may be first concentrated by ultrafiltration, and then purified by immunoaffinity chromatography using a HER2 specific MAb

coupled to CNBr activated Sepharose; other suitable immobilization supports may be used. Concentrated CCF is applied to the affinity column after filtration through a 0.2 micron Millipor* filter. Purification cycles are performed as necessary until the desired amount of CCF is processed.

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During each cycle of purification, the concentrated CCF is applied and the affinity column is washed to baseline with 0.5 M Tris buffer containing 0.15 M NaCl at a pH of approximately 7.5 (TB). HER2 extracellular domain is then eluted from the column with 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl at a pH of approximately 3.5. The affinity column eluant fractions containing HER2 ECD are pooled and neutralized. The immunoaffinity column is reequilibrated between each purification cycle with TB.

In a second step, the affinity column eluant is buffer exchanged into 25 ml of Tris buffer, at a pH of approximately 7.0 (TB2). The HER2 extracellular domain is then applied to a DEAE Sepharose Fast Flow* column, and

washed with TB2. The HER2 ECD is removed from the column by step or gradient salt elution in TB2 (containing up to 200 mM NaCl).

After DEAE chromatography, purified HER2 ECD fractions are pooled, exchanged into phosphate-buffered saline, and stored at 2-8° C. The resulting material is substantially pure, i.e., about 99% pure (see Fig. 12).

By means of the present invention it is accordingly possible to produce a secreted, glycosylated p185HER2



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extracellular domain. This opens several possibilities for further research, as well as a broad range of potential therapeutic applications.

As previously stated, the HER2 gene is of particular interest because its amplification has been correlated with certain types of cancer. In a survey of 189 primary mammary gland adenocarcinomas, it was found that 30% contained amplifications of the HER2 gene. Slamon et al., "Human Breast Cancer: Correlation of Relapse and Survival with Amplification of the HER-2/neu Oncogene," Science 235, 177-182 (1987). Amplification was correlated with a negative prognosis and high probability of relapse.

This suggests that of the 120,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer each year, 36,000 will have HER2 amplification. Approximately half of these women, or about 15,000, may be expected to exhibit greater than 5-fold amplification, corresponding to nearly half of the 40,000 breast cancer-related deaths each year.

It has been demonstrated that a monoclonal antibody directed against the p185HER2 extracellular domain specifically inhibits growth of breast tumor-derived cell lines overexpressing the HER2 gene product; prevents HER2-transformed NIH 3T3 cells from forming colonies in soft agar; and reduces the resistance to the cytotoxic effect of tumor necrosis factor alpha which accompanies HER2 overexpression. Hudziak et al., "p185HER2 Monoclonal Antibody has Antiproliferative Effects In Vitro and Sensitizes Human Breast Tumor Cells to Tumor Necrosis

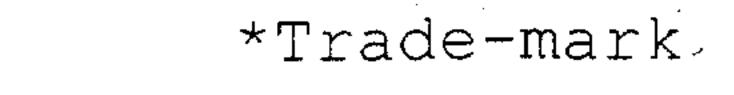
Factor", Mol. Cell. Biol. 9:1165-1172 (1989). See also, Drebin et al., "Inhibition of Tumor Growth by a Monoclonal Antibody Reactive with an Oncogene-Encoded Tumor Antigen", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 83, 9129-9133 (1986) (in vivo treatment with anti-p185 monoclonal antibody asserted to inhibit tumorigenic growth of neu-transformed NIH 3T3 cells implanted in mice).

This effect presents the possibility that conditions characterized by amplification of the HER2 gene may be subject to treatment via Active Specific Immunotherapy. This therapeutic modality contemplates provoking an immune response in a patient by vaccination with an immunogenic form of the extracellular domain. The extracellular domain (or a derivative thereof, as discussed below) may be combined with a local adjuvant which is safe and effective in humans, such as alum, Bacillus calmette-Guerin (BCG),

adjuvants derived from BCG cell walls, Detox* (Ribi-immunochem), Syntex-1*, or Corynebacterium partum.

Alternatively, systemic adjuvants, such as Interferon gamma, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, or Interleukin 6 may be suitable. An appropriate dose and schedule would be selected to maximize humoral and cell-mediated response.

