(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
6 September 2013 (06.09.2013)

WIPO | PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2013/130676 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
C07K 14/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2013/028106

(22) International Filing Date:
27 February 2013 (27.02.2013)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/605,086 29 February 2012 (29.02.2012) US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

— *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

WO 2013/130676 A1

(54) Title: MODIFIED ADIPONECTIN POLYPEPTIDES AND THEIR USES

(57) Abstract: Modified adiopnectin polypeptides and uses thereof are provided.

MODIFIED ADIPONECTIN POLYPEPTIDES AND THEIR USES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to adiponectin polypeptides modified with at least one non-naturally-encoded amino acid.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[01] Adiponectin is a protein that modulates a number of metabolic processes, including glucose regulation and fatty acid catabolism. Adiponectin is secreted by adipose tissue into the bloodstream and is plasma levels of the hormone are inversely correlated with body fat percentage in adults. The hormone plays a role in the suppression of the metabolic derangements that may result in type 2 diabetes, obesity, atherosclerosis and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

[02] Adiponectin, also known as AdipoQ, apM1, GBP28 or Acrp30 (Scherer et al., J Biol Chem, 270:26746-9, 1995; Hu et al., J Biol Chem, 271:10697-703, 1996; Maeda et al., Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 221:286-9, 1996; and Nakano et al., J Biochem (Tokyo), 120:803-12, 1996), is a polypeptide consisting of an N-terminal collagenous domain and a C-terminal globular domain. Serum levels of adiponectin are significantly decreased in both obesity and type 2 diabetes, indicating a possible metabolic role or relationship to insulin resistance. Scherer et al., J Biol Chem, 270:26746-9, 1995; Arita et al., Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 257:79-83, 1999. Consistent with this, a recent report by Fruebis et al. (Proc Natl Acad Sci USA, 98:2005-10, 2001) implicated a proteolytic fragment of adiponectin as an acute stimulator of fatty-acid oxidation by muscle. Other recent reports showed a possible causal role of adiponectin in the development of insulin resistance. Fruebis et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA, 98:2005-10, 2001; Yamauchi et al., Nat Med, 7:941-6, 2001.

[03] While the research into adipose tissue physiology has not yet rendered a clear and complete explanation of the mechanisms underlying the relationship between diabetes and obesity, it has provided several new avenues to explore for developing new treatments for these disorders.

[04] Regulation in the expression of splice variants can have an important role in the activity of signal transduction molecules and has been implicated in the pathogenesis of several diseases (Khachigian L M et al (1992) Pathology 24: 280-290). For example, mutations that create new splice variants of the sulfonylurea receptor gene segregate with familial persistent hyperinsulinemic hypoglycemia (Thomas P M et al (1995) Science 268: 426-429).

[05] At least 9 alternatively spliced forms of mouse OB-R have been described (Lee et al, supra). A splice variant, B219, is expressed in the mouse yolk sac, early fetal liver, enriched hematopoietic stem cells, a variety of lympho-hematopoietic cells lines, and in adult reproductive organs and may be directly involved in hematopoiesis and reproduction (Cioffi J A et al (1996) Nature Medicine 2: 585-589).

[06] An OB-R mutation that creates an alternatively spliced transcript is responsible for the severely obese phenotype of db/db mice (Chen H et al (1996) Cell 84: 491-495). Based on synteni between human and mouse chromosomes, the human version of OB-R is likely to map to human chromosome 1p31 (Lee et al, supra).

[07] Genome sequencing efforts in Caenorhabditis elegans and Saccharomyces cerevisiae have revealed putative open reading frames (ORFs) C30B5.2 and YJR044c, respectively (Wilson R et al, (1994) Nature 368: 32-38; Huang M E et al (1995) Yeast 11: 775-781). YJR044c and C30B5.2 are 27% identical and 71% similar in amino acid sequence and share a similar pattern of hypdrophobicity. YJR044c has been characterized as a putative membrane associated protein (Wilson et al, supra). The C30B5.2 amino acid sequence has a consensus pattern (CCxxHxxC) for phospholipase A2, a family of enzymes that release fatty acids from the second carbon group of glycerol.

[08] The activity of many signal transduction molecules, such as the adiponectin receptor, is thought to be regulated by the expression of splice variants of the molecule. A new adiponectin receptor-related protein could provide the basis for diagnosis and treatment of disease states related to signal transduction events associated with metabolic disorders, such as obesity and diabetes, metabolic disorders, and reproductive disorders, including infertility.

[09] Covalent attachment of a hydrophilic polymer poly(ethylene glycol), abbreviated PEG, is a method of increasing water solubility, bioavailability, increasing serum half-life, increasing therapeutic half-life, modulating immunogenicity, modulating biological activity, or extending the circulation time of many biologically active molecules, including proteins, peptides, and particularly hydrophobic molecules. PEG has been used extensively in pharmaceuticals, on artificial implants, and in other applications where biocompatibility, lack of

toxicity, and lack of immunogenicity are of importance. In order to maximize the desired properties of PEG, the total molecular weight and hydration state of the PEG polymer or polymers attached to the biologically active molecule must be sufficiently high to impart the advantageous characteristics typically associated with PEG polymer attachment, such as increased water solubility and circulating half life, while not adversely impacting the bioactivity of the parent molecule.

[10] PEG derivatives are frequently linked to biologically active molecules through reactive chemical functionalities, such as lysine, cysteine and histidine residues, the N-terminus and carbohydrate moieties. Proteins and other molecules often have a limited number of reactive sites available for polymer attachment. Often, the sites most suitable for modification via polymer attachment play a significant role in receptor binding, and are necessary for retention of the biological activity of the molecule. As a result, indiscriminate attachment of polymer chains to such reactive sites on a biologically active molecule often leads to a significant reduction or even total loss of biological activity of the polymer-modified molecule. R. Clark et al., (1996), J. Biol. Chem., 271:21969-21977. To form conjugates having sufficient polymer molecular weight for imparting the desired advantages to a target molecule, prior art approaches have typically involved random attachment of numerous polymer arms to the molecule, thereby increasing the risk of a reduction or even total loss in bioactivity of the parent molecule.

[11] Reactive sites that form the loci for attachment of PEG derivatives to proteins are dictated by the protein's structure. Proteins, including enzymes, are composed of various sequences of alpha-amino acids, which have the general structure H_2N--CHR--COOH. The alpha amino moiety (H_2N--) of one amino acid joins to the carboxyl moiety (--COOH) of an adjacent amino acid to form amide linkages, which can be represented as --(NH--CHR--CO)$_n$ --, where the subscript "n" can equal hundreds or thousands. The fragment represented by R can contain reactive sites for protein biological activity and for attachment of PEG derivatives.

[12] For example, in the case of the amino acid lysine, there exists an --NH_2 moiety in the epsilon position as well as in the alpha position. The epsilon --NH_2 is free for reaction under conditions of basic pH. Much of the art in the field of protein derivatization with PEG has been directed to developing PEG derivatives for attachment to the epsilon --NH_2 moiety of lysine residues present in proteins. "Polyethylene Glycol and Derivatives for Advanced PEGylation", Nektar Molecular Engineering Catalog, 2003, pp. 1-17. These PEG derivatives all have the common limitation, however, that they cannot be installed selectively among the often numerous

lysine residues present on the surfaces of proteins. This can be a significant limitation in instances where a lysine residue is important to protein activity, existing in an enzyme active site for example, or in cases where a lysine residue plays a role in mediating the interaction of the protein with other biological molecules, as in the case of receptor binding sites.

[13] A second and equally important complication of existing methods for protein PEGylation is that the PEG derivatives can undergo undesired side reactions with residues other than those desired. Histidine contains a reactive imino moiety, represented structurally as --N(H)--, but many chemically reactive species that react with epsilon --NH_2 can also react with --N(H)--. Similarly, the side chain of the amino acid cysteine bears a free sulfhydryl group, represented structurally as –SH. In some instances, the PEG derivatives directed at the epsilon --NH_2 group of lysine also react with cysteine, histidine or other residues. This can create complex, heterogeneous mixtures of PEG-derivatized bioactive molecules and risks destroying the activity of the bioactive molecule being targeted. It would be desirable to develop PEG derivatives that permit a chemical functional group to be introduced at a single site within the protein that would then enable the selective coupling of one or more PEG polymers to the bioactive molecule at specific sites on the protein surface that are both well-defined and predictable.

[14] In addition to lysine residues, considerable effort in the art has been directed toward the development of activated PEG reagents that target other amino acid side chains, including cysteine, histidine and the N-terminus. *See, e.g.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,610,281 which is incorporated by reference herein, and "Polyethylene Glycol and Derivatives for Advanced PEGylation", Nektar Molecular Engineering Catalog, 2003, pp. 1-17. A cysteine residue can be introduced site-selectively into the structure of proteins using site-directed mutagenesis and other techniques known in the art, and the resulting free sulfhydryl moiety can be reacted with PEG derivatives that bear thiol-reactive functional groups. This approach is complicated, however, in that the introduction of a free sulfhydryl group can complicate the expression, folding and stability of the resulting protein. Thus, it would be desirable to have a means to introduce a chemical functional group into bioactive molecules that enables the selective coupling of one or more PEG polymers to the protein while simultaneously being compatible with (i.e., not engaging in undesired side reactions with) sulfhydryls and other chemical functional groups typically found in proteins.

[15] As can be seen from a sampling of the art, many of these derivatives that have been developed for attachment to the side chains of proteins, in particular, the -- NH_2 moiety on

the lysine amino acid side chain and the –SH moiety on the cysteine side chain, have proven problematic in their synthesis and use. Some form unstable linkages with the protein that are subject to hydrolysis and therefore decompose, degrade, or are otherwise unstable in aqueous environments, such as in the bloodstream. See Pedder, S.C. Semin Liver Dis. 2003;23 Suppl 1:19-22 for a discussion of the stability of linkages in PEG-Intron®. Some form more stable linkages, but are subject to hydrolysis before the linkage is formed, which means that the reactive group on the PEG derivative may be inactivated before the protein can be attached. Some are somewhat toxic and are therefore less suitable for use in vivo. Some are too slow to react to be practically useful. Some result in a loss of protein activity by attaching to sites responsible for the protein's activity. Some are not specific in the sites to which they will attach, which can also result in a loss of desirable activity and in a lack of reproducibility of results. In order to overcome the challenges associated with modifying proteins with poly(ethylene glycol) moieties, PEG derivatives have been developed that are more stable (e.g., U.S. Patent 6,602,498, which is incorporated by reference herein) or that react selectively with thiol moieties on molecules and surfaces (e.g., U.S. Patent 6,610,281, which is incorporated by reference herein). There is clearly a need in the art for PEG derivatives that are chemically inert in physiological environments until called upon to react selectively to form stable chemical bonds.

[16] Recently, an entirely new technology in the protein sciences has been reported, which promises to overcome many of the limitations associated with site-specific modifications of proteins. Specifically, new components have been added to the protein biosynthetic machinery of the prokaryote *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (e.g., L. Wang, et al., (2001), Science 292:498-500) and the eukaryote *Sacchromyces cerevisiae* (*S. cerevisiae*) (e.g., J. Chin et al., Science 301:964-7 (2003)), which has enabled the incorporation of non-genetically encoded amino acids to proteins *in vivo*. A number of new amino acids with novel chemical, physical or biological properties, including photoaffinity labels and photoisomerizable amino acids, keto amino acids, and glycosylated amino acids have been incorporated efficiently and with high fidelity into proteins in *E. coli* and in yeast in response to the amber codon, TAG, using this methodology. *See, e.g.*, J. W. Chin et al., (2002), Journal of the American Chemical Society 124:9026-9027; J. W. Chin, & P. G. Schultz, (2002), ChemBioChem 11:1135-1137; J. W. Chin, et al., (2002), PNAS United States of America 99:11020-11024; and, L. Wang, & P. G. Schultz, (2002), Chem. Comm., 1-10. These studies have demonstrated that it is possible to selectively and routinely introduce chemical functional groups, such as ketone groups, alkyne groups and azide moieties, that are not found in proteins, that are chemically inert to all of the functional

groups found in the 20 common, genetically-encoded amino acids and that may be used to react efficiently and selectively to form stable covalent linkages.

[17] The ability to incorporate non-genetically encoded amino acids into proteins permits the introduction of chemical functional groups that could provide valuable alternatives to the naturally-occurring functional groups, such as the epsilon $-NH_2$ of lysine, the sulfhydryl –SH of cysteine, the imino group of histidine, etc. Certain chemical functional groups are known to be inert to the functional groups found in the 20 common, genetically-encoded amino acids but react cleanly and efficiently to form stable linkages. Azide and acetylene groups, for example, are known in the art to undergo a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction in aqueous conditions in the presence of a catalytic amount of copper. *See, e.g.,* Tornoe, et al., (2002) Org. Chem. 67:3057-3064; and, Rostovtsev, et al., (2002) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 41:2596-2599. By introducing an azide moiety into a protein structure, for example, one is able to incorporate a functional group that is chemically inert to amines, sulfhydryls, carboxylic acids, hydroxyl groups found in proteins, but that also reacts smoothly and efficiently with an acetylene moiety to form a cycloaddition product. Importantly, in the absence of the acetylene moiety, the azide remains chemically inert and unreactive in the presence of other protein side chains and under physiological conditions.

[18] The present invention addresses, among other things, problems associated with the activity and production of adiponectin polypeptides, and also addresses the production of a adiponectin polypeptide with improved biological or pharmacological properties.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[19] This invention provides adiponectin polypeptides comprising one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids.

[20] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more post-translational modifications. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide is linked to a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide is linked to a bifunctional polymer, bifunctional linker, or at least one additional adiponectin polypeptide.

[21] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety. In some embodiments, the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule is a bifunctional

polymer. In some embodiments, the bifunctional polymer is linked to a second polypeptide. In some embodiments, the second polypeptide is a adiponectin polypeptide.

[22] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises at least two amino acids linked to a water soluble polymer comprising a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety. In some embodiments, at least one amino acid is a non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[23] The nucleotide sequence, amino acid sequence, and secondary structural regions of adiponectin are known and additionally, multimers with different functionalities are included in the lower molecular weight, middle molecular weight, and higher molecular weight multimers which it forms (LMW, MMW, and HMW, and discussed in greater details in the reference *Waki H, Yamauchi T, Kamon J, Ito Y, Uchida S, Kita S, Hara K, Hada Y, Vasseur F, Froguel P, Kimura S, Nagai R & Kadowaki T. Impaired multimerization of human adiponectin mutants associated with diabetes. Molecular structure and multimer formation of adiponectin. Journal of Biological Chemistry 2003 278 40352–4036* in addition to *A. A. Richards, T. Stephens, H. K. Charlton, A. Jones, G. A. Macdonald, J. B. Prins, and J. P. Whitehead Adiponectin Multimerization Is Dependent on Conserved Lysines in the Collagenous Domain: Evidence for Regulation of Multimerization by Alterations in Posttranslational Modifications Mol. Endocrinol., July 1, 2006; 20(7): 1673* – 1687 both of which are herein incorporated by reference).

[24] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated in one or more of the following positions in adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are

incorporated in one or more of the following positions in adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In another embodiment, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated in one or more of the following positions in adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[25] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are

substituted at one or more of the following positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[26] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[27] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[28] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137,

138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[29] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[30] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids

encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[31] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 (SEQ ID NO: 1). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4).

[32] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[33] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID

NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, and 36 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[34] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 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, 70, 71, 72, and 73 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[35] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[36] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ

ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[37] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2 In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[38] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 197, 198,

199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[39] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 (SEQ ID NO: 1). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4).

[40] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition or deletion that modulates affinity of the adiponectin polypeptide for an adiponectin polypeptide receptor. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that increases the stability of the adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of Tyr122, Arg221, Asn192, Asn228, Ser146, Asn141, Lys180, Met168, Met128, Val207, Lys178, Glu191, Glu220 or any combination thereof in adiponectin SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition or deletion that modulates affinity of the adiponectin polypeptide for an adiponectin polypeptide receptor. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that increases the stability of the adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of Tyr108, Arg207, Asn178, Asn214, Ser132, Asn127, Lys166, Met154, Met114, Val193, Lys164, Glu177, Glu206 or any combination thereof in adiponectin

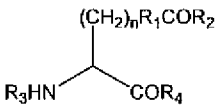
SEQ ID NO: 3. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition or deletion that modulates affinity of the adiponectin polypeptide for an adiponectin polypeptide receptor. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that increases the stability of the adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of Tyr109, Arg208, Asn179, Asn215, Ser133, Asn128, Lys167, Met155, Met115, Val194, Lys165, Glu178, Glu207 or any combination thereof in adiponectin SEQ ID NO: 5. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that modulates the immunogenicity of the adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that modulates serum half-life or circulation time of the adiponectin polypeptide.

[41] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that increases the aqueous solubility of the adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a substitution, addition, or deletion that increases the solubility of the adiponectin polypeptide produced in a host cell.

[42] In some embodiments the amino acid substitutions in the adiponectin polypeptide may be with naturally occurring or non-naturally occurring amino acids, provided that at least one substitution is with a non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[43] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazine group, a hydrazide group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group.

[44] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:

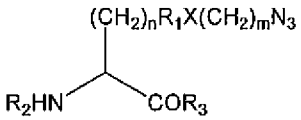


wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl; R_2 is H, an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, and substituted aryl; and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_4 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

[45] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an aminooxy group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a hydrazide group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a

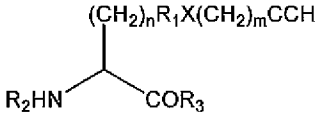
hydrazine group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises a semicarbazide group.

[46] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises an azide group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl or not present; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10; R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

[47] In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an alkyne group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10, R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

[48] In some embodiments, the polypeptide is an adiponectin polypeptide agonist, partial agonist, antagonist, partial antagonist, or inverse agonist. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide agonist, partial agonist, antagonist, partial antagonist, or inverse agonist comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety. In some embodiments, the adiponectin agonist, partial agonist, antagonist, partial antagonist, or inverse agonist comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid and one or more post-translational modification, linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer prevents trimerization of the adiponectin polypeptide receptor by preventing the adiponectin polypeptide antagonist from binding to a second or a third or a second and third adiponectin polypeptide receptor molecule.

[49] The present invention also provides isolated nucleic acids comprising a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, or SEQ ID NO: 3 wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least one selector codon. In some

embodiments, the selector codon is selected from the group consisting of an amber codon, ochre codon, opal codon, a unique codon, a rare codon, and a four-base codon.

[50] The present invention also provides methods of making an adiponectin polypeptide linked to a water soluble polymer. In some embodiments, the method comprises contacting an isolated adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid with a water soluble polymer comprising a moiety that reacts with the non-naturally encoded amino acid. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide is reactive toward a water soluble polymer that is otherwise unreactive toward any of the 20 common amino acids. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide is reactive toward a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule that is otherwise unreactive toward any of the 20 common amino acids.

[51] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide linked to the water soluble polymer is made by reacting an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing amino acid with a poly(ethylene glycol) molecule comprising an aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide group. In some embodiments, the aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide group is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule through an amide linkage.

[52] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide linked to the water soluble polymer is made by reacting a poly(ethylene glycol) molecule comprising a carbonyl group with a polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid that comprises an aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide group.

[53] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide linked to the water soluble polymer is made by reacting an adiponectin polypeptide comprising an alkyne-containing amino acid with a poly(ethylene glycol) molecule comprising an azide moiety. In some embodiments, the azide or alkyne group is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule through an amide linkage.

[54] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide linked to the water soluble polymer is made by reacting an adiponectin polypeptide comprising an azide-containing amino acid with a poly(ethylene glycol) molecule comprising an alkyne moiety. In some embodiments, the azide or alkyne group is linked to the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule through an amide linkage.

[55] In some embodiments, the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule has a molecular weight of between about 0.1 kDa and about 100 kDa. In some embodiments, the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule has a molecular weight of between 0.1 kDa and 50 kDa.

[56] In some embodiments, the poly(ethylene glycol) molecule is a branched polymer. In some embodiments, each branch of the poly(ethylene glycol) branched polymer has a molecular weight of between 1 kDa and 100 kDa, or between 1 kDa and 50 kDa.

[57] In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer linked to the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a polyalkylene glycol moiety. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a carbonyl moiety and the water soluble polymer comprises an aminooxy, hydrazide, hydrazine, or semicarbazide moiety. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide comprises an alkyne moiety and the water soluble polymer comprises an azide moiety. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide comprises an azide moiety and the water soluble polymer comprises an alkyne moiety.

[58] The present invention also provides compositions comprising an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally-encoded amino acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer.

[59] The present invention also provides cells comprising a polynucleotide encoding the adiponectin polypeptide comprising a selector codon. In some embodiments, the cells comprise an orthogonal RNA synthetase and/or an orthogonal tRNA for substituting a non-naturally encoded amino acid into the adiponectin polypeptide.

[60] The present invention also provides methods of making an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid. In some embodiments, the methods comprise culturing cells comprising a polynucleotide or polynucleotides encoding an adiponectin polypeptide, an orthogonal RNA synthetase and/or an orthogonal tRNA under conditions to permit expression of the adiponectin polypeptide; and purifying the adiponectin polypeptide from the cells and/or culture medium.

[61] The present invention also provides methods of increasing therapeutic half-life, serum half-life or circulation time of adiponectin polypeptides. The present invention also provides methods of modulating immunogenicity of adiponectin polypeptides. In some embodiments, the methods comprise substituting a non-naturally encoded amino acid for any one or more amino acids in naturally occurring adiponectin polypeptides and/or linking the adiponectin polypeptide to a linker, a polymer, a water soluble polymer, or a biologically active molecule.

[62] The present invention also provides methods of treating a patient in need of such treatment with an effective amount of an adiponectin molecule of the present invention. In some embodiments, the methods comprise administering to the patient a therapeutically-effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally-encoded amino acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer.

[63] The present invention also provides adiponectin polypeptides comprising a sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 5, except that at least one amino acid is substituted by a non-naturally encoded amino acid. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group.

[64] The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an adiponectin polypeptide comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 5, wherein at least one amino acid is substituted by a non-naturally encoded amino acid. In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a saccharide moiety. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer is linked to the polypeptide via a saccharide moiety. In some embodiments, a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule is linked to the adiponectin polypeptide via a saccharide moiety.

[65] The present invention also provides an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a water soluble polymer linked by a covalent bond to the polypeptide at a single amino acid. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety. In some embodiments, the amino acid covalently linked to the water soluble polymer is a non-naturally encoded amino acid present in the polypeptide.

[66] The present invention provides an adiponectin polypeptide comprising at least one linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule, wherein said linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule is attached to the adiponectin polypeptide through a functional group of a non-naturally encoded amino acid ribosomally incorporated into the polypeptide. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide is monoPEGylated. The present invention also provides an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule that is attached to one or more non-naturally encoded amino acid wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is ribosomally incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide at pre-selected sites.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[67] Figure 1 – A diagram of the general structure of an adiponectin monomer is shown.

[68] Figure 2 – A diagram of a proposed general structure of an adiponectin trimer is shown.

[69] Figure 3 – A table with the Cx values, higher Cx values corresponding to higher surface exposure, for adiopnectin (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[70] Figure 4 – A table listing in order the top pegylation sites for adiopnectin based on the surface exposure, Cx values for adiopnectin (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[71] Figure 5 - A graph of the Cx values, higher Cx values corresponding to higher surface exposure, for adiopnectin (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[72] Figure 6 – A diagram of proposed structures for adiponectin low molecular weight, middle molecular weight, and high molecular weight polypeptides.

[73] Figure 7A-C – A table of each residue position and how they correspond between SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, and 5.

[74] Figure 8 – An SDS-PAGE gel is shown demonstrating the production of adiopnectin, its solubilization and refolding.

DEFINITIONS

[75] It is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols, cell lines, constructs, and reagents described herein and as such may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of

describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention, which will be limited only by the appended claims.

[76] As used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural reference unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to an "adiponectin", "hGH", a"hIFN", a "G-CSF", or a "hEPO" is a reference to one or more such proteins and includes equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art, and so forth.

[77] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although any methods, devices, and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the invention, the preferred methods, devices and materials are now described.

[78] All publications and patents mentioned herein are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, including the purpose of describing and disclosing, for example, the constructs and methodologies that are described in the publications, which might be used in connection with the presently described invention. The publications discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the inventors are not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention or for any other reason.

