SINGLE DOMAIN ANTIBODIES DIRECTED AGAINST TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR-ALPHA AND USES THEREOF

Inventors: Karen Silence, Overijse (BE); Marc Lauwereys, Haaltert (BE); Hans De Haard, Oudelande (NL)

Correspondence Address:
WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 ATLANTIC AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02210-2206 (US)

Assignee: Ablynx N.V., Ghent-Zwijnaarde (BE)

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Related U.S. Application Data

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Abstract

The present invention relates to polypeptides derived from single domain heavy chain antibodies directed to Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha. It further relates to single domain antibodies that are Camelidae VHHs. It further relates to methods of administering said polypeptides. It further relates to protocols for screening for agents that modulate the TNF-alpha receptor, and the agents resulting from said screening.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDR1</th>
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<th>Hinge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR1</td>
<td>VHH#3G</td>
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<td>VHH#1A</td>
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<tr>
<td>FR2</td>
<td>VHH#7B</td>
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</table>

**Figure 1**
Figure 2

Figure 3
Figure 6

Figure 7
Figure 12

Figure 13
cytotoxicity assay

Figure 14

Figure 15
Figure 16

Figure 17
DSS-induced Model of Chronic Colitis

- DSS induction (7 d)
- Recovery (12 d)
- Treatment period (14 d)
- Sacrifice of animals
- Analysis and histopathology

Figure 18
SINGLE DOMAIN ANTIBODIES DIRECTED AGAINST TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR-ALPHA AND USES THEREOF

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/636,300 filed Dec. 8, 2006, currently pending, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/534,348 filed May 9, 2005, currently pending, which is a National Stage of PCT/BE03/00192, filed Nov. 7, 2003, which claims priority to PCT/EP03/06581, filed Jun. 23, 2003 and PCT/EP03/07313, filed Jul. 8, 2003; this application also claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/425,073, filed Nov. 8, 2002 and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/425,063, filed Nov. 8, 2002; all of the applications are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention provides polypeptides comprising one or more single domain antibodies directed towards tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha). The present invention further relates to their use in diagnosis and therapy. Such antibodies may have a framework sequence with high homology to the human framework sequences. Compositions comprising antibodies to tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) alone or in combination with other drugs are described.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

[0003] Tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) is believed to play an important role in various disorders, for example in inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis and multiple sclerosis. Both TNF-alpha and the receptors (CD120a, CD120b) have been studied in great detail. TNF-alpha in its bioactive form is a trimer and the groove formed by neighboring subunits is important for the cytokine-receptor interaction. Several strategies to antagonize the action of the cytokine have been developed and are currently used to treat various disease states.

[0004] A TNF-alpha inhibitor which has sufficient specificity and selectivity to TNF-alpha may be an efficient prophylactic or therapeutic pharmaceutical compound for preventing or treating disorders where TNF-alpha has been implicated as causative agent. Methods of treating toxic shock (EP 486526), tumor regression, inhibition of cytotoxicity (U.S. Pat. No. 6,448,380, U.S. Pat. No. 6,451,983, U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,237), autoimmune disease such as RA and Crohn’s disease (EP 663856, U.S. Pat. No. 5,672,347, U.S. Pat. No. 5,698,370), graft versus host reaction (U.S. Pat. No. 5,672,347), bacterial meningitis (EP 585705) by means of an antibody to TNF-alpha have been described.

[0005] Yet none of the presently available drugs are completely effective for the treatment of autoimmune disease, and most are limited by severe toxicity. In addition, it is extremely difficult and a lengthy process to develop a new chemical entity (NCE) with sufficient potency and selectivity to such target sequence. Antibody-based therapeutics on the other hand have significant potential as drugs because they have exquisite specificity to their target and a low inherent toxicity. In addition, the development time can be reduced considerably when compared to the development of new chemical entities (NCE’s). However, conventional antibodies are difficult to raise against multimeric proteins where the receptor-binding domain of the ligand is embedded in a groove, as is the case with TNF-alpha. Heavy chain antibodies described in the invention which are derived from Camelidae, are known to have cavity-binding propensity (WO97/49805; Lauwereys et al., EMBO J. 17, 5312, 1998)). Therefore, such heavy chain antibodies are inherently suited to bind to receptor binding domains of such ligands as TNF.
In addition, such antibodies are known to be stable over long periods of time, therefore increasing their shelf-life (Perez et al. Biochemistry, 40, 74, 2001). Furthermore, such heavy chain antibody fragments can be produced ‘en-masse’ in fermentors using cheap expression systems compared to mammalian cell culture fermentation, such as yeast or other microorganisms (EP 0 698 097).

[0006] The use of antibodies derived from sources such as mouse, sheep, goat, rabbit etc., and humanised derivatives thereof as a treatment for conditions which require a modulation of inflammation is problematic for several reasons. Traditional antibodies are not stable at room temperature, and have to be refrigerated for preparation and storage, requiring necessary refrigerated laboratory equipment, storage and transport, which contribute towards time and expense. Refrigeration is sometimes not feasible in developing countries. Furthermore, the manufacture or small-scale production of said antibodies is expensive because the mammalian cellular systems necessary for the expression of intact active antibodies require high levels of support in terms of time and equipment, and yields are very low. Furthermore the large size of conventional antibodies, would restrict tissue penetration, for example, at the site of inflamed tissue. Furthermore, traditional antibodies have a binding activity which depends upon pH, and hence are unsuitable for use in environments outside the usual physiological pH range such as, for example, in treating gastric bleeding, gastric surgery. Furthermore, traditional antibodies are unstable at low or high pH and hence are not suitable for oral administration. However, it has been demonstrated that camelidae antibodies resist harsh conditions, such as extreme pH, denaturing reagents and high temperatures (Dumoulin et al., Protein Science 11, 500, 2002), so making them suitable for delivery by oral administration. Furthermore, traditional antibodies have a binding activity, which depends upon temperature, and hence are unsuitable for use in assays or kits performed at temperatures outside biologically active-temperature ranges (e.g. 37°C).

[0007] Polypeptide therapeutics and in particular antibody-based therapeutics have significant potential as drugs because they have exquisite specificity to their target and a low inherent toxicity. However, it is known by the skilled addressee that an antibody which has been obtained for a therapeutically useful target requires additional modification in order to prepare it for human therapy, so as to avoid an unwanted immunological reaction in a human individual upon administration thereto. The modification process is commonly termed ‘humanisation’. It is known by the skilled artisan that antibodies raised in species, other than in humans, require humanisation to render the antibody therapeutically useful in humans ((1) CDR grafting: Protein Design Labs: U.S. Pat. No. 6,180,570, U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,761; Genentech U.S. Pat. No. 6,054,297; Celltech: 468167, EP 626390, U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,205; (2) Veneering: Xoma:
Another important drawback of conventional antibodies is that they are complex, large molecules and therefore relatively unstable, and they are sensitive to breakdown by proteases. This means that conventional antibody drugs cannot be administered orally, sublingually, topically, nasally, rectally, or by inhalation because they are not resistant to the low pH at these sites, the action of proteases at these sites and in the blood and/or because of their large size. They have to be administered by injection (intravenously, subcutaneously, etc.) to overcome some of these problems. Administration by injection requires specialist training in order to use a hypodermic syringe or needle correctly and safely. It further requires sterile equipment, a liquid formulation of the therapeutic polypeptide, vial packing of said polypeptide in a sterile and stable form and, of the subject, a suitable site for entry of the needle. Furthermore, subjects commonly experience physical and psychological stress prior to and upon receiving an injection. Therefore, there is need for a method for the delivery of therapeutic polypeptides which avoids the need for injection which is not only cost/time saving, but which would also be more convenient and more comfortable for the subject.

Single domain antibody-based therapeutics have significant potential as drugs because they have exquisite specificity to their target and a low inherent toxicity. However, improving further their intrinsic and functional affinity can lead to many benefits for a patient such as reduced dose of therapeutic, faster therapy, and reduced side effects.

THE AIMS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

It is an aim of the present invention to provide polypeptides comprising one or more single domain antibodies which bind to TNF-alpha, homologues of said polypeptides, functional portions of homologues of said polypeptides. Said polypeptides modify the biological activity of TNF-alpha upon binding. Such polypeptides might bind into the receptor-binding groove of TNF-alpha, or might not bind in the receptor binding groove. Such polypeptides are single domain antibodies.

It is a further aim of the present invention to provide single domain antibodies which may be any of the art, or any future single domain antibodies. Examples include, but are not limited to, heavy chain antibodies, antibodies naturally devoid of light chains, single domain antibodies derived from conventional 4-chain antibodies, engineered antibodies and single domain scaffolds other than those derived from antibodies. According to one aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody as used herein is a naturally occurring single domain antibody known as heavy chain antibody devoid of light chains (WO 9404678). For clarity reasons, this variable domain derived from a heavy chain antibody devoid of light chain will be called VHH or nanobody to distinguish it from the conventional VH of four chain immunoglobulins. Such a VHH molecule can be derived from antibodies raised in Camelidae species, for example in camel, llama, dromedary, alpaca and guanaco.

It is a further aim of the invention to provide a method of administering anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides intravenously, subcutaneously, orally, sublingually, topically, nasally, vaginally, rectally or by inhalation.

It is a further aim of the invention to enhance the binding affinity of monovalent single domain antibodies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide comprising at least one anti-TNF-alpha single domain antibody.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein a single domain antibody corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 16 and 79 to 84.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above further comprising at least one single domain antibody directed against a serum protein.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein said serum protein is any of serum albumin, serum immunoglobulins, thyroxine-binding protein, transferring, or fibrinogen.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein said single domain antibody single domain antibody correspond to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID Nos: 26 to 29 and 85 to 97.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above corresponding to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID Nos: 30 to 43.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above further comprising at least one single domain antibody selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma single domain antibody, anti-TNF-alpha receptor single domain antibody and anti-IFN-gamma receptor single domain antibody.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein the number of single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha is at least two.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above corresponding to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID Nos: 73 to 76.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein at least one single domain antibody is a humanized Camelidae VHHs.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein a
humanized *Camelidae* VHH corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 17 to 19 and 21 to 24.

[0025] Another embodiment of the present invention is a composition comprising an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above and at least one single domain antibody from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma single domain antibody, anti-TNF-alpha receptor single domain antibody and anti-IFN-gamma receptor single domain antibody, for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration to a subject.

[0026] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a composition as described above wherein at least one anti-IFN-gamma single domain antibody correspond to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 44 to 72.

[0027] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a composition as described above wherein said single domain antibody is an homologous sequence, a functional portion, or a functional portion of an homologous sequence of the full length single domain antibody.

[0028] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a composition as described above wherein the anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide is an homologous sequence, a functional portion, or a functional portion of an homologous sequence of the full length anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide.

[0029] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a composition as described above wherein at least one single domain antibody is a *Camelidae* VHH.

[0030] Another embodiment of the present invention is a nucleic acid encoding an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above.

[0031] Another embodiment of the present invention is a method of identifying an agent that modulates the binding of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, to Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha comprising the steps of:

[0032] (a) contacting an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above with a target that is Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha, in the presence and absence of a candidate modulator under conditions permitting binding between said polypeptide and target, and

[0033] (b) measuring the binding between the polypeptide and target of step (a), wherein a decrease in binding in the presence of said candidate modulator, relative to the binding in the absence of said candidate modulator identified said candidate modulator as an agent that modulates the binding of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above and Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha.

[0034] Another embodiment of the present invention is a method of identifying an agent that modulates Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha-mediated disorders through the binding of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above to Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha comprising:

[0035] (a) contacting an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above with a target that is Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha, in the presence and absence of a candidate modulator under conditions permitting binding between said polypeptide and target, and

[0036] (b) measuring the binding between the polypeptide and target of step (a), wherein a decrease in binding in the presence of said candidate modulator, relative to the binding in the absence of said candidate modulator identified said candidate modulator as an agent that modulates Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha-mediated disorders.

[0037] Another embodiment of the present invention is a method of identifying an agent that modulates the binding of Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha to its receptor through the binding of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above to Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha comprising:

[0038] (a) contacting an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above with a target that is Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha, in the presence and absence of a candidate modulator under conditions permitting binding between said polypeptide and target, and

[0039] (b) measuring the binding between the polypeptide and target of step (a), wherein a decrease in binding in the presence of said candidate modulator, relative to the binding in the absence of said candidate modulator identified said candidate modulator as an agent that modulates the binding of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha to its receptor.

[0040] Another embodiment of the present invention is a kit for screening for agents that modulate Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha-mediated disorders comprising an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above and Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha.

[0041] Another embodiment of the present invention is an unknown agent that modulates the binding of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above to Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha, identified according to the method as described above.

[0042] Another embodiment of the present invention is an unknown agent that modulates Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha-mediated disorders, identified according to the methods as described above.

[0043] Another embodiment of the present invention is an unknown agent as described above wherein said disorders are one or more of inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis.

[0044] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a nucleic acid as described above, or a composition as described above, or an agent as described above for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory processes.

[0045] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a nucleic acid as described above, or a composition as described above, or an agent as described above for the preparation of a medicament for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory reactions.

[0046] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a com-
position as described above, for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the gastric environment without the substance being inactivated.

[0047] Another embodiment of the present invention is an use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the gastric environment without the substance being inactivated.

[0048] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the vaginal and/or rectal tract.

[0049] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the vaginal and/or rectal tract.

[0050] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung.

[0051] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung.

[0052] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the intestinal mucosa, wherein said disorder increases the permeability of the intestinal mucosa.

[0053] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the intestinal mucosa, wherein said disorder increases the permeability of the intestinal mucosa.

[0054] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the tissues beneath the tongue effectively.

[0055] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the tissues beneath the tongue effectively.

[0056] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the skin effectively.

[0057] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above or a composition as described above, for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the skin effectively.

[0058] Another embodiment of the present invention is a method as described above, a kit as described above, a nucleic acid or agent as described above, use of a nucleic acid or agent as described above, a composition as described above, use of a composition as described above, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above wherein said disorders are any of inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Addison’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Autoimmune parotitis, Diabetes Type I, Epidermolysis, Glomerulonephritis, Graves’ disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto’s disease, Hemolytic anemia, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Male infertility, Multiple sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, Psoriasis, Rheumatic fever, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcoïdosis, Scolerderma, Sjogren’s syndrome, Spondyloarthropathies, Thyroiditis, and Vasculitis.

[0059] Another embodiment of the present invention is a composition comprising a nucleic acid or agent as described above, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, or a composition as described above, and a suitable pharmaceutical vehicle.

[0060] Another embodiment of the present invention is a method of diagnosing a disorder characterised by the dysfunction of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha comprising:

[0061] (a) contacting a sample with an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above,

[0062] (b) detecting binding of said polypeptide to said sample, and

[0063] (c) comparing the binding detected in step (b) with a standard, wherein a difference in binding relative to said sample is diagnostic of a disorder characterised by dysfunction of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha.

[0064] Another embodiment of the present invention is a kit for screening for a disorder as cited above, using a method as described above.

[0065] Another embodiment of the present invention is a kit for screening for a disorder as cited above comprising an isolated anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above.
Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above for the purification of said Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above for inhibiting the interaction between Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha and one or more Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha receptors.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a method for producing an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining double stranded DNA encoding a Camelidae VHH directed to Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha,

(b) cloning and expressing the DNA selected in step (b).

Another embodiment of the present invention is a method of producing an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above comprising:

(a) culturing host cells comprising nucleic acid capable of encoding an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above, under conditions allowing the expression of the polypeptide, and,

(b) recovering the produced polypeptide from the culture.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a method as described above, wherein said host cells are bacterial or yeast.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a kit for screening for any of inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome or multiple sclerosis comprising an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as described above.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES AND TABLES

FIG. 1 Alignment of anti-human TNF VHII's as described in Example 1: VHII#3G (SEQ ID NO:121), VHII#3E (SEQ ID NO:122), VHII#1A (SEQ ID NO:123), VHII#2B (SEQ ID NO:124), VHII#12B (SEQ ID NO:125), VHII#17B (SEQ ID NO:126).

FIG. 2 Dilution series of anti-human TNF-alpha VHII's as tested in ELISA according to Example 1.

Antagonistic effect of VHH as determined in cytotoxicity assay using human cell line KYM according to Example 1.

In vitro receptor binding assay of wild type VHII#12B and mutant A74S+Y76N+K83R+P84A.

In vitro receptor binding assay of wild type VHII#12B and mutant 1E+Q5L+74S+Y76N+K83R+P84A.

Binding in ELISA of wild type VHII#3E and mutant VHII's.

In vitro receptor binding assay of wild type VHII#3E and mutant VHII's.

Alignment of antagonistic anti-mouse TNF's as described in Example 3: VHII#m3F (SEQ ID NO:127), VHII#m4B (SEQ ID NO:128), VHII#m9A (SEQ ID NO:129), VHII#m9E (SEQ ID NO:130).

FIG. 9 Antagonistic effect of anti-mouse TNF VHII as determined in cytotoxicity assay using murine cell line L929 according to Example 3.

FIG. 10 EcoRI—HindIII insert (SEQ ID NO:131, 132) of vector pAX11 (pUC119 backbone) for production of bi-valent or bispecific VHII.

Coomassie-stained PAGE (15%) of IMAC-purified mono-(lane 8), bi-(lane 1), tri-(lanes 2, 3 and 5) and tetravalent (lanes 4, 6 and 7) anti-TNFα VHII.

FIG. 12 Chromatogram of the analysis by gel filtration on Superdex 75HR of the mono-, bi-, tri and tetravalent VHII.

Comparison of the antagonistic characteristics of the mono-, bi-, tri- and tetravalent form of the anti-human TNF VHII with the clinically used products Remicade and Enbrel.

Antagonistic behaviour of the mono- and bivalent VHII's directed against mouse TNF alpha.

Coomassie stained PAGE of VHII-Fc fusion derived from human IgG1 described in Example 4.

Antagonistic efficacy of VHII-Fc fusion derived from VHII#3E compared with bivalent format of VHII#3E as determined in bioassay.

ELISA of reference and pepsin-treated TNF3E at pH2.2, pH3.2 and pH4.2 (100% is the signal measured at a 1/100 dilution).

Experimental setting.

Table 1 Amino acid sequence listing of the peptides of as aspects of present invention directed against TNF-alpha.

Table 2 List of mutagenesis reactions, mutagenic primers and templates used for mutagenesis of VHII#12B: mutation A74S+Y76N+K83R+P84A (SEQ ID NO:107, 108); mutation Q1E+Q5L+A74S+Y76N+K83R+P84A (SEQ ID NO: 109, 110); mutation Q1E+Q5L+A74S+Y76N+K83R+P84A+T93A (SEQ ID NO:111, 112).

Table 3 List of mutagenesis reactions, mutagenic primers and templates used for mutagenesis of VHII#3E: mutation F37V (SEQ ID NO:113, 114); mutation E44G (SEQ ID NO:115, 116); mutation R45L (SEQ ID NO:117, 118); mutation F47W (SEQ ID NO:119, 120).

Table 4 Overview of humanised and wild type VHII.

Table 5 Anti-mouse serum albumin/anti-TNF-alpha

Table 6 Amino acid sequence listing of VHII's directed against human IFN-gamma.

Table 7 Sequences of bivalent (BIV 3E, BIIV#m3F), trivalent (TRI3E) or tetravalent (TETRA 3E) VHII directed against TNF-alpha.

Table 8 Fractional homologies between the amino acid sequences of anti-mouse serum albumin VHII's of the invention.

Table 9 Fractional homologies between anti-TNF-alpha VHII's of the invention.
Table 10 Percentage homologies between anti-IFN-gamma VHHS of the invention.

Table 11 Treatment schedule.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to an anti-tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) polypeptide, comprising one or more single domain antibodies which are directed against TNF-alpha. The invention also relates to nucleic acids capable of encoding said polypeptides.

Single domain antibodies are antibodies whose complementary determining regions are part of a single domain polypeptide. Examples include, but are not limited to, heavy chain antibodies, antibodies naturally devoid of light chains, single domain antibodies derived from conventional 4-chain antibodies, engineered antibodies and single domain scaffolds other than those derived from antibodies. Single domain antibodies may be of any art, or any future single domain antibodies. Single domain antibodies may be derived from any species including, but not limited to, mouse, human, camel, llama, goat, rabbit, bovine. According to one aspect of the invention, a single domain antibodies as used herein is a naturally occurring single domain antibody known as heavy chain antibody devoid of light chains. Such single domain antibodies are disclosed in WO 94/04678 for example. For clarity reasons, this variable domain derived from a heavy chain antibody naturally devoid of light chain is known herein as a VH or nanobody to distinguish it from the conventional VH of four chain immunoglobulins. Such a VH molecule can be derived from antibodies raised in Camelidae species, for example in camel, dromedary, llama, alpaca and guanaco. Other species besides Camelidae may produce heavy chain antibodies naturally devoid of light chain; such VHs are within the scope of the invention.