It may also be possible to enhance an immune response by targeting the immunogen to the immune system, which could lead to more efficient capture of the antigen by antigen presenting cells, or by directing the immunogen so that it is presented by MHC Class 1 molecules, since these usually induce a T-cell response.



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In addition to Active Specific Immunotherapy, it should be possible to use the purified extracellular domain to isolate and characterize the putative ligand. The HER2 ligand may be used in turn to deliver toxin to tumor cells which are overexpressing HER2, such as by molecular fusion of the ligand with toxin, or by chemical cross-linking. Alternatively, patients overexpressing HER2 may be vaccinated with HER2 ligand conjugated to, or in combination with, a suitable adjuvant.

A patient overexpressing HER2 will also presumably be overexpressing the HER2 ligand. The ligand-HER2 binding interaction, which is likely to contribute to tumor growth, may be inhibited by blocking free ligand in the patient's serum. This blocking can be accomplished by treating the patient with the HER2 extracellular domain, which will proceed to bind free HER2 ligand, thereby preventing the ligand from binding to the HER2 receptor site.

Rather than using the HER2 extracellular domain per se, it may be more desirable to use a derivative which has an increased affinity for the ligand, and/or which has an increased half-life in vivo. Cross-linking on cells is known to improve binding affinity, suggesting that artificial cross-linking can be used to improve the binding ability of the HER2 extracellular domain. The half-life of the extracellular domain in serum can be improved by, for example, fusing the extracellular domain with other molecules present in the serum which are known to have a

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long half-life, such as the Fc-portion of an immunoglobin molecule.

The present invention has of necessity been discussed herein by reference to certain specific methods and materials. It is to be understood that the discussion of these specific methods and materials in no way constitutes any limitation on the scope of the present invention, which extends to any and all alternative materials and methods suitable for accomplishing the ends of the present invention.

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

- 1. A composition comprising an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule comprising at least 9 amino acids and/or an immune epitope, essentially free of transmembrane and intracellular portions of said HER2 molecule, and in substantially pure form, for use in Active Specific Immunotherapy.
- 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule has a purity of at least about 99%.
 - 3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising the entire extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule.
- 15 4. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule is conjugated with a peptide having immunogenic properties.
- 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein said peptide comprises an immune epitope.
 - 6. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5 further comprising an adjuvant.
- 7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein the adjuvant comprises any of alum, Bacillus calmette-Guerin (BCG), a BCG cell wall derivative, Detox, Corynebacterium parvum, interferon gamma, interleukin 1, interleukin 2, Syntex-1 and interleukin 6.

8. Use of an extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule comprising at least 9 amino acids and/or an immune epitope, essentially free of transmembrane and intraocular portions of said HER2 molecule, in the manufacture of a composition for treatment of a patient by Active Specific Immunotherapy.

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- 9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the composition comprises the entire extracellular portion of the HER2 molecule.
- Use according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the extracellular portion of the HER2
 molecule is conjugated with a peptide having immunogenic properties.
 - 11. Use according to claim 10 wherein said peptide comprises an immune epitope.
- 12. Use according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the composition comprises an adjuvant.
 - 13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the adjuvant comprises any of alum, Bacillus calmette-Guerin (BCG), a BCG cell wall derivative, Detox, *Corynebacterium* parvum, interferon gamma, interleukin 1, interleukin 2, Syntex-1 and interleukin 6.

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- 14. Use of an effective amount of an extracellular portion of the human HER2 receptor to treat a patient via Active Specific Immunotherapy to provoke a cell-mediated immune response to the HER2 receptor in the said patient.
- 25 15. Use according to claim 14 wherein the patient has, or is at risk of acquiring, cancer.
 - 16. Use according to claim 15 wherein cells from a tissue of a patient have increased numbers of the HER2 receptor residing on the surfaces thereof, relative to normal cells of the same tissue type.