[79] The term "substantially purified" refers to an adiponectin polypeptide that may be substantially or essentially free of components that normally accompany or interact with the protein as found in its naturally occurring environment, i.e. a native cell, or host cell in the case of recombinantly produced adiponectin polypeptides. Adiponectin polypeptides that may be substantially free of cellular material include preparations of protein having less than about 30%, less than about 25%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 4%, less than about 3%, less than about 2%, or less than about 1% (by dry weight) of contaminating protein. When the adiponectin polypeptide or variant thereof is recombinantly produced by the host cells, the protein may be present at about 30%, about 25%, about 20%, about 15%, about 10%, about 5%, about 4%, about 3%, about 2%, or about 1% or less of the dry weight of the cells. When the adiponectin polypeptide or variant thereof is recombinantly produced by the host cells, the protein may be present in the culture medium at about 5g/L, about 4g/L, about 3g/L, about 2g/L, about 1g/L, about 750mg/L, about 500mg/L, about 250mg/L, about 100mg/L, about 50mg/L, about 10mg/L, or about 1mg/L or less of the dry

weight of the cells. Thus, "substantially purified" adiponectin polypeptide as produced by the methods of the present invention may have a purity level of at least about 30%, at least about 35%, at least about 40%, at least about 45%, at least about 50%, at least about 55%, at least about 60%, at least about 65%, at least about 70%, specifically, a purity level of at least about 75%, 80%, 85%, and more specifically, a purity level of at least about 90%, a purity level of at least about 95%, a purity level of at least about 99% or greater as determined by appropriate methods such as SDS/PAGE analysis, RP-HPLC, SEC, and capillary electrophoresis.

[80] A "recombinant host cell" or "host cell" refers to a cell that includes an exogenous polynucleotide, regardless of the method used for insertion, for example, direct uptake, transduction, f-mating, or other methods known in the art to create recombinant host cells. The exogenous polynucleotide may be maintained as a nonintegrated vector, for example, a plasmid, or alternatively, may be integrated into the host genome.

[81] As used herein, the term "medium" or "media" includes any culture medium, solution, solid, semi-solid, or rigid support that may support or contain any host cell, including bacterial host cells, yeast host cells, insect host cells, plant host cells, eukaryotic host cells, mammalian host cells, CHO cells or *E. coli*, and cell contents. Thus, the term may encompass medium in which the host cell has been grown, e.g., medium into which the adiponectin polypeptide has been secreted, including medium either before or after a proliferation step. The term also may encompass buffers or reagents that contain host cell lysates, such as in the case where the adiponectin polypeptide is produced intracellularly and the host cells are lysed or disrupted to release the adiponectin polypeptide.

[82] "Reducing agent," as used herein with respect to protein refolding, is defined as any compound or material which maintains sulfhydryl groups in the reduced state and reduces intra- or intermolecular disulfide bonds. Suitable reducing agents include, but are not limited to, dithiothreitol (DTT), 2-mercaptoethanol, dithioerythritol, cysteine, cysteamine (2-aminoethanethiol), and reduced glutathione. It is readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that a wide variety of reducing agents are suitable for use in the methods and compositions of the present invention.

[83] "Oxidizing agent," as used hereinwith respect to protein refolding, is defined as any compound or material which is capable of removing an electron from a compound being oxidized. Suitable oxidizing agents include, but are not limited to, oxidized glutathione, cystine, cystamine, oxidized dithiothreitol, oxidized erythreitol, and oxygen. It is readily

apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that a wide variety of oxidizing agents are suitable for use in the methods of the present invention.

[84] "Denaturing agent" or "denaturant," as used herein, is defined as any compound or material which will cause a reversible unfolding of a protein. The strength of a denaturing agent or denaturant will be determined both by the properties and the concentration of the particular denaturing agent or denaturant. Suitable denaturing agents or denaturants may be chaotropes, detergents, organic solvents, water miscible solvents, phospholipids, or a combination of two or more such agents. Suitable chaotropes include, but are not limited to, urea, guanidine, and sodium thiocyanate. Useful detergents may include, but are not limited to, strong detergents such as sodium dodecyl sulfate, or polyoxyethylene ethers (e.g. Tween or Triton detergents), Sarkosyl, mild non-ionic detergents (e.g., digitonin), mild cationic detergents such as N-›2,3-(Dioleyoxy)-propyl-N,N,N-trimethylammonium, mild ionic detergents (e.g. sodium cholate or sodium deoxycholate) or zwitterionic detergents including, but not limited to, sulfobetaines (Zwittergent), 3-(3-chlolamidopropyl)dimethylammonio-1-propane sulfate (CHAPS), and 3-(3-chlolamidopropyl)dimethylammonio-2-hydroxy-1-propane sulfonate (CHAPSO). Organic, water miscible solvents such as acetonitrile, lower alkanols (especially C_2 - C_4 alkanols such as ethanol or isopropanol), or lower alkandiols (especially C_2 - C_4 alkandiols such as ethylene-glycol) may be used as denaturants. Phospholipids useful in the present invention may be naturally occurring phospholipids such as phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, and phosphatidylinositol or synthetic phospholipid derivatives or variants such as dihexanoylphosphatidylcholine or diheptanoylphosphatidylcholine.

[85] "Refolding," as used herein describes any process, reaction or method which transforms disulfide bond containing polypeptides from an improperly folded or unfolded state to a native or properly folded conformation with respect to disulfide bonds.

[86] "Cofolding," as used herein, refers specifically to refolding processes, reactions, or methods which employ at least two polypeptides which interact with each other and result in the transformation of unfolded or improperly folded polypeptides to native, properly folded polypeptides.

[87] The terms "adiponectin", "adiponectins", "adiponectin polypeptide", and "adiponectin polypeptides" as used herein refers to any of the known, and those that become known, polypeptides or proteins of the adiponectin family. These terms include, but are not limited to, any other adiponectin family members including those comprising one or more amino

acid substitutions, additions, or deletions as well as variants, fusions, mutants, fragments, agonists, antagonists, dimers, multimers, polypeptides covalently bound to polymers, polypeptides that share 90% or greater amino acid sequence identity to an adiponectin family member, polypeptides that share 95% or greater amino acid sequence identity to an adiponectin family member, polypeptides that share 97% or greater amino acid sequence identity to an adiponectin family member, polypeptides that share 98% or greater amino acid sequence identity to an adiponectin family member, polypeptides that share 99% or greater amino acid sequence identity to an adiponectin family member. The terms include plural reference unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

[88] As used herein, "adiponectin" shall include those polypeptides and proteins that have at least one biological activity of an adiopnectin protein, as well as adiponectin analogs, adiponectin isoforms, adiponectin mimetics, adiponectin fragments, hybrid adiponectin proteins, fusion proteins oligomers and multimers, homologues, glycosylation pattern variants, and muteins, thereof, regardless of the biological activity of same, and further regardless of the method of synthesis or manufacture thereof including, but not limited to, recombinant (whether produced from cDNA, genomic DNA, synthetic DNA or other form of nucleic acid), synthetic, transgenic, and gene activated methods.

[89] The term "adiponectin polypeptide" encompasses adiponectin polypeptides comprising one or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions. The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also includes the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs, and prodrugs of the salts, polymorphs, hydrates, solvates, biologically-active fragments, biologically active variants and stereoisomers of the naturally-occurring adiponectin as well as agonist, mimetic, and antagonist variants of the naturally-occurring adiponectin and polypeptide fusions thereof. Fusions comprising additional amino acids at the amino terminus, carboxyl terminus, or both, are encompassed by the term "adiponectin polypeptide." Exemplary fusions include, but are not limited to, e.g., methionyl growth hormone in which a methionine is linked to the N-terminus of adiponectin resulting from the recombinant expression, fusions for the purpose of purification (including, but not limited to, to poly-histidine or affinity epitopes), fusions with serum albumin binding peptides and fusions with serum proteins such as serum albumin.

[90] Various references disclose modification of polypeptides by polymer conjugation or glycosylation. The term "adiponectin polypeptide" includes polypeptides conjugated to a polymer such as PEG and may be comprised of one or more additional derivitizations of cysteine, lysine, or other residues. In addition, the adiponectin polypeptide may comprise a

linker or polymer, wherein the amino acid to which the linker or polymer is conjugated may be a non-natural amino acid according to the present invention, or may be conjugated to a naturally encoded amino acid utilizing techniques known in the art such as coupling to lysine or cysteine.

[91] The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also includes N-linked or O-linked glycosylated forms of the polypeptide. These forms included, but are not limited to, a polypeptide with an O-linked glycosylation site at any position on the amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 5, or the equivalent positions in known sequences of adiponectin. The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also includes glycosylated forms of the polypeptide, including but not limited to a polypeptide with an O-linked glycosylation site at any position on the amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 5, or the equivalent positions in known sequences of adiponectin. Variants containing single nucleotide changes are also considered as biologically active variants of adiponectin polypeptide. In addition, splice variants are also included. The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also includes adiponectin polypeptide homodimer, heterodimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, high molecular weight adiponectin, low molecular weight adiponectin, middle molecular weight adiponectin, homomultimer, or heteromultimer of any one or more adiponectin polypeptides or any other polypeptide, protein, carbohydrate, polymer, small molecule, ligand, or other active molecule of any type, linked by chemical means or expressed as a fusion protein, as well as polypeptide analogues containing, for example, specific deletions or other modifications yet maintain biological activity. Fusions comprising additional amino acids at the amino terminus, carboxyl terminus, or both, are encompassed by the term " adiponectin polypeptide." Exemplary fusions include, but are not limited to, e.g., methionyl adiponectin in which a methionine is linked to the N-terminus of adiponectin resulting from the recombinant expression of the mature form of adiponectin lacking the secretion signal peptide or portion, fusions for the purpose of purification (including but not limited to, to poly-histidine or affinity epitopes), fusions with serum albumin binding peptides and fusions with serum proteins such as serum albumin. The naturally-occurring adiponectin nucleic acid and amino acid sequences for full-length and mature forms are known. Variants containing single nucleotide changes are also considered as biologically active variants of adiponectin.

[92] Those of skill in the art will appreciate that amino acid positions corresponding to positions in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, and 5, or any other adiopnectin sequence can be readily identified in any other adiponectin molecule such as adiponectin fusions, variants, fragments, etc. For example, sequence alignment programs such as BLAST can be used to align and identify a

particular position in a protein that corresponds with a position in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, or other adiponectin sequence. Substitutions, deletions or additions of amino acids described herein in reference to SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3 or 5, or other adiponectin sequence are intended to also refer to substitutions, deletions or additions in corresponding positions in adiponectin fusions, variants, fragments, etc. described herein or known in the art and are expressly encompassed by the present invention. Adiponectin polypeptides may comprise secretion signal sequences. Examples of secretion signal sequences include, but are not limited to, a prokaryotic secretion signal sequence, a eukaryotic secretion signal sequence, an eukaryotic secretion signal sequence 5'-optimized for bacterial expression, a novel secretion signal sequence, pectate lyase secretion signal sequence, Omp A secretion signal sequence, and a phage secretion signal sequence. Examples of secretion signal sequences, include, but are not limited to, STII (prokaryotic), Fd GIII and M13 (phage), Bgl2 (yeast), and the signal sequence bla derived from a transposon.

[93] The term "adiponectin polypeptide" encompasses adiponectin polypeptides comprising one or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions. Adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention may be comprised of modifications with one or more natural amino acids in conjunction with one or more non-natural amino acid modification. Exemplary substitutions in a wide variety of amino acid positions in naturally-occurring adiponectin polypeptides have been described, including but not limited to substitutions that modulate one or more of the biological activities of the adiponectin polypeptide, such as but not limited to, increase agonist activity, increase solubility of the polypeptide, convert the polypeptide into an antagonist, etc. and are encompassed by the term " adiponectin polypeptide." The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also includes the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs, and prodrugs of the salts, polymorphs, hydrates, solvates, biologically-active fragments, biologically active variants and stereoisomers of the naturally-occurring adiponectin as well as agonist, mimetic, and antagonist variants of the naturally-occurring adiponectin and polypeptide fusions thereof. Fusions comprising additional amino acids at the amino terminus, carboxyl terminus, or both, are encompassed by the term "adiponectin polypeptide." Exemplary fusions include, but are not limited to, e.g., methionyl growth hormone in which a methionine is linked to the N-terminus of adiponectin resulting from the recombinant expression, fusions for the purpose of purification (including, but not limited to, to poly-histidine or affinity epitopes), fusions with serum albumin binding peptides and fusions with serum proteins such as serum albumin.

[94] In other embodiments, the exemplary sites of incorporation of a non-naturally encoded amino acid into the adiponectin polypeptide include residues within the following regions: 1-18 (signal sequence), 19-41 (variable region), 42-107 (collagenous domain), 108-245(C-terminus) (globular domain). In another embodiment, substitution of one or more of the aforementioned amino acid positions with a non-naturally encoded amino acid such as p-azido-L-phenyalanine or O-propargyl-L-tyrosine. In other embodiments, the above-listed substitutions are combined with additional substitutions that cause the adiponectin polypeptide to be an adiponectin antagonist. In some embodiments, the adiponectin antagonist comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer that is present in a receptor binding region of the adiponectin molecule.

[95] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptides further comprise an addition, substitution or deletion that modulates biological activity of the adiponectin polypeptide. For example, the additions, substitutions or deletions may modulate affinity for the adiponectin polypeptide receptor, modulate (including but not limited to, increases or decreases) receptor dimerization, multimerization, stabilize receptor dimers, stabilize receptor multimers, modulate circulating half-life, modulate therapeutic half-life, modulate stability of the polypeptide, modulate dose, modulate release or bio-availability, facilitate purification, or improve or alter a particular route of administration. Similarly, adiponectin polypeptides may comprise protease cleavage sequences, reactive groups, antibody-binding domains (including but not limited to, FLAG or poly-His) or other affinity based sequences (including but not limited to, FLAG, poly-His, GST, etc.) or linked molecules (including but not limited to, biotin) that improve detection (including but not limited to, GFP), purification or other traits of the polypeptide.

[96] The term "adiponectin polypeptide" also encompasses homodimer, heterodimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, high molecular weight adiponectin, low molecular weight adiponectin, middle molecular weight adiponectin, homomultimer, or heteromultimer that are linked, including but not limited to those linked directly via non-naturally encoded amino acid side chains, either to the same or different non-naturally encoded amino acid side chains, to naturally-encoded amino acid side chains, or indirectly via a linker. Exemplary linkers including but are not limited to, water soluble polymers such as poly(ethylene glycol) or polydextran or a polypeptide.

[97] A "non-naturally encoded amino acid" refers to an amino acid that is not one of the 20 common amino acids or pyrolysine or selenocysteine. Other terms that may be used synonymously with the term "non-naturally encoded amino acid" are "non-natural amino acid,"

"unnatural amino acid," "non-naturally-occurring amino acid," and variously hyphenated and non-hyphenated versions thereof. The term "non-naturally encoded amino acid" also includes, but is not limited to, amino acids that occur by modification (e.g. post-translational modifications) of a naturally encoded amino acid (including but not limited to, the 20 common amino acids or pyrolysine and selenocysteine) but are not themselves naturally incorporated into a growing polypeptide chain by the translation complex. Examples of such non-naturally-occurring amino acids include, but are not limited to, *N*-acetylglucosaminyl-L-serine, *N*-acetylglucosaminyl-L-threonine, and O-phosphotyrosine.

[98] An "amino terminus modification group" refers to any molecule that can be attached to the amino terminus of a polypeptide. Similarly, a "carboxy terminus modification group" refers to any molecule that can be attached to the carboxy terminus of a polypeptide. Terminus modification groups include, but are not limited to, various water soluble polymers, peptides or proteins such as serum albumin, or other moieties that increase serum half-life of peptides.

[99] The terms "functional group", "active moiety", "activating group", "leaving group", "reactive site", "chemically reactive group" and "chemically reactive moiety" are used in the art and herein to refer to distinct, definable portions or units of a molecule. The terms are somewhat synonymous in the chemical arts and are used herein to indicate the portions of molecules that perform some function or activity and are reactive with other molecules.

[100] The term "linkage" or "linker" is used herein to refer to groups or bonds that normally are formed as the result of a chemical reaction and typically are covalent linkages. Hydrolytically stable linkages means that the linkages are substantially stable in water and do not react with water at useful pH values, including but not limited to, under physiological conditions for an extended period of time, perhaps even indefinitely. Hydrolytically unstable or degradable linkages mean that the linkages are degradable in water or in aqueous solutions, including for example, blood. Enzymatically unstable or degradable linkages mean that the linkage can be degraded by one or more enzymes. As understood in the art, PEG and related polymers may include degradable linkages in the polymer backbone or in the linker group between the polymer backbone and one or more of the terminal functional groups of the polymer molecule. For example, ester linkages formed by the reaction of PEG carboxylic acids or activated PEG carboxylic acids with alcohol groups on a biologically active agent generally hydrolyze under physiological conditions to release the agent. Other hydrolytically degradable linkages include, but are not limited to, carbonate linkages; imine linkages resulted from

reaction of an amine and an aldehyde; phosphate ester linkages formed by reacting an alcohol with a phosphate group; hydrazone linkages which are reaction product of a hydrazide and an aldehyde; acetal linkages that are the reaction product of an aldehyde and an alcohol; orthoester linkages that are the reaction product of a formate and an alcohol; peptide linkages formed by an amine group, including but not limited to, at an end of a polymer such as PEG, and a carboxyl group of a peptide; and oligonucleotide linkages formed by a phosphoramidite group, including but not limited to, at the end of a polymer, and a 5' hydroxyl group of an oligonucleotide.

[101] The term "biologically active molecule", "biologically active moiety" or "biologically active agent" when used herein means any substance which can affect any physical or biochemical properties of a biological organism, including but not limited to, viruses, bacteria, fungi, plants, animals, and humans. In particular, as used herein, biologically active molecules include, but are not limited to, any substance intended for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or other animals, or to otherwise enhance physical or mental well-being of humans or animals. Examples of biologically active molecules include, but are not limited to, peptides, proteins, enzymes, small molecule drugs, dyes, lipids, nucleosides, oligonucleotides, cells, viruses, liposomes, microparticles and micelles. Classes of biologically active agents that are suitable for use with the invention include, but are not limited to, antibiotics, fungicides, anti-viral agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-tumor agents, cardiovascular agents, anti-anxiety agents, hormones, growth factors, steroidal agents, and the like.

[102] A "bifunctional polymer" refers to a polymer comprising two discrete functional groups that are capable of reacting specifically with other moieties (including but not limited to, amino acid side groups) to form covalent or non-covalent linkages. A bifunctional linker having one functional group reactive with a group on a particular biologically active component, and another group reactive with a group on a second biological component, may be used to form a conjugate that includes the first biologically active component, the bifunctional linker and the second biologically active component. Many procedures and linker molecules for attachment of various compounds to peptides are known. *See, e.g.*, European Patent Application No. 188,256; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,671,958, 4,659,839, 4,414,148, 4,699,784; 4,680,338; 4,569,789; and 4,589,071 which are incorporated by reference herein. A "multi-functional polymer" refers to a polymer comprising two or more discrete functional groups that are capable of reacting specifically with other moieties (including but not limited to, amino acid side groups) to form covalent or non-covalent linkages.

[103] Where substituent groups are specified by their conventional chemical formulas, written from left to right, they equally encompass the chemically identical substituents that would result from writing the structure from right to left, for example, the structure $-CH_2O-$ is equivalent to the structure $-OCH_2-$.

[104] The term "substituents" includes but is not limited to "non-interfering substituents". "Non-interfering substituents" are those groups that yield stable compounds. Suitable non-interfering substituents or radicals include, but are not limited to, halo, C_1 -C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, C_1-C_{12} aralkyl, C_1-C_{12} alkaryl, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkenyl, phenyl, substituted phenyl, toluoyl, xylenyl, biphenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkoxyalkyl, C_2-C_{12} alkoxyaryl, C_7-C_{12} aryloxyalkyl, C_7-C_{12} oxyaryl, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{10} alkylsulfonyl, --$(CH_2)_m$ --O--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl) wherein m is from 1 to 8, aryl, substituted aryl, substituted alkoxy, fluoroalkyl, heterocyclic radical, substituted heterocyclic radical, nitroalkyl, --NO_2, --CN, --NRC(O)--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl), --C(O)--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl), C_2-C_{10} alkyl thioalkyl, --C(O)O--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl), --OH, --SO_2, =S, --COOH, --NR_2, carbonyl, --C(O)--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl)-CF3, --C(O)—CF3, --C(O)NR2, --(C_1-C_{10} aryl)-S--(C_6-C_{10} aryl), --C(O)--(C_1-C_{10} aryl), --$(CH_2)_m$ --O--(--$(CH_2)_m$--O--(C_1-C_{10} alkyl) wherein each m is from 1 to 8, --C(O)NR_2, --C(S)NR_2, -- SO_2NR_2, --NRC(O) NR_2, --NRC(S) NR_2, salts thereof, and the like. Each R as used herein is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl.

[105] The term "halogen" includes fluorine, chlorine, iodine, and bromine.

[106] The term "alkyl," by itself or as part of another substituent, means, unless otherwise stated, a straight or branched chain, or cyclic hydrocarbon radical, or combination thereof, which may be fully saturated, mono- or polyunsaturated and can include di- and multivalent radicals, having the number of carbon atoms designated (*i.e.* C_1-C_{10} means one to ten carbons). Examples of saturated hydrocarbon radicals include, but are not limited to, groups such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, cyclohexyl, (cyclohexyl)methyl, cyclopropylmethyl, homologs and isomers of, for example, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, and the like. An unsaturated alkyl group is one having one or more double bonds or triple bonds. Examples of unsaturated alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, vinyl, 2-propenyl, crotyl, 2-isopentenyl, 2-(butadienyl), 2,4-pentadienyl, 3-(1,4-pentadienyl), ethynyl, 1- and 3-propynyl, 3-butynyl, and the higher homologs and isomers. The term "alkyl," unless otherwise noted, is also meant to include those derivatives of alkyl defined in more detail below, such as "heteroalkyl." Alkyl groups which are limited to hydrocarbon groups are termed "homoalkyl".

[107] The term "alkylene" by itself or as part of another substituent means a divalent radical derived from an alkane, as exemplified, but not limited, by the structures $–CH_2CH_2–$ and $–CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2–$, and further includes those groups described below as "heteroalkylene." Typically, an alkyl (or alkylene) group will have from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, with those groups having 10 or fewer carbon atoms being preferred in the present invention. A "lower alkyl" or "lower alkylene" is a shorter chain alkyl or alkylene group, generally having eight or fewer carbon atoms.

[108] The terms "alkoxy," "alkylamino" and "alkylthio" (or thioalkoxy) are used in their conventional sense, and refer to those alkyl groups attached to the remainder of the molecule via an oxygen atom, an amino group, or a sulfur atom, respectively.

[109] The term "heteroalkyl," by itself or in combination with another term, means, unless otherwise stated, a stable straight or branched chain, or cyclic hydrocarbon radical, or combinations thereof, consisting of the stated number of carbon atoms and at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, N, Si and S, and wherein the nitrogen and sulfur atoms may optionally be oxidized and the nitrogen heteroatom may optionally be quaternized. The heteroatom(s) O, N and S and Si may be placed at any interior position of the heteroalkyl group or at the position at which the alkyl group is attached to the remainder of the molecule. Examples include, but are not limited to, $-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH_2-N(CH_3)-CH_3$, $-CH_2-S-CH_2-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH_2,-S(O)-CH_3$, $-CH_2-CH_2-S(O)_2-CH_3$, $-CH=CH-O-CH_3$, $-Si(CH_3)_3$, $-CH_2-CH=N-OCH_3$, and $–CH=CH-N(CH_3)-CH_3$. Up to two heteroatoms may be consecutive, such as, for example, $-CH_2-NH-OCH_3$ and $–CH_2-O-Si(CH_3)_3$. Similarly, the term "heteroalkylene" by itself or as part of another substituent means a divalent radical derived from heteroalkyl, as exemplified, but not limited by, $-CH_2-CH_2-S-CH_2-CH_2-$ and $–CH_2-S-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CH_2-$. For heteroalkylene groups, the same or different heteroatoms can also occupy either or both of the chain termini (including but not limited to, alkyleneoxy, alkylenedioxy, alkyleneamino, alkylenediamino, aminooxyalkylene, and the like). Still further, for alkylene and heteroalkylene linking groups, no orientation of the linking group is implied by the direction in which the formula of the linking group is written. For example, the formula $–C(O)_2R'-$ represents both $–C(O)_2R'-$ and $–R'C(O)_2-$.