VHs, according to the present invention, and as known to the skilled addressee are heavy chain variable domains derived from immunoglobulins naturally devoid of light chains such as those derived from Camelidae as described in WO 94/04678, and referred hereinafter as VH or nanobodies. VH1 molecules are about 10s smaller than IgG molecules. They are single polypeptides and very stable, resisting extreme pH and temperature conditions. Moreover, they are resistant to the action of proteases which is not the case for conventional antibodies. Furthermore, in vitro expression of VHs produces high yield, properly folded functional VHs. In addition, antibodies generated in Camelids will recognize epitopes other than those recognised by antibodies generated in vitro through the use of antibody libraries or via immunisation of mammals other than Camelids (WO 97/49805). As such, anti-TNF-alpha VH1's may interact more efficiently with TNF-alpha than conventional antibodies, thereby blocking its interaction with the TNF-alpha receptor more efficiently.

According to the invention, TNF-alpha is derived from any species. Examples of species relevant to the invention include as rabbits, goats, mice, rats, cows, calves and camels, llamas, monkeys, donkeys, guinea pigs, chickens, sheep, dogs, cats, horses, and preferably humans.

TNF-alpha is also a fragment of TNF-alpha, capable of eliciting an immune response. TNF-alpha is also a fragment of TNF-alpha, capable of binding to a single domain antibody raised against the full length TNF-alpha.

A single domain antibody directed against TNF-alpha means single domain antibody that it is capable of binding to TNF-alpha with an affinity of better than 10^-6 M.

One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF polypeptide, wherein the single domain antibodies comprise Camelidae VH1 directed against TNF-alpha.

The one or more single domain antibodies of the anti-TNF polypeptide which are directed against a TNF-alpha may be of the same sequence. Alternatively they may not all have the same sequence. It is within the scope of the invention that an anti-TNF polypeptide comprises anti-TNF-alpha single domain antibodies which do not all share the same sequence, but which are directed against the same target, one or more antigens thereof.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, wherein a single domain antibody corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 16 and 79 to 84 as shown in Table 1. Said sequences are derived from Camelidae heavy chain antibodies (VHs) which are directed against TNF-alpha.

The present invention further relates to an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, wherein said single domain antibody is a VH1 directed against TNF-alpha, wherein the VH1 belongs to a class having human-like sequences. The class is characterised in that the VH1s carry an amino acid from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, methionine, serine, threonine, asparagine, or glutamine at position 45, such as, for example, I45 and a tryptophan at position 103, according to the Kabat numbering. The new class of Camelidae single-domain antibodies described in this invention (Table 1, Example 1) is represented by VHH42B (SEQ ID NO: 3) and VHH42B (SEQ ID No. 14) containing the hydrophobic residues in FR2 in combination with the hydrophobic residue tryptophan at position 103.

Another human-like class of Camelidae single domain antibodies represented by sequences VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 1), VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 12), VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 81), VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 82), VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 83) and VHH41A (SEQ ID NO. 84) (Table 1, Example 1) have been described in WO03053694 and contain the hydrophobic FR2 residues typically found in conventional antibodies of human origin or from other species, but compensating this loss in hydrophilicity by the charged arginine residue on position 103 that substitutes the conserved tryptophan residue present in VH from double-chain antibodies. As such, peptides belonging to these two classes show a high amino acid sequence homology to human VH framework regions and said peptides might be administered to a human directly without expectation of an unwanted immune response therefrom, and without the burden of further humanisation. The invention also relates to nucleic acids capable of encoding said polypeptides.

Therefore, one aspect of the present invention allows for the direct administration of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, wherein the single domain antibodies belong to the humanized class of VH1, and comprise a sequence...
represented by any of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 12, 14, 81, 82, 83, and 84 to a patient in need of the same.

[0117] Any of the VHIs as used by the invention may be of the traditional class or of the classes of human-like Camelidae antibodies. Said antibodies may be directed against whole TNF-alpha or a fragment thereof, or a fragment of a homologous sequence thereof. These polypeptides include the full length Camelidae antibodies, namely Fe and VH domains, chimeric versions of heavy chain Camelidae antibodies with a human Fe domain or VH’s by themselves or derived fragments.

[0118] Anti-serum albumin VHI’s may interact in a more efficient way with serum albumin than conventional antibodies which is known to be a carrier protein. As a carrier protein some of the epitopes of serum albumin may be inaccessible by bound proteins, peptides and small chemical compounds. Since VH’s are known to bind into ‘unusual’ or non-conventional epitopes such as cavities (WO 97/49805), the affinity of such VHI’s to circulating albumin may be increased.

[0119] The present invention also relates to the finding that an anti-TNF polypeptide as described herein further comprising one or more single domain antibodies directed against one or more serum proteins of a subject, surprisingly has significantly prolonged half-life in the circulation of said subject compared with the half-life of the anti-TNF-alpha single domain antibody when not part of said construct. Examples of such polypeptides are represented in Table 5 by SEQ ID NOs: 30 to 43. Furthermore, the said polypeptides were found to exhibit the same favourable properties of single domain antibodies such as high stability remaining intact in mice, extreme pH resistance, high temperature stability and high target affinity.

[0120] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide further comprising one or more single domain antibodies directed against one or more serum proteins, said anti-TNF alpha polypeptide comprising a sequence corresponding to any represented by SEQ ID NOs: 30 to 43 (Table 5).

[0121] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, wherein an anti-serum protein single domain antibody corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 26 to 29 and 85 to 97 as shown in Table 5.

[0122] The serum protein may be any suitable protein found in the serum of subject. In one aspect of the invention, the serum protein is serum albumin, serum immunoglobulins, thyroxine-binding protein, transferrin, or fibrinogen. Depending on the intended use such as the required half-life for effective treatment and/or compartmentalisation of the target antigen, the VHI-partner can be directed to one of the above serum proteins.

[0123] Another aspect of the invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein further comprising at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of an anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, an anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide.

[0124] It is an embodiment of the invention that a single domain antibody directed against IFN-gamma corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 44 to 72 as shown in Table 6.

[0125] According to one aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody is directed against TNF-alpha receptor. Said single domain antibody may be a Camelidae VHI.

[0126] According to one aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody is directed against IFN-gamma receptor. Said single domain antibody may be a Camelidae VHI.

[0127] Another aspect of the invention is a method of treating an autoimmune disease or condition as cited herein, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide further comprising a least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide, such polypeptides joined to each other as described below.

[0128] Such multi-specific constructs may have improved potency as inflammatory therapeutic compound over monospecific constructs.

[0129] One aspect of the invention is a composition comprising an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein and at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide, for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration to a subject.

[0130] One aspect of the invention is a method for treating autoimmune disease comprising administering to an individual an effective amount of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide and at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide, simultaneously, separately or sequentially.

[0131] Another aspect of the invention is a kit containing an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide and at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration to a subject. It is an aspect of the invention that the kit may be used according to the invention. It is an aspect of the invention that the kit may be used to treat the diseases as cited herein.

[0132] By simultaneous administration means the polypeptides are administered to a subject at the same time. For example, as a mixture of the polypeptides or a composition comprising said polypeptides. Examples include, but are not limited to a solution administered intravenously, a tablet, liquid, topical cream, etc., wherein each preparation comprises the polypeptides of interest.

[0133] By separate administration means the polypeptides are administered to a subject at the same time or substantially the same time. The polypeptides are present in the kit as separate, unmixed preparations. For example, the different polypeptides may be present in the kit as individual tablets. The tablets may be administered to the subject by swallowing both tablets at the same time, or one tablet directly following the other.

[0134] By sequential administration means the polypeptides are administered to a subject sequentially. The polypeptides are present in the kit as separate, unmixed preparations. There is a time interval between doses. For example, one polypeptide might be administered up to 336,
In sequential administration, one polypeptide may be administered once, or any number of times and in various doses before and/or after administration of another polypeptide. Sequential administration may be combined with simultaneous or sequential administration.

The medical uses of the anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide described below, also apply to the composition comprising an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein and at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide, anti-TNF-alpha receptor polypeptide and anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide, for simultaneous, separate or sequential administration to a subject as disclosed above.

According to one aspect of the invention, an anti-IFN-gamma polypeptide anti-TNF-alpha a single domain antibody directed against IFN-gamma. Said single domain antibody may be a *Camelidae* VH1.

It is an embodiment of the invention that a single domain antibody directed against IFN-gamma corresponds to a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 44 to 72 as shown in Table 6.

According to one aspect of the invention, anti-TNF-alpha a single domain antibody directed against TNF-alpha receptor. Said single domain antibody may be a *Camelidae* VH1.

According to one aspect of the invention, an anti-IFN-gamma receptor polypeptide anti-TNF-alpha a single domain antibody directed against IFN-gamma receptor. Said single domain antibody may be a *Camelidae* VH1.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, wherein the number of single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha is two or more. Such multivalent anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides have the advantage of unusually high functional affinity for the target, displaying much higher than expected inhibitory properties compared to their monovalent counterparts.

The multivalent anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides have functional affinities that are several orders of magnitude higher than the monovalent parent anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides. The inventors have found that the functional affinities of these multivalent polypeptides are much higher than those reported in the prior art for bivalent and multivalent antibodies. Surprisingly, anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the present invention linked to each other directly (SEQ ID No. 77 and 78) or via a short linker sequence show the high functional affinities expected theoretically with multivalent conventional four-chain antibodies.

The inventors have found that such large increased functional activities can be detected preferably with antigens composed of multidomain and multimeric proteins, either in straight binding assays or in functional assays, e.g. cytotoxicity assays.

Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, wherein the number of single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha is two or more, said anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide comprising a sequence corresponding to any represented by SEQ ID NOs: 73 to 76.

The single domain antibodies may be joined to form any of the polypeptides disclosed herein comprising more than one single domain antibody using methods known in the art or any future method. For example, they may be fused by chemical cross-linking by reacting amino acid residues with an organic derivatising agent such as described by Blattler et al., Biochemistry 24,1517-1524; EP294703. Alternatively, the single domain antibody may be fused genetically at the DNA level i.e. a polynucleotide construct formed which encodes the complete polypeptide construct comprising one or more anti-target single domain antibodies and one or more anti-serum protein single domain antibodies. A method for producing bivalent or multivalent VH1 polypeptide constructs is disclosed in PCT patent application WO 96/34103. One way of joining multiple single domain antibodies is via the genetic route by linking single domain antibody coding sequences either directly or via a peptide linker. For example, the C-terminal end of the first single domain antibody may be linked to the N-terminal end of the next single domain antibody. This linking mode can be extended in order to link additional single domain antibodies for the construction and production of tri-, tetra-, etc. functional constructs.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the single domain antibodies are linked to each other directly, without use of a linker. Contrary to joining bulky conventional antibodies where a linker sequence is needed to retain binding activity in the two subunits, polypeptides of the invention can be linked directly (SEQ ID No. 77 and 78) thereby avoiding potential problems of the linker sequence, such as antigenicity when administered to a human subject, instability of the linker sequence leading to dissociation of the subunits.

According to another aspect of the present invention, the single domain antibodies are linked to each other via a peptide linker sequence. Such linker sequence may be a naturally occurring sequence or a non-naturally occurring sequence. The linker sequence is expected to be non-immunogenic in the subject to which the anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide is administered. The linker sequence may provide sufficient flexibility to the multivalent anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, at the same time being resistant to proteolytic degradation. A non-limiting example of a linker sequence is one that can be derived from the hinge region of VH1s described in WO 96/34103.

According to another aspect of the invention, multivalent single domain antibodies comprising more than two single domain antibodies can be linked to each other either directly or via a linker sequence. Such constructs are difficult to produce with conventional antibodies and due to steric hindrance of the bulky subunits, functionality will be lost or greatly diminished rather than increased considerably as seen with VH1's of the invention compared to the monovalent construct (see FIG. 12 for gel filtration analyses of such multivalent VH1 constructs).

The polypeptide constructs disclosed herein may be made by the skilled artisan according to methods known in the art or any future method. For example, VH1s may be obtained using methods known in the art such as by immu-
nising a camel and obtaining hybridomas therefrom, or by cloning a library of single domain antibodies using molecular biology techniques known in the art and subsequent selection by using phage display.

[0150] According to an aspect of the invention an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may be a homologous sequence of a full-length anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide. According to another aspect of the invention, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may be a functional portion of a full-length anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide. According to another aspect of the invention, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may be a homologous sequence of a full-length anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide. According to another aspect of the invention, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may be a functional portion of a homologous sequence of a full-length anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide. According to another aspect of the invention an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may comprise a sequence of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide.

[0151] According to an aspect of the invention a single domain antibody used to form an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide may be a complete single domain antibody (e.g. a VH3) or a homologous sequence thereof. According to another aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody used to form the polypeptide construct may be a functional portion of a complete single domain antibody. According to another aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody used to form the polypeptide construct may be a homologous sequence of a complete single domain antibody. According to another aspect of the invention, a single domain antibody used to form the polypeptide construct may be a functional portion of a homologous sequence of a complete single domain antibody.

[0152] As used herein, an homologous sequence of the present invention may comprise additions, deletions or substitutions of one or more amino acids, which do not substantially alter the functional characteristics of the polypeptides of the invention. The number of amino acid deletions or substitutions is preferably up to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 or 70 amino acids.

[0153] A homologous sequence according to the present invention may a polypeptide modified by the addition, deletion or substitution of amino acids, said modification not substantially altering the functional characteristics compared with the unmodified polypeptide.

[0154] A homologous sequence according to the present invention may be a polypeptide modified by the addition, deletion or substitution of amino acids, said modification not substantially altering the functional characteristics compared with the unmodified polypeptide.

[0155] A homologous sequence according to the present invention may be a sequence which exists in other Camelidae species such as, for example, camel, dromedary, llama, alpaca, guanaco etc.

[0156] Where homologous sequence indicates sequence identity, it means a sequence which presents a high sequence identity (more than 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95% or 98% sequence identity) with the parent sequence and is preferably characterised by similar properties of the parent sequence, namely affinity, said identity calculated using known methods.

[0157] Alternatively, an homologous sequence may also be any amino acid sequence resulting from allowed substitutions at any number of positions of the parent sequence according to the formula below:

[0158] Ser substituted by Ser, Thr, Gly, and Asn;
[0159] Arg substituted by one of Arg, His, Gin, Lys, and Glu;
[0160] Leu substituted by one of Leu, Ile, Phe, Tyr, Met, and Val;
[0161] Pro substituted by one of Pro, Gly, Ala, and Thr;
[0162] Thr substituted by one of Thr, Pro, Ser, Ala, Gly, His, and Glu;
[0163] Ala substituted by one of Ala, Gly, Thr, and Pro;
[0164] Val substituted by one of Val, Met, Tyr, Phe, Ile, and Leu;
[0165] Gly substituted by one of Gly, Ala, Thr, Pro, and Ser;
[0166] Ile substituted by one of Ile, Met, Tyr, Phe, Val, and Leu;
[0167] Phe substituted by one of Phe, Trp, Met, Tyr, Ile, Val, and Leu;
[0168] Tyr substituted by one of Tyr, Trp, Met, Phe, Ile, Val, and Leu;
[0169] His substituted by one of His, Glu, Lys, Gin, Thr, and Arg;
[0170] Gln substituted by one of Gin, Glu, Lys, Asn, His, Thr, and Arg;
[0171] Asn substituted by one of Asn, Glu, Asp, Gln, and Ser;
[0172] Lys substituted by one of Lys, Gln, Gin, His, and Arg;
[0173] Asp substituted by one of Asp, Glu, and Asn;
[0174] Glu substituted by one of Glu, Asp, Lys, Asn, Gin, His, and Arg;
[0175] Met substituted by one of Met, Phe, Ile, Val, Leu, and Tyr.

[0176] A homologous nucleotide sequence according to the present invention may refer to nucleotide sequences of more than 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800 or 1000 nucleotides able to hybridize to the reverse-complement of the nucleotide sequence capable of encoding the parent sequence, under stringent hybridisation conditions (such as the ones described by Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning, Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring, Harbor Laboratory press, New York).

[0177] As used herein, a functional portion refers to a sequence of a single domain antibody that is of sufficient size such that the interaction of interest is maintained with affinity of 1x10^-7 M or better.
Alternatively, a functional portion comprises a partial deletion of the complete amino acid sequence and still maintains the binding site(s) and protein domain(s) necessary for the binding of and interaction with the target.

As used herein, a functional portion refers to less than 100% of the complete sequence (e.g., 99%, 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%, 5%, 1% etc.), but comprises 5 or more amino acids or 15 or more nucleotides.

Targets as mentioned herein such as TNF-alpha, TNF-alpha receptor, serum proteins (e.g. serum albumin, serum immunoglobulins, thyroxine-binding protein, transferrin, fibrinogen) and IFN-gamma, IFN-gamma receptor may be fragments of said targets. Thus a target is also a fragment of said target, capable of eliciting an immune response. A target is also a fragment of said target, capable of binding to a single domain antibody raised against the full length target.

A fragment as used herein refers to less than 100% of the sequence (e.g., 99%, 90%, 80%, 70%, 60%, 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, 10% etc.), but comprising 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 or more amino acids. A fragment is of sufficient length such that the interaction of interest is maintained with affinity of 1x10⁻⁶ M or better.

A fragment as used herein also refers to optional insertions, deletions and substitutions of one or more amino acids which do not substantially alter the ability of the target to bind to a single domain antibody raised against the wild-type target. The number of amino acid insertions deletions or substitutions is preferably up to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 or 70 amino acids.

A homologous sequence of the present invention may include an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide which has been humanised. The humanisation of antibodies of the new class of VHHi's would further reduce the possibility of unwanted immunological reaction in a human individual upon administration.

One embodiment of the present invention relates to a method for preparing modified polypeptides based upon llama antibodies by determining the amino acid residues of the antibody variable domain (VHH) which may be modified without diminishing the native affinity of the domain for antigen and while reducing its immunogenicity with respect to a heterologous species; the use of VHHs having modifications at the identified residues which are useful for administration to heterologous species; and to the VHH so modified.

More specifically, the invention relates to the preparation of modified VHHi's, which are modified for administration to humans, the resulting VHH themselves, and the use of such “humanized” VHH in the treatment of diseases in humans. By humanised is meant mutated so that immunogenicity upon administration in human patients is minor or nonexistent. Humanising a polypeptide, according to the present invention, comprises a step of replacing one or more of the Camelidae amino acids by their human counterpart as found in the human consensus sequence, without that polypeptide losing its typical character, i.e. the humanisation does not significantly affect the antigen binding capacity of the resulting polypeptide. Such methods are known by the skilled addressee.

Humanization of Camelidae single domain antibodies requires the introduction and mutagenesis of a limited amount of amino acids in a single polypeptide chain. This is in contrast to humanization of scFv, Fab, (Fab)2 and IgG, which requires the introduction of amino acid changes in two chains, the light and the heavy chain and the preservation of the assembly of both chains.

As a non-limited example, the polypeptide of VHH#128 containing human-like residues in FR2 was humanized. Humanization required mutagenesis of residues in FR1 at position 1 and 5 which were introduced by the primer used for repertoire cloning and do not occur naturally in the llama sequence. Mutagenesis of these residues did not result in loss of binding and/or inhibition activity. Humanization also required mutagenesis of residues in FR3 at position 74, 76, 83, 84, 93. Mutagenesis of those residues did not result in a dramatic loss of binding and/or inhibition activity (see FIG. 4). Combining the mutations of FR1 and FR3 therefore did not affect the binding and/or inhibition activity (FIG. 5).

Humanization also required mutagenesis of residues in FR4 at position 108. Mutagenesis of Q108L resulted in lower production level in Escherichia coli. Position 108 is solvent exposed in camelid VHH, while in human antibodies this position is buried at the VH-VL interface (Spinelli, 1996; Nieba, 1997). In isolated VHHi position 108 is solvent exposed. The introduction of a non-polar hydrophobic Leu instead of polar uncharged Gln can have a drastic effect on the intrinsic folding/stability of the molecule.