- 17. Use according to claim 16 wherein the tissue is a mammary gland tissue.
- 18. Use according to claim 17 wherein the patient is a woman.
- 5 19. Use according to claim 16 wherein the tissue is salivary gland tissue.
 - 20. Use according to claim 16 wherein the tissue is gastric tissue.
 - 21. Use according to claim 16 the tissue is colon tissue.
 - 22. Use according to claim 14 which further comprises the use of an adjuvant.
 - 23. Use according to claim 22 wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of alum, Bacillus calmette-Guerin (BCG), a BCG cell wall derivative, Detox, *Corynebacterium parvum*, interferon gamma, interleukin 1, interleukin 2 and interleukin 6.
 - Use according to claim 14 which elicits both a humoral and cell-mediated response in the patient.
 - Use according to claim 14 wherein the extracellular portion is fused to a heterologous molecule.
- 26. Use according to claim 25 wherein the heterologous molecule comprises the Fcportion of an immunoglobulin molecule.
 - Use of an effective amount of an extracellular portion of the human HER2 receptor to provoke a humoral and cell-mediated immune response to the HER2 receptor in a patient.

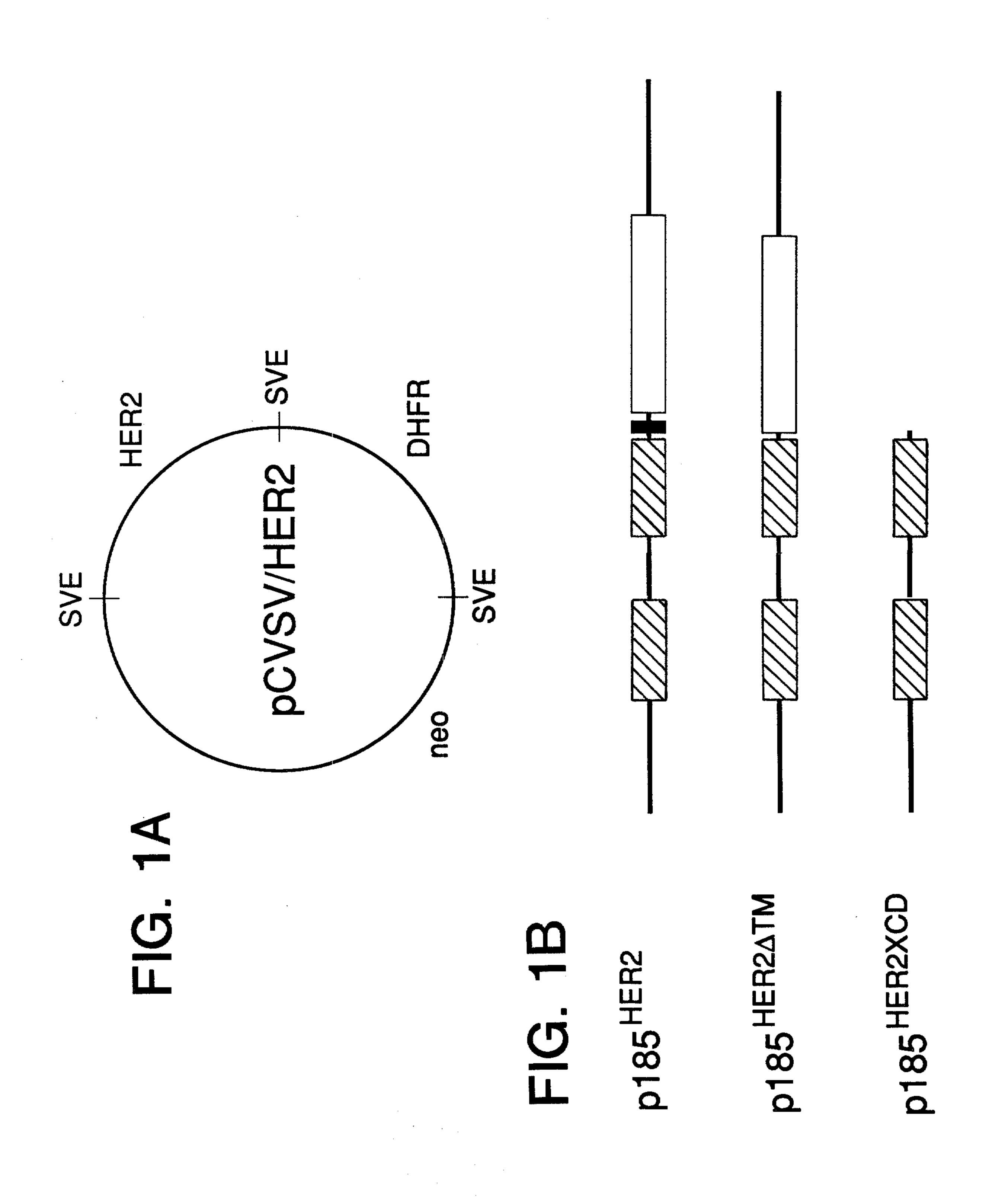
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- 28. Use according to claim 27 wherein the patient has, or is at risk of acquiring, cancer.
- 29. Use according to claim 27 wherein cells from a tissue of the patient have increased numbers of the HER2 receptor residing on the surfaces thereof, relative to normal cells of the same tissue.
- 30. Use according to claim 29 wherein the tissue is mammary gland tissue.
- 31. Use according to claim 29 wherein the tissue is salivary gland tissue.
- 32. Use according to claim 29 wherein the tissue is gastric tissue.
- 33. Use according to claim 29 wherein the tissue is colon tissue.
- 15 34. Use according to claim 27 which further comprises the use of an adjuvant.
 - 35. Use according to claim 27 wherein the extracellular portion is fused to a heterologous molecule.
- Use according to claim 27 which induces a T-cell response to the HER2 receptor.
 - 37. Use according to claim 14 which induces a T-cell response to the HER2 receptor.
- 38. Use of an effective amount of an isolated extracellular portion of the human HER2 receptor to treat a human patient by Active Specific Immunotherapy to provoke a cell-mediated immune response to the HER2 receptor in the said patient.
- Use of an effective amount of an isolated extracellular portion of the human HER2 receptor to provoke a humoral and cell-mediated immune response to the HER2
 receptor in a human patient.