[110] The terms "cycloalkyl" and "heterocycloalkyl", by themselves or in combination with other terms, represent, unless otherwise stated, cyclic versions of "alkyl" and "heteroalkyl", respectively. Thus, a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl include saturated and unsaturated ring linkages. Additionally, for heterocycloalkyl, a heteroatom can occupy the position at which the

heterocycle is attached to the remainder of the molecule. Examples of cycloalkyl include, but are not limited to, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 1-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl, and the like. Examples of heterocycloalkyl include, but are not limited to, 1–(1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridyl), 1-piperidinyl, 2-piperidinyl, 3-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 3-morpholinyl, tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, tetrahydrofuran-3-yl, tetrahydrothien-2-yl, tetrahydrothien-3-yl, 1–piperazinyl, 2-piperazinyl, and the like. Additionally, the term encompasses bicyclic and tricyclic ring structures. Similarly, the term "heterocycloalkylene" by itself or as part of another substituent means a divalent radical derived from heterocycloalkyl, and the term "cycloalkylene" by itself or as part of another substituent means a divalent radical derived from cycloalkyl.

[111] As used herein, the term "water soluble polymer" refers to any polymer that is soluble in aqueous solvents. Linkage of water soluble polymers to adiponectin polypeptides can result in changes including, but not limited to, increased or modulated serum half-life, or increased or modulated therapeutic half-life relative to the unmodified form, modulated immunogenicity, modulated physical association characteristics such as aggregation and multimer formation, altered receptor binding and altered receptor dimerization or multimerization. The water soluble polymer may or may not have its own biological activity. Suitable polymers include, but are not limited to, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol propionaldehyde, mono C1-C10 alkoxy or aryloxy derivatives thereof (described in U.S. Patent No. 5,252,714 which is incorporated by reference herein), monomethoxy-polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyamino acids, divinylether maleic anhydride, *N*-(2-Hydroxypropyl)-methacrylamide, dextran, dextran derivatives including dextran sulfate, polypropylene glycol, polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide copolymer, polyoxyethylated polyol, heparin, heparin fragments, polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, glycans, cellulose and cellulose derivatives, including but not limited to methylcellulose and carboxymethyl cellulose, starch and starch derivatives, polypeptides, polyalkylene glycol and derivatives thereof, copolymers of polyalkylene glycols and derivatives thereof, polyvinyl ethyl ethers, and alpha-beta-poly[(2-hydroxyethyl)-DL-aspartamide, and the like, or mixtures thereof. Examples of such water soluble polymers include, but are not limited to, polyethylene glycol and serum albumin.

[112] As used herein, the term "polyalkylene glycol" or "poly(alkene glycol)" refers to polyethylene glycol (poly(ethylene glycol)), polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, and derivatives thereof. The term "polyalkylene glycol" encompasses both linear and branched polymers and average molecular weights of between 0.1 kDa and 100 kDa. Other exemplary

embodiments are listed, for example, in commercial supplier catalogs, such as Shearwater Corporation's catalog "Polyethylene Glycol and Derivatives for Biomedical Applications" (2001).

[113] The term "aryl" means, unless otherwise stated, a polyunsaturated, aromatic, hydrocarbon substituent which can be a single ring or multiple rings (preferably from 1 to 3 rings) which are fused together or linked covalently. The term "heteroaryl" refers to aryl groups (or rings) that contain from one to four heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S, wherein the nitrogen and sulfur atoms are optionally oxidized, and the nitrogen atom(s) are optionally quaternized. A heteroaryl group can be attached to the remainder of the molecule through a heteroatom. Non-limiting examples of aryl and heteroaryl groups include phenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 4-biphenyl, 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, pyrazinyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 2-phenyl-4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 3-isoxazolyl, 4-isoxazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl, 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyrimidyl, 4-pyrimidyl, 5-benzothiazolyl, purinyl, 2-benzimidazolyl, 5-indolyl, 1-isoquinolyl, 5-isoquinolyl, 2-quinoxalinyl, 5-quinoxalinyl, 3-quinolyl, and 6-quinolyl. Substituents for each of the above noted aryl and heteroaryl ring systems are selected from the group of acceptable substituents described below.

[114] For brevity, the term "aryl" when used in combination with other terms (including but not limited to, aryloxy, arylthioxy, arylalkyl) includes both aryl and heteroaryl rings as defined above. Thus, the term "arylalkyl" is meant to include those radicals in which an aryl group is attached to an alkyl group (including but not limited to, benzyl, phenethyl, pyridylmethyl and the like) including those alkyl groups in which a carbon atom (including but not limited to, a methylene group) has been replaced by, for example, an oxygen atom (including but not limited to, phenoxymethyl, 2-pyridyloxymethyl, 3-(1-naphthyloxy)propyl, and the like).

[115] Each of the above terms (including but not limited to, "alkyl," "heteroalkyl," "aryl" and "heteroaryl") are meant to include both substituted and unsubstituted forms of the indicated radical. Exemplary substituents for each type of radical are provided below.

[116] Substituents for the alkyl and heteroalkyl radicals (including those groups often referred to as alkylene, alkenyl, heteroalkylene, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and heterocycloalkenyl) can be one or more of a variety of groups selected from, but not limited to: -OR', =O, =NR', =N-OR', -NR'R", -SR', -halogen, -SiR'R"R"', -OC(O)R', -C(O)R', -CO_2R', -CONR'R", -OC(O)NR'R", -NR"C(O)R',

-NR'-C(O)NR"R"', -NR"C(O)$_2$R', -NR-C(NR'R"R"')=NR"", -NR-C(NR'R")=NR"', -S(O)R', -S(O)$_2$R', -S(O)$_2$NR'R", -NRSO$_2$R', -CN and –NO$_2$ in a number ranging from zero to (2m'+1), where m' is the total number of carbon atoms in such a radical. R', R", R"' and R"" each independently refer to hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, including but not limited to, aryl substituted with 1-3 halogens, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups, or arylalkyl groups. When a compound of the invention includes more than one R group, for example, each of the R groups is independently selected as are each R', R", R"' and R"" groups when more than one of these groups is present. When R' and R" are attached to the same nitrogen atom, they can be combined with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6-, or 7-membered ring. For example, -NR'R" is meant to include, but not be limited to, 1-pyrrolidinyl and 4-morpholinyl. From the above discussion of substituents, one of skill in the art will understand that the term "alkyl" is meant to include groups including carbon atoms bound to groups other than hydrogen groups, such as haloalkyl (including but not limited to, -CF$_3$ and –CH$_2$CF$_3$) and acyl (including but not limited to, -C(O)CH$_3$, -C(O)CF$_3$, -C(O)CH$_2$OCH$_3$, and the like).

[117] Similar to the substituents described for the alkyl radical, substituents for the aryl and heteroaryl groups are varied and are selected from, but are not limited to: halogen, -OR', =O, =NR', =N-OR', -NR'R", -SR', -halogen, -SiR'R"R"', -OC(O)R', -C(O)R', -CO$_2$R', -CONR'R", -OC(O)NR'R", -NR"C(O)R', -NR'-C(O)NR"R"', -NR"C(O)$_2$R', -NR-C(NR'R"R"')=NR"", -NR-C(NR'R")=NR"', -S(O)R', -S(O)$_2$R', -S(O)$_2$NR'R", -NRSO$_2$R', -CN and –NO$_2$, -R', -N$_3$, -CH(Ph)$_2$, fluoro(C$_1$-C$_4$)alkoxy, and fluoro(C$_1$-C$_4$)alkyl, in a number ranging from zero to the total number of open valences on the aromatic ring system; and where R', R", R"' and R"" are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl. When a compound of the invention includes more than one R group, for example, each of the R groups is independently selected as are each R', R", R"' and R"" groups when more than one of these groups is present.

[118] As used herein, the term "modulated serum half-life" means the positive or negative change in circulating half-life of a modified biologically active molecule relative to its non-modified form. Serum half-life is measured by taking blood samples at various time points after administration of the biologically active molecule, and determining the concentration of that molecule in each sample. Correlation of the serum concentration with time allows calculation of the serum half-life. Increased serum half-life desirably has at least about two-fold, but a smaller increase may be useful, for example where it enables a satisfactory dosing

regimen or avoids a toxic effect. In some embodiments, the increase is at least about three-fold, at least about five-fold, or at least about ten-fold.

[119] The term "modulated therapeutic half-life" as used herein means the positive or negative change in the half-life of the therapeutically effective amount of a modified biologically active molecule, relative to its non-modified form. Therapeutic half-life is measured by measuring pharmacokinetic and/or pharmacodynamic properties of the molecule at various time points after administration. Increased therapeutic half-life desirably enables a particular beneficial dosing regimen, a particular beneficial total dose, or avoids an undesired effect. In some embodiments, the increased therapeutic half-life results from increased potency, increased or decreased binding of the modified molecule to its target, or an increase or decrease in another parameter or mechanism of action of the non-modified molecule.

[120] The term "isolated," when applied to a nucleic acid or protein, denotes that the nucleic acid or protein is substantially free of other cellular components with which it is associated in the natural state. It can be in a homogeneous state. Isolated substances can be in either a dry or semi-dry state, or in solution, including but not limited to, an aqueous solution. Purity and homogeneity are typically determined using analytical chemistry techniques such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or high performance liquid chromatography. A protein which is the predominant species present in a preparation is substantially purified. In particular, an isolated gene is separated from open reading frames which flank the gene and encode a protein other than the gene of interest. The term "purified" denotes that a nucleic acid or protein gives rise to substantially one band in an electrophoretic gel. Particularly, it means that the nucleic acid or protein is at least 85% pure, at least 90% pure, at least 95% pure, at least 99% or greater pure.

[121] The term "nucleic acid" refers to deoxyribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleosides, ribonucleosides, or ribonucleotides and polymers thereof in either single- or double-stranded form. Unless specifically limited, the term encompasses nucleic acids containing known analogues of natural nucleotides which have similar binding properties as the reference nucleic acid and are metabolized in a manner similar to naturally occurring nucleotides. Unless specifically limited otherwise, the term also refers to oligonucleotide analogs incuding PNA (peptidonucleic acid), analogs of DNA used in antisense technology (phosphorothioates, phosphoroamidates, and the like). Unless otherwise indicated, a particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses conservatively modified variants thereof (including but not limited to, degenerate codon substitutions) and complementary sequences as well as the sequence

explicitly indicated. Specifically, degenerate codon substitutions may be achieved by generating sequences in which the third position of one or more selected (or all) codons is substituted with mixed-base and/or deoxyinosine residues (Batzer *et al.*, *Nucleic Acid Res.* 19:5081 (1991); Ohtsuka *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:2605-2608 (1985); and Cassol *et al.* (1992); Rossolini *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Probes* 8:91-98 (1994)).

[122] The terms "polypeptide," "peptide" and "protein" are used interchangeably herein to refer to a polymer of amino acid residues. That is, a description directed to a polypeptide applies equally to a description of a peptide and a description of a protein, and vice versa. The terms apply to naturally occurring amino acid polymers as well as amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residues is a non-naturally encoded amino acid. As used herein, the terms encompass amino acid chains of any length, including full length proteins (*i.e.*, antigens), wherein the amino acid residues are linked by covalent peptide bonds.

[123] The term "amino acid" refers to naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally occurring amino acids. Naturally encoded amino acids are the 20 common amino acids (alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine) and pyrolysine and selenocysteine. Amino acid analogs refers to compounds that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid, *i.e.*, an α carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, such as, homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl sulfonium. Such analogs have modified R groups (such as, norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid.

[124] Amino acids may be referred to herein by either their commonly known three letter symbols or by the one-letter symbols recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission. Nucleotides, likewise, may be referred to by their commonly accepted single-letter codes.

[125] "Conservatively modified variants" applies to both amino acid and nucleic acid sequences. With respect to particular nucleic acid sequences, "conservatively modified variants" refers to those nucleic acids which encode identical or essentially identical amino acid sequences, or where the nucleic acid does not encode an amino acid sequence, to essentially identical sequences. Because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of functionally identical nucleic acids encode any given protein. For instance, the codons GCA,

GCC, GCG and GCU all encode the amino acid alanine. Thus, at every position where an alanine is specified by a codon, the codon can be altered to any of the corresponding codons described without altering the encoded polypeptide. Such nucleic acid variations are "silent variations," which are one species of conservatively modified variations. Every nucleic acid sequence herein which encodes a polypeptide also describes every possible silent variation of the nucleic acid. One of skill will recognize that each codon in a nucleic acid (except AUG, which is ordinarily the only codon for methionine, and TGG, which is ordinarily the only codon for tryptophan) can be modified to yield a functionally identical molecule. Accordingly, each silent variation of a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide is implicit in each described sequence.

[126] As to amino acid sequences, one of skill will recognize that individual substitutions, deletions or additions to a nucleic acid, peptide, polypeptide, or protein sequence which alters, adds or deletes a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids in the encoded sequence is a "conservatively modified variant" where the alteration results in the substitution of an amino acid with a chemically similar amino acid. Conservative substitution tables providing functionally similar amino acids are well known in the art. Such conservatively modified variants are in addition to and do not exclude polymorphic variants, interspecies homologs, and alleles of the invention.

[127] The following eight groups each contain amino acids that are conservative substitutions for one another:

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

(*see, e.g.*, Creighton, *Proteins: Structures and Molecular Properties* (W H Freeman & Co.; 2nd edition (December 1993)

[128] The terms "identical" or percent "identity," in the context of two or more nucleic acids or polypeptide sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same. Sequences are "substantially identical" if they have a percentage of amino acid residues

or nucleotides that are the same (*i.e.*, about 60% identity, optionally about 65%, about 70%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, or about 95% identity over a specified region), when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence over a comparison window, or designated region as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by manual alignment and visual inspection. This definition also refers to the complement of a test sequence. The identity can exist over a region that is at least about 50 amino acids or nucleotides in length, or over a region that is 75-100 amino acids or nucleotides in length, or, where not specified, across the entire sequence or a polynucleotide or polypeptide.

[129] For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence, to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are entered into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated, if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. Default program parameters can be used, or alternative parameters can be designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identities for the test sequences relative to the reference sequence, based on the program parameters.

[130] A "comparison window", as used herein, includes reference to a segment of any one of the number of contiguous positions selected from the group consisting of from 20 to 600, usually about 50 to about 200, more usually about 100 to about 150 in which a sequence may be compared to a reference sequence of the same number of contiguous positions after the two sequences are optimally aligned. Methods of alignment of sequences for comparison are well-known in the art. Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, including but not limited to, by the local homology algorithm of Smith and Waterman (1970) *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2:482c, by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443, by the search for similarity method of Pearson and Lipman (1988) *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:2444, by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by manual alignment and visual inspection (*see, e.g.,* Ausubel *et al.*, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (1995 supplement)).

[131] One example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity are the BLAST and BLAST 2.0 algorithms, which are described in Altschul *et al.* (1977) *Nuc. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402, and Altschul *et al.* (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410, respectively. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information. The BLAST algorithm parameters

W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) or 10, M=5, N=-4 and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength of 3, and expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (*see* Henikoff and Henikoff (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915) alignments (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. The BLAST algorithm is typically performed with the "low complexity" filter turned off.

[132] The BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (*see, e.g.*, Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-5787). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a nucleic acid is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid to the reference nucleic acid is less than about 0.2, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

[133] The phrase "selectively (or specifically) hybridizes to" refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent hybridization conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (including but not limited to, total cellular or library DNA or RNA).

[134] The phrase "stringent hybridization conditions" refers to conditions of low ionic strength and high temperature as is known in the art. Typically, under stringent conditions a probe will hybridize to its target subsequence in a complex mixture of nucleic acid (including but not limited to, total cellular or library DNA or RNA) but does not hybridize to other sequences in the complex mixture. Stringent conditions are sequence-dependent and will be different in different circumstances. Longer sequences hybridize specifically at higher temperatures. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen, *Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology--Hybridization with Nucleic Probes*, "Overview of principles of hybridization and the strategy of nucleic acid assays" (1993). Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5-10° C lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength pH. The T_m is the temperature (under defined ionic strength, pH, and nucleic concentration) at which 50% of the probes complementary to the target hybridize to the target sequence at equilibrium (as the target sequences are present in excess, at T_m, 50% of the probes are occupied at equilibrium).

Stringent conditions may be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.0 M sodium ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M sodium ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30°C for short probes (including but not limited to, 10 to 50 nucleotides) and at least about 60° C for long probes (including but not limited to, greater than 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. For selective or specific hybridization, a positive signal may be at least two times background, optionally 10 times background hybridization. Exemplary stringent hybridization conditions can be as following: 50% formamide, 5X SSC, and 1% SDS, incubating at 42°C, or 5X SSC, 1% SDS, incubating at 65°C, with wash in 0.2X SSC, and 0.1% SDS at 65°C. Such washes can be performed for 5, 15, 30, 60, 120, or more minutes.

[135] As used herein, the term "eukaryote" refers to organisms belonging to the phylogenetic domain Eucarya such as animals (including but not limited to, mammals, insects, reptiles, birds, etc.), ciliates, plants (including but not limited to, monocots, dicots, algae, etc.), fungi, yeasts, flagellates, microsporidia, protists, etc.

[136] As used herein, the term "non-eukaryote" refers to non-eukaryotic organisms. For example, a non-eukaryotic organism can belong to the Eubacteria (including but not limited to, *Escherichia coli*, *Thermus thermophilus*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas* putida, etc.) phylogenetic domain, or the Archaea (including but not limited to, *Methanococcus jannaschii*, *Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum*, *Halobacterium* such as *Haloferax volcanii* and *Halobacterium* species *NRC-1*, *Archaeoglobus fulgidus*, *Pyrococcus furiosus*, *Pyrococcus horikoshii*, *Aeuropyrum pernix*, etc.) phylogenetic domain.

[137] The term "subject" as used herein, refers to an animal, preferably a mammal, most preferably a human, who is the object of treatment, observation or experiment.

[138] The term "effective amount" as used herein refers to that amount of the (modified) non-natural amino acid polypeptide being administered which will relieve to some extent one or more of the symptoms of the disease, condition or disorder being treated. Compositions containing the (modified) non-natural amino acid polypeptide described herein can be administered for prophylactic, enhancing, and/or therapeutic treatments.

[139] The terms "enhance" or "enhancing" means to increase or prolong either in potency or duration a desired effect. Thus, in regard to enhancing the effect of therapeutic agents, the term "enhancing" refers to the ability to increase or prolong, either in potency or

duration, the effect of other therapeutic agents on a system. An "enhancing-effective amount," as used herein, refers to an amount adequate to enhance the effect of another therapeutic agent in a desired system. When used in a patient, amounts effective for this use will depend on the severity and course of the disease, disorder or condition, previous therapy, the patient's health status and response to the drugs, and the judgment of the treating physician.

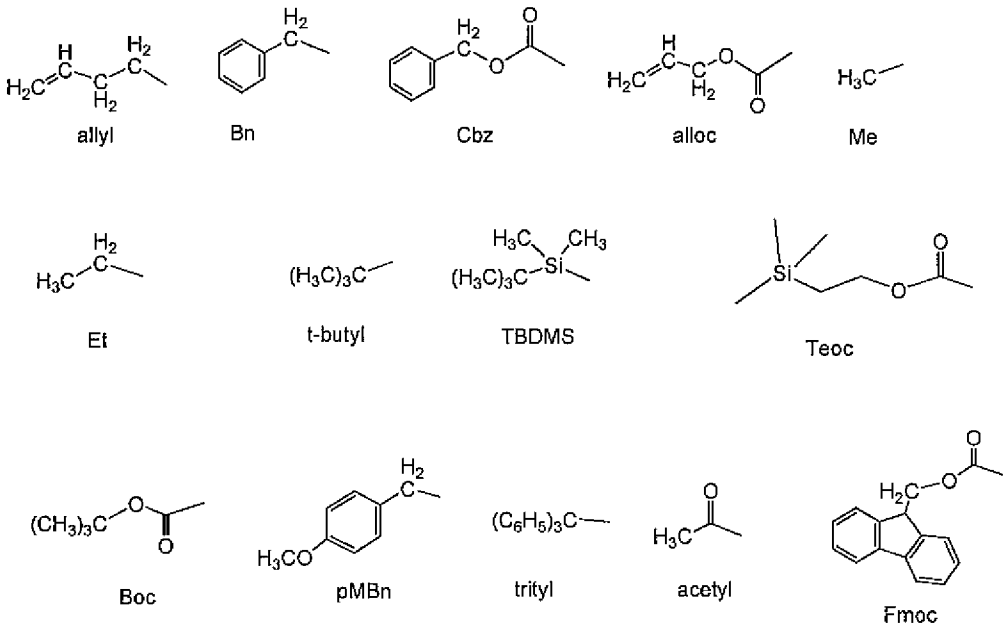
[140] The term "modified," as used herein refers to the presence of a post-translational modification on a polypeptide. The form "(modified)" term means that the polypeptides being discussed are optionally modified, that is, the polypeptides under discussion can be modified or unmodified.

[141] The term "post-translationally modified" and "modified" refers to any modification of a natural or non-natural amino acid that occurs to such an amino acid after it has been incorporated into a polypeptide chain. The term encompasses, by way of example only, co-translational *in vivo* modifications, post-translational *in vivo* modifications, and post-translational *in vitro* modifications.

[142] In prophylactic applications, compositions containing the (modified) non-natural amino acid polypeptide are administered to a patient susceptible to or otherwise at risk of a particular disease, disorder or condition. Such an amount is defined to be a "prophylactically effective amount." In this use, the precise amounts also depend on the patient's state of health, weight, and the like. It is considered well within the skill of the art for one to determine such prophylactically effective amounts by routine experimentation (*e.g.*, a dose escalation clinical trial).

[143] The term "protected" refers to the presence of a "protecting group" or moiety that prevents reaction of the chemically reactive functional group under certain reaction conditions. The protecting group will vary depending on the type of chemically reactive group being protected. For example, if the chemically reactive group is an amine or a hydrazide, the protecting group can be selected from the group of tert-butyloxycarbonyl (t-Boc) and 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc). If the chemically reactive group is a thiol, the protecting group can be orthopyridyldisulfide. If the chemically reactive group is a carboxylic acid, such as butanoic or propionic acid, or a hydroxyl group, the protecting group can be benzyl or an alkyl group such as methyl, ethyl, or tert-butyl. Other protecting groups known in the art may also be used in or with the methods and compositions described herein.

[144] By way of example only, blocking/protecting groups may be selected from:



[145] Other protecting groups are described in Greene and Wuts, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, 3rd Ed., John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[146] In therapeutic applications, compositions containing the (modified) non-natural amino acid polypeptide are administered to a patient already suffering from a disease, condition or disorder, in an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially arrest the symptoms of the disease, disorder or condition. Such an amount is defined to be a "therapeutically effective amount," and will depend on the severity and course of the disease, disorder or condition, previous therapy, the patient's health status and response to the drugs, and the judgment of the treating physician. It is considered well within the skill of the art for one to determine such therapeutically effective amounts by routine experimentation (*e.g.*, a dose escalation clinical trial).

[147] In other therapeutic applications, compositions containing the substituted amino acid polypeptide (polypeptide orthogonally produced with one or more natural, non-natural, or modified amino acids) are administered to a patient already suffering from a disease, condition or disorder, in an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially arrest the symptoms of the disease, disorder or condition.

[148] The term "treating" is used to refer to either prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatments.

[149] Unless otherwise indicated, conventional methods of mass spectroscopy, NMR, HPLC, protein chemistry, biochemistry, recombinant DNA techniques and pharmacology, within the skill of the art are employed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

I. Introduction

[150] Adiponectin molecules comprising at least one unnatural amino acid are provided in the invention. In certain embodiments of the invention, the adiponectin polypeptide with at least one unnatural amino acid includes at least one post-translational modification. In one embodiment, the at least one post-translational modification comprises attachment of a molecule including but not limited to, a label, a dye, a polymer, a water-soluble polymer, a derivative of polyethylene glycol, a photocrosslinker, a cytotoxic compound, a drug, an affinity label, a photoaffinity label, a reactive compound, a resin, a second protein or polypeptide or polypeptide analog, an antibody or antibody fragment, a metal chelator, a cofactor, a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a polynucleotide, a DNA, a RNA, an antisense polynucleotide, an inhibitory ribonucleic acid, a biomaterial, a nanoparticle, a spin label, a fluorophore, a metal-containing moiety, a radioactive moiety, a novel functional group, a group that covalently or noncovalently interacts with other molecules, a photocaged moiety, a photoisomerizable moiety, biotin, a derivative of biotin, a biotin analogue, a moiety incorporating a heavy atom, a chemically cleavable group, a photocleavable group, an elongated side chain, a carbon-linked sugar, a redox-active agent, an amino thioacid, a toxic moiety, an isotopically labeled moiety, a biophysical probe, a phosphorescent group, a chemiluminescent group, an electron dense group, a magnetic group, an intercalating group, a chromophore, an energy transfer agent, a biologically active agent, a detectable label, a small molecule, or any combination of the above or any other desirable compound or substance, comprising a second reactive group to at least one unnatural amino acid comprising a first reactive group utilizing chemistry methodology that is known to one of ordinary skill in the art to be suitable for the particular reactive groups. For example, the first reactive group is an alkynyl moiety (including but not limited to, in the unnatural amino acid *p*-propargyloxyphenylalanine, where the propargyl group is also sometimes referred to as an acetylene moiety) and the second reactive group is an azido moiety, and [3+2] cycloaddition chemistry methodologies are utilized. In another example, the first reactive group is the azido moiety (including but not limited to, in the unnatural amino acid *p*-azido-L-phenylalanine) and the second reactive group is the alkynyl moiety. In certain embodiments of the adiponectin polypeptide of the present invention, at least one unnatural amino acid (including but not limited to, unnatural amino acid containing a keto functional group) comprising at least one post-translational modification, is used where the at least one

post-translational modification comprises a saccharide moiety. In certain embodiments, the post-translational modification is made in vivo in a eukaryotic cell or in a non-eukaryotic cell.