As a non-limited example, the polypeptide represented in the VHH#3E containing camelid hallmark residues at position 37, 44, 45 and 47 with hydrophilic characteristics, was humanized. Replacement of the hydrophilic residues by human hydrophilic residues at positions 44 and 45 (E44G and R45L), did not have an effect on binding and/or inhibition. However, loss of binding and/or inhibition activity was observed when F37V and F47W were introduced. Modeling data confirmed the critical residue 37 to preserve the integrity of the CDR3 loop conformation and hence on activity (see FIG. 6)(all numbering according to the Kabat).

SEQ ID NO: 3 and 14 display more than 90% amino acid sequence homology to human VH framework regions and therefore said VHHi might be administered to patients directly without expectation of an immune response therefrom, and without the additional burden of humanisation. Therefore, one aspect of the present invention allows for the direct administration of the polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 3 and 14, homologous sequence thereof, or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof to a patient in need of the same.

One embodiment of the present invention is a method for humanizing a VHHi comprising the steps of replacing of any of the following residues either alone or in combination:

FRI position 1, 5, 28 and 30,

the hallmark amino acid at position 44 and 45 in FR2,
FR3 residues 74, 75, 76, 83, 84, 93 and 94, and positions 103, 104, 108 and 111 in FR4; numbering according to the Kabat numbering.

One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, or a nucleic acid capable of encoding said polypeptide for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders relating to inflammatory processes. TNF-alpha is involved in inflammatory processes, and the blocking of TNF-alpha action can have an anti-inflammatory effect, which is highly desirable in certain disease states such as, for example, Crohn's disease. Our Examples demonstrate VH(3) according to the invention which bind TNF-alpha and moreover, block its binding to the TNF-alpha receptor.

The anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the present invention are applicable to autoimmune diseases, such as Addison's disease (adrenal), Autoimmune diseases of the ear (ear), Autoimmune diseases of the eye (eye), Autoimmune hepatitis (liver), Autoimmune parotitis (parotid glands), Crohn's disease (intestine), Diabetes Type I (pancreas), Epidermiditis (epidymis), Glomerulonephritis (kidneys), Graves' disease (thyroid), Guillain-Barre syndrome (nerve cells), Hashimoto's disease (thyroid), Hemolytic anemia (red blood cells), Systemic lupus erythematosus (multiple tissues), Male infertility (sperm), Multiple sclerosis (nerve cells), Myasthenia Gravis (neuromuscular junction), Pemphigus (primarily skin), Psoriasis (skin), Rheumatic fever (heart and joints), Rheumatoid arthritis (joint lining), Sarcoidosis (multiple tissues and organs), Scleroderma (skin and connective tissues), Sjogren's syndrome (exocrine glands, and other tissues), Spondyloarthropathies (axial skeleton, and other tissues), Thyroiditis (thyroid), Vasculitis (blood vessels). Within parenthesis is the tissue affected by the disease. This listing of autoimmune diseases is intended to be exemplary rather than inclusive.

Autoimmune conditions for which the anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the present invention is applicable include, for example, AIDS, atopic allergy, bronchial asthma, eczema, leprosy, schizophrenia, inherited depression, transplantation of tissues and organs, chronic fatigue syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, myocardial infarction, stroke, autism, epilepsy, Arthus' phenomenon, anaphylaxis, and alcohol and drug addiction. In the above-identified autoimmune conditions, the tissue affected is the primary target, in other cases it is the secondary target. These conditions are partly or mostly autoimmune syndromes.

Therefore, in treating them, it is possible to use the same methods, or aspects of the same methods that are herein disclosed, sometimes in combination with other methods.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to the invention, or a nucleic acid capable of encoding said polypeptide for the preparation of a medicament for treating a disorder relating to inflammatory processes. Examples of disorders include rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis.

Polypeptides and nucleic acids according to the present invention may be administered to a subject by conventional routes, such as intravenously. However, a special property of the anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the invention is that they penetrate barriers such as tissue membranes and/or tumours and act locally and act locally thereon, and they are sufficiently stable to withstand extreme environments such as in the stomach. Therefore, another aspect of the present invention relates to the delivery of anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides.

A subject according to the invention can be any mammal susceptible to treatment by therapeutic polypeptides.

Oral delivery of anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the invention results in the provision of such molecules in an active form in the colon at local sites that are affected by the disorder. These sites may be highly inflamed and contain TNF-alpha-producing cells. The anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides of the invention which bind to TNF-alpha can neutralise the TNF-alpha locally, avoiding distribution throughout the whole body and thus limiting negative side-effects. Genetically modified microorganisms such as Micrococcus laetic is able to secrete antibody or functional portions thereof. Such modified microorganisms can be used as vehicles for local production and delivery of antibodies or functional portions thereof in the intestine. By using a strain which produces an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, inflammatory bowel syndrome could be treated.

Another aspect of the invention involves delivering anti-TNF polypeptides by using surface expression on or secretion from non-invasive bacteria, such as Gram-positive host organisms like Lactococcus spec. using a vector such as described in WO00/23471.

One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the gastric environment without the substance being inactivated.

Examples of disorders are any that cause inflammation, including, but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and multiple sclerosis. As known by persons skilled in the art, once in possession of said polypeptide construct, formulation technology may be applied to release a maximum amount of polypeptide in the right location (in the stomach, in the colon, etc.). This method of delivery is important for treating, prevent and/or alleviate the symptoms of disorders whose targets are located in the gut system.

An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of a disorder susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the gastric environment without being inactivated, by orally administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to
modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the gastric environment without being inactivated.

[0209] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the gut system without said substance being inactivated, by orally administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0210] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject without the substance being inactivated, by orally administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0211] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms or disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the vaginal and/or rectal tract.

[0212] Examples of disorders are any that cause inflammation, including, but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and multiple sclerosis. In a non-limiting example, a formulation according to the invention comprises an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, in the form of a gel, cream, suppository, film, or in the form of a sponge or as a vaginal ring that slowly releases the active ingredient over time (such formulations are described in EP 707473, EP 684814, U.S. Pat. No. 5,629,001).

[0213] An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the vaginal and/or rectal tract, by vaginally and/or rectally administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0214] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the vaginal and/or rectal tract.

[0215] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the vaginal and/or rectal tract without being said substance being inactivated, by administering to the vaginal and/or rectal tract of a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0216] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject without said substance being inactivated, by administering to the vaginal and/or rectal tract of a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0217] Another embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung.

[0218] Examples of disorders are any that cause inflammation, including, but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and multiple sclerosis. In a non-limiting example, a formulation according to the invention, comprises an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein in the form of a nasal spray (e.g. an aerosol) or inhaler. Since the polypeptide construct is small, it can reach its target much more effectively than therapeutic IgG molecules.

[0219] An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the upper respiratory tract and lung, by administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, by inhalation through the mouth or nose.

[0220] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung, without said polypeptide being inactivated.

[0221] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the nose, upper respiratory tract and lung without inactivation, by administering to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung of a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0222] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject without inactivation by administering to the nose, upper respiratory tract and/or lung of a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0223] One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the intestinal mucosa, wherein said disorder increases the permeability of the intestinal mucosa. Because of their small size, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein can pass through the intestinal mucosa and reach the bloodstream more efficiently in subjects suffering from disorders which cause an increase in the permeability of the intestinal mucosa, for example Crohn’s disease.

[0224] An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the intestinal mucosa, wherein said disorder increases the permeability of the intestinal mucosa, by orally administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0225] This process can be even further enhanced by an additional aspect of the present invention—the use of active transport carriers. In this aspect of the invention, VHH is fused to a carrier that enhances the transfer through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream. In a non-limiting example, this “carrier” is a second VHH which is fused to the therapeutic VHH. Such fusion constructs are made using methods known in the art. The “carrier” VHH binds specifically to a receptor on the intestinal wall which induces an active transfer through the wall.

[0226] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for
the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance delivered to the intestinal mucosa, wherein said disorder increases the permeability of the intestinal mucosa.

[0227] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the intestinal mucosa without being inactivated, by administering orally to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0228] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject without being inactivated, by administering orally to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide of the invention.

[0229] This process can be even further enhanced by an additional aspect of the present invention—the use of active transport carriers. In this aspect of the invention, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein is fused to a carrier that enhances the transfer through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream. In a non-limiting example, this “carrier” is a VHH which is fused to said polypeptide. Such fusion constructs made using methods known in the art. The “carrier” VHH binds specifically to a receptor on the intestinal wall which induces an active transfer through the wall.

[0230] One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the tissues beneath the tongue effectively.

[0231] Examples of disorders are any that cause inflammation, including, but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and multiple sclerosis. A formulation of said polypeptide construct as disclosed herein, for example, a tablet, spray, drop is placed under the tongue and adsorbed through the mucus membranes into the capillary network under the tongue.

[0232] An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0233] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the tissues beneath the tongue.

[0234] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the tissues beneath the tongue without being inactivated, by administering sublingually to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0235] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject without being inactivated, by administering orally to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0236] One embodiment of the present invention is an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the skin effectively.

[0237] Examples of disorders are any that cause inflammation, including, but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, and multiple sclerosis. A formulation of said polypeptide construct, for example, a cream, film, spray, drop, patch, is placed on the skin and passes through.

[0238] An aspect of the invention is a method for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the skin effectively, by topically administering to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0239] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein for the preparation of a medicament for treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders susceptible to modulation by a TNF-alpha modulating substance which is able pass through the skin effectively.

[0240] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the skin without being inactivated, by administering topically to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0241] An aspect of the invention is a method for delivering a TNF-alpha modulating substance to the bloodstream of a subject, by administering topically to a subject an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein.

[0242] In another embodiment of the present invention, an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide further comprises a carrier single domain antibody (e.g. VHH) which acts as an active transport carrier for transport said anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, from the lung lumen to the blood.

[0243] An anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide further comprising a carrier binds specifically to a receptor present on the mucosal surface (bronchial epithelial cells) resulting in the active transport of the polypeptide from the lung lumen to the blood. The carrier single domain antibody may be fused to the polypeptide construct. Such fusion constructs may be made using methods known in the art and are describe herein. The “carrier” single domain antibody binds specifically to a receptor on the mucosal surface which induces an active transfer through the surface.

[0244] Another aspect of the present invention is a method to determine which single domain antibodies (e.g. VHHs) are actively transported into the bloodstream upon nasal administration. Similarly, a naive or immune VHH phage library can be administered nasally, and after different time points after administration, blood or organs can be isolated to rescue phages that have been actively transported to the bloodstream. A non-limiting example of a receptor for active transport from the lung lumen to the bloodstream is the Fc receptor N (FeRn). One aspect of the invention includes the VHH molecules identified by the method. Such VHH can then be used as a carrier VHH for the delivery of a
therapeutic VHH to the corresponding target in the bloodstream upon nasal administration.

[0245] In one aspect of the invention, one can use an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein, in order to screen for agents that modulate the binding of the polypeptide to TNF-alpha. When identified in an assay that measures binding or said polypeptide displacement alone, agents will have to be subjected to functional testing to determine whether they would modulate the action of the antigen in vivo. Examples of screening assays are given below primarily in respect of SEQ ID NO: 3, though any anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide as disclosed herein as disclosed herein may be appropriate.

[0246] In an example of a displacement experiment, phage or cells expressing TNF-alpha or a fragment thereof are incubated in binding buffer with, for example, a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 which has been labeled, in the presence or absence of increasing concentrations of a candidate modulator. To validate and calibrate the assay, control competition reactions using increasing concentrations of said polypeptide and which is unlabeled, can be performed. After incubation, cells are washed extensively, and bound, labeled polypeptide is measured as appropriate for the given label (e.g., scintillation counting, fluorescence, etc.). A decrease of at least 10% in the amount of labeled polypeptide bound in the presence of candidate modulator indicates displacement of binding by the candidate modulator. Candidate modulators are considered to bind specifically in this or other assays described herein if they displace 50% of labeled polypeptide (sub-saturating polypeptide dose) at a concentration of 1 μM or less.

[0247] Alternatively, binding or displacement of binding can be monitored by combination resonance energy transfer (FRET). FRET is a quantum mechanical phenomenon that occurs between a fluorescence donor (D) and a fluorescence acceptor (A) in close proximity to each other (usually <100 Å of separation) if the emission spectrum of D overlaps with the excitation spectrum of A. The molecules to be tested, e.g., a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 and a TNF-alpha are labelled with a complementary pair of donor and acceptor fluorophores. While bound closely together by the TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction, the fluorescence emitted upon excitation of the donor fluorophore will have a different wavelength from that emitted in response to that excitation wavelength when the said polypeptide and TNF-alpha are not bound, providing for quantitation of bound versus unbound molecules by measurement of emission intensity at each wavelength. Donor fluorophores with which to label the TNF-alpha are well known in the art. Of particular interest are variants of the A. Victoria GFP known as cyan FP (CFP, Donor (D)) and Yellow FP (YFP, Acceptor (A)). As an example, the YFP variant can be made as a fusion protein with TNF-alpha. Vectors for the expression of GFP variants as fusions (Clontech) as well as fluorophore-labeled reagents (Molecular Probes) are known in the art. The addition of a candidate modulator to the mixture of fluorescently-labelled polypeptide and YFP-TNF-alpha will result in an inhibition of energy transfer evidenced by, for example, a decrease in YFP fluorescence relative to a sample without the candidate modulator. In an assay using FRET for the detection of TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction, a 10% or greater decrease in the intensity of fluorescent emission at the acceptor wavelength in samples containing a candidate modulator, relative to samples without the candidate modulator, indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits the TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction.

[0248] SPR can assay for modulators of binding in at least two ways. First, a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3, for example, can be pre-bound to immobilized TNF-alpha followed by injection of candidate modulator at a concentration ranging from 0.1 nM to 1 μM. Displacement of the bound polypeptide can be quantitated, permitting detection of modulator binding. Alternatively, the membrane-bound TNF-alpha can be pre-incubated with a candidate modulator and challenged with, for example, a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3. A difference in binding affinity between said polypeptide and TNF-alpha pre-incubated with the modulator, compared with that between said polypeptide and TNF-alpha in the absence of the modulator will demonstrate binding or displacement of said polypeptide in the presence of modulator. In either assay, a decrease of 10% or more in the amount of said polypeptide bound in the presence of candidate modulator, relative to the amount of said polypeptide bound in the absence of candidate modulator indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits the interaction of TNF-alpha and said polypeptide.

[0249] Another method of detecting inhibition of binding of, for example, a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3, to TNF-alpha uses fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET). FRET is a quantum mechanical phenomenon that occurs between a fluorescence donor (D) and a fluorescence acceptor (A) in close proximity to each other (usually <100 Å of separation) if the emission spectrum of D overlaps with the excitation spectrum of A. The molecules to be tested, e.g., a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 and a TNF-alpha are labelled with a complementary pair of donor and acceptor fluorophores. While bound closely together by the TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction, the fluorescence emitted upon excitation of the donor fluorophore will have a different wavelength from that emitted in response to that excitation wavelength when the said polypeptide and TNF-alpha are not bound, providing for quantitation of bound versus unbound molecules by measurement of emission intensity at each wavelength. Donor fluorophores with which to label the TNF-alpha are well known in the art. Of particular interest are variants of the A. Victoria GFP known as cyan FP (CFP, Donor (D)) and Yellow FP (YFP, Acceptor (A)). As an example, the YFP variant can be made as a fusion protein with TNF-alpha. Vectors for the expression of GFP variants as fusions (Clontech) as well as fluorophore-labeled reagents (Molecular Probes) are known in the art. The addition of a candidate modulator to the mixture of fluorescently-labelled polypeptide and YFP-TNF-alpha will result in an inhibition of energy transfer evidenced by, for example, a decrease in YFP fluorescence relative to a sample without the candidate modulator. In an assay using FRET for the detection of TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction, a 10% or greater decrease in the intensity of fluorescent emission at the acceptor wavelength in samples containing a candidate modulator, relative to samples without the candidate modulator, indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits the TNF-alpha:polypeptide interaction.

[0250] A sample as used herein may be any biological sample containing TNF-alpha such as clinical (e.g., cell fractions, whole blood, plasma, serum, tissue, cells, etc.), derived from clinical, agricultural, forensic, research, or other possible samples. The clinical samples may be from human or animal origin. The sample analysed can be both solid or liquid in nature. It is evident when solid materials are used, these are first dissolved in a suitable solution.

[0251] A variation on FRET uses fluorescence quenching to monitor molecular interactions. One molecule in the interacting pair can be labelled with a fluorophore, and the other with a molecule that quenches the fluorescence of the
fluorophore when brought into close apposition with it. A change in fluorescence upon excitation is indicative of a change in the association of the molecules tagged with the fluorophore/quencher pair. Generally, an increase in fluorescence of the labelled TNF-alpha is indicative that anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide bearing the quencher has been displaced. For quenching assays, a 10% or greater increase in the intensity of fluorescent emission in samples containing a candidate modulator, relative to samples without the candidate modulator, indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits TNF-alpha:anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide interaction.

[0252] In addition to the surface plasmon resonance and FRET methods, fluorescence polarization measurement is useful to quantitate binding. The fluorescence polarization value for a fluorescently-tagged molecule depends on the rotational correlation time or tumbling rate. Complexes, such as those formed by TNF-alpha associating with a fluorescently labelled anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, have higher polarization values than uncomplexed, labelled polypeptide. The inclusion of a candidate inhibitor of the TNF-alpha:anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide interaction results in a decrease in fluorescence polarization, relative to a mixture without the candidate inhibitor, if the candidate inhibitor disrupts or inhibits the interaction of TNF-alpha with said polypeptide. Fluorescence polarization is well suited for the identification of small molecules that disrupt the formation of TNF-alpha:anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide complexes. A decrease of 10% or more in fluorescence polarization in samples containing a candidate modulator, relative to fluorescence polarization in a sample lacking the candidate modulator, indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits the TNF-alpha:anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide interaction.

[0253] Another alternative for monitoring TNF-alpha:anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide interactions uses a biosensor assay. ICS biosensors have been described in the art (Australian Membrane Biotechnology Research Institute; Cornell B, Brauch-Maksyvits V, King I., Osman P, Roguse B, Wieczorek L., and Pace R. “A biosensor that uses ion-channel switches” Nature 1997, 387, 580). In this technology, the association of TNF-alpha and a anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide is coupled to the closing of gramicidin-facilitated ion channels in suspended membrane bilayers and thus to a measurable change in the admittance (similar to impedance) of the biosensor. This approach is linear over six orders of magnitude of admittance change and is ideally suited for large scale, high throughput screening of small molecule combinatorial libraries. A 10% or greater change (increase or decrease) in admittance in a sample containing a candidate modulator, relative to the admittance of a sample lacking the candidate modulator, indicates that the candidate modulator inhibits the interaction of TNF-alpha and said polypeptide. It is important to note that in assays testing the interaction of TNF-alpha with an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, it is possible that a modulator of the interaction need not necessarily interact directly with the domain(s) of the proteins that physically interact with said polypeptide. It is also possible that a modulator will interact at a location removed from the site of interaction and cause, for example, a conformational change in the TNF-alpha. Modulators (inhibitors or agonists) that act in this manner are nonetheless of interest as agents to modulate the binding of TNF-alpha to its receptor.

[0254] Any of the binding assays described can be used to determine the presence of an agent in a sample, e.g., a tissue sample, that binds to TNF-alpha, or that affects the binding of, for example, a polypeptide represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 to the TNF-alpha. To do so a TNF-alpha is reacted with said polypeptide in the presence or absence of the sample, and polypeptide binding is measured as appropriate for the binding assay being used. A decrease of 10% or more in the binding of said polypeptide indicates that the sample contains an agent that modulates the binding of said polypeptide to the TNF-alpha. Of course, the above-generalized method might easily be applied to screening for candidate modulators which alter the binding between any anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide of the invention, an homologous sequence thereof, a functional portion thereof or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof, and TNF-alpha or a fragment thereof.

[0255] One embodiment of the present invention is an unknown agent identified by the method disclosed herein.

[0256] One embodiment of the present invention is an unknown agent identified by the method disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders relating to inflammatory processes.

[0257] Another embodiment of the present invention is a use of an unknown agent identified by the method disclosed herein for use in treating, preventing and/or alleviating the symptoms of disorders relating to inflammatory processes.