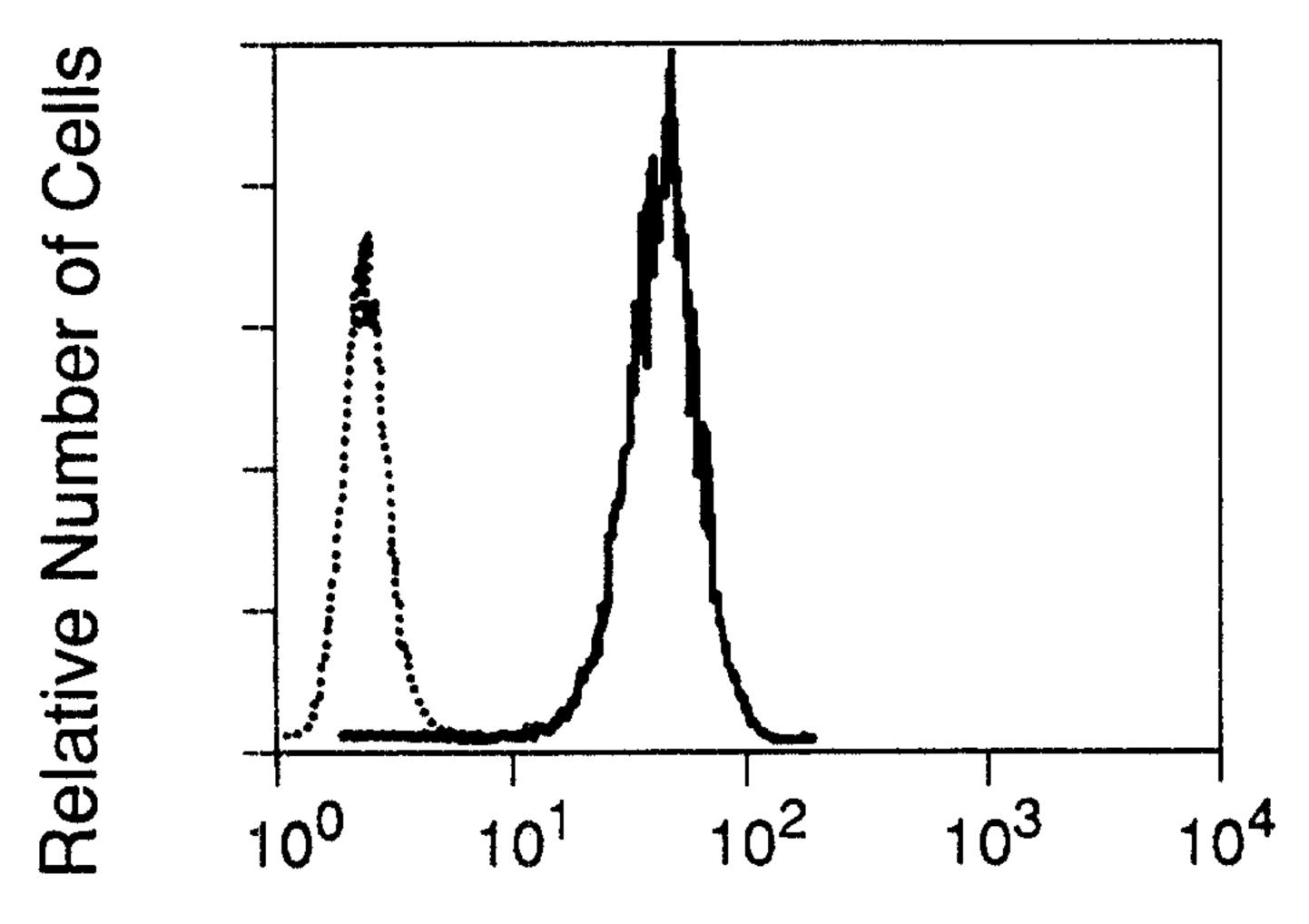




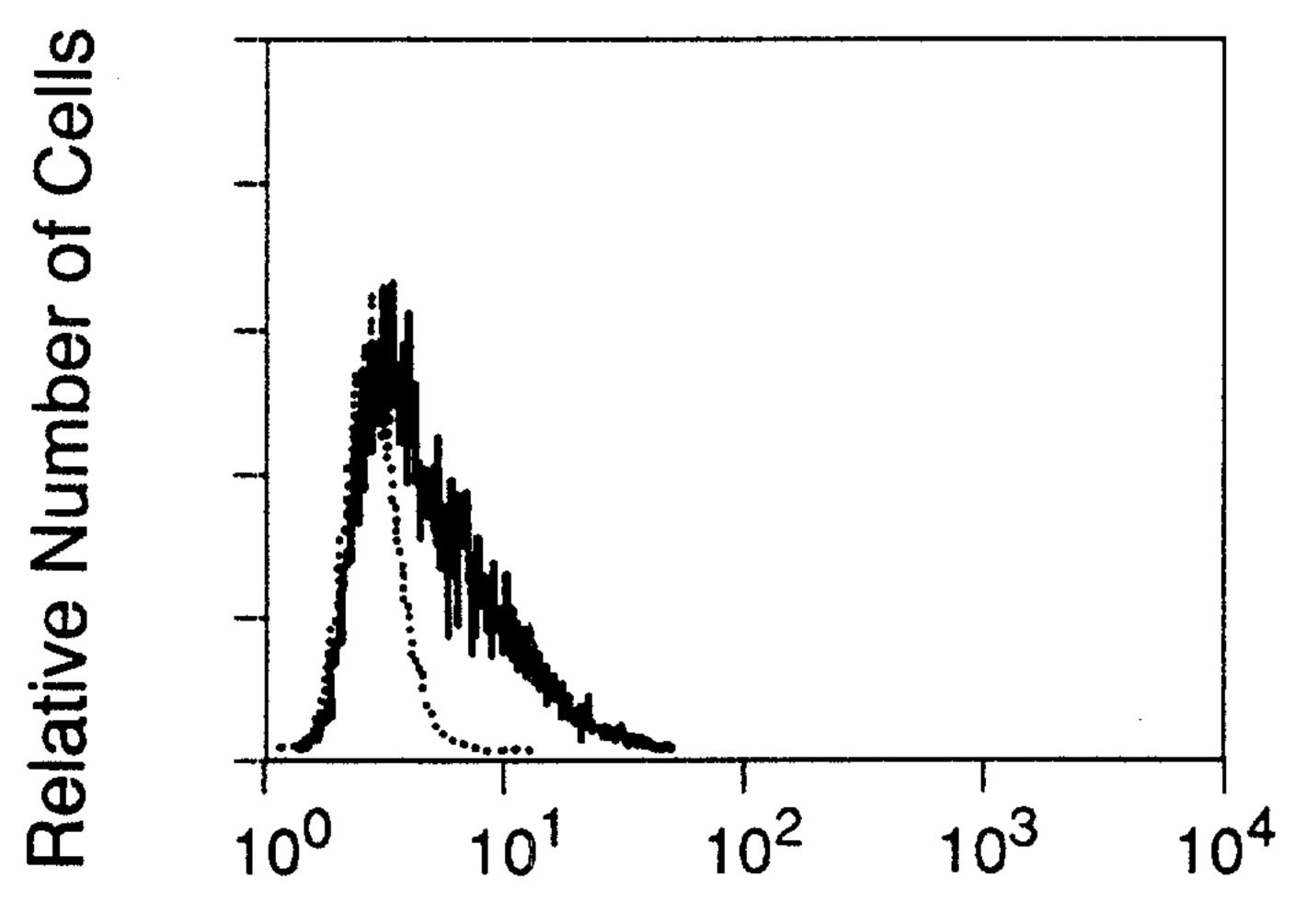
Belative Number of Cells 100 101 102 103 104