[151] In certain embodiments, the protein includes at least one post-translational modification that is made in vivo by one host cell, where the post-translational modification is not normally made by another host cell type. In certain embodiments, the protein includes at least one post-translational modification that is made in vivo by a eukaryotic cell, where the post-translational modification is not normally made by a non-eukaryotic cell. Examples of post-translational modifications include, but are not limited to, acetylation, acylation, lipid-modification, palmitoylation, palmitate addition, phosphorylation, glycolipid-linkage modification, and the like. In one embodiment, the post-translational modification comprises attachment of an oligosaccharide to an asparagine by a GlcNAc-asparagine linkage (including but not limited to, where the oligosaccharide comprises $(GlcNAc\text{-}Man)_2\text{-}Man\text{-}GlcNAc\text{-}GlcNAc$, and the like). In another embodiment, the post-translational modification comprises attachment of an oligosaccharide (including but not limited to, Gal-GalNAc, Gal-GlcNAc, etc.) to a serine or threonine by a GalNAc-serine, a GalNAc-threonine, a GlcNAc-serine, or a GlcNAc-threonine linkage. In certain embodiments, a protein or polypeptide of the invention can comprise a secretion or localization sequence, an epitope tag, a FLAG tag, a polyhistidine tag, a GST fusion, and/or the like.

[152] The protein or polypeptide of interest can contain at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, or ten or more unnatural amino acids. The unnatural amino acids can be the same or different, for example, there can be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more different sites in the protein that comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more different unnatural amino acids. In certain embodiments, at least one, but fewer than all, of a particular amino acid present in a naturally occurring version of the protein is substituted with an unnatural amino acid.

[153] The present invention provides methods and compositions based on adiponectin polypeptides, comprising at least one non-naturally encoded amino acid. Introduction of at least one non-naturally encoded amino acid into an adiponectin polypeptide can allow for the application of conjugation chemistries that involve specific chemical reactions, including, but not limited to, with one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids while not reacting with the commonly occurring 20 amino acids. In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprising the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer, such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), via the side chain of the non-naturally encoded amino acid. This

invention provides a highly efficient method for the selective modification of proteins with PEG derivatives, which involves the selective incorporation of non-genetically encoded amino acids, including but not limited to, those amino acids containing functional groups or substituents not found in the 20 naturally incorporated amino acids, including but not limited to a ketone, an azide or acetylene moiety, into proteins in response to a selector codon and the subsequent modification of those amino acids with a suitably reactive PEG derivative. Once incorporated, the amino acid side chains can then be modified by utilizing chemistry methodologies known to those of ordinary skill in the art to be suitable for the particular functional groups or substituents present in the naturally encoded amino acid. Known chemistry methodologies of a wide variety are suitable for use in the present invention to incorporate a water soluble polymer into the protein. Such methodologies include but are not limited to a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction (*see, e.g.,* Padwa, A. in Comprehensive Organic Synthesis, Vol. 4, (1991) Ed. Trost, B. M., Pergamon, Oxford, p. 1069-1109; and, Huisgen, R. in 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Chemistry, (1984) Ed. Padwa, A., Wiley, New York, p. 1-176) with, including but not limited to, acetylene or azide derivatives, respectively.

[154] Because the Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition method involves a cycloaddition rather than a nucleophilic substitution reaction, proteins can be modified with extremely high selectivity. The reaction can be carried out at room temperature in aqueous conditions with excellent regioselectivity (1,4 > 1,5) by the addition of catalytic amounts of Cu(I) salts to the reaction mixture. *See, e.g.,* Tornoe, et al., (2002) Org. Chem. 67:3057-3064; and, Rostovtsev, et al., (2002) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 41:2596-2599; and WO 03/101972. A molecule that can be added to a protein of the invention through a [3+2] cycloaddition includes virtually any molecule with a suitable functional group or substituent including but not limited to an azido or acetylene derivative. These molecules can be added to an unnatural amino acid with an acetylene group, including but not limited to, p-propargyloxyphenylalanine, or azido group, including but not limited to p-azido-phenylalanine, respectively.

[155] The five-membered ring that results from the Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition is not generally reversible in reducing environments and is stable against hydrolysis for extended periods in aqueous environments. Consequently, the physical and chemical characteristics of a wide variety of substances can be modified under demanding aqueous conditions with the active PEG derivatives of the present invention. Even more important, because the azide and acetylene moieties are specific for one another (and do not, for example, react with any of the 20 common,

genetically-encoded amino acids), proteins can be modified in one or more specific sites with extremely high selectivity.

[156] The invention also provides water soluble and hydrolytically stable derivatives of PEG derivatives and related hydrophilic polymers having one or more acetylene or azide moieties. The PEG polymer derivatives that contain acetylene moieties are highly selective for coupling with azide moieties that have been introduced selectively into proteins in response to a selector codon. Similarly, PEG polymer derivatives that contain azide moieties are highly selective for coupling with acetylene moieties that have been introduced selectively into proteins in response to a selector codon.

[157] More specifically, the azide moieties comprise, but are not limited to, alkyl azides, aryl azides and derivatives of these azides. The derivatives of the alkyl and aryl azides can include other substituents so long as the acetylene-specific reactivity is maintained. The acetylene moieties comprise alkyl and aryl acetylenes and derivatives of each. The derivatives of the alkyl and aryl acetylenes can include other substituents so long as the azide-specific reactivity is maintained.

[158] The present invention provides conjugates of substances having a wide variety of functional groups, substituents or moieties, with other substances including but not limited to a label; a dye; a polymer; a water-soluble polymer; a derivative of polyethylene glycol; a photocrosslinker; a cytotoxic compound; a drug; an affinity label; a photoaffinity label; a reactive compound; a resin; a second protein or polypeptide or polypeptide analog; an antibody or antibody fragment; a metal chelator; a cofactor; a fatty acid; a carbohydrate; a polynucleotide; a DNA; a RNA; an antisense polynucleotide; an inhibitory ribonucleic acid; a biomaterial; a nanoparticle; a spin label; a fluorophore, a metal-containing moiety; a radioactive moiety; a novel functional group; a group that covalently or noncovalently interacts with other molecules; a photocaged moiety; a photoisomerizable moiety; biotin; a derivative of biotin; a biotin analogue; a moiety incorporating a heavy atom; a chemically cleavable group; a photocleavable group; an elongated side chain; a carbon-linked sugar; a redox-active agent; an amino thioacid; a toxic moiety; an isotopically labeled moiety; a biophysical probe; a phosphorescent group; a chemiluminescent group; an electron dense group; a magnetic group; an intercalating group; a chromophore; an energy transfer agent; a biologically active agent; a detectable label; a small molecule; or any combination of the above, or any other desirable compound or substance). The present invention also includes conjugates of substances having azide or acetylene moieties with PEG polymer derivatives having the corresponding acetylene or azide moieties. For example, a

PEG polymer containing an azide moiety can be coupled to a biologically active molecule at a position in the protein that contains a non-genetically encoded amino acid bearing an acetylene functionality. The linkage by which the PEG and the biologically active molecule are coupled includes but is not limited to the Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition product.

[159] It is well established in the art that PEG can be used to modify the surfaces of biomaterials (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 6,610,281; Mehvar, R., J. Pharmaceut. Sci., 3(1):125-136 (2000) which are incorporated by reference herein). The invention also includes biomaterials comprising a surface having one or more reactive azide or acetylene sites and one or more of the azide- or acetylene-containing polymers of the invention coupled to the surface via the Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition linkage. Biomaterials and other substances can also be coupled to the azide- or acetylene-activated polymer derivatives through a linkage other than the azide or acetylene linkage, such as through a linkage comprising a carboxylic acid, amine, alcohol or thiol moiety, to leave the azide or acetylene moiety available for subsequent reactions.

[160] The invention includes a method of synthesizing the azide- and acetylene-containing polymers of the invention. In the case of the azide-containing PEG derivative, the azide can be bonded directly to a carbon atom of the polymer. Alternatively, the azide-containing PEG derivative can be prepared by attaching a linking agent that has the azide moiety at one terminus to a conventional activated polymer so that the resulting polymer has the azide moiety at its terminus. In the case of the acetylene-containing PEG derivative, the acetylene can be bonded directly to a carbon atom of the polymer. Alternatively, the acetylene-containing PEG derivative can be prepared by attaching a linking agent that has the acetylene moiety at one terminus to a conventional activated polymer so that the resulting polymer has the acetylene moiety at its terminus.

[161] More specifically, in the case of the azide-containing PEG derivative, a water soluble polymer having at least one active hydroxyl moiety undergoes a reaction to produce a substituted polymer having a more reactive moiety, such as a mesylate, tresylate, tosylate or halogen leaving group, thereon. The preparation and use of PEG derivatives containing sulfonyl acid halides, halogen atoms and other leaving groups are well known to the skilled artisan. The resulting substituted polymer then undergoes a reaction to substitute for the more reactive moiety an azide moiety at the terminus of the polymer. Alternatively, a water soluble polymer having at least one active nucleophilic or electrophilic moiety undergoes a reaction with a linking agent that has an azide at one terminus so that a covalent bond is formed between the PEG polymer and the linking agent and the azide moiety is positioned at the terminus of the

polymer. Nucleophilic and electrophilic moieties, including amines, thiols, hydrazides, hydrazines, alcohols, carboxylates, aldehydes, ketones, thioesters and the like, are well known to the skilled artisan.

[162] More specifically, in the case of the acetylene-containing PEG derivative, a water soluble polymer having at least one active hydroxyl moiety undergoes a reaction to displace a halogen or other activated leaving group from a precursor that contains an acetylene moiety. Alternatively, a water soluble polymer having at least one active nucleophilic or electrophilic moiety undergoes a reaction with a linking agent that has an acetylene at one terminus so that a covalent bond is formed between the PEG polymer and the linking agent and the acetylene moiety is positioned at the terminus of the polymer. The use of halogen moieties, activated leaving group, nucleophilic and electrophilic moieties in the context of organic synthesis and the preparation and use of PEG derivatives is well established to practitioners in the art.

[163] The invention also provides a method for the selective modification of adiponectin proteins to add other substances to the modified protein, including but not limited to water soluble polymers such as PEG and PEG derivatives containing an azide or acetylene moiety. The azide- and acetylene-containing PEG derivatives can be used to modify the properties of surfaces and molecules where biocompatibility, stability, solubility and lack of immunogenicity are important, while at the same time providing a more selective means of attaching the PEG derivatives to proteins than was previously known in the art.

II. General Recombinant Nucleic Acid Methods For Use With The Invention

[164] In numerous embodiments of the present invention, nucleic acids encoding a adiponectin polypeptide of interest will be isolated, cloned and often altered using recombinant methods. Such embodiments are used, including but not limited to, for protein expression or during the generation of variants, derivatives, expression cassettes, or other sequences derived from an adiponectin polypeptide. In some embodiments, the sequences encoding the polypeptides of the invention are operably linked to a heterologous promoter. In other embodiments, the present inventon includes the isolation of adiponectin and production of adiponectin in host cells.

[165] A nucleotide sequence encoding an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid may be synthesized on the basis of the amino acid sequence of the parent polypeptide, including but not limited to, having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 and then changing the nucleotide sequence so as to effect introduction (i.e., incorporation or substitution) or removal (i.e., deletion or substitution) of the relevant amino

acid residue(s). The nucleotide sequence may be conveniently modified by site-directed mutagenesis in accordance with conventional methods. Alternatively, the nucleotide sequence may be prepared by chemical synthesis, including but not limited to, by using an oligonucleotide synthesizer, wherein oligonucleotides are designed based on the amino acid sequence of the desired polypeptide, and preferably selecting those codons that are favored in the host cell in which the recombinant polypeptide will be produced. For example, several small oligonucleotides coding for portions of the desired polypeptide may be synthesized and assembled by PCR, ligation or ligation chain reaction. *See, e.g.,* Barany, *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 88: 189-193 (1991); U.S. Patent 6,521,427 which are incorporated by reference herein.

[166] This invention utilizes routine techniques in the field of recombinant genetics. Basic texts disclosing the general methods of use in this invention include Sambrook *et al., Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual* (3rd ed. 2001); Kriegler, *Gene Transfer and Expression: A Laboratory Manual* (1990); and *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Ausubel *et al.*, eds., 1994)).

[167] General texts which describe molecular biological techniques include Berger and Kimmel, Guide to Molecular Cloning Techniques, Methods in Enzymology volume 152 Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA (Berger); Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning - A Laboratory Manual (2nd Ed.), Vol. 1-3, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989 ("Sambrook") and Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, F.M. Ausubel et al., eds., Current Protocols, a joint venture between Greene Publishing Associates, Inc. and John Wiley & Sons, Inc., (supplemented through 1999) ("Ausubel")). These texts describe mutagenesis, the use of vectors, promoters and many other relevant topics related to, including but not limited to, the generation of genes that include selector codons for production of proteins that include unnatural amino acids, orthogonal tRNAs, orthogonal synthetases, and pairs thereof.

[168] Various types of mutagenesis are used in the invention for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to, to produce libraries of tRNAs, to produce libraries of synthetases, to produce selector codons, to insert selector codons that encode unnatural amino acids in a protein or polypeptide of interest. They include but are not limited to site-directed, random point mutagenesis, homologous recombination, DNA shuffling or other recursive mutagenesis methods, chimeric construction, mutagenesis using uracil containing templates, oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, phosphorothioate-modified DNA mutagenesis, mutagenesis using gapped duplex DNA or the like, or any combination thereof. Additional suitable methods include point

mismatch repair, mutagenesis using repair-deficient host strains, restriction-selection and restriction-purification, deletion mutagenesis, mutagenesis by total gene synthesis, double-strand break repair, and the like. Mutagenesis, including but not limited to, involving chimeric constructs, are also included in the present invention. In one embodiment, mutagenesis can be guided by known information of the naturally occurring molecule or altered or mutated naturally occurring molecule, including but not limited to, sequence, sequence comparisons, physical properties, crystal structure or the like.

[169] The texts and examples found herein describe these procedures. Additional information is found in the following publications and references cited within: Ling et al., *Approaches to DNA mutagenesis: an overview*, Anal Biochem. 254(2): 157-178 (1997); Dale et al., *Oligonucleotide-directed random mutagenesis using the phosphorothioate method*, Methods Mol. Biol. 57:369-374 (1996); Smith, *In vitro mutagenesis*, Ann. Rev. Genet. 19:423-462 (1985); Botstein & Shortle, *Strategies and applications of in vitro mutagenesis*, Science 229:1193-1201 (1985); Carter, *Site-directed mutagenesis*, Biochem. J. 237:1-7 (1986); Kunkel, *The efficiency of oligonucleotide directed mutagenesis*, in Nucleic Acids & Molecular Biology (Eckstein, F. and Lilley, D.M.J. eds., Springer Verlag, Berlin) (1987); Kunkel, *Rapid and efficient site-specific mutagenesis without phenotypic selection*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:488-492 (1985); Kunkel et al., *Rapid and efficient site-specific mutagenesis without phenotypic selection*, Methods in Enzymol. 154, 367-382 (1987); Bass et al., *Mutant Trp repressors with new DNA-binding specificities*, Science 242:240-245 (1988); Methods in Enzymol. 100: 468-500 (1983); Methods in Enzymol. 154: 329-350 (1987); Zoller & Smith, *Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis using M13-derived vectors: an efficient and general procedure for the production of point mutations in any DNA fragment*, Nucleic Acids Res. 10:6487-6500 (1982); Zoller & Smith, *Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis of DNA fragments cloned into M13 vectors*, Methods in Enzymol. 100:468-500 (1983); Zoller & Smith, *Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis: a simple method using two oligonucleotide primers and a single-stranded DNA template*, Methods in Enzymol. 154:329-350 (1987); Taylor et al., *The use of phosphorothioate-modified DNA in restriction enzyme reactions to prepare nicked DNA*, Nucl. Acids Res. 13: 8749-8764 (1985); Taylor et al., *The rapid generation of oligonucleotide-directed mutations at high frequency using phosphorothioate-modified DNA*, Nucl. Acids Res. 13: 8765-8787 (1985); Nakamaye & Eckstein, *Inhibition of restriction endonuclease Nci I cleavage by phosphorothioate groups and its application to oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis*, Nucl. Acids Res. 14: 9679-9698 (1986); Sayers et al., *Y-T Exonucleases in*

phosphorothioate-based oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, Nucl. Acids Res. 16:791-802 (1988); Sayers et al., *Strand specific cleavage of phosphorothioate-containing DNA by reaction with restriction endonucleases in the presence of ethidium bromide*, (1988) Nucl. Acids Res. 16: 803-814; Kramer et al., *The gapped duplex DNA approach to oligonucleotide-directed mutation construction*, Nucl. Acids Res. 12: 9441-9456 (1984); Kramer & Fritz *Oligonucleotide-directed construction of mutations via gapped duplex DNA*, Methods in Enzymol. 154:350-367 (1987); Kramer et al., *Improved enzymatic in vitro reactions in the gapped duplex DNA approach to oligonucleotide-directed construction of mutations*, Nucl. Acids Res. 16: 7207 (1988); Fritz et al., *Oligonucleotide-directed construction of mutations: a gapped duplex DNA procedure without enzymatic reactions in vitro*, Nucl. Acids Res. 16: 6987-6999 (1988); Kramer et al., *Point Mismatch Repair*, Cell 38:879-887 (1984); Carter et al., *Improved oligonucleotide site-directed mutagenesis using M13 vectors*, Nucl. Acids Res. 13: 4431-4443 (1985); Carter, *Improved oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis using M13 vectors*, Methods in Enzymol. 154: 382-403 (1987); Eghtedarzadeh & Henikoff, *Use of oligonucleotides to generate large deletions*, Nucl. Acids Res. 14: 5115 (1986); Wells et al., *Importance of hydrogen-bond formation in stabilizing the transition state of subtilisin*, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A 317: 415-423 (1986); Nambiar et al., *Total synthesis and cloning of a gene coding for the ribonuclease S protein*, Science 223: 1299-1301 (1984); Sakamar and Khorana, *Total synthesis and expression of a gene for the a-subunit of bovine rod outer segment guanine nucleotide-binding protein (transducin)*, Nucl. Acids Res. 14: 6361-6372 (1988); Wells et al., *Cassette mutagenesis: an efficient method for generation of multiple mutations at defined sites*, Gene 34:315-323 (1985); Grundström et al., *Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis by microscale 'shot-gun' gene synthesis*, Nucl. Acids Res. 13: 3305-3316 (1985); Mandecki, *Oligonucleotide-directed double-strand break repair in plasmids of Escherichia coli: a method for site-specific mutagenesis*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 83:7177-7181 (1986); Arnold, *Protein engineering for unusual environments*, Current Opinion in Biotechnology 4:450-455 (1993); Sieber, et al., Nature Biotechnology, 19:456-460 (2001); W. P. C. Stemmer, Nature 370, 389-91 (1994); and, I. A. Lorimer, I. Pastan, Nucleic Acids Res. 23, 3067-8 (1995). Additional details on many of the above methods can be found in Methods in Enzymology Volume 154, which also describes useful controls for trouble-shooting problems with various mutagenesis methods.

[170] The invention also relates to eukaryotic host cells, non-eukaryotic host cells, and organisms for the in vivo incorporation of an unnatural amino acid via orthogonal tRNA/RS pairs. Host cells are genetically engineered (including but not limited to, transformed,

transduced or transfected) with the polynucleotides of the invention or constructs which include a polynucleotide of the invention, including but not limited to, a vector of the invention, which can be, for example, a cloning vector or an expression vector. The vector can be, for example, in the form of a plasmid, a bacterium, a virus, a naked polynucleotide, or a conjugated polynucleotide. The vectors are introduced into cells and/or microorganisms by standard methods including electroporation (From et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82, 5824 (1985), infection by viral vectors, high velocity ballistic penetration by small particles with the nucleic acid either within the matrix of small beads or particles, or on the surface (Klein et al., Nature 327, 70-73 (1987)).

[171] The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for such activities as, for example, screening steps, activating promoters or selecting transformants. These cells can optionally be cultured into transgenic organisms. Other useful references, including but not limited to for cell isolation and culture (e.g., for subsequent nucleic acid isolation) include Freshney (1994) Culture of Animal Cells, a Manual of Basic Technique, third edition, Wiley- Liss, New York and the references cited therein; Payne *et al.* (1992) Plant Cell and Tissue Culture in Liquid Systems John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, NY; Gamborg and Phillips (eds.) (1995) Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture; Fundamental Methods Springer Lab Manual, Springer-Verlag (Berlin Heidelberg New York) and Atlas and Parks (eds.) The Handbook of Microbiological Media (1993) CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

[172] Several well-known methods of introducing target nucleic acids into cells are available, any of which can be used in the invention. These include: fusion of the recipient cells with bacterial protoplasts containing the DNA, electroporation, projectile bombardment, and infection with viral vectors (discussed further, below), etc. Bacterial cells can be used to amplify the number of plasmids containing DNA constructs of this invention. The bacteria are grown to log phase and the plasmids within the bacteria can be isolated by a variety of methods known in the art (*see*, for instance, Sambrook). In addition, a plethora of kits are commercially available for the purification of plasmids from bacteria, (see, e.g., EasyPrep™, FlexiPrep™, both from Pharmacia Biotech; StrataClean™ from Stratagene; and, QIAprep™ from Qiagen). The isolated and purified plasmids are then further manipulated to produce other plasmids, used to transfect cells or incorporated into related vectors to infect organisms. Typical vectors contain transcription and translation terminators, transcription and translation initiation sequences, and promoters useful for regulation of the expression of the particular target nucleic acid. The vectors optionally comprise generic expression cassettes containing at least one

independent terminator sequence, sequences permitting replication of the cassette in eukaryotes, or prokaryotes, or both, (including but not limited to, shuttle vectors) and selection markers for both prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Vectors are suitable for replication and integration in prokaryotes, eukaryotes, or preferably both. *See,* Giliman & Smith, Gene 8:81 (1979); Roberts, *et al.*, Nature, 328:731 (1987); Schneider, B., *et al.*, Protein Expr. Purif. 6435:10 (1995); Ausubel, Sambrook, Berger (*all supra*). A catalogue of bacteria and bacteriophages useful for cloning is provided, e.g., by the ATCC, e.g., The ATCC Catalogue of Bacteria and Bacteriophage (1992) Gherna *et al.* (eds) published by the ATCC. Additional basic procedures for sequencing, cloning and other aspects of molecular biology and underlying theoretical considerations are also found in Watson *et al.* (1992) Recombinant DNA Second Edition Scientific American Books, NY. In addition, essentially any nucleic acid (and virtually any labeled nucleic acid, whether standard or non-standard) can be custom or standard ordered from any of a variety of commercial sources, such as the Midland Certified Reagent Company (Midland, TX available on the World Wide Web at mcrc.com), The Great American Gene Company (Ramona, CA available on the World Wide Web at genco.com), ExpressGen Inc. (Chicago, IL available on the World Wide Web at expressgen.com), Operon Technologies Inc. (Alameda, CA) and many others.

SELECTOR CODONS

[173] Selector codons of the invention expand the genetic codon framework of protein biosynthetic machinery. For example, a selector codon includes, but is not limited to, a unique three base codon, a nonsense codon, such as a stop codon, including but not limited to, an amber codon (UAG), or an opal codon (UGA), an unnatural codon, a four or more base codon, a rare codon, or the like. It is readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that there is a wide range in the number of selector codons that can be introduced into a desired gene, including but not limited to, one or more, two or more, more than three, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more in a single polynucleotide encoding at least a portion of the adiponectin polypeptide.