[0258] Examples of disorders include rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis.

[0259] A cell that is useful according to the invention is preferably selected from the group consisting of bacterial cells such as, for example, E. coli, yeast cells such as, for example, S. cerevisiae, P. pastoris, insect cells or mammalian cells.

[0260] A cell that is useful according to the invention can be any cell into which a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an anti-TNF-alpha of the invention, an homologous sequence thereof, a functional portion thereof or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof according to the invention can be introduced such that the polypeptide is expressed at natural levels or above natural levels, as defined herein. Preferably a polypeptide of the invention that is expressed in a cell exhibits normal or near normal pharmacology, as defined herein. Most preferably a polypeptide of the invention that is expressed in a cell comprises the nucleotide sequence capable of encoding any one of the amino acid sequences presented in Table 1 or capable of encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence presented in Table 1.

[0261] According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cell is selected from the group consisting of COS-7 cells, a CHO cell, a LM (TK-) cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, HEK-293 cell, K-562 cell or a 1321N1 astrocytoma cell but also other transfecable cell lines.

[0262] In general, “therapeutically effective amount”, “therapeutically effective dose” and “effective amount” means the amount needed to achieve the desired result or results (modulating TNF-alpha binding; treating or prevent-
As used herein, the term "compound" refers to an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide of the present invention, a composition, or a nuclear acid capable of encoding said polypeptide or an agent identified according to the screening method described herein or said polypeptide comprising one or more derivatised amino acids.

Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides as disclosed herein is useful for treating or preventing conditions in a subject and comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound or composition.

Anti-TNF polypeptides of the present invention are useful for treating or preventing conditions relating to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis in a subject and comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound or composition that binds TNF-alpha.

Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides as disclosed here in are useful for treating or preventing conditions in a subject and comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound combination with another, such as, for example, aspirin.

The anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides as disclosed here in are useful for treating or preventing conditions relating to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis in a subject and comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound combination with another, such as, for example, aspirin.

The present invention is not limited to the administration of formulations comprising a single compound of the invention. It is within the scope of the invention to provide combination treatments wherein a formulation is administered to a patient in need thereof that comprises more than one compound of the invention.

Conditions mediated by TNF-alpha include, but are not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome and multiple sclerosis.

A compound useful in the present invention can be formulated as pharmaceutical compositions and administered to a mammalian host, such as a human patient or a domestic animal in a variety of forms adapted to the chosen route of administration, i.e., orally or parenterally, by intranasally by inhalation, intravenous, intramuscular, topical or subcutaneous routes.

A compound of the present invention can also be administered using gene therapy methods of delivery. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,399,346, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Using a gene therapy method of delivery, primary cells transfected with the gene for the compound of the present invention can additionally be transfected with tissue specific promoters to target specific organs, tissue, grafts, tumors, or cells.

Thus, the present compound may be systemically administered, e.g., orally, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle such as an inert diluent or an assimiilable edible carrier. They may be enclosed in hard or soft shell gelatin capsules, may be compressed into tablets, or may be incorporated directly with the food of the patient's diet. For oral therapeutic administration, the active compound may be combined with one or more excipients and used in the form of ingestible tablets, buccal tablets, troches, capsules, elixirs, suspensions, syrups, wafers, and the like. Such compositions and preparations should contain at least 0.1% of active compound. The percentage of the compositions and preparations may, of course, be varied and may conveniently be between about 2 to about 60% of the weight of a given unit dosage form. The amount of active compound in such therapeutically useful compositions is such that an effective dosage level will be obtained.

The tablets, troches, pills, capsules, and the like may also contain the following: binders such as gum tragacanth, acacia, corn starch or gelatin; excipients such as dicalcium phosphate; a disintegrating agent such as corn starch, potato starch, alginic acid and the like; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate; and a sweetening agent such as sucrose, fructose, lactose or aspartame or a flavoring agent such as peppermint, oil of wintergreen, or cherry flavoring may be added. When the unit dosage form is a capsule, it may contain, in addition to materials of the above type, a liquid carrier, such as a vegetable oil or a polyethylene glycol. Various other materials may be present as coatings or to otherwise modify the physical form of the solid unit dosage form. For instance, tablets, pills, or capsules may be coated with gelatin, wax, shellac or sugar and the like. A syrup or elixir may contain the active compound, sucrose or fructose as a sweetening agent, methyl and propylparabens as preservatives, a dye and flavoring such as cherry or orange flavor. Of course, any material used in preparing any unit dosage form should be pharmaceutically acceptable and substantially non-toxic in the amounts employed. In addition, the active compound may be incorporated into sustained-release preparations and devices.

The active compound may also be administered intravenously or intraperitoneally by infusion or injection. Solutions of the active compound or its salts can be prepared in water, optionally mixed with a nontoxic surfactant. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols, triacetin, and mixtures thereof and in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, these preparations contain a preservative to prevent the growth of microorganisms.

The pharmaceutical dosage forms suitable for injection or infusion can include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions or sterile powders comprising the active ingredient which are adapted for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable or infusible solutions or dispersions, optionally encapsulated in liposomes. In all cases, the ultimate dosage form must be sterile, fluid and stable under the
conditions of manufacture and storage. The liquid carrier or vehicle can be a solvent or liquid dispersion medium comprising, for example, water, ethanol, a polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, liquid polyethylene glycols, and the like), vegetable oils, nontoxic glyceryl esters, and suitable mixtures thereof. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the formation of liposomes, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersions or by the use of surfactants. The prevention of the action of microorganisms can be brought about by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, buffers or sodium chloride. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by the use in the compositions of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

[0277] Sterile injectable solutions are prepared by incorporating the active compound in the required amount in the appropriate solvent with various of the other ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filter sterilization. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum drying and the freeze drying techniques, which yield a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient present in the previously sterile-filtered solutions.

[0278] For topical administration, the present compound may be applied in pure form, i.e., when they are liquids. However, it will generally be desirable to administer to the skin as compositions or formulations, in combination with a dermatologically acceptable carrier, which may be a liquid or a solid.

[0279] Useful solid carriers include finely divided solids such as talc, clay, microcrystalline cellulose, silica, alumina and the like. Useful liquid carriers include water, hydroxyalkyl or glycols or water-alcohol/glycol blends, in which the present compound can be dissolved or dispersed at effective levels, optionally with the aid of non-toxic surfactants. Adjuvants such as fragrances and additional antimicrobial agents can be added to optimize the properties for a given use. The resultant liquid compositions can be applied from absorbent pads, used to impregnate bandages and other dressings, or sprayed onto the affected area using pump-type or aerosol sprayers.

[0280] Thickeners such as synthetic polymers, fatty acids, fatty acid salts and esters, fatty alcohols, modified celluloses or modified mineral materials can also be employed with liquid carriers to form spreadable pastes, gels, ointments, soaps, and the like, for application directly to the skin of the user.

[0281] Examples of useful dermatological compositions which can be used to deliver the compound to the skin are known to the art; for example, see Jacquet et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,608,392), Geria (U.S. Pat. No. 4,992,478), Smith et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,559,157) and Wortzman (U.S. Pat. No. 4,820,508).

[0282] Useful dosages of the compound can be determined by comparing their in vitro activity, and in vivo activity in animal models. Methods for the extrapolation of effective dosages in mice, and other animals, to humans are known to the art; for example, see U.S. Pat. No. 4,938,949.

[0283] Generally, the concentration of the compound(s) in a liquid composition, such as a lotion, will be from about 0.1-25 wt. %, preferably from about 0.5-10 wt. %. The concentration in a semi-solid or solid composition such as a gel or a powder will be about 0.1-5 wt. %, preferably about 0.5-2.5 wt. %.

[0284] The amount of the compound, or an active salt or derivative thereof, required for use in treatment will vary not only with the particular salt selected but also with the route of administration, the nature of the condition being treated and the age and condition of the patient and will be ultimately at the discretion of the attendant physician or clinician. Also the dosage of the compound varies depending on the target cell, tumor, tissue, graft, or organ.

[0285] The desired dose may conveniently be presented in a single dose or as divided doses administered at appropriate intervals, for example, as two, three, four or more sub-doses per day. The sub-dose itself may be further divided, e.g., into a number of discrete loosely spaced administrations; such as multiple inhalations from an insufflator or by application of a plurality of drops into the eye.

[0286] An administration regimen could include long-term, daily treatment. By “long-term” is meant at least two weeks and preferably, several weeks, months, or years of duration. Necessary modifications in this dosage range may be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art using only routine experimentation given the teachings herein. See Remington’s Pharmaceutical Sciences (Martin, E. W., ed. 4), Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa. The dosage can also be adjusted by the individual physician in the event of any complication.

[0287] The invention provides for an agent that is a modulator of TNF-alpha/TNF-alpha-receptor interactions.

[0288] The candidate agent may be a synthetic agent, or a mixture of agents, or may be a natural product (e.g. a plant extract or culture supernatant). A candidate agent according to the invention includes a small molecule that can be synthesized, a natural extract, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids etc.

[0289] Candidate modulator agents from large libraries of synthetic or natural agents can be screened. Numerous means are currently used for random and directed synthesis of saccharide, peptide, and nucleic acid based agents. Synthetic agent libraries are commercially available from a number of companies including Maybridge Chemical Co. (Trevillet, Comwall, UK), Comgenex (Princeton, N.J.), Brandon Associates (Merrimack, N.H.), and Microsource (New Milford, Conn.). A rare chemical library is available from Aldrich (Milwaukee, Wis.). Combinatorial libraries are available and can be prepared. Alternatively, libraries of natural agents in the form of bacterial, fungal, plant and animal extracts are available from e.g., Pan Laboratories (Bothell, Wash.) or MycoSearch (N.C.), or are readily producible by methods well known in the art. Additionally, natural and synthetically produced libraries and agents are readily modified through conventional chemical, physical, and biochemical means.

[0290] Useful agents may be found within numerous chemical classes. Useful agents may be organic agents, or
small organic agents. Small organic agents have a molecular weight of more than 50 yet less than about 2,500 daltons, preferably less than about 750, more preferably less than about 350 daltons. Exemplary classes include heterocycles, peptides, saccharides, steroids, and the like. The agents may be modified to enhance efficacy, stability, pharmaceutical compatibility, and the like. Structural identification of an agent may be used to identify, generate, or screen additional agents. For example, where peptide agents are identified, they may be modified in a variety of ways to enhance their stability, such as using an unnatural amino acid, such as a D-amino acid, particularly D-alanine, by functionalizing the amino or carbonylic terminal, e.g., for the amino group, acylation or alkylation, and for the carbonyl group, esterification or amidification, or the like.

For primary screening, a useful concentration of a candidate agent according to the invention is from about 10 mM to about 100 μM or more (i.e., 1 mM, 10 mM, 100 mM, 1 M etc.). The primary screening concentration will be used as an upper limit, along with nine additional concentrations, wherein the additional concentrations are determined by reducing the primary screening concentration at half-log intervals (e.g., for 9 more concentrations) for secondary screens or for generating concentration curves.

High throughput Screening Kit

A high throughput screening kit according to the invention comprises all the necessary means and media for performing the detection of an agent that modulates TNF-alpha/TNF-alpha receptor interactions by interacting with TNF-alpha in the presence of a polypeptide, preferably at a concentration in the range of 1 μM to 1 mM.

The kit comprises the following. Recombinant cells of the invention, comprising and expressing the nucleotide sequence encoding TNF-alpha, which are grown according to the kit on a solid support, such as a microtiter plate, more preferably a 96 well microtiter plate, according to methods well known to the person skilled in the art especially as described in WO 00/02045. Alternatively, TNF-alpha is supplied in a purified form to be immobilized on, for example, a 96 well microtiter plate by the person skilled in the art. Alternatively TNF-alpha is supplied in the kit pre-immobilized on, for example, a 96 well microtiter plate. The TNF-alpha may be whole TNF-alpha or a fragment thereof.

Modulator agents according to the invention, at concentrations from about 1 μM to 1 mM or more, are added to defined wells in the presence of an appropriate concentration of anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, an homologous sequence thereof, a functional portion thereof or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof, said concentration of said polypeptide preferably in the range of 1 μM to 1 mM. Kits may contain one or more anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide (e.g., one or more of a polypeptide represented by any of the SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 15 or other anti-TNF-alpha polypeptides, an homologous sequence thereof, a functional portion thereof or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof).

Binding assays are performed as according to the methods already disclosed herein and the results are compared to the baseline level of, for example TNF-alpha binding to an anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide, an homologous sequence thereof, a functional portion thereof or a functional portion of an homologous sequence thereof, but in the absence of added modulator agent. Wells showing at least 2 fold, preferably 5 fold, more preferably 10 fold and most preferably a 100 fold or more increase or decrease in TNF-alpha-polyptide binding (for example) as compared to the level of activity in the absence of modulator, are selected for further analysis.

Other Kits Useful According to the Invention

The invention provides for kits useful for screening for modulators of TNF-alpha/TNF-alpha receptor binding, as well as kits useful for diagnosis of disorders characterised by dysfunction of TNF-alpha. The invention also provides for kits useful for screening for modulators of disorders as well as kits for their diagnosis, said disorders characterised by one or more process involving TNF-alpha. Kits useful according to the invention can include an isolated TNF-alpha. Alternatively, or in addition, a kit can comprise cells transformed to express TNF-alpha. In a further embodiment, a kit according to the invention can comprise a polynucleotide encoding TNF-alpha. In still further embodiment, a kit according to the invention may comprise the specific primers useful for amplification of TNF-alpha. Kits useful according to the invention can comprise an isolated TNF-alpha polypeptide, a homologue thereof, or a functional portion thereof. A kit according to the invention can comprise cells transformed to express said polypeptide. Kits may contain more than one polypeptide. In a further embodiment, a kit according to the invention can comprise a polynucleotide encoding TNF-alpha. In a still further embodiment, a kit according to the invention may comprise the specific primers useful for amplification of a macromolecule such as, for example, TNF-alpha. All kits according to the invention will comprise the stated items or combinations of items and packaging materials therefore. Kits will also include instructions for use.

EXAMPLES

The invention is illustrated by the following non-limiting examples.

Example 1

Example of Camelid Antibodies against Human Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha

1) Immunization and Library Constructions

A llama (Llama glama) was immunized with human TNF-alpha. For immunization, the cytokine was formulated as an emulsion with an appropriate, animal-friendly adjuvant (Specoll, CEDI Diagnostics B.V.). The antigen cocktail was administered by double-spot injections intramuscularly in the neck. The animal received 6 injections of the emulsion, containing 100 μg of TNF-alpha at weekly intervals. At different time points during immunization, 10-mI blood samples were collected from the animal and sera were prepared. The induction of an antigen-specific humoral immune response was verified using the serum samples in an ELISA experiment with TNF (data not shown). Five days after the last immunization, a blood sample of 150 ml was collected. From this sample, conventional and heavy-chain antibodies (HcAbs) were fractionated (Laurenceys et al. 1998) and used in an ELISA, which
revealed that the HeAbs were responsible for the antigen specific humoral immune response (data not shown). Peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs), as the genetic source of the Llama heavy chain immunoglobulins (HeAbs), were isolated from the 150-ml blood sample using a Ficol-Paque gradient (Amersham Biosciences) yielding 5×10^6 PBLs. The maximal diversity of antibodies is expected to be equal to the number of sampled B-lymphocytes, which is about 10% of the number of PBLs (5×10^7). The fraction of heavy-chain antibodies in Llama is up to 20% of the number of B-lymphocytes. Therefore, the maximal diversity of HeAbs in the 150 ml blood sample is calculated as 10^7 different molecules. Total RNA (around 400 μg) was isolated from these cells using an acid guanidinium thiocyanate extraction method (Chomczynski and Sacchi, 1987).

[0300] cDNA was prepared on 100 μg total RNA with M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase (Gibco BRL) and oligo-dT-primer or hexamers-oligo random primers (Amersham Biosciences) as described before (de Haard et al., 1999). The cDNA was purified with a phenol/chloroform extraction combined with an ethanol precipitation and subsequently used as template to specifically amplify the VHII repertoire.

[0301] The VHII repertoire was amplified using oligo-dT primed cDNA as template with a single degenerated framework1 (FR1) primer ABL013 (5'-GAGGCTGACCACTGCCGAGGASTCYYGG-3') (SEQ ID NO:98), introducing a PstI restriction site (in bold), in combination with the oligo-dT primer as is described in EP01205100.9. This amplification yields two fragments of 1650 bp and 1300 bp, the latter being the product derived from the CH1-deleted HeAb genes. The smaller PCR-product was gel purified and subsequently digested with PstI and BstEII. The BstEII-site occurs frequently within the FR4 of heavy-chain derived VHII encoding DNA-fragments.

[0302] Alternatively, the VHII-repertoire was amplified in a hinge-dependent approach using two IgG specific oligonucleotide primers. In a single PCR reaction a short (5'-AACAGTTAAGTCCTCGGTCGCCCGG- GAGGCTGGTTCTCGTGTGTTGCG-3') (SEQ ID NO:99) or long (5'-AACAGTTAAGTCCTCGGTCGCCCGG- GAGGCTGGTTCTCGTGTGTTGCG GAGGCTGGTTCTCGTGTGTTGCG-3') (SEQ ID NO:100) hinge primer known to be specific for HeAbs was combined with the FR1-primer ABL013 (see above). A PstI and NotI (bold underlined) restriction site was introduced within the FR1 and hinge primers respectively, to allow cloning. Subsequently, the DNA fragments were ligated into PstI-BstEII or PstI NotI digested phagemid vector pAX004, which is identical to pHEN1 (Hoogenboom et al., 1991), but encodes a carboxyterminal (His)_6 and e-cmyc-tag for purification and detection, respectively. The ligation mixture was desalted on a Microcon filter (YM-5, Millipore) and electroporated into E. coli TG1 cells to obtain a library containing 1.8×10^7 clones. The transformed cells were grown overnight at 37°C on a single 20x20 cm plate with LB containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin and 2% glucose. The colonies were scraped from plates using 2xTY medium and stored at -80°C in 20% glycerol.

[0303] As quality control the percentage of insert containing clones was verified on 24 clones for each library by PCR using a combination of vector based primers. This analysis revealed that 95% of the clones contained a VHII encoding insert. The variability was examined by Hinfl fingerprint analysis of the amplified VHIH fragment of these 24 clones, thereby showing that all clones were indeed different (data not shown).

[0304] 2) Selection of Antagonistic Anti-TNF VHIH's

[0305] From both libraries phage was prepared. To rescue the polyclonal phage repertoire, libraries were grown to logarithmic phase (OD600=0.5) at 37°C in 2xTY containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin and 2% glucose and subsequently superinfected with M13K07 helper phage for 30 minutes at 37°C. Infected cells were pelleted for 5 minutes at 4000 rpm and resuspended in 2xTY containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin and 25 μg/ml kanamycin. Bacteriophage was propagated by overnight growth at 37°C and 250 rpm. Overnight cultures were centrifuged for 15 minutes at 4500 rpm and phage was precipitated with one fifth volume of a [20% polyethylene-glycol 6000, 1.5 M NaCl]-solution by incubation for 30 minutes on ice. Phage was pelleted by centrifugation for 15 minutes at 40000g and 4°C. After resuspension of the phages in PBS, cell debris was pelleted by centrifugation for 1 minute at maximal speed (15000xg) in microcentrifuge tubes. The supernatant containing the phage particles was transferred to a new tube and again phage was precipitated as described above. Phage was dissolved in PBS and separated from remaining cell debris as mentioned above. The titer of phage was determined by infection of logarithmic TG1 cells followed by plating on selective medium.

[0306] The library was selected using in vitro biotinylated TNF-alpha. The biotinylation was carried out as described by Magni et al (Anal Biochem 2001, 298, 181-188). The incorporation of biotin in the TNF was evaluated by SDS-PAGE analysis and detection with Extravidin-alkaline phosphatase conjugate (Sigma). The functionality of the modified protein was evaluated for its ability to bind to the solid phase coated recombinant a p75 receptor.