Relative Fluorescence Intensity

FIG. 10A



Relative Fluorescence Intensity FIG. 10B



Relative Fluorescence Intensity

FIG. 10C



Gowling, Strathy & Henderson

20 THR ACC	40 GLU GAA	60 GLN CAG	AUU AUU	100 ASP GAC	120 GLN CAG	140 LEU CUC	160 LEU CUC
GLU	LEU	VAL	ARG	GGA	LEU	GLN	ALA
PRO	ASN	GLU	LEU	ASN	GAG	PRO	LEUCUG
SER	GLY	GLN	ARG	ASP	ARG	ASN	GLN
ALA GCC	GLN	ILE	GLIN	LEU	LEU	ARG	ASN
PRO	VAL	ASP	LEU	VAL	GLY	GLN	ASN
LEU	VAL	GLN	PRO	ALA	GLY	ILE	LYS
ARG	GLN	LEU	VAL	LEU	PRO	LEU	HIS
LEU	CYS	PHE	GLN	ALA	SER	VAL	PHE
LYS	GGC	SER	ARG	TYR	ALA GCC	GGG	ILE
10 MET AUG	GLN GLN CAG	50 CUG	70 VAL GUG	90 ASN AAC	110 GLY GGG	130 GLY GGA	150 ASP GAC
ASP	TYR	SER	GLN	ASP	THR	LYS	LYS
THR	LEU	ALA	ASN	GLU	VAL	LEU	TRP
GLY	HIS	ASN	HIS	PHE	PRO	ILE	LEU
THR	ARG	THR	ALA GCU	LEU	THR	GLU	ILE
CYS	LEU	PRO	LLE	GLN	THR	THR	THR
VAL	MET	LEU	LEU	THR	ASN	LEU	ASP
GLN	ASP	TYR	VAL	GGC	ASN	SER	GLN
THR	LEU	THR	TYR	ARG	LEU	ARG	TYR
1 SER AGC	HIS	LEU	GGC	VAL	PRO	LEU	CYS



180 GLY GGC	200 ALA GCC	220 ALA GCU	240 SER AGU	260 SER UCC	280 TYR UAC	300 GLU GAG	320 VAL GUG	340 AUC
LYS (CYS 7	CYS 1	HIS CAC	GLU	PRO 1	GLIN	ARG CGA (ASN
CYS 1 UGU 1	VAL (GUC 1	GLN	ASN 1	PHE (CYS 1	ASN (ALA	ALA
MET (ACU	GAG	PHE 7	THR]	ALA	HIS	CYS	SER
PRO 1	ARG	HIS	HIS	ASP	THR	LEUCUG	PROCCC	THR
SER	THR	CXS	LEU	THR	VAL	PRO	LYS	VAL
CYS	LEU	CYS	CYS	ASN	CYS	CYS	SER	ALA GCA
PROCC	SER	ASP	ALA	TYR	SER	VAL	CYS	ARG
HIS	GLN	THR	LEU	THR	ALA	LEU	LYS	VAL
CYS	CYS	PRO	CYS	VAL	GECY	THR	GLU	GLU
170 ALA GCC	190 ASP GAU	210 LEU CUG	230 ASP GAC	250 LEU CUG	270 PHE UUC	290 CYS UGC	310 CYS UGU	330 ARG CGA
ARG	GAG	PRO	SER	ALA	THR	SER	ARG	LEU
SER	SER	GCK	HIS	PRO	TYR	GLY	GLN	HIS
ARG	SER	LYS	LYS	CYS	ARG	VAL	THR	GAG
ASN	GLU	CYS	PRO	HIS	GGCZ	ASP	GLY	METAUG
THR	GLY	ARG	GGC	LEU	GLU	THR	ASPGAU	GGC
ASP	TRP	ALA	THR	GLU	PRO	SER	GLU	LEU
ILE	CYS	CYS	CYS	CYS	ASN	LEU	ALA	GGU
LEU	ARG	GGC	GLY	ILE	PRO	TYR	THR	TYR
THR	SER	GGU	ALA	GGC	METAUG	ASN	VAL	CYS