[174] In one embodiment, the methods involve the use of a selector codon that is a stop codon for the incorporation of unnatural amino acids in vivo in a eukaryotic cell. For example, an O-tRNA is produced that recognizes the stop codon, including but not limited to, UAG, and is aminoacylated by an O-RS with a desired unnatural amino acid. This O-tRNA is not recognized by the naturally occurring host's aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Conventional site-directed mutagenesis can be used to introduce the stop codon, including but not limited to, TAG,

at the site of interest in a polypeptide of interest. *See, e.g.,* Sayers, J.R., et al. (1988), *5',3' Exonuclease in phosphorothioate-based oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis.* Nucleic Acids Res, 791-802. When the O-RS, O-tRNA and the nucleic acid that encodes the polypeptide of interest are combined in vivo, the unnatural amino acid is incorporated in response to the UAG codon to give a polypeptide containing the unnatural amino acid at the specified position.

[175] The incorporation of unnatural amino acids in vivo can be done without significant perturbation of the eukaryotic host cell. For example, because the suppression efficiency for the UAG codon depends upon the competition between the O-tRNA, including but not limited to, the amber suppressor tRNA, and a eukaryotic release factor (including but not limited to, eRF) (which binds to a stop codon and initiates release of the growing peptide from the ribosome), the suppression efficiency can be modulated by, including but not limited to, increasing the expression level of O-tRNA, and/or the suppressor tRNA.

[176] Selector codons also comprise extended codons, including but not limited to, four or more base codons, such as, four, five, six or more base codons. Examples of four base codons include, including but not limited to, AGGA, CUAG, UAGA, CCCU and the like. Examples of five base codons include, but are not limited to, AGGAC, CCCCU, CCCUC, CUAGA, CUACU, UAGGC and the like. A feature of the invention includes using extended codons based on frameshift suppression. Four or more base codons can insert, including but not limited to, one or multiple unnatural amino acids into the same protein. For example, in the presence of mutated O-tRNAs, including but not limited to, a special frameshift suppressor tRNAs, with anticodon loops, for example, with at least 8-10 nt anticodon loops, the four or more base codon is read as single amino acid. In other embodiments, the anticodon loops can decode, including but not limited to, at least a four-base codon, at least a five-base codon, or at least a six-base codon or more. Since there are 256 possible four-base codons, multiple unnatural amino acids can be encoded in the same cell using a four or more base codon. *See,* Anderson et al., (2002) *Exploring the Limits of Codon and Anticodon Size,* Chemistry and Biology, 9:237-244; Magliery, (2001) *Expanding the Genetic Code: Selection of Efficient Suppressors of Four-base Codons and Identification of "Shifty" Four-base Codons with a Library Approach in Escherichia coli,* J. Mol. Biol. 307: 755-769.

[177] For example, four-base codons have been used to incorporate unnatural amino acids into proteins using in vitro biosynthetic methods. *See, e.g.,* Ma et al., (1993) Biochemistry, 32:7939; and Hohsaka et al., (1999) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 121:34. CGGG and AGGU were used to simultaneously incorporate 2-naphthylalanine and an NBD derivative of

lysine into streptavidin in vitro with two chemically acylated frameshift suppressor tRNAs. *See, e.g.,* Hohsaka et al., (1999) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 121:12194. In an in vivo study, Moore et al. examined the ability of tRNALeu derivatives with NCUA anticodons to suppress UAGN codons (N can be U, A, G, or C), and found that the quadruplet UAGA can be decoded by a tRNALeu with a UCUA anticodon with an efficiency of 13 to 26% with little decoding in the 0 or –1 frame. *See*, Moore et al., (2000) J. Mol. Biol., 298:195. In one embodiment, extended codons based on rare codons or nonsense codons can be used in the present invention, which can reduce missense readthrough and frameshift suppression at other unwanted sites.

[178] For a given system, a selector codon can also include one of the natural three base codons, where the endogenous system does not use (or rarely uses) the natural base codon. For example, this includes a system that is lacking a tRNA that recognizes the natural three base codon, and/or a system where the three base codon is a rare codon.

[179] Selector codons optionally include unnatural base pairs. These unnatural base pairs further expand the existing genetic alphabet. One extra base pair increases the number of triplet codons from 64 to 125. Properties of third base pairs include stable and selective base pairing, efficient enzymatic incorporation into DNA with high fidelity by a polymerase, and the efficient continued primer extension after synthesis of the nascent unnatural base pair. Descriptions of unnatural base pairs which can be adapted for methods and compositions include, e.g., Hirao, et al., (2002) *An unnatural base pair for incorporating amino acid analogues into protein*, Nature Biotechnology, 20:177-182. Other relevant publications are listed below.

[180] For in vivo usage, the unnatural nucleoside is membrane permeable and is phosphorylated to form the corresponding triphosphate. In addition, the increased genetic information is stable and not destroyed by cellular enzymes. Previous efforts by Benner and others took advantage of hydrogen bonding patterns that are different from those in canonical Watson-Crick pairs, the most noteworthy example of which is the iso-C:iso-G pair. *See, e.g.,* Switzer et al., (1989) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 111:8322; and Piccirilli et al., (1990) Nature, 343:33; Kool, (2000) Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 4:602. These bases in general mispair to some degree with natural bases and cannot be enzymatically replicated. Kool and co-workers demonstrated that hydrophobic packing interactions between bases can replace hydrogen bonding to drive the formation of base pair. *See*, Kool, (2000) Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 4:602; and Guckian and Kool, (1998) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 36, 2825. In an effort to develop an unnatural base pair satisfying all the above requirements, Schultz, Romesberg and co-workers have

systematically synthesized and studied a series of unnatural hydrophobic bases. A PICS:PICS self-pair is found to be more stable than natural base pairs, and can be efficiently incorporated into DNA by Klenow fragment of Escherichia coli DNA polymerase I (KF). *See, e.g.,* McMinn et al., (1999) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 121:11586; and Ogawa et al., (2000) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 122:3274. A 3MN:3MN self-pair can be synthesized by KF with efficiency and selectivity sufficient for biological function. *See, e.g.,* Ogawa et al., (2000) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 122:8803. However, both bases act as a chain terminator for further replication. A mutant DNA polymerase has been recently evolved that can be used to replicate the PICS self pair. In addition, a 7AI self pair can be replicated. See, e.g., Tae et al., (2001) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 123:7439. A novel metallobase pair, Dipic:Py, has also been developed, which forms a stable pair upon binding Cu(II). See, Meggers et al., (2000) J. Am. Chem. Soc., 122:10714. Because extended codons and unnatural codons are intrinsically orthogonal to natural codons, the methods of the invention can take advantage of this property to generate orthogonal tRNAs for them.

[181] A translational bypassing system can also be used to incorporate an unnatural amino acid in a desired polypeptide. In a translational bypassing system, a large sequence is incorporated into a gene but is not translated into protein. The sequence contains a structure that serves as a cue to induce the ribosome to hop over the sequence and resume translation downstream of the insertion.

[182] In certain embodiments, the protein or polypeptide of interest (or portion thereof) in the methods and/or compositions of the invention is encoded by a nucleic acid. Typically, the nucleic acid comprises at least one selector codon, at least two selector codons, at least three selector codons, at least four selector codons, at least five selector codons, at least six selector codons, at least seven selector codons, at least eight selector codons, at least nine selector codons, ten or more selector codons.

[183] Genes coding for proteins or polypeptides of interest can be mutagenized using methods well-known to one of skill in the art and described herein to include, for example, one or more selector codon for the incorporation of an unnatural amino acid. For example, a nucleic acid for a protein of interest is mutagenized to include one or more selector codon, providing for the incorporation of one or more unnatural amino acids. The invention includes any such variant, including but not limited to, mutant, versions of any protein, for example, including at least one unnatural amino acid. Similarly, the invention also includes corresponding nucleic

acids, i.e., any nucleic acid with one or more selector codon that encodes one or more unnatural amino acid.

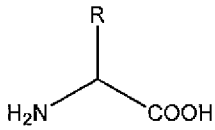
[184] Nucleic acid molecules encoding a protein of interest such as an adiponectin polypeptide may be readily mutated to introduce a cysteine at any desired position of the polypeptide. Cysteine is widely used to introduce reactive molecules, water soluble polymers, proteins, or a wide variety of other molecules, onto a protein of interest. Methods suitable for the incorporation of cysteine into a desired position of the adiponectin polypeptide are known in the art, such as those described in U.S. Patent No. 6,420,339, which is incorporated by reference herein, and standard mutagenesis techniques.

III. Non-Naturally Encoded Amino Acids

[185] A very wide variety of non-naturally encoded amino acids are suitable for use in the present invention. Any number of non-naturally encoded amino acids can be introduced into an adiponectin polypeptide. In general, the introduced non-naturally encoded amino acids are substantially chemically inert toward the 20 common, genetically-encoded amino acids (i.e., alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine). In some embodiments, the non-naturally encoded amino acids include side chain functional groups that react efficiently and selectively with functional groups not found in the 20 common amino acids (including but not limited to, azido, ketone, aldehyde and aminooxy groups) to form stable conjugates. For example, an adiponectin polypeptide that includes a non-naturally encoded amino acid containing an azido functional group can be reacted with a polymer (including but not limited to, poly(ethylene glycol)) or, alternatively, a second polypeptide containing an alkyne moiety to form a stable conjugate resulting for the selective reaction of the azide and the alkyne functional groups to form a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition product.

[186] The generic structure of an alpha-amino acid is illustrated as follows (Formula I):

I



[187] A non-naturally encoded amino acid is typically any structure having the above-listed formula wherein the R group is any substituent other than one used in the twenty natural amino acids, and may be suitable for use in the present invention. Because the non-naturally

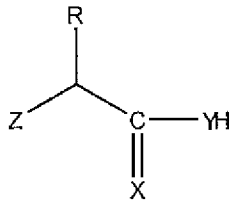
encoded amino acids of the invention typically differ from the natural amino acids only in the structure of the side chain, the non-naturally encoded amino acids form amide bonds with other amino acids, including but not limited to, natural or non-naturally encoded, in the same manner in which they are formed in naturally occurring polypeptides. However, the non-naturally encoded amino acids have side chain groups that distinguish them from the natural amino acids. For example, R optionally comprises an alkyl-, aryl-, acyl-, keto-, azido-, hydroxyl-, hydrazine, cyano-, halo-, hydrazide, alkenyl, alkynl, ether, thiol, seleno-, sulfonyl-, borate, boronate, phospho, phosphono, phosphine, heterocyclic, enone, imine, aldehyde, ester, thioacid, hydroxylamine, amino group, or the like or any combination thereof. Other non-naturally occurring amino acids of interest that may be suitable for use in the present invention include, but are not limited to, amino acids comprising a photoactivatable cross-linker, spin-labeled amino acids, fluorescent amino acids, metal binding amino acids, metal-containing amino acids, radioactive amino acids, amino acids with novel functional groups, amino acids that covalently or noncovalently interact with other molecules, photocaged and/or photoisomerizable amino acids, amino acids comprising biotin or a biotin analogue, glycosylated amino acids such as a sugar substituted serine, other carbohydrate modified amino acids, keto-containing amino acids, amino acids comprising polyethylene glycol or polyether, heavy atom substituted amino acids, chemically cleavable and/or photocleavable amino acids, amino acids with an elongated side chains as compared to natural amino acids, including but not limited to, polyethers or long chain hydrocarbons, including but not limited to, greater than about 5 or greater than about 10 carbons, carbon-linked sugar-containing amino acids, redox-active amino acids, amino thioacid containing amino acids, and amino acids comprising one or more toxic moiety.

[188] Exemplary non-naturally encoded amino acids that may be suitable for use in the present invention and that are useful for reactions with water soluble polymers include, but are not limited to, those with carbonyl, aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide, semicarbazide, azide and alkyne reactive groups. In some embodiments, non-naturally encoded amino acids comprise a saccharide moiety. Examples of such amino acids include *N*-acetyl-L-glucosaminyl-L-serine, *N*-acetyl-L-galactosaminyl-L-serine, *N*-acetyl-L-glucosaminyl-L-threonine, *N*-acetyl-L-glucosaminyl-L-asparagine and *O*-mannosaminyl-L-serine. Examples of such amino acids also include examples where the naturally-occuring N- or O- linkage between the amino acid and the saccharide is replaced by a covalent linkage not commonly found in nature – including but not limited to, an alkene, an oxime, a thioether, an amide and the like. Examples of such amino

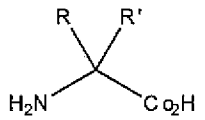
acids also include saccharides that are not commonly found in naturally-occuring proteins such as 2-deoxy-glucose, 2-deoxygalactose and the like.

[189] Many of the non-naturally encoded amino acids provided herein are commercially available, e.g., from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA), Novabiochem (a division of EMD Biosciences, Darmstadt, Germany), or Peptech (Burlington, MA, USA). Those that are not commercially available are optionally synthesized as provided herein or using standard methods known to those of skill in the art. For organic synthesis techniques, see, e.g., Organic Chemistry by Fessendon and Fessendon, (1982, Second Edition, Willard Grant Press, Boston Mass.); Advanced Organic Chemistry by March (Third Edition, 1985, Wiley and Sons, New York); and Advanced Organic Chemistry by Carey and Sundberg (Third Edition, Parts A and B, 1990, Plenum Press, New York). *See, also,* U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0082575 and 2003/0108885, which is incorporated by reference herein. In addition to unnatural amino acids that contain novel side chains, unnatural amino acids that may be suitable for use in the present invention also optionally comprise modified backbone structures, including but not limited to, as illustrated by the structures of Formula II and III:

II



III



wherein Z typically comprises OH, NH_2, SH, NH-R′, or S-R′; X and Y, which can be the same or different, typically comprise S or O, and R and R', which are optionally the same or different, are typically selected from the same list of constituents for the R group described above for the unnatural amino acids having Formula I as well as hydrogen. For example, unnatural amino acids of the invention optionally comprise substitutions in the amino or carboxyl group as illustrated by Formulas II and III. Unnatural amino acids of this type include, but are not limited to, α-hydroxy acids, α-thioacids, α-aminothiocarboxylates, including but not limited to, with side chains corresponding to the common twenty natural amino acids or unnatural side chains. In addition, substitutions at the α-carbon optionally include, but are not limited to, L, D, or α-α-

disubstituted amino acids such as D-glutamate, D-alanine, D-methyl-O-tyrosine, aminobutyric acid, and the like. Other structural alternatives include cyclic amino acids, such as proline analogues as well as 3, 4 ,6, 7, 8, and 9 membered ring proline analogues, β and γ amino acids such as substituted β-alanine and γ-amino butyric acid.

[190] Many unnatural amino acids are based on natural amino acids, such as tyrosine, glutamine, phenylalanine, and the like, and are suitable for use in the present invention. Tyrosine analogs include, but are not limited to, para-substituted tyrosines, ortho-substituted tyrosines, and meta substituted tyrosines, where the substituted tyrosine comprises, including but not limited to, a keto group (including but not limited to, an acetyl group), a benzoyl group, an amino group, a hydrazine, an hydroxyamine, a thiol group, a carboxy group, an isopropyl group, a methyl group, a C_6 - C_{20} straight chain or branched hydrocarbon, a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon, an O-methyl group, a polyether group, a nitro group, an alkynyl group or the like. In addition, multiply substituted aryl rings are also contemplated. Glutamine analogs that may be suitable for use in the present invention include, but are not limited to, α-hydroxy derivatives, γ-substituted derivatives, cyclic derivatives, and amide substituted glutamine derivatives. Example phenylalanine analogs that may be suitable for use in the present invention include, but are not limited to, para-substituted phenylalanines, ortho-substituted phenyalanines, and meta-substituted phenylalanines, where the substituent comprises, including but not limited to, a hydroxy group, a methoxy group, a methyl group, an allyl group, an aldehyde, an azido, an iodo, a bromo, a keto group (including but not limited to, an acetyl group), a benzoyl, an alkynyl group, or the like. Specific examples of unnatural amino acids that may be suitable for use in the present invention include, but are not limited to, a *p*-acetyl-L- phenylalanine, an O-methyl-L-tyrosine, an L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine, a 3-methyl-phenylalanine, an O-4-allyl-L-tyrosine, a 4-propyl-L-tyrosine, a tri-O-acetyl-GlcNAcβ-serine, an L-Dopa, a fluorinated phenylalanine, an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine, a *p*-azido-L-phenylalanine, a *p*-acyl-L-phenylalanine, a *p*-benzoyl-L-phenylalanine, an L-phosphoserine, a phosphonoserine, a phosphonotyrosine, a *p*-iodo-phenylalanine, a *p*-bromophenylalanine, a *p*-amino-L-phenylalanine, an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine, and a p-propargyloxy-phenylalanine, and the like. Examples of structures of a variety of unnatural amino acids that may be suitable for use in the present invention are provided in, for example, WO 2002/085923 entitled "In vivo incorporation of unnatural amino acids." See also Kiick et al., (2002) *Incorporation of azides into recombinant proteins for chemoselective modification by the Staudinger ligation*, PNAS 99:19-24, for additional methionine analogs.

[191] In one embodiment, compositions of an adiponectin polypeptide that include an unnatural amino acid (such as *p*-(propargyloxy)-phenyalanine) are provided. Various compositions comprising *p*-(propargyloxy)-phenyalanine and, including but not limited to, proteins and/or cells, are also provided. In one aspect, a composition that includes the *p*-(propargyloxy)-phenyalanine unnatural amino acid, further includes an orthogonal tRNA. The unnatural amino acid can be bonded (including but not limited to, covalently) to the orthogonal tRNA, including but not limited to, covalently bonded to the orthogonal tRNA though an amino-acyl bond, covalently bonded to a 3'OH or a 2'OH of a terminal ribose sugar of the orthogonal tRNA, etc.

[192] The chemical moieties via unnatural amino acids that can be incorporated into proteins offer a variety of advantages and manipulations of the protein. For example, the unique reactivity of a keto functional group allows selective modification of proteins with any of a number of hydrazine- or hydroxylamine-containing reagents in vitro and in vivo. A heavy atom unnatural amino acid, for example, can be useful for phasing X-ray structure data. The site-specific introduction of heavy atoms using unnatural amino acids also provides selectivity and flexibility in choosing positions for heavy atoms. Photoreactive unnatural amino acids (including but not limited to, amino acids with benzophenone and arylazides (including but not limited to, phenylazide) side chains), for example, allow for efficient in vivo and in vitro photocrosslinking of protein. Examples of photoreactive unnatural amino acids include, but are not limited to, p-azido-phenylalanine and p-benzoyl-phenylalanine. The protein with the photoreactive unnatural amino acids can then be crosslinked at will by excitation of the photoreactive group-providing temporal control. In one example, the methyl group of an unnatural amino can be substituted with an isotopically labeled, including but not limited to, methyl group, as a probe of local structure and dynamics, including but not limited to, with the use of nuclear magnetic resonance and vibrational spectroscopy. Alkynyl or azido functional groups, for example, allow the selective modification of proteins with molecules through a [3+2] cycloaddition reaction.

[193] A non-natural amino acid incorporated into an adiponectin polypeptide at the amino terminus can be composed of an R group that is any substituent other than one used in the twenty natural amino acids and a 2^{nd} reactive group different from the NH_2 group normally present in α-amino acids (see Formula I). A similar non-natural amino acid can be incorporated at the carboxyl terminus with a 2^{nd} reactive group different from the COOH group normally present in α-amino acids (see Formula I).

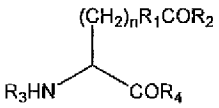
CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF UNNATURAL AMINO ACIDS

[194] Many of the unnatural amino acids suitable for use in the present invention are commercially available, e.g., from Sigma (USA) or Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI, USA). Those that are not commercially available are optionally synthesized as provided herein or as provided in various publications or using standard methods known to those of skill in the art. For organic synthesis techniques, see, e.g., Organic Chemistry by Fessendon and Fessendon, (1982, Second Edition, Willard Grant Press, Boston Mass.); Advanced Organic Chemistry by March (Third Edition, 1985, Wiley and Sons, New York); and Advanced Organic Chemistry by Carey and Sundberg (Third Edition, Parts A and B, 1990, Plenum Press, New York). Additional publications describing the synthesis of unnatural amino acids include, e.g., WO 2002/085923 entitled "In vivo incorporation of Unnatural Amino Acids;" Matsoukas et al., (1995) J. Med. Chem., 38, 4660-4669; King, F.E. & Kidd, D.A.A. (1949) *A New Synthesis of Glutamine and of γ-Dipeptides of Glutamic Acid from Phthylated Intermediates.* J. Chem. Soc., 3315-3319; Friedman, O.M. & Chatterrji, R. (1959) *Synthesis of Derivatives of Glutamine as Model Substrates for Anti-Tumor Agents.* J. Am. Chem. Soc. 81, 3750-3752; Craig, J.C. et al. (1988) *Absolute Configuration of the Enantiomers of 7-Chloro-4 [[4-(diethylamino)-1-methylbutyl]amino]quinoline (Chloroquine).* J. Org. Chem. 53, 1167-1170; Azoulay, M., Vilmont, M. & Frappier, F. (1991) *Glutamine analogues as Potential Antimalarials*,. Eur. J. Med. Chem. 26, 201-5; Koskinen, A.M.P. & Rapoport, H. (1989) *Synthesis of 4-Substituted Prolines as Conformationally Constrained Amino Acid Analogues.* J. Org. Chem. 54, 1859-1866; Christie, B.D. & Rapoport, H. (1985) *Synthesis of Optically Pure Pipecolates from L-Asparagine. Application to the Total Synthesis of (+)-Apovincamine through Amino Acid Decarbonylation and Iminium Ion Cyclization.* J. Org. Chem. 1989:1859-1866; Barton et al., (1987) *Synthesis of Novel a-Amino-Acids and Derivatives Using Radical Chemistry: Synthesis of L- and D-a-Amino-Adipic Acids, L-a-aminopimelic Acid and Appropriate Unsaturated Derivatives.* Tetrahedron Lett. 43:4297-4308; and, Subasinghe et al., (1992) *Quisqualic acid analogues: synthesis of beta-heterocyclic 2-aminopropanoic acid derivatives and their activity at a novel quisqualate-sensitized site.* J. Med. Chem. 35:4602-7. *See also*, patent applications entitled "Protein Arrays," filed December 22, 2003, serial number 10/744,899 and serial number 60/435,821 filed on December 22, 2002.

A. Carbonyl reactive groups

[195] Amino acids with a carbonyl reactive group allow for a variety of reactions to link molecules (including but not limited to, PEG or other water soluble molecules) via nucleophilic addition or aldol condensation reactions among others.

[196] Exemplary carbonyl-containing amino acids can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl; R_2 is H, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, and substituted aryl; and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_4 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl and R_2 is a simple alkyl (i.e., methyl, ethyl, or propyl) and the ketone moiety is positioned in the *para* position relative to the alkyl side chain. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl and R_2 is a simple alkyl (i.e., methyl, ethyl, or propyl) and the ketone moiety is positioned in the *meta* position relative to the alkyl side chain.

[197] The synthesis of *p*-acetyl-(+/-)-phenylalanine and *m*-acetyl-(+/-)-phenylalanine is described in Zhang, Z., et al., Biochemistry 42: 6735-6746 (2003), which is incorporated by reference herein. Other carbonyl-containing amino acids can be similarly prepared by one skilled in the art.

[198] In some embodiments, a polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid is chemically modified to generate a reactive carbonyl functional group. For instance, an aldehyde functionality useful for conjugation reactions can be generated from a functionality having adjacent amino and hydroxyl groups. Where the biologically active molecule is a polypeptide, for example, an *N*-terminal serine or threonine (which may be normally present or may be exposed via chemical or enzymatic digestion) can be used to generate an aldehyde functionality under mild oxidative cleavage conditions using periodate. *See, e.g.*, Gaertner, *et al., Bioconjug. Chem.* 3: 262-268 (1992); Geoghegan, K. & Stroh, J., *Bioconjug. Chem.* 3:138-146 (1992); Gaertner *et al., J. Biol. Chem.* 269:7224-7230 (1994). However, methods known in the art are restricted to the amino acid at the *N*-terminus of the peptide or protein.