[0307] VHII were selected by capturing biotinylated TNF-alpha (10 to 400 ng per well during 2 hours at room temperature) on streptavidin coated microtiter plates (coated with 10 μg of TNF-alpha using 16 hours at 4°C). Antagonistic VHII were obtained by elution with an excess of receptor, either the extracellular ligand binding domain or with cells expressing the receptor. After 2 hours incubation of phage with captured cytokine, the non-specific phage was washed away, while specific phage displaying antagonistic VHII was eluted for 30 minutes with receptor (extracellular domain of CD120b or p75; 10 μM) or with receptor displaying cells (>10^3 KYM cells per well). High enrichments, i.e. the ratio of the number of phage eluted with receptor and those eluted by serum albumin (50 μg per well), of more than a factor of 20 suggested the successful selection of TNF-alpha specific clones. Alternatively, instead of elution with receptor a standard procedure was applied, in which a low pH causes the denaturation of VHII and/or antigen (0.1 M glycine buffer pH 2.5). Log phase growing E. coli cells were infected with the eluted and neutralized phage and plated on selective medium.

[0308] Individual clones were picked and grown in microtiter plate for the production of VHII in culture supernatant. ELISA screening with TNF-alpha captured on Extravidin coated plates revealed about 50% positive clones. Hinfl-
-fingerprint analysis showed that 13 different clones were selected, which were grown and induced on 50 ml scale. The sequences of said clones are shown in Table 1.

[0309] Five clones, coded VHH#1A, #2B, #3E, #3G, #7B and #12B, with different sequences (FIG. 1) were characterized in more detail. VHH#3E, #3G and #7B are single-domain antibody fragments carrying the typical hydrophilic residue at position 45 (arginine) and the phenylalanine to tryptophan substitution in position 47 in FR2 thereby conferring the advantageous characteristics in terms of solubility. VHH#1A contains the hydrophobic FR2 residues typically found in double-chain antibodies of human origin or from other species, but compensating this loss in hydrophilicity by the charged arginine residue on position 103 that substitutes the conserved tryptophan residue present in VH from double-chain antibodies (PCT/EPO2/07804). A new class of humanised Camelidae single-domain antibodies described in this invention is represented by VHH#2B and VHH#12B, which contains the hydrophilic residues in FR2 in combination with the hydrophobic residue tryptophan at position 103. Larger amounts of antibody fragments were expressed by cultivation on 50 ml scale and purified by IMAC using TALON resin (Clontech). After dialysis against PBS to remove the eluent imidazol the amount of VHH was determined by OD280; approximately 300 µg of VHH was obtained from each clone.

[0310] This material was used for determining the sensitivity of detection of (biotinylated) TNF in ELISA. For this purpose a streptavidin (10 µg/ml) coated microtiter plate was employed for capture of biotinylated TNF (1 µg/ml), VHH was diluted in 0.2% casein/PBS and incubated for 2 hours at room temperature. Bound VHH was detected with anti-MYC mAb 9E10 (0.5 µg/ml) and anti-mouse AP conjugate (1000-fold diluted, Sigma). The results are shown in FIG. 2.

[0311] 3) Determination of Antagonistic Effect in Cytotoxicity Assay with KMY Cell Line

[0312] TNF-alpha-induced cytostasis/cytotoxicity was determined by the colorimetric MTT assay as described by Vandenabeele and colleagues (Vandenabeele, P., Declercq, W., Verschueren, D., Van de Craen, M., Grooten, J., Loetscher, H., Brockhaus, M., Lesslauer, W., Fiers, W. (1992) Functional characterization of the human tumor necrosis factor receptor p75 in a transfected rat/mouse T cell hybridoma. J. Exp. Med. 176, 1015-1024.). MTT (3-(4,5-cimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) is a pale yellow substrate that is cleaved by living cells to yield a dark blue formazan product. This process requires active mitochondria, and even freshly dead cells do not cleave significant amounts of MTT. KMY cells (Sekiguchi M, Shiroko Y, Suzuki T, Imada M, Miyahara M, Fujii G. (1985) Characterization of a human rhabdomyosarcoma cell strain in tissue culture. Biomed. Pharmacother. 39, 372-380.) were seeded in 96 well microtiterplates and cultured in the presence or absence of TNF-alpha (0.216 ng/ml or approx. 5 PM of trimer). In addition to TNF variable amounts of antibody (VHH or Remicade) were included during cultivation. For the assay MTT was added to the culture medium at a final concentration of 500 µg/ml and the plates were incubated at 37°C for 4 hours to achieve cleavage of MTT by mitochondrial enzymes.

[0313] The formed formazan product, which appears as black, fuzzy crystals on the bottom of the well were dissolved by addition of acid isopropanol (40 nM HCI in isopropanol) or DMSO. The absorbance is measured at 570 nm.

[0314] The MTT assay (FIG. 3) shows that VHH#1A, which has arginine on position 103 in combination with the human-like hydrophobic residues in FR2, has a moderate antagonistic effect (IC50=100 nM). VHH#7B with the characteristic hydrophilic residues in FR2 does not prevent binding of TNF-alpha to its ligand in spite of its sensitive detection of the cytokine in ELISA (curve not shown). In contrast, VHH#3E and #3G with hydrophilic FR2 hallmark residues are very potent antagonistic VHH’s (IC50 of 20 nM); VHH#3E and #3G have a high degree of homology and are closely related (Harmsen et al., Mol. Immunol. 37, 579-590), but VHH#3E is more potent, probably due to the fact that it has a higher affinity than VHH#3G (FIG. 2). The (chimeric) monoclonal antibody Remicade is very potent (IC50 of 80 pM), but its derived Fab fragment lost most of this efficacy (IC50 is 3 nM, 30 fold less than the intact mAb). This clearly shows the avidity effect of the interaction between the antibody and the cytokine: the mAb with two binding sites interacts more efficiently with the trimeric TNF molecule via cooperative binding. VHH fragments are strictly monovalent and therefore it was speculated that increasing the avidity by genetically fusing VHH genes might increase their antagonistic efficacy (see Example 4).

[0315] These experiments show that a new class of human-like VHH has bona fide binding and functional characteristics, thereby enabling their application for therapeutic purposes.

Example 2

Humanization of VHH#12B and VHH#3E by Site Directed Mutagenesis

[0316] 1) Homology between VHH#3E/VHH#12B and Human Germline Heavy Chain V-Region DP-47

[0317] Alignment of VHH#12B and a human VH3 germline sequence (DP-47) revealed a high degree of homology:

[0318] 4 AA changes in FR1 on position 1, 5, 28 and 30

[0319] 5 AA changes in FR3 on position 74, 76, 83, 84 and 93

[0320] 1 AA change in FR4 on position 108

[0321] as represented in the following sequence alignment in which DP-47 is SEQ ID NO:101 and VHH#12B is SEQ ID NO:102:
A specific inhibitor for the TNF-alpha cytokine, with high homology to the human germline gene DP-47, was therefore an ideal candidate to further humanize and evaluate the influence of mutagenesis on inhibition capacity in ELISA.

Alignment of VHH#3E and a human VH3 germline (DP-47) revealed the presence of hydrophilic amino acid residues in FR2 of VHH#3E compared to hydrophobic residues in DP-47.

Cultures were centrifuged for 20 minutes at 4,500 rpm at 4°C. The pellet was frozen overnight or for 1 hour at -20°C. Next, the pellet was thawed at room temperature for 40 minutes, re-suspended in 20 ml PBS/1 mM EDTA/1M NaCl, and shaken on ice for 1 hour. The supernatant was isolated by centrifugation for 20 minutes at 4°C at 4,500 rpm.

VHH#12B ADSVKG RPITSRNAXYTLQGNSLRAEDTAVYYCAK

VHH#12B ADSVKG RPITSRNAXYTLQGNSLRAEDTAVYYCAK VLPFVSEDSSTNAD WQQGTQVTIS

[0325]

Evaluation of the effect of substituting the hydrophilic by hydrophobic residues as present in human VH is important, since the majority of camelid VH sequences contain hydrophilic residues.

Mutagenesis of VHH#12B

VHH#12B was mutated by using a non-PCR based site-directed mutagenesis method as described by Chen and Ruffner and commercialized by Stratagene (Quickchange site-directed mutagenesis). Plasmid DNA was used as template in combination with 2 mutagenic primers introducing the desired mutation(s). The 2 primers are each complementary to opposite strands of the template plasmid DNA. In a polymerase reaction using the Pfu DNA polymerase each strand is extended from the primer sequence during a cycling program using a limited number of cycles. This results in a mixture of wild type and mutated strands. Digestion with DpnI results in selection of the mutated in vitro synthesized DNA strand, since only the template strand is sensitive for digestion. The DNA was precipitated and transformed to E. coli and analyzed for the required mutation by sequence analysis. The generated mutant VHH’s and the mutagenic primers are listed in Table 2.

Plasmid was prepared from mutant clones and was transformed into WK6 electrocompetent cells. A single colony was used to start an overnight culture in LB containing 2% glucose and 100 μg/ml ampicillin. This overnight culture was diluted 100-fold in 300 ml TB medium containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin, and incubated at 37°C, until OD600 nm=2, when 1 mM IPTG and 5 mM MgSO4 (final concentrations) was added and the culture was incubated for 3 more hours at 37°C.

Cultures were centrifuged for 20 minutes at 4,500 rpm at 4°C. The pellet was frozen overnight or for 1 hour at -20°C. Next, the pellet was thawed at room temperature for 40 minutes, re-suspended in 20 ml PBS/1 mM EDTA/1M NaCl, and shaken on ice for 1 hour. The supernatant containing the VHH was loaded on... TALON (Clontech) and purified to homogeneity. The yield of VHH was determined using the calculated extinction coefficient.

All mutant VHH’s expressed comparable to the wild type. The mutants were analyzed for their inhibition capacity in an in vitro receptor binding assay.

A microtiter plate was coated overnight at 4°C with Embrel (Wyeth) at 2 μg/ml in PBS. The plate was washed five times with PBS-Tween and blocked for 1 hour at room temperature with PBS containing 1% casein. The plate was washed five times with PBS-Tween. Biotinylated human TNF-alpha (80 μg/ml) was pre-incubated with a dilution series of mutant or wild type VHH#12B for 1 hr at RT and the mixture was incubated for 1 hr at room temperature in the wells of the microtiterplate. The plate was washed five times with PBS-Tween. Bound human TNF-α was detected using Extravidin-AP (1/1,000 dilution) and paranitrophenylphosphate (pNPP). Signals were measured after 30 minutes at 405 nm. The results are presented in FIG. 4 and 5. The IC50 increased 3-fold from 66 nM (wild type) to 200 nM (mutant Q11E+Q51L+A74S+N76N+K83R+P84A). Mutation of position T93A resulted in loss of inhibition (data not shown). The positions that still need to be humanized are: E28, E30 and Q108. However, E28 and E30 are part of the H1 canonical structure and thus part of the CDR1 according to Chothia numbering system.

The amino acid sequences of mutant VHIs are presented in Table 4 SEQU ID NOs: 17 to 19.

[0334] 3) Mutagenesis of VHH#3E

VHH#3E was mutated by using a non-PCR based site-directed mutagenesis method as described above. The obtained mutant VHH’s and the mutagenic primers are listed in Table 3.
All mutant VHH’s expressed comparable to the wild type. The purified mutant VHH’s were analyzed for binding in ELISA and inhibition capacity in receptor binding assay identical to the method described above.

The results of the ELISA are shown in FIG. 6, those from the receptor binding assay in FIG. 7.

The amino acid sequences of mutant VHHs are presented in Table 4 SEQ ID Nos 21 to 24.

Example 3
Isolation of Antagonistic VHH against Mouse TNF-Alpha

Selection of anti-mouse TNF-alpha VHH

In order to perform efficacy studies in mouse models for IBD or Crohn’s disease mouse TNF specific VHH were selected. Therefore a llama was immunized with mouse TNF-alpha as described in Example 1. RNA was extracted from PBL’s sampled 4 and 10 days after the last immunization, as well as from a biopsy taken from a lymph node after day 4. Total RNA was converted in either random primed or oligo-dT primed cDNA and used as template for the amplification of the VHH encoding gene segments using Ig derived primers or a combination of oligo-dT primer and a single Ig primer (see example 1). With the Ig primers a library containing 8.5x10^7 clones was generated from the first PBL’s, and a library with 7x10^6 clones for the second PBL sample and 5.8x10^6 clones for the lymph node. Using the combination of the oligo-dT primer and the Ig primer libraries from the first PBL sample were made containing 1.2x10^6 clones, from the second sample of PBL’s a library of 5.7x10^6 clones and the lymph node derived library contained 2x10^6 clones. The libraries were pooled dependent on the used combination of primers and the resulting two libraries were grown for propagation of phage as was described before. Selections were performed on biotinylated mouse TNF-alpha captured on coated streptavidin, bound phage was eluted by competition with the human receptor p75, which is known to cross-react with mouse TNF-alpha. Two distinct mouse TNF-alpha specific VHH (VHH/m3F and VHH/m9E) were selected from the library obtained by amplification with 1 g derived primers, while two closely related VHH’s were retrieved from the library constructed by PCR with oligo-dT primer and Ig primer (FIG. 8).

Determination Antagonistic Efficacy in Cytotoxicity Assay with L929 Cell Line (FIG. 9)

The same type of assay was applied as described in Example 1, but with the murine cell line L929. VHH/m3F and VHH/m4B (FIG. 9) turned out to be 10-fold more potent then the other two VHH’s.

Enhancing the Antagonistic Efficacy by Increasing the Avidity Using Multivalent Camelidae Antibodies

Antigenic Efficacy of Bi-, Tri- and Tetra-Valent VHH against Human and Mouse TNF-Alpha

The E. coli production vector pAX11 (FIG. 10) was designed, which allows the two-step cloning of bivalent or bispecific VHH. The carboxy terminal VHH is cloned first with PstI and BstEII, while in the second step the other VHH is inserted by SfiI and NotI, which do not cut within the first gene fragment. The procedure avoids the enforcement of new sites by amplification and thus the risk of introducing PCR errors.

With this vector the bivalent derivative of the antagonistic anti- human TNF-alpha VHH/3E was generated. The plasmid vector encoding the bivalent VHH was used to generate a tri- and tetrameric derivative, which was accomplished by partial digestion of the plasmid with BstEII, which occurs in both VHH gene segments. The linearized vector was purified from gel, subsequently dephosphorylated and used as acceptor for cloning of the BstEII fragment of approx. 350 bp that was obtained by complete digestion of the same plasmid. Ligation of the BstEII fragment alone prior to addition into the vector enhances the insertion of multimeric VHH encoding gene segments. After transformation in E. coli TG1 the resulting clones were screened by PCR with M13Rev and M13Fwd primers; since BstEII is an a-symmetric cutter (5 nt overhang) only correctly oriented inserts were obtained as was confirmed by digesting the plasmids with PstI alone (350 bp) or double digesting with EcoRI and HindIII (1000 bp for bivalent (HIV 3E, SEQ ID NO: 73); 1350 bp for trivalent (TRI 3E, SEQ ID NO: 74) and 1700 bp for tetravalent (TETRA 3E, SEQ ID NO: 75), data not shown). The sequences are listed in Table 7.

The clones were grown and induced on 50 ml scale, periplasmic fractions prepared and used for IMAC purification with TALON resin. Analysis of the purified products on Coomassie stained PAGE revealed good production levels (between 2 and 10 mg per liter cell culture) of intact multivalent VHH (see FIG. 11). The molecular appearance of the IMAC purified VHH was determined by gel filtration on a Superdex 75HR column and as expected the molecules with higher avidities came earlier from the column (see FIG. 12).

The antagonistic efficacy was analyzed with the cell based assay using KYM cells. The cells were seeded into microtitrplates and cultured in the presence or absence of TNF-alpha (1.29 ng/ml or approx. 25 pM of trim). The assays (FIG. 13) revealed that the monovalent molecules used in this study had the poorest antagonistic characteristics, what is reflected by their IC50 values: the Fab derived from the chimeric antibody Remicade has an IC50 of 2 nM and for VHH/3E it is 12 nM (see also FIG. 3). The avidity of the used molecules turned out to have a dramatic influence on the antagonistic efficacy as was observed with the bivalent IgG molecule Remicade, which is 40-fold more effective (IC50 50 pM) than the Fab. TNF-alpha is a trimeric molecule, which interacts to a dimeric receptor and therefore it can be expected that the avidity of the IgG permits the mutual binding to two epitopes on the cytokine and supports the formation of large complexes as has been described before (Santora et al, Anal. Biochem. 299, 119-129). Surprisingly, increasing the avidity of the VHH from monomer to dimer has a far more spectacular effect than observed with Remicade, since the IC50 of the dimer (30 pM) is 400 fold lower than of the monomer. Increasing the avidity even more leads to a still better antagonistic behaviour: the trimeric VHH has an IC50 of 20 pM and the tetravalent format 6 pM. All higher avidity formats of the VHH are more efficient than Remicade, while the tetravalent format is even better...
The same unexpected effect of avidity on antagonistic behaviour was observed with VHH generated against mouse TNF (FIG. 14). The same type of cytotoxicity assay was performed using MTI as substrate and mouse TNF-alpha (65 pg/ml or 1.3 pM), but with the murine cell line L929, which expresses the mouse specific receptor. Three different antagonistic (monovalent) VHH were identified coded 9E and 3F, of which the first two have IC50's of 25 nM and the latter 2 nM (see also Example 3). Conversion of 3F into the bivalent format (BIV#m3F, SEQ ID NO: 76) yielded a 1000 fold increase in IC50 (2 μM), thereby demonstrating once more that the increased avidity of the antibody leads to an unexpected improvement of the antagonistic characteristics.

Example 2) Comparison with VHH-Fc Fusion

VHH#3E, directed against human TNF, was cloned via PstI and BstEII in an adapted vector derived from pCDNA3, thereby generating a genetic fusion to the CH1 deleted-Fc portion of human IgG1. After confirmation by sequencing, the plasmid construct was transfected to the myeloma cell line NSO. The obtained cell line was grown and the VHH-Fc fusion was secreted into the culture supernatant. The product was purified with an anti-human Fc VHH resin and analyzed on a Coomassie stained gel (FIG. 15). In the presence of DTT the fusion was visible as a 45 kDa protein, in the absence of DTT the dimeric molecule with a molecular weight of 90 kDa could be observed. This dimeric product results from the linkage of two chains by two disulfide bridges, which originate from cysteine residues located in the hinge region.

The VHH-fusion was tested in the bioassay with the human cell line KYM and turned out to be 5-fold less effective than the bivalent VHH in spite of the fact that both molecules have the same avidity and that they both originate from VHH#3E (FIG. 16). Probably steric hindrance by the bulky Fc tail might cause this discrepancy.

Example 5

Calculation of Homologies between Anti-Target-Single Domain Antibodies of the Invention

The degree of amino acid sequence homology between anti-target single domain antibodies of the invention was calculated using the Bioedit Sequence Alignment Editor. The calculations indicate the proportion of identical residues between all of the sequences as they are aligned by ClustalW (Thompson, J. D., Higgins, D. G. and Gibson, T. J. (1994) CLUSTAL W: improving the sensitivity of progressive multiple sequence alignment through sequence weighting, position specific gap penalties and weight matrix choice. Nucleic Acids Research, submitted, June 1994). Table 8 indicates the fraction homology between anti-serum albumin VHHSs of the invention. Table 9 indicates the fraction homology between anti-TNF-alpha VHHSs of the invention. Table 10 indicates the percentage homology between anti-IFN-gamma VHHSs of the invention.
the captured TNF\(\alpha\) a polyclonal rabbit anti-VHH antiserum (R42) and an anti-rabbit IgG alkaline phosphatase conjugate was used. After washing, the plates were developed with paranitrophenyl phosphate. The data plotted in FIG. 17 shows similar curves for all of the samples exposed to digestive conditions as well as for the reference samples. This indicates that the VHH\#3E essentially retains its functional activity under all of the chosen conditions.

Example 8

Oral Administration of an Anti-Human TNF\(\alpha\) Specific VHH in Mice

[0358] An antibody solution containing the anti-human TNF\(\alpha\) specific VHH\#3E (100 microgram per milliliter in 100-fold diluted PBS) was prepared. Three mice which were first deprived from drinking water for 12 hours and subsequently allowed to freely access the antibody solution during the next two hours. Afterwards the mice were sacrificed and their stomachs were dissected. Immediately the content of the stomachs was collected by flushing the stomach with 500 microliter PBS containing 1% BSA. This flushed material was subsequently used to prepare serial three-fold dilutions, starting at 1/5 dilution from the undiluted material. One hundred microliter of these samples was transferred to individual wells of a microtiter plate coated with human TNF\(\alpha\). After incubation for 1 hour and following extensive washing the presence of immuno-reactive material was assessed with a polyclonal rabbit anti-VHH antiserum (R42) followed by incubation with an anti-rabbit alkaline-phosphatase conjugate. The ELISA was developed with paranitrophenyl acetate. The ELISA signals obtained after 10 minutes clearly demonstrated the presence of functional VHH\#3E in the gastric flushings of these mice. By comparing to the standard curve we determined the concentration of the functional antibody fragment in the gastric flushing fluid to be 1.5, 12.6 and 8.6 microgram/ml for the three mice tested.