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360 PHE UUU	380 GAG	400 ASP GAC	420 TYR UAC	440 LEU CUG	460 PRO	480 GLU GAG	500 TRP UGG	520 S VAL
SER	PHE	PRO	ALA	GLU	VAL	PRO	CYS	CYS
GLU	VAL	LEU	GGZ	ARG	THR	ARG	HIS	GLU
PRO	GLN	SER	ASN	LEU	HIS	ASN	GGG	GILN
LEU	LEU	ASP	HIS	SER	VAL	ALA	ARG	GLY
PHE	GLN	PRO	LEU	ARG	PHE	THRACU	ALA GCC	ARG
ALA GCA	GLU	TRP	ILE	LEU	CYS	HIS	CYS	LEU
LEU	PRO	ALA GCA	ARG	GLY	LEU	LEU	LEU	PHE
SER	GLN	SER	GLY	LEU	HIS	LEU	GLN	GLN
GLY	LEU	ILE	ARG	TRP	THR	ALA	HIS	SER
350 PHE UUU	370 PRO CCG	390 TYR UAC	410 ILE AUC	430 SER AGC	450 ASN AAC	470 GLN CAA	490 CYS UGC	510 CYS UGC
ILE	ALA	LEU	VAL	ILE	HIS	HIS	ALA	ASN
CYS LYS LYS ILE UGC AAG AAG AUC	THR	TYR	GLN	GGZ	HIS	PRO	LEU	VAL
LYS	ASN	GEV	LEU	LEU	ILE	ASN	GLY	CYS
CYS	SER	THR	ASN	GGG	LEU	ARG	GLU	GLN
GGC	ALA	ILE	GLN	GLN	ALA	PHE	GGC	THR
ALA	PRO	GLU	PHE	LEU	LEU	LEU	VAL	PRO
PHE	ASP	GLU	VAL	THR	GGA	GLN	CYS	GGG
GLU	GGG	LEU	SER	LEU	SER	ASP	GLU	PRO
GILN	ASP GLY GAU GGG	THR	LEU	SER	GGC	TRP	ASP	GGU



540 LEU UUG	560 ALA GCU	580 PRO CCC	600 GLY GGC	620 GLY GGC	
CYS	GLU	CYS	GLU	LYS	
HIS	PRO	ARG	GLU	ASP	
ARGAGG	GLY	ALA	ASP	ASP GAU	
ALA	PHE	VAL	PRO	LEU	
ASN	CYS	CYS	PHE	ASP	
VAL	THR	PHE	LYS	VAL	
TYR	VAL	PRO	TRP	CYS	
GLU	SER	PRO	ILE	SER	
ARG	GGC	ASP	PRO	HIS	
530 PRO CCC	550 ASN AAU	570 LYS AAG	590 MET AUG	610 THR ACC	
LEU	GLN	TYR	TYR	CYS	
GLY		HIS	SER	ASN	
GLN	GLN	ALA	LEU	ILE	
LEU	CYS	CYS	ASP	PRO	
VAL	GLU	ALA	PRO	CYS	
ARG	PRC	VAL	LYS	PRO	624 GLU GAG
CYS	HIS	CYS	VAL	GLN	ALA GCC
GLU	CYS	GLN	GLY	CYS	PRO
GAG	PRO	ASP	SER	ALA	CYS

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UNSCANNABLE ITEM

RECEIVED WITH THIS APPLICATION

(ITEM ON THE 10TH FLOOR ZONE 5 IN THE FILE PREPARATION SECTION)

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DOCUMENT REÇU AVEC CETTE DEMANDE

NE POUVANT ÊTRE BALAYÉ

(DOCUMENT AU 10 IÈME ÉTAGE AIRE 5 DANS LA SECTION DE LA

PRÉPARATION DES DOSSIERS)