[199] In the present invention, a non-naturally encoded amino acid bearing adjacent hydroxyl and amino groups can be incorporated into the polypeptide as a "masked" aldehyde functionality. For example, 5-hydroxylysine bears a hydroxyl group adjacent to the epsilon amine. Reaction conditions for generating the aldehyde typically involve addition of molar

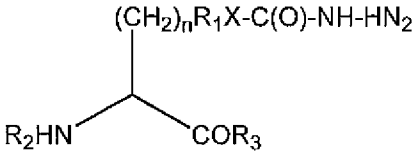
excess of sodium metaperiodate under mild conditions to avoid oxidation at other sites within the polypeptide. The pH of the oxidation reaction is typically about 7.0. A typical reaction involves the addition of about 1.5 molar excess of sodium meta periodate to a buffered solution of the polypeptide, followed by incubation for about 10 minutes in the dark. *See, e.g.* U.S. Patent No. 6,423,685, which is incorporated by reference herein.

[200] The carbonyl functionality can be reacted selectively with a hydrazine-, hydrazide-, hydroxylamine-, or semicarbazide-containing reagent under mild conditions in aqueous solution to form the corresponding hydrazone, oxime, or semicarbazone linkages, respectively, that are stable under physiological conditions. *See, e.g.,* Jencks, W. P., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 81, 475-481 (1959); Shao, J. and Tam, J. P., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 117:3893-3899 (1995). Moreover, the unique reactivity of the carbonyl group allows for selective modification in the presence of the other amino acid side chains. *See, e.g.*, Cornish, V. W., *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 118:8150-8151 (1996); Geoghegan, K. F. & Stroh, J. G., *Bioconjug. Chem.* 3:138-146 (1992); Mahal, L. K., *et al.*, *Science* 276:1125-1128 (1997).

B. Hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide reactive groups

[201] Non-naturally encoded amino acids containing a nucleophilic group, such as a hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide, allow for reaction with a variety of electrophilic groups to form conjugates (including but not limited to, with PEG or other water soluble polymers).

[202] Exemplary hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide -containing amino acids can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl or not present; X, is O, N, or S or not present; R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

[203] In some embodiments, n is 4, R_1 is not present, and X is N. In some embodiments, n is 2, R_1 is not present, and X is not present. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is O, and the oxygen atom is positioned *para* to the alphatic group on the aryl ring.

[204] Hydrazide-, hydrazine-, and semicarbazide-containing amino acids are available from commercial sources. For instance, L-glutamate-γ-hydrazide is available from Sigma Chemical (St. Louis, MO). Other amino acids not available commercially can be prepared by

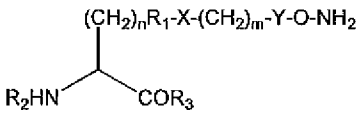
one skilled in the art. *See, e.g.,* U.S. Pat. No. 6,281,211, which is incorporated by reference herein.

[205] Polypeptides containing non-naturally encoded amino acids that bear hydrazide, hydrazine or semicarbazide functionalities can be reacted efficiently and selectively with a variety of molecules that contain aldehydes or other functional groups with similar chemical reactivity. *See, e.g.,* Shao, J. and Tam, J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 117:3893-3899 (1995). The unique reactivity of hydrazide, hydrazine and semicarbazide functional groups makes them significantly more reactive toward aldehydes, ketones and other electrophilic groups as compared to the nucleophilic groups present on the 20 common amino acids (including but not limited to, the hydroxyl group of serine or threonine or the amino groups of lysine and the N-terminus).

C. Aminooxy-containing amino acids

[206] Non-naturally encoded amino acids containing an aminooxy (also called a hydroxylamine) group allow for reaction with a variety of electrophilic groups to form conjugates (including but not limited to, with PEG or other water soluble polymers). Like hydrazines, hydrazides and semicarbazides, the enhanced nucleophilicity of the aminooxy group permits it to react efficiently and selectively with a variety of molecules that contain aldehydes or other functional groups with similar chemical reactivity. *See, e.g.,* Shao, J. and Tam, J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 117:3893-3899 (1995); H. Hang and C. Bertozzi, *Acc. Chem. Res.* 34: 727-736 (2001). Whereas the result of reaction with a hydrazine group is the corresponding hydrazone, however, an oxime results generally from the reaction of an aminooxy group with a carbonyl-containing group such as a ketone.

[207] Exemplary amino acids containing aminooxy groups can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl or not present; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10; Y = C(O) or not present; R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is O, m is 1, and Y is present. In some embodiments, n is 2, R_1 and X are not present, m is 0, and Y is not present.

[208] Aminooxy-containing amino acids can be prepared from readily available amino acid precursors (homoserine, serine and threonine). *See, e.g.,* M. Carrasco and R. Brown, *J.*

Org. Chem. 68: 8853-8858 (2003). Certain aminooxy-containing amino acids, such as L-2-amino-4-(aminooxy)butyric acid), have been isolated from natural sources (Rosenthal, G. et al., Life Sci. 60: 1635-1641 (1997). Other aminooxy-containing amino acids can be prepared by one skilled in the art.

D. Azide and alkyne reactive groups

[209] The unique reactivity of azide and alkyne functional groups makes them extremely useful for the selective modification of polypeptides and other biological molecules. Organic azides, particularly alphatic azides, and alkynes are generally stable toward common reactive chemical conditions. In particular, both the azide and the alkyne functional groups are inert toward the side chains (i.e., R groups) of the 20 common amino acids found in naturally-occuring polypeptides. When brought into close proximity, however, the "spring-loaded" nature of the azide and alkyne groups is revealed and they react selectively and efficiently via Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction to generate the corresponding triazole. *See, e.g.*, Chin J., *et al.*, *Science* 301:964-7 (2003); Wang, Q., *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125, 3192-3193 (2003); Chin, J. W., *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 124:9026-9027 (2002).

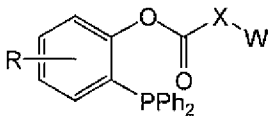
[210] Because the Huisgen cycloaddition reaction involves a selective cycloaddition reaction (*see, e.g.*, Padwa, A., in COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIC SYNTHESIS, Vol. 4, (ed. Trost, B. M., 1991), p. 1069-1109; Huisgen, R. in 1,3-DIPOLAR CYCLOADDITION CHEMISTRY, (ed. Padwa, A., 1984) , p. 1-176) rather than a nucleophilic substitution, the incorporation of non-naturally encoded amino acids bearing azide and alkyne-containing side chains permits the resultant polypeptides to be modified selectively at the position of the non-naturally encoded amino acid. Cycloaddition reaction involving azide or alkyne-containing adiponectin polypeptide can be carried out at room temperature under aqueous conditions by the addition of Cu(II) (including but not limited to, in the form of a catalytic amount of $CuSO_4$) in the presence of a reducing agent for reducing Cu(II) to Cu(I), in situ, in catalytic amount. *See, e.g.*, Wang, Q., *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125, 3192-3193 (2003); Tornoe, C. W., *et al.*, *J. Org. Chem.* 67:3057-3064 (2002); Rostovtsev, *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 41:2596-2599 (2002). Exemplary reducing agents include, including but not limited to, ascorbate, metallic copper, quinine, hydroquinone, vitamin K, glutathione, cysteine, Fe^{2+}, Co^{2+}, and an applied electric potential.

[211] In some cases, where a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction between an azide and an alkyne is desired, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid comprising an alkyne moiety and the water soluble polymer to be attached to the amino acid comprises an azide moiety. Alternatively, the converse reaction (i.e., with the azide moiety

on the amino acid and the alkyne moiety present on the water soluble polymer) can also be performed.

[212] The azide functional group can also be reacted selectively with a water soluble polymer containing an aryl ester and appropriately functionalized with an aryl phosphine moiety to generate an amide linkage. The aryl phosphine group reduces the azide *in situ* and the resulting amine then reacts efficiently with a proximal ester linkage to generate the corresponding amide. *See, e.g.*, E. Saxon and C. Bertozzi, *Science* 287, 2007-2010 (2000). The azide-containing amino acid can be either an alkyl azide (including but not limited to, 2-amino-6-azido-1-hexanoic acid) or an aryl azide (p-azido-phenylalanine).

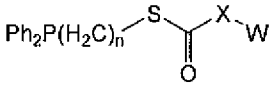
[213] Exemplary water soluble polymers containing an aryl ester and a phosphine moiety can be represented as follows:



wherein X can be O, N, S or not present, Ph is phenyl, W is a water soluble polymer and R can be H, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl and substituted aryl groups. Exemplary R groups include but are not limited to $-CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, -OR', -NR'R", -SR', -halogen, -C(O)R', -CONR'R", $-S(O)_2R'$, $-S(O)_2NR'R"$, -CN and $-NO_2$. R', R", R"' and R"" each independently refer to hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, including but not limited to, aryl substituted with 1-3 halogens, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups, or arylalkyl groups. When a compound of the invention includes more than one R group, for example, each of the R groups is independently selected as are each R', R", R"' and R"" groups when more than one of these groups is present. When R' and R" are attached to the same nitrogen atom, they can be combined with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6-, or 7-membered ring. For example, -NR'R" is meant to include, but not be limited to, 1-pyrrolidinyl and 4-morpholinyl. From the above discussion of substituents, one of skill in the art will understand that the term "alkyl" is meant to include groups including carbon atoms bound to groups other than hydrogen groups, such as haloalkyl (including but not limited to, $-CF_3$ and $-CH_2CF_3$) and acyl (including but not limited to, $-C(O)CH_3$, $-C(O)CF_3$, $-C(O)CH_2OCH_3$, and the like).

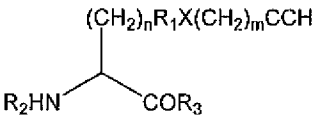
[214] The azide functional group can also be reacted selectively with a water soluble polymer containing a thioester and appropriately functionalized with an aryl phosphine moiety to generate an amide linkage. The aryl phosphine group reduces the azide in situ and the resulting amine then reacts efficiently with the thioester linkage to generate the corresponding

amide. Exemplary water soluble polymers containing a thioester and a phosphine moiety can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 1-10; X can be O, N, S or not present, Ph is phenyl, and W is a water soluble polymer.

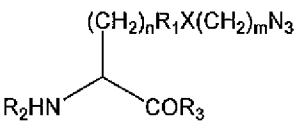
[215] Exemplary alkyne-containing amino acids can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl or not present; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10, R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is not present, m is 0 and the acetylene moiety is positioned in the para position relative to the alkyl side chain. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is O, m is 1 and the propargyloxy group is positioned in the *para* position relative to the alkyl side chain (i.e., O-propargyl-tyrosine). In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 and X are not present and m is 0 (i.e., proparylglycine).

[216] Alkyne-containing amino acids are commercially available. For example, propargylglycine is commercially available from Peptech (Burlington, MA). Alternatively, alkyne-containing amino acids can be prepared according to standard methods. For instance, *p*-propargyloxyphenylalanine can be synthesized, for example, as described in Deiters, A., *et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125: 11782-11783 (2003), and 4-alkynyl-L-phenylalanine can be synthesized as described in Kayser, B., *et al., Tetrahedron* 53(7): 2475-2484 (1997). Other alkyne-containing amino acids can be prepared by one skilled in the art.

[217] Exemplary azide-containing amino acids can be represented as follows:



wherein n is 0-10; R_1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl or not present; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10; R_2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R_3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is not present, m is 0 and the azide moiety is positioned *para* to the alkyl side chain. In some embodiments, n is 0-4 and R_1

and X are not present, and m=0. In some embodiments, n is 1, R_1 is phenyl, X is O, m is 2 and the β-azidoethoxy moiety is positioned in the *para* position relative to the alkyl side chain.

[218] Azide-containing amino acids are available from commercial sources. For instance, 4-azidophenylalanine can be obtained from Chem-Impex International, Inc. (Wood Dale, IL). For those azide-containing amino acids that are not commercially available, the azide group can be prepared relatively readily using standard methods known to those of skill in the art, including but not limited to, via displacement of a suitable leaving group (including but not limited to, halide, mesylate, tosylate) or via opening of a suitably protected lactone. *See, e.g.,* Advanced Organic Chemistry by March (Third Edition, 1985, Wiley and Sons, New York).

E. Aminothiol reactive groups

[219] The unique reactivity of beta-substituted aminothiol functional groups makes them extremely useful for the selective modification of polypeptides and other biological molecules that contain aldehyde groups via formation of the thiazolidine. *See, e.g.,* J. Shao and J. Tam, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1995, 117 (14) 3893-3899. In some embodiments, beta-substituted aminothiol amino acids can be incorporated into adiponectin polypeptides and then reacted with water soluble polymers comprising an aldehyde functionality. In some embodiments, a water soluble polymer, drug conjugate or other payload can be coupled to an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a beta-substituted aminothiol amino acid via formation of the thiazolidine.

CELLULAR UPTAKE OF UNNATURAL AMINO ACIDS

[220] Unnatural amino acid uptake by a eukaryotic cell is one issue that is typically considered when designing and selecting unnatural amino acids, including but not limited to, for incorporation into a protein. For example, the high charge density of α-amino acids suggests that these compounds are unlikely to be cell permeable. Natural amino acids are taken up into the eukaryotic cell via a collection of protein-based transport systems. A rapid screen can be done which assesses which unnatural amino acids, if any, are taken up by cells. *See, e.g.,* the toxicity assays in, e.g., the applications entitled "Protein Arrays," filed December 22, 2003, serial number 10/744,899 and serial number 60/435,821 filed on December 22, 2002; and Liu, D.R. & Schultz, P.G. (1999) *Progress toward the evolution of an organism with an expanded genetic code.* PNAS United States 96:4780-4785. Although uptake is easily analyzed with various assays, an alternative to designing unnatural amino acids that are amenable to cellular uptake pathways is to provide biosynthetic pathways to create amino acids *in vivo*.

BIOSYNTHESIS OF UNNATURAL AMINO ACIDS

[221] Many biosynthetic pathways already exist in cells for the production of amino acids and other compounds. While a biosynthetic method for a particular unnatural amino acid may not exist in nature, including but not limited to, in a eukaryotic cell, the invention provides such methods. For example, biosynthetic pathways for unnatural amino acids are optionally generated in host cell by adding new enzymes or modifying existing host cell pathways. Additional new enzymes are optionally naturally occurring enzymes or artificially evolved enzymes. For example, the biosynthesis of *p*-aminophenylalanine (as presented in an example in WO 2002/085923 entitled "In vivo incorporation of unnatural amino acids") relies on the addition of a combination of known enzymes from other organisms. The genes for these enzymes can be introduced into a eukaryotic cell by transforming the cell with a plasmid comprising the genes. The genes, when expressed in the cell, provide an enzymatic pathway to synthesize the desired compound. Examples of the types of enzymes that are optionally added are provided in the examples below. Additional enzymes sequences are found, for example, in Genbank. Artificially evolved enzymes are also optionally added into a cell in the same manner. In this manner, the cellular machinery and resources of a cell are manipulated to produce unnatural amino acids.

[222] A variety of methods are available for producing novel enzymes for use in biosynthetic pathways or for evolution of existing pathways. For example, recursive recombination, including but not limited to, as developed by Maxygen, Inc. (available on the World Wide Web at maxygen.com), is optionally used to develop novel enzymes and pathways. *See, e.g.,* Stemmer (1994), *Rapid evolution of a protein in vitro by DNA shuffling*, Nature 370(4):389-391; and, Stemmer, (1994), *DNA shuffling by random fragmentation and reassembly: In vitro recombination for molecular evolution*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA., 91:10747-10751. Similarly DesignPath™, developed by Genencor (available on the World Wide Web at genencor.com) is optionally used for metabolic pathway engineering, including but not limited to, to engineer a pathway to create O-methyl-L-tyrosine in a cell. This technology reconstructs existing pathways in host organisms using a combination of new genes, including but not limited to, identified through functional genomics, and molecular evolution and design. Diversa Corporation (available on the World Wide Web at diversa.com) also provides technology for rapidly screening libraries of genes and gene pathways, including but not limited to, to create new pathways.

[223] Typically, the unnatural amino acid produced with an engineered biosynthetic pathway of the invention is produced in a concentration sufficient for efficient protein biosynthesis, including but not limited to, a natural cellular amount, but not to such a degree as to affect the concentration of the other amino acids or exhaust cellular resources. Typical concentrations produced *in vivo* in this manner are about 10 mM to about 0.05 mM. Once a cell is transformed with a plasmid comprising the genes used to produce enzymes desired for a specific pathway and an unnatural amino acid is generated, *in vivo* selections are optionally used to further optimize the production of the unnatural amino acid for both ribosomal protein synthesis and cell growth.

POLYPEPTIDES WITH UNNATURAL AMINO ACIDS

[224] The incorporation of an unnatural amino acid can be done for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to, tailoring changes in protein structure and/or function, changing size, acidity, nucleophilicity, hydrogen bonding, hydrophobicity, accessibility of protease target sites, targeting to a moiety (including but not limited to, for a protein array), etc. Proteins that include an unnatural amino acid can have enhanced or even entirely new catalytic or biophysical properties. For example, the following properties are optionally modified by inclusion of an unnatural amino acid into a protein: toxicity, biodistribution, structural properties, spectroscopic properties, chemical and/or photochemical properties, catalytic ability, half-life (including but not limited to, serum half-life), ability to react with other molecules, including but not limited to, covalently or noncovalently, and the like. The compositions including proteins that include at least one unnatural amino acid are useful for, including but not limited to, novel therapeutics, diagnostics, catalytic enzymes, industrial enzymes, binding proteins (including but not limited to, antibodies), and including but not limited to, the study of protein structure and function. *See, e.g.,* Dougherty, (2000) *Unnatural Amino Acids as Probes of Protein Structure and Function,* Current Opinion in Chemical Biology, 4:645-652.

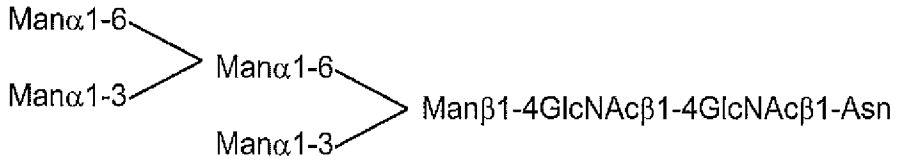
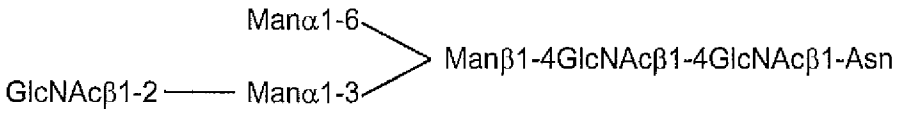
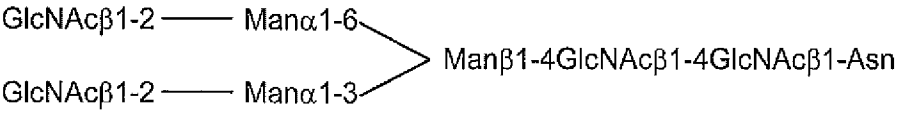
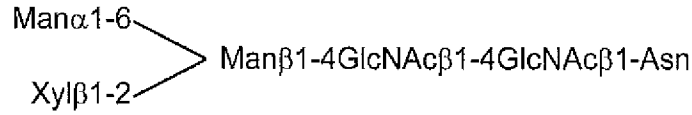
[225] In one aspect of the invention, a composition includes at least one adiponectin protein with at least one, including but not limited to, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, or at least ten or more unnatural amino acids. The unnatural amino acids can be the same or different, including but not limited to, there can be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 or more different sites in the adiponectin protein that comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 or more different unnatural amino acids. In another aspect, a composition includes an adiponectin protein with at least one, but fewer than all, of a particular amino acid present in the protein is substituted with the unnatural amino acid. For a

given protein with more than one unnatural amino acids, the unnatural amino acids can be identical or different (including but not limited to, the protein can include two or more different types of unnatural amino acids, or can include two of the same unnatural amino acid). For a given adiponectin protein with more than two unnatural amino acids, the unnatural amino acids can be the same, different or a combination of a multiple unnatural amino acid of the same kind with at least one different unnatural amino acid.

[226] Adiponectin proteins or polypeptides of interest with at least one unnatural amino acid are a feature of the invention. The invention also includes adiponectin polypeptides or proteins with at least one unnatural amino acid produced using the compositions and methods of the invention. An excipient (including but not limited to, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient) can also be present with the adiponectin polypeptide.

[227] By producing adiponectin polypeptides of interest with at least one unnatural amino acid in eukaryotic cells, proteins or polypeptides will typically include eukaryotic post-translational modifications. In certain embodiments, an adiponectin polypeptide includes at least one unnatural amino acid and at least one post-translational modification that is made in vivo by a eukaryotic cell, where the post-translational modification is not made by a prokaryotic cell. For example, the post-translation modification includes, including but not limited to, acetylation, acylation, lipid-modification, palmitoylation, palmitate addition, phosphorylation, glycolipid-linkage modification, glycosylation, and the like. In one aspect, the post-translational modification includes attachment of an oligosaccharide (including but not limited to, (GlcNAc-Man)$_2$-Man-GlcNAc-GlcNAc)) to an asparagine by a GlcNAc-asparagine linkage. See Table 1 which lists some examples of N-linked oligosaccharides of eukaryotic proteins (additional residues can also be present, which are not shown). In another aspect, the post-translational modification includes attachment of an oligosaccharide (including but not limited to, Gal-GalNAc, Gal-GlcNAc, etc.) to a serine or threonine by a GalNAc-serine or GalNAc-threonine linkage, or a GlcNAc-serine or a GlcNAc-threonine linkage.

TABLE 1: EXAMPLES OF OLIGOSACCHARIDES THROUGH GlcNAc-LINKAGE

Type	Base Structure
High-mannose	
Hybrid	
Complex	
Xylose	

[228] In yet another aspect, the post-translation modification includes proteolytic processing of precursors (including but not limited to, calcitonin precursor, calcitonin gene-related peptide precursor, preproparathyroid hormone, preproinsulin, proinsulin, prepro-opiomelanocortin, pro-opiomelanocortin and the like), assembly into a multisubunit protein or macromolecular assembly, translation to another site in the cell (including but not limited to, to organelles, such as the endoplasmic reticulum, the Golgi apparatus, the nucleus, lysosomes, peroxisomes, mitochondria, chloroplasts, vacuoles, etc., or through the secretory pathway). In certain embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide comprises a secretion or localization sequence, an epitope tag, a FLAG tag, a polyhistidine tag, a GST fusion, or the like. U.S. Patent Nos. 4,963,495 and 6,436,674, which are incorporated herein by reference, detail constructs designed to improve secretion of hGH polypeptides.

[229] One advantage of an unnatural amino acid is that it presents additional chemical moieties that can be used to add additional molecules. These modifications can be made in vivo in a eukaryotic or non-eukaryotic cell, or in vitro. Thus, in certain embodiments, the post-translational modification is through the unnatural amino acid. For example, the post-translational modification can be through a nucleophilic-electrophilic reaction. Most reactions currently used for the selective modification of proteins involve covalent bond formation

between nucleophilic and electrophilic reaction partners, including but not limited to the reaction of α-haloketones with histidine or cysteine side chains. Selectivity in these cases is determined by the number and accessibility of the nucleophilic residues in the protein. In adiponectin polypeptides of the invention, other more selective reactions can be used such as the reaction of an unnatural keto-amino acid with hydrazides or aminooxy compounds, in vitro and in vivo. *See, e.g.,* Cornish, et al., (1996) Am. Chem. Soc., 118:8150-8151; Mahal, et al., (1997) Science, 276:1125-1128; Wang, et al., (2001) Science 292:498-500; Chin, et al., (2002) Am. Chem. Soc. 124:9026-9027; Chin, et al., (2002) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 99:11020-11024; Wang, et al., (2003) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 100:56-61; Zhang, et al., (2003) Biochemistry, 42:6735-6746; and, Chin, et al., (2003) Science, in press. This allows the selective labeling of virtually any protein with a host of reagents including fluorophores, crosslinking agents, saccharide derivatives and cytotoxic molecules. *See also*, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/686,944 entitled "Glycoprotein synthesis" filed January 16, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein. Post-translational modifications, including but not limited to, through an azido amino acid, can also made through the Staudinger ligation (including but not limited to, with triarylphosphine reagents). *See, e.g.,* Kiick et al., (2002) *Incorporation of azides into recombinant proteins for chemoselective modification by the Staudinger ligation*, PNAS 99:19-24.