Example 9

Efficacy in an Animal Model for IBD

[0359] 1) Animal Model of Chronic Colitis

[0360] The efficacy of bivalent VHH constructs applied via various routes of administration was assessed in a DSS (dextran sodium sulfate) induced model of chronic colitis in BALB/c mice. This model was originally described by Okayasu et al. [Okayasu et al. Gastroenterology 1990; 98: 694-702] and modified by Kojouharoff et al. [G. Kojouharoff et al. Clin. Exp. Immunol. 1997; 107: 353-8]. The animals were obtained from Charles River Laboratories, Germany, at an age of 11 weeks and kept in the animal facility until they reached a body weight between 21 and 22 g. Chronic colitis was induced in the animals by four DSS treatment cycles. Each cycle consisted of a DSS treatment interval (7 days) where DSS was provided with the drinking water at a concentration of 5% (w/v) and a recovery interval (12 days) with no DSS present in the drinking water. The last recovery period was prolonged from 12 to 21 days to provide for an inflammation status rather representing a chronic than an acute inflammation at the time of the treatment. Subsequent to the last recovery interval the mice were randomly assigned to groups of 8 mice and treatment with the VHH-constructs was started. The treatment interval was 2 weeks. One week after the end of the treatment interval the animals were sacrificed, the intestine was dissected and histologically examined. The experimental setting is shown schematically in FIG. 18.

[0361] 2) VHH Treatment Schedule

[0362] During the VHH treatment period the mice (8 animals per group) were treated daily for 14 consecutive days with bivalent VHH\#3F (VHH\#m3F-VHH\#m3F; SEQ ID No. 76) by intra-gastric or intra-venous application of 100 \(\mu\)g bivalent VHH 3F. An additional group of animals was treated rectally with the bivalent VHH\#3F every other day for a period of 14 days. In all treatment groups a dose of 100 \(\mu\)g of the bivalent VHH\#3F was applied at a concentration of 1 mg/ml in a buffered solution. The negative control groups received 100 \(\mu\)l of PBS under otherwise identical conditions. The treatment schedule is shown in Table 11.

[0363] 3) Results

[0364] After the mice were sacrificed the body weight was determined and the colon was dissected. The length of the dissected colon was determined and the histology of the colon was assessed by Haematoxilin-Eosin (HE) stain (standard conditions). As compared to the negative controls (PBS treatment) the groups treated with bivalent nanobody 3F showed a prorogued colon length as well as an improved histological score [G. Kojouharoff et al. Clin. Exp. Immunol. 1997; 107: 353-8] thereby demonstrating efficacy of the treatment.

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TABLE 3

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**[0368]**

### TABLE 5

**Anti-mouse serum albumin, and anti-mouse serum albumin + anti TNF-alpha VHI**

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### TABLE 7

Sequences of bivalent (BIV 3E, BIV/tri(F)), trivalent (TRI3E) or tetravalent (TETRA 3E) VHs directed against TNF-alpha.

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<td>BIV 3E</td>
<td>With linker sequence (undelineated)</td>
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### TABLE 8 - continued

Fractional homologies between the amino acid sequences of anti-mouse serum albumin VHs of the invention.

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**TABLE 9**

Fractional homologies between anti-TNF-alpha VHs of the invention

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<th>VHH#1A</th>
<th>VHH#7B</th>
<th>VHH#2B</th>
<th>VHH#3E</th>
<th>VHH#6G</th>
<th>VHH#10A</th>
<th>VHH#2G</th>
<th>VHH#1F</th>
<th>VHH#6C</th>
<th>VHH#11E</th>
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<td>0.682</td>
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**TABLE 10**

Percentage homologies between anti-IFN-gamma VHs of the invention

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TABLE 10-continued

Percentage homologies between anti-IFN-gamma VHHs of the invention

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TABLE 11

Treatment schedule

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<td>daily 100 μl PBS i.p. +</td>
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<td>negative control 2 rectal</td>
<td>every other day 100 μl PBS rectal for 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>negative control 3 intragastric</td>
<td>daily 100 μl PBS intragastric for 14 consecutive days</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>positive control 1 dexamethasone</td>
<td>applied orally once per day for 14 consecutive days</td>
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<tr>
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<td>positive control 2 IL10 expressing Lactis bivalent VHH 3F l.p.</td>
<td>daily 100 μg bivalent VHH 3F for 14 consecutive days</td>
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<td>daily 100 μg bivalent VHH 3F l.p. for 14 consecutive days</td>
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<td>100 μg bivalent VHH 3F rectally in 100 μl PBS every other day for two weeks</td>
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SEQUENCE LISTING

- NUMBER OF SEQ ID NOs: 132
- SEQ ID NO 1
- LENGTH: 115
- TYPE: PRT
- ORGANISM: Lama glama
**SEQ ID NO 1**

**LENGTH: 121**

**TYPE: PRT**

**ORGANISM: Lama glama**

**SEQUENCE:**

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1      5     10    15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Thr Ser Gly Phe Asp Phe Ser Val Ser
20      25    30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35      40    45
Ser Glu Ile Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Lys Tyr Val Asp Ser Val
50      55    60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
65      70    75    80
Leu Gln Met Asp Ser Leu Ile Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Leu Tyr Cys Asn
85      90    95
Ala Arg Ser Pro Ser Gly Ser Phe Arg Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr
100     105   110
Val Ser Ser
115
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**SEQ ID NO 2**

**LENGTH: 123**

**TYPE: PRT**

**ORGANISM: Lama glama**

**SEQUENCE:**

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Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1      5     10    15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Ser Ile Phe Arg Val Asn
20      25    30
Ala Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Glu Arg Phe Val
35      40    45
Ala Ile Ile Thr Ser Gly Asp Asn Leu Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ala Val Lys
50      55    60
Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Asn Val Lys Thr Val Tyr Leu
65      70    75    80
Gln Met Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Asn
85      90    95
Ala Ile Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Ser Ile Pro Ser Asn Tyr Trp Gly
100     105   110
Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115   120
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**SEQ ID NO 3**

**LENGTH: 123**

**TYPE: PRT**

**ORGANISM: Lama glama**

**SEQUENCE:**

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1      5     10    15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Thr Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Asp Tyr
20      25    30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35      40    45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
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<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20    25    30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys
35    40    45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50    55    60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65    70    75    80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Leu Gln Pro Glu Asp Thr
85    90    95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100   105   110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
115   120   125
Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 5
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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1     5     10     15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Val Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ala His
20    25    30
Ser Val Tyr Thr Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Arg
35    40    45
Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Ala Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala
50    55    60
Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn
65    70    75    80
Thr Val Asp Leu Leu Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val
85    90    95
Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Thr Val Gly
100   105   110
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115 120 125

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<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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20 25 30
 Ala Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Ala Ile Ile Thr Ser Ser Asp Thr Asn Asp Thr Asn Tyr Ala Asp
50 55 60
Ala Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Asn Val Lys Lys Thr
65 70 75 80
Val Tyr Leu Gln Met Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr
85 90 95
Tyr Cys Asn Ala Val Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Ser Ile Pro Ser Asn
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Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
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20 25 30
 Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Ala Ser Ile Ser Gly Ser Gly Ala Ile Thr Pro Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Asn Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Ala Ala Ser Arg Tyr Ala Arg Tyr Arg Asp Val His Ala Tyr Asp Tyr
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
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<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Thr Arg Thr Phe Ser Arg Tyr
 20  25  30
Val Val Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
 30  40  45
Ala Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Gly Glu His Thr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
 50  60
Lys Gly Arg Tyr Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
 65  75  85  95
Leu Gln Met Gly Ser Leu Gly Ser Phe Thr Val Ala Tyr Cys
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100 110
Ser Thr Gly Gln Gly Thr Pro Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Ser Ile Phe Arg Val Asn
 20  25  30
Ala Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
 30  40  45
Ala Ile Ile Thr Asp Thr Thr Asn Thr Ala Asp Ala Val Lys Gly
 40  50  60
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Asn Val Lys Thr Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln
 50  60
Met Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Asn Thr
 70  80  90  95
Val Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Asn Ile Pro Thr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln
100 110 120
Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120
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 20  25  30
Ala Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
 30  40  45
Ala Ile Ile Ser Gly Thr Thr Asn Thr Ala Asp Ala Val Lys Gly
 40  50  60
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Asn Val Lys Thr Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln
 50  60
Met Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Asn Thr
 70  80  90  95
Val Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Asn Ile Pro Thr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln
100 110 120
Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120
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| Arg | Phe | Thr | Ile | Ser | Thr | Asp | Asn | Val | Lys | Thr | Val | Tyr | Leu | Gln |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 80 |

| Met | Asn | Val | Leu | Glu | Ser | Glu | Asp | Thr | Ala | Val | Tyr | Tyr | Cys | Asn | Ala |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 85  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Val | Leu | Gln | Thr | Ser | Arg | Trp | Ser | Ile | Pro | Ser | Asn | Tyr | Trp | Gly | Gln |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 100 | 105 | 110 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

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<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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Val Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Gin Gin Arg Glu Leu Val 35 40 45

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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Thr His 20 25 30
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Thr Val Ser Ser 115

| Lys | Arg | Phe | Thr | Ile | Ser | Asp | Asn | Ala | Lys | Asn | Thr | Val | Tyr |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 80 |

| Leu | Gln | Met | Asn | Ser | Leu | Lys | Ser | Glu | Asp | Thr | Ala | Val | Tyr | Cys |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 85  | 90  |     |     |     |

| Ala | Leu | Asn | Gln | Ala | Gly | Leu | Ser | Arg | Gly | Gin | Gin | Thr | Gln | Val |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 100 | 105 | 110 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

Val Ser Ser 115
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LENGTH: 126
TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama

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Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
50 55
70
80
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Glu Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Thr Gly Leu Tyr Tyr Cys
90 90
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115
120 125
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ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 14

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His 20 25
30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
115
120
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
<210> SEQ ID NO 15
LENGTH: 124
TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Gly Thr Leu Ser Ser Tyr
<210> SEQ ID NO 16
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Asp Ser Gly Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Thr Phe Ser Ser Ile 20 25 30
Ile Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val 35 40 45
Gly Ala Val Ser Trp Ser Gly Thr Thr Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Leu Gly Arg Phe Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Ser Ala Arg Lys Ser Val Tyr 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Gln Lys Tyr Aan Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Aan 100 105 110
Val Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 17
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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

continued
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 18
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 18
Glu Val Gln Leu Leu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His
20 25 30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ser Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 19
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 19
Glu Val Gln Leu Leu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His
20 25 30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ser Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 20
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama

SEQUENCE: 20

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His
20 25 30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

SEQ ID NO 21
LENGTH: 129
TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama

SEQUENCE: 21

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20 25 30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys
35 40 45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50 55 60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65 70 75 80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Ala Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85 90 95
 Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125
Ser

SEQ ID NO 22
LENGTH: 129
TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama

SEQUENCE: 22

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20 25 30
---continued

Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys
35 40 45
Gly Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50 55 60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65 70 75 80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85 90 95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Glu Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125
Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 23
<211> LENGTH: 129
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 23
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20  25  30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys
35  40  45
Glu Leu Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50  55  60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65  70  75  80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85  90  95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Glu Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125
Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 24
<211> LENGTH: 129
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 24
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20  25  30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys
35  40  45
Glu Arg Glu Trp Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50  55  60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65  70  75  80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85 90 95

Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110

Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125

Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 25
<211> LENGTH: 129
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 25
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20 25 30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Ala Pro Gly Lys
35 40 45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50 55 60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65 70 75 80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85 90 95

Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110

Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125

Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 26
<211> LENGTH: 115
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 26
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Glu Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Arg Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Thr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Val Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Gly Ile Ser Ser Leu Gly Asp Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Ile Gly Gly Ser Leu Asn Pro Gly Gly Gly Thr Gln Val Thr
100 105 110
Val Ser Ser
<210> SEQ ID NO: 27
<211> LENGTH: 115
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 27

Gln Val Glu Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Glu Pro Gly Asn
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Asn Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Pro Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Ser Ile Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Asn Thr Ile Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Asp Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Ser Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Glu Met Asn Ser Leu Ser Gly Arg Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Ile Gly Ser Leu Ser Arg Ser Ser Glu Gly Thr Glu Val Thr
100 105 110
Val Ser Ser

115

<210> SEQ ID NO: 28
<211> LENGTH: 114
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 28

Gln Val Glu Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Glu Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Met Leu Phe
65 70 75 80
Leu Glu Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Gly Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Ser Pro Ser Ser Glu Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val
100 105 110
Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO: 29
<211> LENGTH: 114
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 29

Gln Val Glu Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Glu Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Ser Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Lys Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Gly Lys Met Leu Thr 65 70 75 80
Leu Asp Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ala Ser Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val 100 105 110
Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 30
<211> LENGTH: 256
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 30
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Arg Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Thr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Val Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Gly Ile Ser Ser Leu Gly Asp Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Thr Ile Gly Gly Ser Leu Asn Pro Gly Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr 100 105 110
Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gin Ala Ala Ala Gln 115 120 125
Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser 130 135 140
Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser 145 150 155 160
Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu 165 170 175
Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr 180 185 190
Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys 195 200 205
Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Leu Ala Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala 210 215 220
Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val 225 230 235 240
Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser 245 250 255
<210> SEQ ID NO 31
<211> LENGTH: 256
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 31
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Asn
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Asn Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Pro Gly Lys Glu Pro Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Ser Ile Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Asn Thr Ile Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Asp Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Ser Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Ile Gly Gly Ser Leu Ser Arg Ser Ser Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr
100 105 110
Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Pro Gin Pro Ala Ala Ala Glu
115 120 125
Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser
130 135 140
Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser
145 150 155 160
Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu
165 170 175
Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr
180 185 190
Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys
195 200 205
Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala
210 215 220
Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val
225 230 235 240
Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser
245 250 255

<210> SEQ ID NO 32
<211> LENGTH: 255
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 32
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
---continued---

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

<210> SEQ ID NO 33
<211> LENGTH: 255
<212> TYPE: PTR
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 33
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly  
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Ser Phe  
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Gln Trp Val  
35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Asp Lys Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val  
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Lys Met Leu Thr  
65 70 75 80
Leu Asp Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys  
85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val  
100 105 110
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Gln Val  
115 120 125
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu  
130 135 140
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly  
145 150 155 160
Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg  
165 170 175
Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala
180 185 190
Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn
195 200 205
Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val
210 215 220
Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val Glu
225 230 235 240
Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
245 250 255

SEQ ID NO 34
LENGTH: 393
TYPE: PRT
ORGANISM: Lama glama
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<210> SEQ ID NO 35
<211> LENGTH: 241
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 35

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1     5     10      15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe
20    25    30      35
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35    40    45      50
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50    55    60      65
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr lle Ser Asp Arg Asn Ala Lys Met Leu Phe
65    70    75      80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85    90    95      100
Val lle Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Gin Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val
100   105   110     115
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gin Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Gin
120   125   130     135
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Gln Ser Leu
130   135   140     145
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Thr Ser Gly Phe Asp Phe Ser Val Ser Trp Met
145   150   155     160
Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser Glu
165   170   175     180
lle Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu lle Thr Lys Tyr Val Asp Ser Val Lys Gly
180   185   190     195
Arg Phe Thr lle Ser Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln
195   200   205     210
Met Asp Ser Leu lle Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Leu Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg
210   215   220     225
Ser Pro Ser Gly Ser Phe Arg Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
225   230   235     240
Ser
<210> SEQ ID NO: 36
<211> LENGTH: 247
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 36
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Lys Met Leu Phe 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Glu Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val 100 105 110
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Glu Val 115 120 125
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu 130 135 140
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Ser Ile Phe Arg Val Asn Ala Met 145 150 155 160
Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Gln Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Ile 165 170 175
Ile Thr Ser Gly Asp Asn Leu Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ala Val Lys Gly Arg 180 185 190
Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Val Lys Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln Met 195 200 205
Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Asn Ala Ile 210 215 220
Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Ser Ile Pro Ser Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly 225 230 235 240
Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser 245

<210> SEQ ID NO: 37
<211> LENGTH: 249
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 37
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Lys Met Leu Phe
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Gin Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gin Pro Ala Ala Ala Gin Val
Gln Leu Gln Gln Ser Gly Gly Gln Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Thr Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Asp Tyr Trp Met
Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser Thr
Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln
Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr Lys
Val Val Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp Gly
Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 38
<211> LENGTH: 255
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 38

Gln Val Gin Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gln Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Met Leu Phe
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Gin Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gin Pro Ala Ala Ala Gin Val
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gln Val Gin Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly ArgTHR Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly
Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg
Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala 180 185 190
Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn 195 200 205
Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val 210 215 220
Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val Glu 225 230 235 240
Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Glu Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser 245 250 255

<210> SEQ ID NO 39
<211> LENGTH: 253
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 39

Gln Val Gln Leu Gin Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gin Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gin Glu Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Asp Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Met Leu Phe 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val 100 105 110
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Gin Pro Gin Pro Ala Ala Ala Gin Val 115 120 125
Gln Leu Gln Asp Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gin Glu Gly Ser Leu 130 135 140
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Val Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ala His Ser Val 145 150 155 160
Tyr Thr Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe 165 170 175
Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Ala Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser 180 185 190
Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val 195 200 205
Asp Leu Leu Met Asn Ser Leu Leu Gin Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr 210 215 220
Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Thr Val Gly Ser Ser 225 230 235 240
Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser 245 250

<210> SEQ ID NO 40
<211> LENGTH: 250
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 40
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
  1    5    10    15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Arg Phe
  20   25    30
Gly Met Thr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Val Glu Trp Val
  35   40    45
Ser Gly Ile Ser Ser Leu Gly Asp Ser Thr Leu Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
  50   55    60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
  65   70    75    80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
  85   90
Thr Ile Gly Gly Ser Leu Asn Pro Gly Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr
 100  105    110
Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Gln
115  120  125
Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser
130  135  140
Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His Trp
145  150  155  160
Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser
165  170  175
Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys
180  185    190
Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu
195  200  205
Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr
210  215  220
Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp
225  230  235  240
Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
245  250

<210> SEQ ID NO: 41
<211> LENGTH: 250
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 41
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Asn
  1    5    10    15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Asn Phe
  20   25    30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Pro Glu Trp Val
  35   40    45
Ser Ser Ile Ser Gly Ser Ser Asn Thr Ile Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
  50   55    60
Lys Asp Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asn Ala Lys Ser Thr Leu Tyr
  65   70    75    80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
  85   90  95
Thr Ile Gly Gly Ser Leu Ser Arg Ser Ser Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr 100 105 110
Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Gln 115 120 125
Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser 130 135 140
Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Gln Phe Gln His Trp 145 150 155 160
Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser 165 170 175
Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys 180 185 190
Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu 195 200 205
Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Gln Ser Glu Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr 210 215 220
Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp 225 230 235 240
Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 245 250

<210> SEQ ID NO 42
<211> LENGTH: 249
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 42
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe 20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ser Ser Gly Thr Lys Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Gly Leu Phe 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr 85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ser Ser Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val 100 105 110
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Gln Val 115 120 125
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu 130 135 140
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Gln His Trp Met 145 150 155 160
Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser Thr 165 170 175
Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly 180 185 190
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln
Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr Lys
210 215 220

Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp Gly
225 230 235 240

Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
245

195 200 205

<210> SEQ ID NO 43
<211> LENGTH: 249
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 43

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Arg Ser Phe
20 25 30
Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Asp Lys Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Gly Lys Met Leu Thr
70 75 80
Leu Asp Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Val Ile Gly Arg Gly Ser Pro Ala Ser Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val
100 105 110
Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Glu Pro Ala Ala Ala Gln Val
115 120 125
Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu
130 135 140
Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His Trp Met
145 150 155 160
Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser Thr
165 170 175
Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly
180 185 190
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln
195 200 205
Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Thr Lys
210 215 220
Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp Gly
225 230 235 240
Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
245

<210> SEQ ID NO 44
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 44

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Asp Ser Gly Gly Gly Thr Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp Tyr
20  25  30
Ala Val Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35  40  45
Ala Arg Ile Leu Trp Thr Gly Ala Ser Arg Ser Tyr Ala Asn Ser Val
50  55  60
Asp Gly Arg Phe Thr Val Ser Thr Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65  70  75  80
Leu Gin Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Ile Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Ala Leu Pro Ser Asn Ile Ile Thr Thr Asp Tyr Leu Arg Val Tyr
100 105 110
Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 45
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 45
Gln Val Gin Leu Gin Asp Ser Gly Gly Gly Thr Val Gin Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asn Tyr
20  25  30
Ala Val Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35  40  45
Ala Arg Ile Lys Trp Ser Gly Gly Ser Arg Ser Tyr Ala Asn Ser Val
50  55  60
Asp Gly Arg Phe Thr Val Ser Thr Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65  70  75  80
Leu Gin Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Ile Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Ala Leu Pro Ser Asn Ile Ile Thr Thr Asp Tyr Leu Arg Val Tyr
100 105 110
Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 46
<211> LENGTH: 118
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 46
Gln Val Gin Leu Gin Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gin Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Ile Ser Gly Ser Val Phe
20  25  30
Ser Arg Thr Pro Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Gin Arg
35  40  45
Glu Leu Val Ala Gly Ile Leu Thr Ser Gly Ala Thr Ser Tyr Ala Glu
50  55  60
Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr
Val Tyr Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Glu Tyr
85 90 95
Tyr Cys Asn Thr Tyr Pro Thr Trp Val Leu Ser Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr
100 105 110
Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115

<210> SEQ ID NO: 47
<211> LENGTH: 118
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 47
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Asp Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Gly Ile Ser Gly Ser Val Phe
20  25  30
Ser Arg Thr Pro Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Arg
35  40  45
Glu Leu Val Ala Gly Ile Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala Thr Val Tyr Ala Glu
50  55  60
Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr
65  70  75  80
Val Tyr Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Glu Tyr
85  90  95
Tyr Cys Asn Thr Tyr Pro Thr Trp Val Leu Ser Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr
100 105 110
Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115

<210> SEQ ID NO: 48
<211> LENGTH: 118
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 48
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Gly Ile Ser Gly Ser Val Phe
20  25  30
Ser Arg Thr Pro Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Arg
35  40  45
Glu Leu Val Ala Gly Ile Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala Thr Val Tyr Ala Glu
50  55  60
Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr
65  70  75  80
Val Tyr Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Glu Tyr
85  90  95
Tyr Cys Asn Thr Tyr Pro Thr Trp Val Leu Ser Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr
100 105 110
Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115
<210> SEQ ID NO 49
<211> LENGTH: 113
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 49

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Glu
 1  5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Arg Gly Ile Phe Arg Phe Asn
 20 25 30
Ala Gly Leu Trp Tyr Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Arg Glu Leu Val
 35 40 45
Ala Phe Ile Gly Val Asp Asn Thr Arg Tyr Ile Asp Ser Val Lys
 50 55 60
Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Val Tyr Leu
 65 70 75 80
Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Gln Pro Gly Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Asn
 85 90 95
Lys Val Pro Tyr Ile Asp Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser
100 105 110

<210> SEQ ID NO 50
<211> LENGTH: 126
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 50

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Glu
 1  5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Thr Tyr
 20 25 30
Asn Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Ala Gly Ile Ser Trp Asn Gly Gly Ser Ile Tyr Tyr Thr Ser Ser Val
 50 55 60
Glu Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Glu Asn Thr Val Tyr
 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asp Thr Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys
 85 90 95
Ala Ser Lys Gly Arg Pro Tyr Gly Val Pro Ser Pro Arg Glu Gly Asp
 100 105 110
Tyr Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 51
<211> LENGTH: 126
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 51

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Glu
 1  5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Thr Tyr
 20 25 30
<table>
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<td>Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<td>Ala Ser Lys Gly Arg Pro Tyr Gly Val Pro Ser Pro Arg Gln Gly Asp</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyr Asp Tyr Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser</td>
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**<210> SEQ ID NO 52**
**<211> LENGTH: 126**
**<212> TYPE: PRT**
**<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama**

**<400> SEQUENCE: 52**

<table>
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<th>10</th>
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<td>Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ile Tyr</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asn Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val</td>
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<td>Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Asn Gly Gly Ser Ile Tyr Tyr Thr Ser Ser Val</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ala Ser Lys Gly Arg Pro Tyr Gly Val Pro Ser Pro Arg Gln Gly Glu</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Tyr Asp Tyr Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser</td>
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<td>120</td>
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**<210> SEQ ID NO 53**
**<211> LENGTH: 126**
**<212> TYPE: PRT**
**<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama**

**<400> SEQUENCE: 53**

<table>
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<th>1</th>
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<td>Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ile Tyr</td>
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<td>Asn Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Asn Gly Gly Ser Ile Tyr Tyr Thr Ser Ser Val</td>
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<td>Glu Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Ile Asn Thr Val Tyr</td>
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**SEQ ID NO:** 54  
**LENGTH:** 126  
**TYPE:** PRT  
**ORGANISM:** Lama glama