[230] This invention provides another highly efficient method for the selective modification of proteins, which involves the genetic incorporation of unnatural amino acids, including but not limited to, containing an azide or alkynyl moiety into proteins in response to a selector codon. These amino acid side chains can then be modified by, including but not limited to, a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction (*see, e.g.,* Padwa, A. in Comprehensive Organic Synthesis, Vol. 4, (1991) Ed. Trost, B. M., Pergamon, Oxford, p. 1069-1109; and, Huisgen, R. in 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Chemistry, (1984) Ed. Padwa, A., Wiley, New York, p. 1-176) with, including but not limited to, alkynyl or azide derivatives, respectively. Because this method involves a cycloaddition rather than a nucleophilic substitution, proteins can be modified with extremely high selectivity. This reaction can be carried out at room temperature in aqueous conditions with excellent regioselectivity (1,4 > 1,5) by the addition of catalytic amounts of Cu(I) salts to the reaction mixture. *See, e.g.,* Tornoe, et al., (2002) Org. Chem. 67:3057-3064; and, Rostovtsev, et al., (2002) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 41:2596-2599. Another method that can be used is the ligand exchange on a bisarsenic compound with a tetracysteine motif, *see, e.g.,* Griffin, et al., (1998) Science 281:269-272.

[231] A molecule that can be added to an adiponectin polypeptide of the invention through a [3+2] cycloaddition includes virtually any molecule with an azide or alkynyl derivative. Molecules include, but are not limited to, dyes, fluorophores, crosslinking agents, saccharide derivatives, polymers (including but not limited to, derivatives of polyethylene glycol), photocrosslinkers, cytotoxic compounds, affinity labels, derivatives of biotin, resins, beads, a second protein or polypeptide (or more), polynucleotide(s) (including but not limited to, DNA, RNA, etc.), metal chelators, cofactors, fatty acids, carbohydrates, and the like. These molecules can be added to an unnatural amino acid with an alkynyl group, including but not limited to, p-propargyloxyphenylalanine, or azido group, including but not limited to, p-azido-phenylalanine, respectively.

IV. In vivo generation of adiponectin polypeptides comprising non-genetically-encoded amino acids

[232] The adiponectin polypeptides of the invention can be generated *in vivo* using modified tRNA and tRNA synthetases to add to or substitute amino acids that are not encoded in naturally-occurring systems.

[233] Methods for generating tRNAs and tRNA synthetases which use amino acids that are not encoded in naturally-occurring systems are described in, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0082575 (Serial No. 10/126,927) and 2003/0108885 (Serial No. 10/126,931) which are incorporated by reference herein. These methods involve generating a translational machinery that functions independently of the synthetases and tRNAs endogenous to the translation system (and are therefore sometimes referred to as "orthogonal"). Typically, the translation system comprises an orthogonal tRNA (O-tRNA) and an orthogonal aminoacyl tRNA synthetase (O-RS). Typically, the O-RS preferentially aminoacylates the O-tRNA with at least one non-naturally occurring amino acid in the translation system and the O-tRNA recognizes at least one selector codon that is not recognized by other tRNAs in the system. The translation system thus inserts the non-naturally-encoded amino acid into a protein produced in the system, in response to an encoded selector codon, thereby "substituting" an amino acid into a position in the encoded polypeptide.

[234] A wide variety of orthogonal tRNAs and aminoacyl tRNA synthetases have been described in the art for inserting particular synthetic amino acids into polypeptides, and are generally suitable for use in the present invention. For example, keto-specific O-tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases are described in Wang, L., *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 100:56-61 (2003) and Zhang, Z. et al., *Biochem.* 42(22):6735-6746 (2003). Exemplary O-RS, or

portions thereof, are encoded by polynucleotide sequences and include amino acid sequences disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0082575 and 2003/0108885, each incorporated herein by reference. Corresponding O-tRNA molecules for use with the O-RSs are also described in U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0082575 (Serial No. 10/126,927) and 2003/0108885 (Serial No. 10/126,931) which are incorporated by reference herein.

[235] An example of an azide-specific O-tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase system is described in Chin, J. W., *et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 124:9026-9027 (2002). Exemplary O-RS sequences for *p*-azido-L-Phe include, but are not limited to, nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NOs: 14-16 and 29-32 and amino acid sequences SEQ ID NOs: 46-48 and 61-64 as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0108885 (Serial No. 10/126,931) which is incorporated by reference herein. Exemplary O-tRNA sequences suitable for use in the present invention include, but are not limited to, nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NOs: 1-3 as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0108885 (Serial No. 10/126,931) which is incorporated by reference herein. Other examples of O-tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase pairs specific to particular non-naturally encoded amino acids are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082575 (Serial No. 10/126,927) which is incorporated by reference herein. O-RS and O-tRNA that incorporate both keto- and azide-containing amino acids in *S. cerevisiae* are described in Chin, J. W., *et al., Science* 301:964-967 (2003).

[236] Use of O-tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases involves selection of a specific codon which encodes the non-naturally encoded amino acid. While any codon can be used, it is generally desirable to select a codon that is rarely or never used in the cell in which the O-tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase is expressed. For example, exemplary codons include nonsense codon such as stop codons (amber, ochre, and opal), four or more base codons and other natural three-base codons that are rarely or unused.

[237] Specific selector codon(s) can be introduced into appropriate positions in the adiponectin polynucleotide coding sequence using mutagenesis methods known in the art (including but not limited to, site-specific mutagenesis, cassette mutagenesis, restriction selection mutagenesis, etc.).

[238] Methods for generating components of the protein biosynthetic machinery, such as O-RSs, O-tRNAs, and orthogonal O-tRNA/O-RS pairs that can be used to incorporate a non-naturally encoded amino acid are described in Wang, L., *et al., Science* 292: 498-500 (2001); Chin, J. W., *et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 124:9026-9027 (2002); Zhang, Z. *et al., Biochemistry* 42: 6735-6746 (2003). Methods and compositions for the in vivo incorporation of non-naturally

encoded amino acids are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082575 (Serial No. 10/126,927) which is incorporated by reference herein. Methods for selecting an orthogonal tRNA-tRNA synthetase pair for use in *in vivo* translation system of an organism are also described in U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0082575 (Serial No. 10/126,927) and 2003/0108885 (Serial No. 10/126,931) which are incorporated by reference herein.

[239] Methods for producing at least one recombinant orthogonal aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (O-RS) comprise: (a) generating a library of (optionally mutant) RSs derived from at least one aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (RS) from a first organism, including but not limited to, a prokaryotic organism, such as *Methanococcus jannaschii, Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum, Halobacterium, Escherichia coli, A. fulgidus, P. furiosus, P. horikoshii, A. pernix, T. thermophilus,* or the like, or a eukaryotic organism; (b) selecting (and/or screening) the library of RSs (optionally mutant RSs) for members that aminoacylate an orthogonal tRNA (O-tRNA) in the presence of a non-naturally encoded amino acid and a natural amino acid, thereby providing a pool of active (optionally mutant) RSs; and/or, (c) selecting (optionally through negative selection) the pool for active RSs (including but not limited to, mutant RSs) that preferentially aminoacylate the O-tRNA in the absence of the non-naturally encoded amino acid, thereby providing the at least one recombinant O-RS; wherein the at least one recombinant O-RS preferentially aminoacylates the O-tRNA with the non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[240] In one embodiment, the RS is an inactive RS. The inactive RS can be generated by mutating an active RS. For example, the inactive RS can be generated by mutating at least about 1, at least about 2, at least about 3, at least about 4, at least about 5, at least about 6, or at least about 10 or more amino acids to different amino acids, including but not limited to, alanine.

[241] Libraries of mutant RSs can be generated using various techniques known in the art, including but not limited to rational design based on protein three dimensional RS structure, or mutagenesis of RS nucleotides in a random or rational design technique. For example, the mutant RSs can be generated by site-specific mutations, random mutations, diversity generating recombination mutations, chimeric constructs, rational design and by other methods described herein or known in the art.

[242] In one embodiment, selecting (and/or screening) the library of RSs (optionally mutant RSs) for members that are active, including but not limited to, that aminoacylate an orthogonal tRNA (O-tRNA) in the presence of a non-naturally encoded amino acid and a natural amino acid, includes: introducing a positive selection or screening marker, including but not

limited to, an antibiotic resistance gene, or the like, and the library of (optionally mutant) RSs into a plurality of cells, wherein the positive selection and/or screening marker comprises at least one selector codon, including but not limited to, an amber, ochre, or opal codon; growing the plurality of cells in the presence of a selection agent; identifying cells that survive (or show a specific response) in the presence of the selection and/or screening agent by suppressing the at least one selector codon in the positive selection or screening marker, thereby providing a subset of positively selected cells that contains the pool of active (optionally mutant) RSs. Optionally, the selection and/or screening agent concentration can be varied.

[243] In one aspect, the positive selection marker is a chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT) gene and the selector codon is an amber stop codon in the CAT gene. Optionally, the positive selection marker is a β-lactamase gene and the selector codon is an amber stop codon in the β-lactamase gene. In another aspect the positive screening marker comprises a fluorescent or luminescent screening marker or an affinity based screening marker (including but not limited to, a cell surface marker).

[244] In one embodiment, negatively selecting or screening the pool for active RSs (optionally mutants) that preferentially aminoacylate the O-tRNA in the absence of the non-naturally encoded amino acid includes: introducing a negative selection or screening marker with the pool of active (optionally mutant) RSs from the positive selection or screening into a plurality of cells of a second organism, wherein the negative selection or screening marker comprises at least one selector codon (including but not limited to, an antibiotic resistance gene, including but not limited to, a chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT) gene); and, identifying cells that survive or show a specific screening response in a first medium supplemented with the non-naturally encoded amino acid and a screening or selection agent, but fail to survive or to show the specific response in a second medium not supplemented with the non-naturally encoded amino acid and the selection or screening agent, thereby providing surviving cells or screened cells with the at least one recombinant O-RS. For example, a CAT identification protocol optionally acts as a positive selection and/or a negative screening in determination of appropriate O-RS recombinants. For instance, a pool of clones is optionally replicated on growth plates containing CAT (which comprises at least one selector codon) either with or without one or more non-naturally encoded amino acid. Colonies growing exclusively on the plates containing non-naturally encoded amino acids are thus regarded as containing recombinant O-RS. In one aspect, the concentration of the selection (and/or screening) agent is varied. In some aspects the first and second organisms are different. Thus, the first and/or

second organism optionally comprises: a prokaryote, a eukaryote, a mammal, an *Escherichia coli*, a fungi, a yeast, an archaebacterium, a eubacterium, a plant, an insect, a protist, etc. In other embodiments, the screening marker comprises a fluorescent or luminescent screening marker or an affinity based screening marker.

[245] In another embodiment, screening or selecting (including but not limited to, negatively selecting) the pool for active (optionally mutant) RSs includes: isolating the pool of active mutant RSs from the positive selection step (b); introducing a negative selection or screening marker, wherein the negative selection or screening marker comprises at least one selector codon (including but not limited to, a toxic marker gene, including but not limited to, a ribonuclease barnase gene, comprising at least one selector codon), and the pool of active (optionally mutant) RSs into a plurality of cells of a second organism; and identifying cells that survive or show a specific screening response in a first medium not supplemented with the non-naturally encoded amino acid, but fail to survive or show a specific screening response in a second medium supplemented with the non-naturally encoded amino acid, thereby providing surviving or screened cells with the at least one recombinant O-RS, wherein the at least one recombinant O-RS is specific for the non-naturally encoded amino acid. In one aspect, the at least one selector codon comprises about two or more selector codons. Such embodiments optionally can include wherein the at least one selector codon comprises two or more selector codons, and wherein the first and second organism are different (including but not limited to, each organism is optionally, including but not limited to, a prokaryote, a eukaryote, a mammal, an *Escherichia coli*, a fungi, a yeast, an archaebacteria, a eubacteria, a plant, an insect, a protist, etc.). Also, some aspects include wherein the negative selection marker comprises a ribonuclease barnase gene (which comprises at least one selector codon). Other aspects include wherein the screening marker optionally comprises a fluorescent or luminescent screening marker or an affinity based screening marker. In the embodiments herein, the screenings and/or selections optionally include variation of the screening and/or selection stringency.

[246] In one embodiment, the methods for producing at least one recombinant orthogonal aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (O-RS) can further comprise: (d) isolating the at least one recombinant O-RS; (e) generating a second set of O-RS (optionally mutated) derived from the at least one recombinant O-RS; and, (f) repeating steps (b) and (c) until a mutated O-RS is obtained that comprises an ability to preferentially aminoacylate the O-tRNA. Optionally, steps (d)-(f) are repeated, including but not limited to, at least about two times. In one aspect, the second set of mutated O-RS derived from at least one recombinant O-RS can be generated by

mutagenesis, including but not limited to, random mutagenesis, site-specific mutagenesis, recombination or a combination thereof.

[247] The stringency of the selection/screening steps, including but not limited to, the positive selection/screening step (b), the negative selection/screening step (c) or both the positive and negative selection/screening steps (b) and (c), in the above-described methods, optionally includes varying the selection/screening stringency. In another embodiment, the positive selection/screening step (b), the negative selection/screening step (c) or both the positive and negative selection/screening steps (b) and (c) comprise using a reporter, wherein the reporter is detected by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) or wherein the reporter is detected by luminescence. Optionally, the reporter is displayed on a cell surface, on a phage display or the like and selected based upon affinity or catalytic activity involving the non-naturally encoded amino acid or an analogue. In one embodiment, the mutated synthetase is displayed on a cell surface, on a phage display or the like.

[248] Methods for producing a recombinant orthogonal tRNA (O-tRNA) include: (a) generating a library of mutant tRNAs derived from at least one tRNA, including but not limited to, a suppressor tRNA, from a first organism; (b) selecting (including but not limited to, negatively selecting) or screening the library for (optionally mutant) tRNAs that are aminoacylated by an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (RS) from a second organism in the absence of a RS from the first organism, thereby providing a pool of tRNAs (optionally mutant); and, (c) selecting or screening the pool of tRNAs (optionally mutant) for members that are aminoacylated by an introduced orthogonal RS (O-RS), thereby providing at least one recombinant O-tRNA; wherein the at least one recombinant O-tRNA recognizes a selector codon and is not efficiency recognized by the RS from the second organism and is preferentially aminoacylated by the O-RS. In some embodiments the at least one tRNA is a suppressor tRNA and/or comprises a unique three base codon of natural and/or unnatural bases, or is a nonsense codon, a rare codon, an unnatural codon, a codon comprising at least 4 bases, an amber codon, an ochre codon, or an opal stop codon. In one embodiment, the recombinant O-tRNA possesses an improvement of orthogonality. It will be appreciated that in some embodiments, O-tRNA is optionally imported into a first organism from a second organism without the need for modification. In various embodiments, the first and second organisms are either the same or different and are optionally chosen from, including but not limited to, prokaryotes (including but not limited to, *Methanococcus jannaschii*, *Methanobacteium thermoautotrophicum*, *Escherichia coli*, *Halobacterium*, etc.), eukaryotes, mammals, fungi, yeasts, archaebacteria, eubacteria,

plants, insects, protists, etc. Additionally, the recombinant tRNA is optionally aminoacylated by a non-naturally encoded amino acid, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is biosynthesized in vivo either naturally or through genetic manipulation. The non-naturally encoded amino acid is optionally added to a growth medium for at least the first or second organism.

[249] In one aspect, selecting (including but not limited to, negatively selecting) or screening the library for (optionally mutant) tRNAs that are aminoacylated by an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (step (b)) includes: introducing a toxic marker gene, wherein the toxic marker gene comprises at least one of the selector codons (or a gene that leads to the production of a toxic or static agent or a gene essential to the organism wherein such marker gene comprises at least one selector codon) and the library of (optionally mutant) tRNAs into a plurality of cells from the second organism; and, selecting surviving cells, wherein the surviving cells contain the pool of (optionally mutant) tRNAs comprising at least one orthogonal tRNA or nonfunctional tRNA. For example, surviving cells can be selected by using a comparison ratio cell density assay.

[250] In another aspect, the toxic marker gene can include two or more selector codons. In another embodiment of the methods, the toxic marker gene is a ribonuclease barnase gene, where the ribonuclease barnase gene comprises at least one amber codon. Optionally, the ribonuclease barnase gene can include two or more amber codons.

[251] In one embodiment, selecting or screening the pool of (optionally mutant) tRNAs for members that are aminoacylated by an introduced orthogonal RS (O-RS) can include: introducing a positive selection or screening marker gene, wherein the positive marker gene comprises a drug resistance gene (including but not limited to, β-lactamase gene, comprising at least one of the selector codons, such as at least one amber stop codon) or a gene essential to the organism, or a gene that leads to detoxification of a toxic agent, along with the O-RS, and the pool of (optionally mutant) tRNAs into a plurality of cells from the second organism; and, identifying surviving or screened cells grown in the presence of a selection or screening agent, including but not limited to, an antibiotic, thereby providing a pool of cells possessing the at least one recombinant tRNA, where the at least one recombinant tRNA is aminoacylated by the O-RS and inserts an amino acid into a translation product encoded by the positive marker gene, in response to the at least one selector codons. In another embodiment, the concentration of the selection and/or screening agent is varied.

[252] Methods for generating specific O-tRNA/O-RS pairs are provided. Methods include: (a) generating a library of mutant tRNAs derived from at least one tRNA from a first organism; (b) negatively selecting or screening the library for (optionally mutant) tRNAs that are aminoacylated by an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (RS) from a second organism in the absence of a RS from the first organism, thereby providing a pool of (optionally mutant) tRNAs; (c) selecting or screening the pool of (optionally mutant) tRNAs for members that are aminoacylated by an introduced orthogonal RS (O-RS), thereby providing at least one recombinant O-tRNA. The at least one recombinant O-tRNA recognizes a selector codon and is not efficiency recognized by the RS from the second organism and is preferentially aminoacylated by the O-RS. The method also includes (d) generating a library of (optionally mutant) RSs derived from at least one aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (RS) from a third organism; (e) selecting or screening the library of mutant RSs for members that preferentially aminoacylate the at least one recombinant O-tRNA in the presence of a non-naturally encoded amino acid and a natural amino acid, thereby providing a pool of active (optionally mutant) RSs; and, (f) negatively selecting or screening the pool for active (optionally mutant) RSs that preferentially aminoacylate the at least one recombinant O-tRNA in the absence of the non-naturally encoded amino acid, thereby providing the at least one specific O-tRNA/O-RS pair, wherein the at least one specific O-tRNA/O-RS pair comprises at least one recombinant O-RS that is specific for the non-naturally encoded amino acid and the at least one recombinant O-tRNA. Specific O-tRNA/O-RS pairs produced by the methods are included. For example, the specific O-tRNA/O-RS pair can include, including but not limited to, a mutRNATyr-mutTyrRS pair, such as a mutRNATyr-SS12TyrRS pair, a mutRNALeu-mutLeuRS pair, a mutRNAThr-mutThrRS pair, a mutRNAGlu-mutGluRS pair, or the like. Additionally, such methods include wherein the first and third organism are the same (including but not limited to, *Methanococcus jannaschii*).

[253] Methods for selecting an orthogonal tRNA-tRNA synthetase pair for use in an *in vivo* translation system of a second organism are also included in the present invention. The methods include: introducing a marker gene, a tRNA and an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (RS) isolated or derived from a first organism into a first set of cells from the second organism; introducing the marker gene and the tRNA into a duplicate cell set from a second organism; and, selecting for surviving cells in the first set that fail to survive in the duplicate cell set or screening for cells showing a specific screening response that fail to give such response in the duplicate cell set, wherein the first set and the duplicate cell set are grown in the presence of a selection or screening agent, wherein the surviving or screened cells comprise the orthogonal

tRNA-tRNA synthetase pair for use in the in the in vivo translation system of the second organism. In one embodiment, comparing and selecting or screening includes an in vivo complementation assay. The concentration of the selection or screening agent can be varied.

[254] The organisms of the present invention comprise a variety of organism and a variety of combinations. For example, the first and the second organisms of the methods of the present invention can be the same or different. In one embodiment, the organisms are optionally a prokaryotic organism, including but not limited to, *Methanococcus jannaschii, Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum, Halobacterium, Escherichia coli, A. fulgidus, P. furiosus, P. horikoshii, A. pernix, T. thermophilus,* or the like. In one embodiment, the first organism is *Escherichia coli.*. In an alternate embodiment, the second organism is *Escherichia coli.*, or the first and second organisms are *Escherichia coli.*. Alternatively, the organisms optionally comprise a eukaryotic organism, including but not limited to, plants (including but not limited to, complex plants such as monocots, or dicots), algae, protists, fungi (including but not limited to, yeast, etc), animals (including but not limited to, mammals, insects, arthropods, etc.), or the like. In another embodiment, the second organism is a prokaryotic organism, including but not limited to, *Methanococcus jannaschii, Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum, Halobacterium, Escherichia coli, A. fulgidus, Halobacterium, P. furiosus, P. horikoshii, A. pernix, T. thermophilus,* or the like. Alternatively, the second organism can be a eukaryotic organism, including but not limited to, a yeast, a animal cell, a plant cell, a fungus, a mammalian cell, or the like. In various embodiments the first and second organisms are different.

V. Location of non-naturally-occurring amino acids in adiponectin polypeptides

[255] The present invention contemplates incorporation of one or more non-naturally-occurring amino acids into adiponectin polypeptides. One or more non-naturally-occurring amino acids may be incorporated at a particular position which does not disrupt activity of the adiponectin polypeptide. This can be achieved by making "conservative" substitutions, including but not limited to, substituting hydrophobic amino acids with hydrophobic amino acids, bulky amino acids for bulky amino acids, hydrophilic amino acids for hydrophilic amino acids) and/or inserting the non-naturally-occurring amino acid in a location that is not required for activity.

[256] A variety of biochemical and structural approaches can be employed to select the desired sites for substitution with a non-naturally encoded amino acid within the adiponectin polypeptide. Four regions into which substitutions may be made include these residues in four

separate regions of the adiponectin polypeptide: 1-18 (signal sequence), 19-41 (variable region), 42-107 (collagenous domain), 108-245(C-terminus) (globular domain). It is readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that any position of the polypeptide chain is suitable for selection to incorporate a non-naturally encoded amino acid, and selection may be based on rational design or by random selection for any or no particular desired purpose. Selection of desired sites may be for producing an adiponectin molecule having any desired property or activity, including but not limited to, agonists, super-agonists, inverse agonists, antagonists, receptor binding modulators, receptor activity modulators, dimmer, trimer or multimer formation, no change to activity or property compared to the native molecule, or manipulating any physical or chemical property of the polypeptide such as solubility, aggregation, or stability. For example, locations in the polypeptide required for biological activity of adiponectin polypeptides can be identified using alanine scanning or homolog scanning methods known in the art. *See, e.g.*, Cunningham, B. and Wells, J., *Science*, 244:1081-1085 (1989) (identifying 14 residues that are critical for hGH bioactivity) and Cunningham, B., *et al. Science* 243: 1330-1336 (1989) (identifying antibody and receptor epitopes using homolog scanning mutagenesis). *See, e.g.*, Di Marco et al., Biochem Biophys Res Com 202:1445 (1994); Walter et al., Cancer Biotherapy & Radiopharm. 13:143 (1998); Runkel et al., J.B.C. 273:8003 (1998) for IFN. G-CSF alanine scanning mutagenesis studies are described in Reidhaar-Olson JF et al., Biochemistry (1996) Jul 16;35(28):9034-41, Young DC et al. Protein Sci. (1997) Jun;6(6):1228-36, and Layton et al. (1997) JBC 272(47):29735-29741. *See, e.g.*, Bittorf, T. et al. *FEBS,* 336:133-136 (1993) (identifying critical residues for hEPO activity), Wen, D. et al. *JBC,* 269:22839-22846 (1994) (alanine scanning mutagenesis employed to identify functionally important domains of hEPO), and Elliot, S. et al. *Blood,* 89:493-502 (1997) (identifying key electrostatic interactions between hEPO and human EPO receptor). Residues other than those identified as critical to biological activity by alanine or homolog scanning mutagenesis may be good candidates for substitution with a non-naturally encoded amino acid depending on the desired activity sought for the polypeptide. Alternatively, the sites identified as critical to biological activity may also be good candidates for substitution with a non-naturally encoded amino acid, again depending on the desired activity sought for the polypeptide. Another alternative would be to simply make serial substitutions in each position on the adiponectin polypeptide chain with a non-naturally encoded amino acid and observe the effect on the activities of the polypeptide. It is readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that any

means, technique, or method for selecting a position for substitution with a non-natural amino acid into any polypeptide is suitable for use in the present invention.