**SEQUENCE:**

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Gln Val Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Val Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly  
1     5     10     15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Asn Asn Tyr  
20    25    30
Asn Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val  
35    40    45
Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Asn Gly Gly Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Asp Asp Ser Val  
50    55    60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Asn Asn Leu Val Tyr  
65    70    75    80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Asn Phe Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys  
85    90    95
Ala Cys Ala Ala Asn Pro Tyr Gly Ile Pro Gln Tyr Arg Glu Asn Arg  
100   105   110
Tyr Asp Phe Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser  
115   120   125
```

**SEQ ID NO:** 55  
**LENGTH:** 126  
**TYPE:** PRT  
**ORGANISM:** Lama glama

**SEQUENCE:**

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Gln Val Gln Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly  
1     5     10     15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Asn Asn Tyr  
20    25    30
Asn Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val  
35    40    45
Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Asn Gly Gly Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Asp Asp Ser Val  
50    55    60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Asn Asn Leu Val Tyr  
65    70    75    80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Asn Phe Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys  
85    90    95
Ala Cys Ala Ala Asn Pro Tyr Gly Ile Pro Gln Tyr Arg Glu Asn Arg  
100   105   110
Tyr Asp Phe Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser  
115   120   125
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**SEQ ID NO:** 56  
**LENGTH:** 128  
**TYPE:** PRT  
**ORGANISM:** Lama glama
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>5</th>
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 61

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Asp
 1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Ser Phe Ser Ser Tyr
 20  25  30
Gly Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu His Glu Phe Val
 35  40  45
 Ala Gly Ile Trp Arg Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Met Thr Val Ser
 65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Gly Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
 85  90  95
 Ala Ala Glu Ala Thr Phe Pro Thr Thr Arg Gly Ser Phe Ala Asp
100 105 110
Tyr Asp Tyr Arg Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 62
<211> LENGTH: 126
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 62

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Asp
 1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Ser Phe Ser Ser Tyr
 20  25  30
Gly Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu His Glu Phe Val
 35  40  45
 Ala Gly Ile Trp Arg Ser Gly Val Ser Leu Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Met Thr Val Ser
 65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Gly Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
 85  90  95
 Ala Ala Glu Ala Thr Phe Pro Thr Thr Arg Gly Ser Phe Ala Asp
100 105 110
Tyr Asp Tyr Arg Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 63
<211> LENGTH: 120
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 63

Ala Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Thr Gly Asp
 1  5  10  15
---continued---

Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Val Ala Ser Gly Gly Thr Phe Ser Arg Tyr
20 25 30

Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45

Ala Arg Ile Gly Tyr Ser Gly Arg Ser Ile Ser Tyr Ala Thr Ser Val
50 55 60

Glu Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95

Ala Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Thr Leu Tyr Gln Ala Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln
100 105 110

115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 64
<211> LENGTH: 120
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 64

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Thr Gln Leu Val Gln Leu Val Gly Gln Thr Gln Leu Val Gln Thr
1 5 10 15

Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Val Ala Ser Gly Gly Thr Phe Ser Arg Tyr
20 25 30

Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45

Ala Arg Ile Gly Tyr Ser Gly Arg Ser Ile Ser Tyr Ala Thr Ser Val
50 55 60

Glu Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95

Ala Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Thr Leu Tyr Gln Ala Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln
100 105 110

115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 65
<211> LENGTH: 121
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 65

Gln Val Lys Leu Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1 5 10 15

Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Leu Thr Tyr Thr Val Gly
20 25 30

Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Ala Ile
35 40 45

Ser Trp Ser Gly Gly Ser Ala Leu Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg
50 55 60

Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln Met
65 70 75 80
Gly Ser Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Tyr Tyr Ser Cys Ala Ala Pro 85 90 95
Gly Thr Arg Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Asn Gln Val Asn Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly 100 105 110
Gln Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 66
<211> LENGTH: 121
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

Gln Val Lys Leu Glu Ser Gly Leu Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Glu Asp 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Leu Thr Tyr Thr Val Gly 20 25 30
Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Ala Ile 35 40 45
Asp Trp Ser Gly Ser Ala Leu Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg 50 55 60
Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Thr Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln Met 65 70 75 80
Gly Ser Leu Glu Pro Glu Thr Ala Val Tyr Trp Cys Ala Ala Pro 85 90 95
Gly Thr Arg Tyr His Gly Arg Asn Gln Val Asn Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly 100 105 110
Gln Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 67
<211> LENGTH: 116
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Ser Ser Asn Tyr 20 25 30
Ala Met Ser Tyr Val Thr Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ser Ile Asn Ser Arg Gly Ser Ile Thr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Thr Leu Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Ala Ser Arg Val Asp Arg Val Ser Arg Gly Gin Gly Thr Glu Val 100 105 110
Thr Val Ser Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 68
<210> SEQ ID NO 69
<211> LENGTH: 120
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 69

Gln Val Gln Leu Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1     5     10     15

Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Ile Ser Ser Phe
20    25    30

Arg Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Arg Ala Pro Gly Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35    40    45

Ala Phe Val Arg Ser Asn Gly Thr Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50    55    60

Glu Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Thr Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65    70    75    80

Leu Arg Met Asp Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85    90    95

Ala Ala Ala Thr Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ser Phe Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln
100   105   110

Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115   120

<210> SEQ ID NO 70
<211> LENGTH: 116
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 70

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Val Ser Asn Tyr
20    25    30
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ser Tyr  
20  25  30  
Gly Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Leu Val  
35  40  45  
Val Ala Ile Asn Arg Ser Gly Gly Ala Thr Ser Tyr Ala Thr Ser Val  
50  55  60  
Arg Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Met Tyr  
65  70  75  80  
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Asn Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys  
85  90  95  
Ala Ala Arg Asp Pro Thr Arg Thr Tyr Ser Ser Tyr Phe Glu Tyr Thr  
100 105 110  
Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser  
115 120  
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| <210> SEQ ID NO 72                                             |    |
| <211> LENGTH: 128                                             |    |
| <212> TYPE: PRT                                               |    |
| <213> ORGANISM: Lama glama                                     |    |
| <400> SEQUENCE: 72                                             |    |

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Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly  
1   5   10  15  
Ser Leu Thr Leu Ser Cys Val Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Ile Ser Asp Tyr  
20  25  30  
Ala Val Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val  
35  40  45  
Ala Ser Ile Ser Trp Gly Gly Phe Thr Ala Phe Ala Asp Ser Met  
50  55  60  
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr  
65  70  75  80  
Leu Gln Thr His Thr Leu Glu Pro Asp Thr Ser Val Tyr Tyr Cys  
85  90  95  
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Ala Ser Ser Arg Arg Tyr Cys Thr Gly Tyr Arg Cys Tyr Ala Thr Ala 100 105 110
Ser Glu Phe Asp Ser Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 73
<211> LENGTH: 260
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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

<210> SEQ ID NO 74
<211> LENGTH: 411
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 74
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Ser Gly Gln Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His 20 25 30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys 35 40 45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr 50 55 60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala 65 70 75 80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr 95 90 95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser 100 105 110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser 115 120 125
Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Gly Val Gln 130 135 140
Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg 145 150 155 160
Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly Tyr 165 170 175
Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Arg Glu 180 185 190
Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp 195 200 205
Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn Thr 210 215 220
Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr 225 230 235 240
Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val Glu Ser 245 250 255
Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro 260 265 270
Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro Ala Ala Ala Gly Val Gln Leu Gln Glu 275 280 285
Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys 290 295 300
Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr 305 310 315 320
Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Arg Glu Phe Val Ala 325 330 335
Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys 340 345 350
Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu 355 360 365
Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala 370 375 380
Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr 385 390 395 400
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 405 410
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His
20  25  30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys
35  40  45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50  55  60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65  70  75  80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr
85  90  95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
100 105 110
Val Glu Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Glu Gly Thr Val Thr Val Ser
115 120 125
Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Glu Pro Ala Ala Ala Glu Val Gln
130 135 140
Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg
145 150 155 160
Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly Tyr
165 170 175
Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu
180 185 190
Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp
195 200 205
Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn Thr
210 215 220
Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr
225 230 235 240
Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser Val Glu Ser
245 250 255
Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Glu Gly Thr Glu Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro
260 265 270
Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Glu Pro Ala Ala Ala Glu Val Gln Leu Gln Glu
275 280 285
Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys
290 295 300
Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Asp His Ser Gly Tyr Thr Thr Thr
305 310 315 320
Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala
325 330 335
Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys
340 345 350
Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu
355 360 365
<210> SEQ ID NO 76
<211> LENGTH: 260
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 76

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

Thr Thr Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Leu Gly Arg Phe Glu Ile Ser Arg

Asp Ser Ala Arg Lys Ser Val Tyr Leu Gin Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro

Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Gin Lys Tyr

Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn Val Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val

Thr Val Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 77
<211> LENGTH: 248
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 77

Gln Val Gln Leu Gin Asp Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gin Ala Gly Gly

Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Gly Thr Phe Ser Ser Ile

Ile Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val

Gly Ala Val Ser Trp Ser Gly Gly Thr Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val

Leu Gly Arg Phe Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Ser Ala Arg Lys Ser Val Tyr

Leu Gin Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Gin Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys

Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Gin Lys Tyr Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn

Val Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser Gin Val Gin Leu

Gln Asp Gin Gly Gly Leu Val Gin Ala Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg Leu

Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Gly Thr Phe Ser Ser Ile Met Ala Trp

Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Gly Ala Val Ser

Trp Ser Gly Gly Thr Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Leu Gly Arg Phe

Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Ser Ala Arg Lys Ser Val Tyr Leu Gin Met Asn

Ser Leu Lys Pro Gin Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Pro

Tyr Gin Lys Tyr Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn Val Trp Gly Gin

Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
US 2007/0237769 A1

Oct. 11, 2007

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<210> SEQ ID NO: 78
<211> LENGTH: 246
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 78

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1      5    10     15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His
20    25      30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35   40        45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50   55       60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr
65   70   75    80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85   90     95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Gln Val Gln Leu Gln
115 120 125
Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser
130 135 140
Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His Trp Met Tyr Trp Val
145 150 155 160
Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val Ser Thr Val Asn Thr
165 170 175
Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr
180 185 190
Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Asn Ser
195 200 205
Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Thr Lys Val Leu Pro
210 215 220
Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr
225 230 235 240
Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
245

<210> SEQ ID NO: 79
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 79

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

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<211> LENGTH: 115
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 82

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
  1  5  10  15
Pro Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Ala Phe Gly Asp Ser
  20  25  30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
  35  40  45
Ser Glu Ile Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Lys Tyr Lys Asp Ser Val
  50  55  60
Thr Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu His
  65  70  75  80
Leu Glu Met Asn Arg Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Leu Tyr Tyr Cys
  85  90  95
Ala Arg Asp Pro Ser Gly Lys Leu Arg Gly Pro Gly Thr Glu Val Thr
 100 105 110 115
Val Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 83
<211> LENGTH: 115
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 83

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
  1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Ala Phe Gly Asp Ser
  20  25  30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
  35  40  45
Ser Glu Ile Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Lys Tyr Lys Asp Ser Val
  50  55  60
Thr Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu His
  65  70  75  80
Leu Glu Met Asn Arg Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Leu Tyr Tyr Cys
  85  90  95
Ala Arg Asp Pro Ser Gly Lys Leu Arg Gly Pro Gly Thr Glu Val Thr
 100 105 110 115
Val Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 84
<211> LENGTH: 115
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 84

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
  1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Asp His
  20  25  30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Ile Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Asn Tyr Ile His Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Thr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Ala Leu Asn Gln Ala Gly Leu Ser Arg Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr
100 105 110
Val Ser Ser
115

<210> SEQ ID NO 85
<211> LENGTH: 128
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 85
Ala Val Gln Leu Val Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Asp
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Val Val Ser Gly Thr Thr Phe Ser Ser Ala
20 25 30
Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Gin Arg Gin Phe Val
35 40 45
Gly Ala Ile Lys Trp Ser Gly Thr Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Thr Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Val Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Gly Val Tyr Thr Cys
85 90 95
Ala Ala Asp Arg Arg Arg Tyr Arg Arg Met Gin Pro Met Thr
100 105 110
Thr Asp Phe Arg Phe Thr Gin Gly Gin Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 86
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 86
Gln Val Lys Leu Gln Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Thr Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Ser Phe
20 25 30
Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Arg Gin Arg Gin Phe Val
35 40 45
Ala Ser Ile Gly Ser Ser Gly Ile Thr Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Gly Leu Cys Tyr Cys
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 Ala Val Asn Arg Tyr Gly Ile Pro Tyr Arg Ser Gly Thr Gln Tyr Gln 100 105 110

Asn Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

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 Ala Thr Ile Ser Ile Gly Gly Arg Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys 50 55 60

Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu 65 70 75 80

Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Ile Tyr Tyr Cys Val 85 90 95

Ala His Arg Gln Thr Val Val Arg Gly Pro Tyr Leu Leu Trp Gly Gln 100 105 110

Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

---

|    | Gln   | Val   | Gln   | Leu   | Val   | Glu   | Ser   | Gly   | Gly   | Lys   | Leu   | Val   | Gln   | Ala   | Gly   | Gly   | 1     | 5     | 10    | 15    |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

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 Ala Gly Ser Gly Arg Ser Asn Tyr Asn Tyr Ser Asp Ser Val 50 55 60

Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu 65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95

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Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

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 Ala Thr Ile Ser Ile Gly Gly Arg Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys 50 55 60

Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu 65 70 75 80

Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Ile Tyr Tyr Cys Val 85 90 95

Ala His Arg Gln Thr Val Val Arg Gly Pro Tyr Leu Leu Trp Gly Gln 100 105 110

Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120

---

|    | Glu   | Val   | Gln   | Leu   | Glu   | Glu   | Ser   | Gly   | Gly   | Lys   | Leu   | Val   | Gln   | Ala   | Gly   | Gly   | 1     | 5     | 10    | 15    |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

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 Ala Gly Ser Gly Arg Ser Asn Tyr Asn Tyr Ser Asp Ser Val 50 55 60

Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu 65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95

Ala Ala Ser Thr Asn Leu Trp Pro Arg Asp Arg Asn Leu Tyr Ala Tyr 100 105 110

Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser 115 120
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Glu Val Glu Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Glu Val Ala Gly Asp
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Ser Leu Gly Ile Tyr
20  25  30
Arg Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Val Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35  40  45
Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Ser Gly Gly Thr Thr Arg Tyr Leu Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Ser Thr Lys Asn Ala Val Tyr
65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Val Asp Ser Ser Ser Gly Arg Leu Tyr Trp Thr Leu Ser Thr Ser Tyr
100  105  110
Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115  120  125

<210> SEQ ID NO 90
<211> LENGTH: 125
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 90
Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Phe Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Asp
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Ser Leu Gly Ile Tyr
20  25  30
Lys Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Glu Val Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35  40  45
Ala Ala Ile Ser Trp Ser Gly Thr Thr Arg Tyr Ile Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Leu Ser Arg Asn Thr Lys Asn Met Val Tyr
65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Val Asp Ser Ser Ser Gly Arg Leu Tyr Trp Thr Leu Ser Thr Ser Tyr
100  105  110
Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115  120  125

<210> SEQ ID NO 91
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 91
Glu Val Glu Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Ser Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ser Pro Tyr
20  25  30
Thr Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Leu
35  40  45
Ala Gly Val Thr Trp Ser Gly Ser Ser Thr Phe Tyr Gly Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ala Ser Arg Asp Ser Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Thr
65  70  75  80
Leu Glu Met Asn Ser Leu Asn Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Ala Ala Tyr Gly Gly Leu Tyr Arg Asp Pro Arg Ser Tyr Asp
100 105 110
Tyr Trp Gly Arg Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO: 92
<211> LENGTH: 131
<212> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> ORGANISM: Lama glama

Val Gly Leu Val Glu Val Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Leu Asp Ala Trp
20  25  30
Pro Ile Ala Trp Phe Arg Glu Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Gly Val
35  40  45
Ser Cys Ile Arg Asp Gly Thr Tyr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly
50  55  60
Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Ser Asp Asn Ala Asn Asn Thr Val Tyr Leu Gln
65  70  75  80
Thr Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Ala Ala
85  90  95
Pro Ser Gly Pro Ala Thr Gly Ser Ser His Thr Phe Gly Ile Tyr Trp
100 105 110
Asn Leu Arg Asp Asp Tyr Asp Asn Thr Gly Gly Thr Gln Val Thr
115 120 125
Val Ser Ser
130

<210> SEQ ID NO: 93
<211> LENGTH: 126
<212> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> ORGANISM: Lama glama

Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Asp His Tyr
20  25  30
Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Glu Val Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Gly Val
35  40  45
Ser Cys Ile Ser Ser Ser Asp Gly Ser Thr Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Ser Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Thr Leu Glu Pro Asp Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85  90  95
Ala Ala Gly Gly Leu Leu Leu Arg Val Glu Glu Leu Gln Ala Ser Asp
100 105 110
Tyr Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Ile Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 94
<211> LENGTH: 128
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 94
Ala Val Gln Leu Val Asp Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Thr Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Leu Asp Tyr Tyr
20 25 30
Ala Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Gly Arg Gly Gln Val
35 40 45
Ala Cys Ile Ser Asn Ser Asp Gly Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Gln Gly Ser Ser
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Thr Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90
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Ala Thr Ala Asp Arg His Tyr Ser Ala Ser His Pro Phe Ala Asp
100 105 110
Phe Ala Phe Asn Ser Trp Gly Glu Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 95
<211> LENGTH: 120
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 95
Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Tyr Gly Leu Thr Phe Trp Arg Ala
20 25 30
Ala Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Arg Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Leu Val
35 40 45
Val Ala Arg Asn Trp Gly Asp Gly Ser Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90
95
Ala Ala Val Arg Thr Tyr Gln Ser Ala Thr Tyr Asp Ile Trp Gly Gln
100 105 110
Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 96
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
<400> SEQUENCE: 96

Glu Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Asp Gly Gly
  1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ile Phe Ser Gly Arg Thr Phe Ala Asn Tyr
  20  25  30
Ala Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
  35  40  45
Ala Ala Ile Asn Arg Asn Gly Gly Thr Thr Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ala Leu
  50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Thr Lys Asn Thr Ala Phe
  65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
  85  90  95
Ala Ala Arg Glu Trp Pro Phe Ser Thr Ile Pro Ser Gly Trp Arg Tyr
 100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
 115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 97
<211> LENGTH: 125
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 97

Asp Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Trp Val Gln Pro Gly Gly
  1  5  10  15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Pro Thr Ala Ser Ser His
  20  25  30
Ala Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
  35  40  45
Val Gly Ile Asn Arg Gly Gly Val Thr Arg Asp Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
  50  55  60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Val Ser Arg Asp Asn Val Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
  65  70  75  80
Leu Gln Met Asn Arg Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Ser Ala Ile Tyr Ile Cys
  85  90  95
Ala Ala Arg Pro Glu Tyr Ser Phe Thr Ala Met Ser Lys Gly Asp Met
 100 105 110
Asp Tyr Trp Gly Lys Gly Thr Leu Val Thr Val Ser Ser
 115 120 125

<210> SEQ ID NO 98
<211> LENGTH: 23
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 98

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<210> SEQ ID NO 99
<211> LENGTH: 53
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 99
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<210> SEQ ID NO 100
<211> LENGTH: 53
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 100
aacagttase cttccggttg cggccgagg tttggttttt ggtgtcttgg gtt

<210> SEQ ID NO 101
<211> LENGTH: 98
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 101
Glu Val Gln Leu Leu Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Tyr 20 25 30
Ala Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Ala Ile Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr Thr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ser Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys 85 90 95
Ala Lys

<210> SEQ ID NO 102
<211> LENGTH: 123
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 102
Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Pro Gly Gly 1 5 10 15
Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Glu Phe Glu Asn His 20 25 30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val 35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val 50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys Tyr 85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp 100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser

<210> SEQ ID NO 103
<211> LENGTH: 23
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 103

ccctgggcc cgattatat acg 23

<210> SEQ ID NO: 104
<211> LENGTH: 17
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 104
tgtgcaagca gacagcgg 17

<210> SEQ ID NO: 105
<211> LENGTH: 44
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 105
gtctgcaac ctgcggcgcg gcggccttg ggcgcaagc agcg 44

<210> SEQ ID NO: 106
<211> LENGTH: 45
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 106
gtctgcaac ctgcggcgcg gcggccttg ggcgcaagc cccaggttt atacg 45

<210> SEQ ID NO: 107
<211> LENGTH: 60
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 107
agagacacct ccagagacac gcgtgtatctg ccaatgasca gcgtgagacg tgagagacag 60

<210> SEQ ID NO: 108
<211> LENGTH: 20
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 108
Arg Asp Aen Ser Lye Aen Thr Leu Tyr Leu Gln Met Aen Ser Leu Arg 1 5 10 15

Ala Glu Asp Thr 20

<210> SEQ ID NO: 109
<211> LENGTH: 30
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 109
catggctgag gtgcaagcgc tcaggtctgg 30

<210> SEQ ID NO: 110
<211> LENGTH: 9
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISMS: Lama glama
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SEQ ID NO 111
LENGTH: 35
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

SEQ ID NO 112
LENGTH: 30
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Lys Val Leu
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO 113
LENGTH: 30
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

seqtatca ttagctggtg cgcaggct
30

SEQ ID NO 114
LENGTH: 10
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Val Arg Gln Ala
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO 115
LENGTH: 30
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

cggctc gggaaaaag gctggttt
30

SEQ ID NO 116
LENGTH: 10
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Arg Glu Phe
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SEQ ID NO 117
LENGTH: 30
TYPE: DNA
ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 117
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<210> SEQ ID NO 118
<211> LENGTH: 9
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 118

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<210> SEQ ID NO 119
<211> LENGTH: 29
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 119

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<210> SEQ ID NO 120
<211> LENGTH: 9
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 120

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<210> SEQ ID NO 121
<211> LENGTH: 136
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 121

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20 25 30
Ser Val Tyr Thr Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gin Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg
35 40 45
Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Ala Asn Thr Tyr Ala
50 55 60
Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Aen Ala Lys Aen
65 70 75 80
Thr Val Asp Leu Leu Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val
85 90 95
Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Thr Val Gly
100 105 110
Ser Tyr Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gin Gly Thr Gin Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu
115 120 125
Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro Gin Pro
130 135

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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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<210> SEQ ID NO 123
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 123

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20     25     30     30
Ser Gly Tyr Thr Tyr Thr Ile Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys
35     40     45     45
Glu Arg Glu Phe Val Ala Arg Ile Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gly Asn Thr Tyr
50     55     60     60
Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val Lys Gly Arg Phe Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Ile Ala
65     70     75     80
Lys Asn Thr Val Asp Leu Thr Met Asn Asn Leu Glu Pro Gly Asp Thr
85     90     95     95
Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Ala Arg Asp Gly Ile Pro Thr Ser Arg Ser
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<210> SEQ ID NO 124
<211> LENGTH: 132
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 124

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20     25     30     30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35     40     45     45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Val Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro
115 120 125
Lys Pro Gln Pro
130

<210> SEQ ID NO 125
<211> LENGTH: 132
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

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20 25 30
Trp Met Tyr Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu Trp Val
35 40 45
Ser Thr Val Asn Thr Asn Gly Leu Ile Thr Arg Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Tyr Thr Leu Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Thr Lys Val Leu Pro Pro Tyr Ser Asp Ser Arg Thr Asn Ala Asp
100 105 110
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115 120 125
Lys Pro Gln Pro
130

<210> SEQ ID NO 126
<211> LENGTH: 130
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 126
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20 25 30
Ala Met Gly Trp Tyr Arg Gln Val Pro Gly Asn Gln Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Ala Ile Ile Thr Ser Gly Asp Asn Leu Asn Tyr Ala Asp Ala Val Lys
50 55 60
Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Thr Asp Asn Val Lys Lys Thr Val Tyr Leu
65 70 75 80
Gln Met Asn Val Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Asn
85 90 95

Ala Ile Leu Gln Thr Ser Arg Trp Ser Ile Pro Ser Asn Tyr Trp Gly
100 105 110

Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro Lys Pro
115 120 125

Gln Pro
130

<210> SEQ ID NO 127
<211> LENGTH: 133
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 127

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20 25 30

Ile Met Ala Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45

Gly Ala Val Ser Trp Ser Gly Gly Thr Thr Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60

Leu Gly Arg Phe Gly Ile Ser Arg Asp Ser Ala Arg Lys Ser Val Tyr
65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95

Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Glu Lys Tyr Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn
100 105 110

Val Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr
115 120 125

Pro Lys Pro Gln Pro
130

<210> SEQ ID NO 128
<211> LENGTH: 132
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 128

Gln Val Gln Leu Gln Asp Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gry
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Gly Val Ser Gly Leu Ser Phe Ser Gly Tyr
20 25 30

Thr Met Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Glu Arg Glu Phe Ala
35 40 45

Ala Ala Ile Gly Trp Asn Ser Gly Thr Thr Val Tyr Arg Asn Ser Val
50 55 60

Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80

Leu Gln Met Asn Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95

Ala Ala Ser Pro Lys Tyr Met Thr Ala Tyr Glu Arg Ser Tyr Asp Phe
100 105 110
Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser Glu Pro Lys Thr Pro
115 120 125
Lys Pro Gln Pro
130

<210> SEQ ID NO 129
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 129

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20 25 30
Ile Thr Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Gly Ala Val Ser Trp Ser Ser Ser Thr Ile Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Glu Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn His Gln Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asp Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Gln Lys Tyr Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn
100 105 110
Val Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 130
<211> LENGTH: 124
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama

<400> SEQUENCE: 130

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Glu Ser Gly Gly Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Gly
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Ser Leu Arg Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Glu Gly Thr Leu Ser Gly Tyr
20 25 30
Ile Leu Gly Trp Phe Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Lys Arg Glu Phe Val
35 40 45
Gly Ala Val Ser Trp Ser Gly Gly Thr Ile Val Tyr Ala Asp Ser Val
50 55 60
Lys Gly Arg Phe Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Arg Asn Thr Val Tyr
65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Met Asp Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
85 90 95
Ala Ala Arg Pro Tyr Gln Arg Phe Asn Trp Ala Ser Ala Ser Tyr Asn
100 105 110
Val Trp Gly Gln Arg Gly Thr Gln Val Thr Val Ser Ser
115 120

<210> SEQ ID NO 131
<211> LENGTH: 253
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lama glama
1. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide comprising one or more single domain antibodies directed against tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) and an Fc domain.

2. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, in which the Fc domain is a human Fc domain.

3. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, in which the one or more single domain antibodies directed against tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) are fused to the Fc domain.

4. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, which inhibits the interaction between TNF alpha and one or more TNF alpha receptors.

5. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, which modifies the biological activity of TNF-α after binding to TNF alpha.

6. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, which binds into the receptor-binding groove of TNF-α.

7. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha bind to TNF-alpha with an affinity of better than 10^{-9} M.

8. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha have an amino acid sequence selected from glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, methionine, serine, threonine, asparagine and glutamine at position 45 and a tryptophan at position 103 according to the Kabat numbering.

9. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 1, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha have an arginine residue at position 103 according to the Kabat numbering.

10. Anti-TN F-alpha polypeptide according to claim 1, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha are one or more Camelid VHs.

11. Anti-TNF-α polypeptide according to claim 10, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha are one or more humanized Camelid VHs.

12. Anti-TN F polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84, or comprises:

a) a sequence that is more than 70% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84;

b) a functional portion of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84 that maintains the interaction with the target with an affinity of 1×10^{-6} M or better;

c) a functional portion of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 7, 23 to 31, and 62 to 65 that comprises a partial deletion of the complete amino acid sequence and still maintains the binding site(s) and protein domain(s) necessary for the binding of and interaction with the target.

13. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 12, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 80% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.

14. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 90% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.
15. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 12, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.

16. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or comprises:

a) a sequence that is more than 70% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

b) a functional portion of SEQ ID NO: 4 that maintains the interaction with the target with affinity of 1x10^-6 M or better;

c) a functional portion of SEQ ID NO: 4 that comprises a partial deletion of the complete amino acid sequence and still maintains the binding site(s) and protein domain(s) necessary for the binding of and interaction with the target.

17. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 80% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

18. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 17, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

19. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 16, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

20. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory processes, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 1.

21. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Addison’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Autoimmune parotitis, Diabetes Type 1, Epilepsy, Myelonephritis, Graves’ disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto’s disease, Hemolytic anemia, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Male infertility, Multiple sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, Psoriasis, Rheumatic fever, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcoïdosis, Scleroderma, Sjogren’s syndrome, Spondyloarthropathies, Thyroiditis, or Vasculitis, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 22.

22. Composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 1 and a suitable pharmaceutical vehicle.

23. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory processes, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 22.

24. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Addison’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Autoimmune parotitis, Diabetes Type 1, Epilepsy, Myelonephritis, Graves’ disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto’s disease, Hemolytic anemia, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Male infertility, Multiple sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, Psoriasis, Rheumatic fever, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcoïdosis, Scleroderma, Sjogren’s syndrome, Spondyloarthropathies, Thyroiditis, or Vasculitis, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 22.

25. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide comprising one or more single domain antibodies directed against tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) and an effector group.

26. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, in which the effector group is a human Fc domain.

27. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 26, in which the one or more single domain antibodies directed against tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) are fused to the Fc domain.

28. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, which inhibits the interaction between TNF alpha and one or more TNF alpha receptors.

29. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, which modifies the biological activity of TNF-alpha after binding to TNF alpha.

30. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, which binds into the receptor-binding groove of TNF-alpha.

31. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha bind to TNF-alpha with an affinity of better than 10^-8 M.

32. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha have an amino acid selected from glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, methionine, serine, threonine, asparagine and glutamine at position 45 and a tryptophan at position 103 according to the Kabat numbering.

33. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha have an arginine residue at position 103 according to the Kabat numbering.

34. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 25, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha are one or more Cameliad VHIs.

35. Anti-TNF-alpha polypeptide according to claim 34, in which said one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha are one or more humanized Cameliad VHIs.

36. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 35, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84, or comprises:

a) a sequence that is more than 70% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84;

b) a functional portion of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84 that maintains the interaction with the target with affinity of 1x10^-6 M or better;

c) a functional portion of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 7, 23 to 31, and 62 to 65 that comprises a partial deletion of the complete amino acid sequence and still maintains the binding site(s) and protein domain(s) necessary for the binding of and interaction with the target.

37. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 36, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 80% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.
38. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 37, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 90% identical to the sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.

39. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 36, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 16 or 79 to 84.

40. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 25, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or comprises:
   a) a sequence that is more than 70% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;
   b) a functional portion of SEQ ID NO: 4 that maintains the interaction with the target with affinity of 1×10⁻⁶ M or better;
   c) a functional portion of SEQ ID NO: 4 that comprises a partial deletion of the complete amino acid sequence and still maintains the binding site(s) and protein domain(s) necessary for the binding of and interaction with the target.

41. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 40, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 80% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

42. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 41, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises a sequence that is more than 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

43. Anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 40, wherein the one or more single domain antibodies directed against TNF-alpha comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

44. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory processes, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 25.

45. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Addison’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Autoimmune parotitis, Diabetes Type 1, Epilepsy, Glomerulonephritis, Graves’ disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto’s disease, Hemolytic anemia, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Male infertility, Multiple sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, Psoriasis, Rheumatic fever, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcoïdosis, Sclerosis, Sjögren’s syndrome, Spondyloarthropathies, Thyroiditis, or Vasculitis, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-TNF polypeptide according to claim 25.

46. Composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 25 and a suitable pharmaceutical vehicle.

47. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammatory processes, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 46.

48. Method for treating and/or preventing and/or alleviating disorders relating to inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Addison’s disease, Autoimmune hepatitis, Autoimmune parotitis, Diabetes Type 1, Epilepsy, Glomerulonephritis, Graves’ disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, Hashimoto’s disease, Hemolytic anemia, Systemic lupus erythematosus, Male infertility, Multiple sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, Psoriasis, Rheumatic fever, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sarcoïdosis, Sclerosis, Sjögren’s syndrome, Spondyloarthropathies, Thyroiditis, or Vasculitis, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 46.

49. A method for synthesizing a single-domain-effector group (dAb-effector group) suitable for in vivo use comprising the steps of: (a) selecting an antibody single variable domain having an epitope binding specificity; and (b) attaching the single domain of step (a) to an effector group.

50. A method according to claim 49 wherein the antibody single variable domain is a heavy chain variable domain.

51. A method according to claim 49 wherein the effector group comprises any one or more of those groups selected from the group consisting of: an antibody CH1 heavy chain domain, an antibody CH2 heavy chain domain, an antibody CH3 heavy chain domain, an Fe region of an antibody and a hinge region of an antibody molecule.

52. A method according to claim 49 wherein the effector group constitutes an Fe region of an antibody.

53. A method according to claim 49 wherein the effector group consists of a CH2 and CH3 domain.

54. A method according to claim 51, wherein the effector group consists of a CH2 domain, a CH3 domain and the hinge region of an antibody molecule.

55. A method according to claim 49, wherein the antibody single variable domain is a non-Camelid variable domain.

56. A method according to claim 55, wherein the antibody single variable domain is a human variable domain.

57. A method according to claim 49, wherein the antibody single variable domain comprises one or more human framework regions.

58. A method according to claim 49, wherein the antibody single variable domain comprises four framework regions as defined by Kabat, which are derived from a human.

59. A method according to claim 58, wherein one or more of the human framework regions as defined by Kabat are identical on the amino acid level to those encoded by human germline antibody genes.

60. A method according to claim 49, wherein the antibody single variable domain is isolated, in part, by human immunization.

61. A method according to claim 49, wherein the antibody single variable domain is not isolated by animal immunization.

62. A method according to claim 49, wherein the effector group is of Camelid or human origin.

63. A method according to claim 49, wherein the single variable domain comprises one or more human framework regions and the immunoglobulin effector group is of human origin.

64. A method according to claim 63, wherein the single variable domain comprises four human framework regions and the immunoglobulin effector group is of human origin.

65. A method according to claim 49, wherein attaching of the single variable domain to the effector group in step (b) is effected by expressing the single-domain-effector group as a fusion polypeptide.
66. A dAb-effector group comprising: (a) an antibody single variable domain having an epitope binding specificity; and (b) an effector group attached to said antibody single variable domain.

67. A medicament comprising the dAb-effector group of claim 66.

68. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the antibody single variable domain is a heavy chain variable domain.

69. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the effector group comprises any one or more of those groups selected from the group consisting of: an antibody CH1 heavy chain domain, an antibody CH2 heavy chain domain, an antibody CH3 heavy chain domain, an Fc region of an antibody and a hinge region of an antibody molecule.

70. A dAb-effector group according to claim 69 wherein the effector group consists of a CH2 and CH3 domain.

71. A dAb-effector group according to claim 69 wherein the effector group consists of a CH2 domain, a CH3 domain and the hinge region of an antibody molecule.

72. A dAb-effector group according to claim 69 wherein the effector group constitutes an Fc region of an antibody.

73. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the antibody single variable domain is of human origin.

74. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the antibody single variable domain comprises human framework regions.

75. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the effector group is of Camelid or human origin.

76. A dAb-effector group according to claim 66, wherein the single variable domain comprises one or more human framework regions and the immunoglobulin effector group is of human origin.

77. Two or more dAb-effector groups according to claim 66 provided as a higher order structure selected from the group consisting of the following: dimers, trimers and multimers.

78. Two dAb-effector groups according to claim 77 provided as a heterodimer or a homodimer.

79. Two dAb-effector groups according to claim 78 provided as a homodimer.

80. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a dAb-effector group according to claim 66.

81. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 80 further encoding a signal sequence for export of the dAb and effector group from the cytoplasm of a host cell upon expression.

82. A vector comprising nucleic acid according to claim 80.

83. A host cell transfected with a vector according to claim 82.

84. A composition comprising a dAb-effector group(s) according to claim 66 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

85. A method of treating and/or preventing disease in a patient, wherein the method comprises administering to the patient a dAb-effector group(s) according to claim 66 or a composition according to claims 84.

86. A medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of disease, comprising the dAb-effector group of claim 66 or the composition of claim 84.

87. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of an inflammatory disease in a patient in need of such treatment and/or prophylaxis which comprises the step of administering to that patient a therapeutically effective amount of a dAb-effector group according to claim 66.

88. A method according to claim 87 wherein the inflammatory disease is mediated by TNF alpha and is selected from the group consisting of the following: rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, and glomerular nephritis.

89. A method according to claim 88, wherein the TNF alpha is human TNF alpha and the patient is a human.

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