[257] The structure and activity of naturally-occurring mutants of adiponectin polypeptides that contain deletions can also be examined to determine regions of the protein that are likely to be tolerant of substitution with a non-naturally encoded amino acid. *See, e.g.*, Kostyo *et al., Biochem. Biophys. Acta,* 925: 314 (1987); Lewis, U., *et al., J. Biol. Chem.,* 253:2679-2687 (1978) for hGH. *See, e.g.*, Bittorf *et al., FEBS,* 336:133 (1993); Wen *et al, JBC,* 269:22839 (1994) for hEPO. In a similar manner, protease digestion and monoclonal antibodies can be used to identify regions of adiponectin polypeptides that are responsible for binding the adiponectin polypeptide receptor. See, e.g., Cunningham, B., *et al. Science* 243: 1330-1336 (1989); Mills, J., *et al., Endocrinology,* 107:391-399 (1980); Li, C., *Mol. Cell. Biochem.*, 46:31-41 (1982) (indicating that amino acids between residues 134-149 can be deleted without a loss of activity for hGH). Layton et al. (2001) JBC 276 (39) 36779-36787 describes antibody studies with hG-CSF and its receptor. Once residues that are likely to be intolerant to substitution with non-naturally encoded amino acids have been eliminated, the impact of proposed substitutions at each of the remaining positions can be examined from the three-dimensional crystal structure of the adiponectin and its binding proteins. *See* de Vos, A., *et al., Science*, 255:306-312 (1992) for hGH; all crystal structures of hGH are available in the Protein Data Bank (including 3HHR, 1AXI, and 1HWG) (PDB, available on the World Wide Web at rcsb.org), a centralized database containing three-dimensional structural data of large molecules of proteins and nucleic acids. X-ray crystallographic and NMR structures of hIFN are also available in the Protein Data Bank (1RH2 and 1ITF), as well as U.S. Patent No. 5,602,232; 5,460,956; 5,441,734; 4,672,108, which are incorporated by reference herein. X-ray crystallographic and NMR structures of hG-CSF are available in the Protein Data Bank with PDB ID's: 1CD9, 1PGR, 1RHG, 1GNC, as well as in U.S. Patent No. 5,581,476; and 5,790,421, which are incorporated by reference herein. For hEPO, *see* Syed *et al., Nature,* 395: 511 (1998) and Cheetham *et al., Nature Structural* Biology, 5:861 (1998); X-ray crystallographic and NMR structures of hEPO are available in the Protein Data Bank with PDB ID's: 1CN4, 1EER, and 1BUY. Thus, those of skill in the art can readily identify amino acid positions that can be substituted with non-naturally encoded amino acids.

[258] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention comprise one or more non-naturally occurring amino acids positioned in a region of the protein that does not disrupt the secondary structure of the polypeptide. In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated at any position in one or more of the following

regions of adiponectin: : 1-18 (signal sequence), 19-41 (variable region), 42-107 (collagenous domain), 108-245(C-terminus) (globular domain) (SEQ ID NO: 1 and matcing residues from SEQ ID NO: 3 and 5).

[259] In another embodiment, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated at one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100, 101-105, 106-110, 111-115, 116-120, 121-125, 126-130, 131-135, 136-140, 141-145, 146-150, 151-155, 156-160, 161-165, 166-170, 171-175, 176-180, 181-185, 186-190, 191-195, 196-200, 201-205, 206-210, 211-215, 216-220, 221-225, 226-230, 231-235, 236-240, 241-245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1). In another embodiment, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated at one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100, 101-105, 106-110, 111-115, 116-120, 121-125, 126-130, 131-135, 136-140, 141-145, 146-150, 151-155, 156-160, 161-165, 166-170, 171-175, 176-180, 181-185, 186-190, 191-195, 196-200, 201-205, 206-210, 211-215, 216-220, 221-225, 226-231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In another embodiment, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are incorporated at one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100, 101-105, 106-110, 111-115, 116-120, 121-125, 126-130, 131-135, 136-140, 141-145, 146-150, 151-155, 156-160, 161-165, 166-170, 171-175, 176-180, 181-185, 186-190, 191-195, 196-200, 201-205, 206-210, 211-215, 216-220, 221-225, 226-232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4).

[260] A wide variety of non-naturally encoded amino acids can be substituted for, or incorporated into, a given position in an adiponectin polypeptide. In general, a particular non-naturally encoded amino acid is selected for incorporation based on an examination of the three dimensional crystal structure of a adiponectin polypeptide with its receptor, a preference for conservative substitutions (i.e., aryl-based non-naturally encoded amino acids, such as p-acetylphenylalanine or O-propargyltyrosine substituting for Phe, Tyr or Trp), and the specific conjugation chemistry that one desires to introduce into the adiponectin polypeptide (e.g., the introduction of 4-azidophenylalanine if one wants to effect a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition with a

water soluble polymer bearing an alkyne moiety or a amide bond formation with a water soluble polymer that bears an aryl ester that, in turn, incorporates a phosphine moiety).

[261] Also, adiponectin polypeptides are know to form trimers, hexamers, dodecamers, middle molecular weight as well as higher molecular weight and the different forms of adiponectin modulate different tissues. In another embodiment, the wide variety of non-naturally encoded amino acids can be substituted for, or incorporated into, a given position in an adiponectin polypeptide based on an examination of the three dimensional crystal structure or on computer modeling of lower, middle, and higher molecular weight adiponectin polypeptides. This embodiment can give preference to conservative substitutions (i.e., aryl-based non-naturally encoded amino acids, such as p-acetylphenylalanine or O-propargyltyrosine substituting for Phe, Tyr or Trp), and the specific conjugation chemistry that one desires to introduce into the adiponectin polypeptide (e.g., the introduction of 4-azidophenylalanine if one wants to effect a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition with a water soluble polymer bearing an alkyne moiety or a amide bond formation with a water soluble polymer that bears an aryl ester that, in turn, incorporates a phosphine moiety).

[262] In one embodiment, the method further includes incorporating into the protein the unnatural amino acid, where the unnatural amino acid comprises a first reactive group; and contacting the protein with a molecule (including but not limited to, a label, a dye, a polymer, a water-soluble polymer, a derivative of polyethylene glycol, a photocrosslinker, a cytotoxic compound, a drug, an affinity label, a photoaffinity label, a reactive compound, a resin, a second protein or polypeptide or polypeptide analog, an antibody or antibody fragment, a metal chelator, a cofactor, a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a polynucleotide, a DNA, a RNA, an antisense polynucleotide, an inhibitory ribonucleic acid, a biomaterial, a nanoparticle, a spin label, a fluorophore, a metal-containing moiety, a radioactive moiety, a novel functional group, a group that covalently or noncovalently interacts with other molecules, a photocaged moiety, a photoisomerizable moiety, biotin, a derivative of biotin, a derivative of biotin, a biotin analogue, a moiety incorporating a heavy atom, a chemically cleavable group, a photocleavable group, an elongated side chain, a carbon-linked sugar, a redox-active agent, an amino thioacid, a toxic moiety, an isotopically labeled moiety, a biophysical probe, a phosphorescent group, a chemiluminescent group, an electron dense group, a magnetic group, an intercalating group, a chromophore, an energy transfer agent, a biologically active agent, a detectable label, a small molecule, or any combination of the above, or any other desirable compound or substance) that comprises a second reactive group. The first reactive group reacts with the second reactive

group to attach the molecule to the unnatural amino acid through a [3+2] cycloaddition. In one embodiment, the first reactive group is an alkynyl or azido moiety and the second reactive group is an azido or alkynyl moiety. For example, the first reactive group is the alkynyl moiety (including but not limited to, in unnatural amino acid p-propargyloxyphenylalanine) and the second reactive group is the azido moiety. In another example, the first reactive group is the azido moiety (including but not limited to, in the unnatural amino acid p-azido-L-phenylalanine) and the second reactive group is the alkynyl moiety.

VI. Expression in Non-eukaryotes and Eukaryotes

[263] To obtain high level expression of a cloned adiponectin polynucleotide, one typically subclones polynucleotides encoding an adiponectin polypeptide of the invention into an expression vector that contains a strong promoter to direct transcription, a transcription/translation terminator, and if for a nucleic acid encoding a protein, a ribosome binding site for translational initiation. Suitable bacterial promoters are well known in the art and described, e.g., in Sambrook *et al.* and Ausubel *et al.*

[264] Bacterial expression systems for expressing adiponectin polypeptides of the invention are available in, including but not limited to, *E. coli*. Kits for such expression systems are commercially available. Eukaryotic expression systems for mammalian cells, yeast, and insect cells are well known in the art and are also commercially available. In cases where orthogonal tRNAs and aminoacyl tRNA synthetases (described above) are used to express the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention, host cells for expression are selected based on their ability to use the orthogonal components. Exemplary host cells include Gram-positive bacteria (including but not limited to *B. brevis*, *B. subtilis*, or *Streptomyces*) and Gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli, Pseudomonas fluorescens, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Pseudomonas putida*), as well as yeast and other eukaryotic cells. Cells comprising O-tRNA/O-RS pairs can be used as described herein.

[265] A eukaryotic host cell or non-eukaryotic host cell of the present invention provides the ability to synthesize proteins that comprise unnatural amino acids in large useful quantities. In one aspect, the composition optionally includes, including but not limited to, at least 10 micrograms, at least 50 micrograms, at least 75 micrograms, at least 100 micrograms, at least 200 micrograms, at least 250 micrograms, at least 500 micrograms, at least 1 milligram, at least 10 milligrams, at least 100 milligrams, at least one gram, or more of the protein that comprises an unnatural amino acid, or an amount that can be achieved with in vivo protein production methods (details on recombinant protein production and purification are provided

herein). In another aspect, the protein is optionally present in the composition at a concentration of, including but not limited to, at least 10 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 50 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 75 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 100 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 200 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 250 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 500 micrograms of protein per liter, at least 1 milligram of protein per liter, or at least 10 milligrams of protein per liter or more, in, including but not limited to, a cell lysate, a buffer, a pharmaceutical buffer, or other liquid suspension (including but not limited to, in a volume of, including but not limited to, anywhere from about 1 nl to about 100 L). The production of large quantities (including but not limited to, greater that that typically possible with other methods, including but not limited to, in vitro translation) of a protein in a eukaryotic cell including at least one unnatural amino acid is a feature of the invention.

[266] A eukaryotic host cell or non-eukaryotic host cell of the present invention provides the ability to biosynthesize proteins that comprise unnatural amino acids in large useful quantities. For example, proteins comprising an unnatural amino acid can be produced at a concentration of, including but not limited to, at least 10 μg/liter, at least 50 μg/liter, at least 75 μg/liter, at least 100 μg/liter, at least 200 μg/liter, at least 250 μg/liter, or at least 500 μg/liter, at least 1mg/liter, at least 2mg/liter, at least 3 mg/liter, at least 4 mg/liter, at least 5 mg/liter, at least 6 mg/liter, at least 7 mg/liter, at least 8 mg/liter, at least 9 mg/liter, at least 10 mg/liter, at least 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 mg/liter, 1 g/liter, 5 g/liter, 10 g/liter or more of protein in a cell extract, cell lysate, culture medium, a buffer, and/or the like.

I. Expression Systems, Culture, and Isolation

[267] Adiponectin polypeptides may be expressed in any number of suitable expression systems including, for example, yeast, insect cells, mammalian cells, and bacteria. A description of exemplary expression systems is provided below.

[268] Yeast As used herein, the term "yeast" includes any of the various yeasts capable of expressing a gene encoding an adiponectin polypeptide. Such yeasts include, but are not limited to, ascosporogenous yeasts (*Endomycetales*), basidiosporogenous yeasts and yeasts belonging to the Fungi imperfecti (*Blastomycetes*) group. The ascosporogenous yeasts are divided into two families, *Spermophthoraceae* and *Saccharomycetaceae*. The latter is comprised of four subfamilies, *Schizosaccharomycoideae* (e.g., genus *Schizosaccharomyces*), *Nadsonioideae*, *Lipomycoideae* and *Saccharomycoideae* (e.g., genera *Pichia*, *Kluyveromyces*

and *Saccharomyces*). The basidiosporogenous yeasts include the genera *Leucosporidium*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Sporidiobolus*, *Filobasidium*, and *Filobasidiella*. Yeasts belonging to the Fungi Imperfecti (*Blastomycetes*) group are divided into two families, *Sporobolomycetaceae* (e.g., genera *Sporobolomyces* and *Bullera*) and *Cryptococcaceae* (e.g., genus *Candida*).

[269] Of particular interest for use with the present invention are species within the genera *Pichia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Hansenula*, *Torulopsis*, and *Candida*, including, but not limited to, *P. pastoris*, *P. guillerimondii*, *S. cerevisiae*, *S. carlsbergensis*, *S. diastaticus*, *S. douglasii*, *S. kluyveri*, *S, norbensis*, *S. oviformis*, *K. lactis*, *K. fragilis*, *C. albicans*, *C. maltosa*, and *H. polymorpha*.

[270] The selection of suitable yeast for expression of adiponectin polypeptides is within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art. In selecting yeast hosts for expression, suitable hosts may include those shown to have, for example, good secretion capacity, low proteolytic activity, good secretion capacity, good soluble protein production, and overall robustness. Yeast are generally available from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, the Yeast Genetic Stock Center, Department of Biophysics and Medical Physics, University of California (Berkeley, CA), and the American Type Culture Collection ("ATCC") (Manassas, VA).

[271] The term "yeast host" or "yeast host cell" includes yeast that can be, or has been, used as a recipient for recombinant vectors or other transfer DNA. The term includes the progeny of the original yeast host cell that has received the recombinant vectors or other transfer DNA. It is understood that the progeny of a single parental cell may not necessarily be completely identical in morphology or in genomic or total DNA complement to the original parent, due to accidental or deliberate mutation. Progeny of the parental cell that are sufficiently similar to the parent to be characterized by the relevant property, such as the presence of a nucleotide sequence encoding an adiponectin polypeptide, are included in the progeny intended by this definition.

[272] Expression and transformation vectors, including extrachromosomal replicons or integrating vectors, have been developed for transformation into many yeast hosts. For example, expression vectors have been developed for *S. cerevisiae* (Sikorski et al., GENETICS (1998) 112:19; Ito et al., J. BACTERIOL. (1983) 153:163; Hinnen et al., PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. USA (1978) 75:1929); *C. albicans* (Kurtz et al., MOL. CELL. BIOL. (1986) 6:142); *C. maltosa* (Kunze et al., J. BASIC MICROBIOL. (1985) 25:141); *H. polymorpha* (Gleeson et al., J. GEN. MICROBIOL. (1986) 132:3459; Roggenkamp et al., MOL. GEN. GENET. (1986) 202:302); *K.*

fragilis (Das et al., J. BACTERIOL. (1984) 158:1165); *K. lactis* (De Louvencourt et al., J. BACTERIOL. (1983) 154:737; Van den Berg et al., BIO/TECHNOLOGY (1990) 8:135); *P. guillerimondii* (Kunze et al., J. BASIC MICROBIOL. (1985) 25:141); *P. pastoris* (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,324,639; 4,929,555; and 4,837,148; Cregg et al., MOL. CELL. BIOL. (1985) 5:3376); *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (Beach and Nurse, NATURE (1981) 300:706); and *Y. lipolytica* (Davidow et al., CURR. GENET. (1985) 10:380 (1985); Gaillardin et al., CURR. GENET. (1985) 10:49); *A. nidulans* (Ballance et al., BIOCHEM. BIOPHYS. RES. COMMUN. (1983) 112:284-89; Tilburn et al., GENE (1983) 26:205-221; and Yelton et al., PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. USA (1984) 81:1470-74); *A. niger* (Kelly and Hynes, EMBO J. (1985) 4:475479); *T. reesia* (EP 0 244 234); and filamentous fungi such as, e.g., *Neurospora*, *Penicillium*, *Tolypocladium* (WO 91/00357), each incorporated by reference herein.

[273] Control sequences for yeast vectors are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and include, but are not limited to, promoter regions from genes such as alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) (EP 0 284 044); enolase; glucokinase; glucose-6-phosphate isomerase; glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate-dehydrogenase (GAP or GAPDH); hexokinase; phosphofructokinase; 3-phosphoglycerate mutase; and pyruvate kinase (PyK) (EP 0 329 203). The yeast PHO5 gene, encoding acid phosphatase, also may provide useful promoter sequences (Myanohara et al., PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. USA (1983) 80:1). Other suitable promoter sequences for use with yeast hosts may include the promoters for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1980) 255:2073); and other glycolytic enzymes, such as pyruvate decarboxylase, triosephosphate isomerase, and phosphoglucose isomerase (Holland et al., BIOCHEMISTRY (1978) 17:4900; Hess et al., J. ADV. ENZYME REG. (1968) 7:149). Inducible yeast promoters having the additional advantage of transcription controlled by growth conditions may include the promoter regions for alcohol dehydrogenase 2; isocytochrome C; acid phosphatase; metallothionein; glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; degradative enzymes associated with nitrogen metabolism; and enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose utilization. Suitable vectors and promoters for use in yeast expression are further described in EP 0 073 657.

[274] Yeast enhancers also may be used with yeast promoters. In addition, synthetic promoters may also function as yeast promoters. For example, the upstream activating sequences (UAS) of a yeast promoter may be joined with the transcription activation region of another yeast promoter, creating a synthetic hybrid promoter. Examples of such hybrid promoters include the ADH regulatory sequence linked to the GAP transcription activation

region. *See* U.S. Patent Nos. 4,880,734 and 4,876,197, which are incorporated by reference herein. Other examples of hybrid promoters include promoters that consist of the regulatory sequences of the ADH2, GAL4, GAL10, or PHO5 genes, combined with the transcriptional activation region of a glycolytic enzyme gene such as GAP or PyK. *See* EP 0 164 556. Furthermore, a yeast promoter may include naturally occurring promoters of non-yeast origin that have the ability to bind yeast RNA polymerase and initiate transcription.

[275] Other control elements that may comprise part of the yeast expression vectors include terminators, for example, from GAPDH or the enolase genes (Holland et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1981) 256:1385). In addition, the origin of replication from the 2μ plasmid origin is suitable for yeast. A suitable selection gene for use in yeast is the *trp1* gene present in the yeast plasmid. *See* Tschemper et al., GENE (1980) 10:157; Kingsman et al., GENE (1979) 7:141. The *trp1* gene provides a selection marker for a mutant strain of yeast lacking the ability to grow in tryptophan. Similarly, Leu2-deficient yeast strains (ATCC 20,622 or 38,626) are complemented by known plasmids bearing the *Leu2* gene.

[276] Methods of introducing exogenous DNA into yeast hosts are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, and typically include, but are not limited to, either the transformation of spheroplasts or of intact yeast host cells treated with alkali cations. For example, transformation of yeast can be carried out according to the method described in Hsiao et al., PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. USA (1979) 76:3829 and Van Solingen et al., J. BACT. (1977) 130:946. However, other methods for introducing DNA into cells such as by nuclear injection, electroporation, or protoplast fusion may also be used as described generally in SAMBROOK ET AL., MOLECULAR CLONING: A LAB. MANUAL (2001). Yeast host cells may then be cultured using standard techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[277] Other methods for expressing heterologous proteins in yeast host cells are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. *See generally* U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020055169, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,361,969; 6,312,923; 6,183,985; 6,083,723; 6,017,731; 5,674,706; 5,629,203; 5,602,034; and 5,089,398; U.S. Reexamined Patent Nos. RE37,343 and RE35,749; PCT Published Patent Applications WO 99/078621; WO 98/37208; and WO 98/26080; European Patent Applications EP 0 946 736; EP 0 732 403; EP 0 480 480; EP 0 460 071; EP 0 340 986; EP 0 329 203; EP 0 324 274; and EP 0 164 556. *See also* Gellissen et al., ANTONIE VAN LEEUWENHOEK (1992) 62(1-2):79-93; Romanos et al., YEAST (1992) 8(6):423-488; Goeddel, METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY (1990) 185:3-7, each incorporated by reference herein.

[278] The yeast host strains may be grown in fermentors during the amplification stage using standard feed batch fermentation methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The fermentation methods may be adapted to account for differences in a particular yeast host's carbon utilization pathway or mode of expression control. For example, fermentation of a *Saccharomyces* yeast host may require a single glucose feed, complex nitrogen source (e.g., casein hydrolysates), and multiple vitamin supplementation. In contrast, the methylotrophic yeast *P. pastoris* may require glycerol, methanol, and trace mineral feeds, but only simple ammonium (nitrogen) salts for optimal growth and expression. *See, e.g.,* U.S. Patent No. 5,324,639; Elliott et al., J. PROTEIN CHEM. (1990) 9:95; and Fieschko et al., BIOTECH. BIOENG. (1987) 29:1113, incorporated by reference herein.

[279] Such fermentation methods, however, may have certain common features independent of the yeast host strain employed. For example, a growth limiting nutrient, typically carbon, may be added to the fermentor during the amplification phase to allow maximal growth. In addition, fermentation methods generally employ a fermentation medium designed to contain adequate amounts of carbon, nitrogen, basal salts, phosphorus, and other minor nutrients (vitamins, trace minerals and salts, etc.). Examples of fermentation media suitable for use with *Pichia* are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,324,639 and 5,231,178, which are incorporated by reference herein.

[280] Baculovirus-Infected Insect Cells The term "insect host" or "insect host cell" refers to a insect that can be, or has been, used as a recipient for recombinant vectors or other transfer DNA. The term includes the progeny of the original insect host cell that has been transfected. It is understood that the progeny of a single parental cell may not necessarily be completely identical in morphology or in genomic or total DNA complement to the original parent, due to accidental or deliberate mutation. Progeny of the parental cell that are sufficiently similar to the parent to be characterized by the relevant property, such as the presence of a nucleotide sequence encoding an adiponectin polypeptide, are included in the progeny intended by this definition.

[281] The selection of suitable insect cells for expression of adiponectin polypeptides is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Several insect species are well described in the art and are commercially available including *Aedes aegypti*, *Bombyx mori*, *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, and *Trichoplusia ni*. In selecting insect hosts for expression, suitable hosts may include those shown to have, *inter alia*, good secretion capacity, low proteolytic activity, and overall robustness. Insect are generally available from a variety of

sources including, but not limited to, the Insect Genetic Stock Center, Department of Biophysics and Medical Physics, University of California (Berkeley, CA); and the American Type Culture Collection ("ATCC") (Manassas, VA).

[282] Generally, the components of a baculovirus-infected insect expression system include a transfer vector, usually a bacterial plasmid, which contains both a fragment of the baculovirus genome, and a convenient restriction site for insertion of the heterologous gene to be expressed; a wild type baculovirus with sequences homologous to the baculovirus-specific fragment in the transfer vector (this allows for the homologous recombination of the heterologous gene in to the baculovirus genome); and appropriate insect host cells and growth media. The materials, methods and techniques used in constructing vectors, transfecting cells, picking plaques, growing cells in culture, and the like are known in the art and manuals are available describing these techniques.

[283] After inserting the heterologous gene into the transfer vector, the vector and the wild type viral genome are transfected into an insect host cell where the vector and viral genome recombine. The packaged recombinant virus is expressed and recombinant plaques are identified and purified. Materials and methods for baculovirus/insect cell expression systems are commercially available in kit form from, for example, Invitrogen Corp. (Carlsbad, CA). These techniques are generally known to those skilled in the art and fully described in SUMMERS AND SMITH, TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETIN NO. 1555 (1987), herein incorporated by reference. *See also,* RICHARDSON, 39 METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: BACULOVIRUS EXPRESSION PROTOCOLS (1995); AUSUBEL ET AL., CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY 16.9-16.11 (1994); KING AND POSSEE, THE BACULOVIRUS SYSTEM: A LABORATORY GUIDE (1992); and O'REILLY ET AL., BACULOVIRUS EXPRESSION VECTORS: A LABORATORY MANUAL (1992).

[284] Indeed, the production of various heterologous proteins using baculovirus/insect cell expression systems is well known in the art. *See, e.g.,* U.S. Patent Nos. 6,368,825; 6,342,216; 6,338,846; 6,261,805; 6,245,528, 6,225,060; 6,183,987; 6,168,932; 6,126,944; 6,096,304; 6,013,433; 5,965,393; 5,939,285; 5,891,676; 5,871,986; 5,861,279; 5,858,368; 5,843,733; 5,762,939; 5,753,220; 5,605,827; 5,583,023; 5,571,709; 5,516,657; 5,290,686; WO 02/06305; WO 01/90390; WO 01/27301; WO 01/05956; WO 00/55345; WO 00/20032 WO 99/51721; WO 99/45130; WO 99/31257; WO 99/10515; WO 99/09193; WO 97/26332; WO 96/29400; WO 96/25496; WO 96/06161; WO 95/20672; WO 93/03173; WO 92/16619; WO 92/03628; WO 92/01801; WO 90/14428; WO 90/10078; WO 90/02566; WO 90/02186;

WO 90/01556; WO 89/01038; WO 89/01037; WO 88/07082, which are incorporated by reference herein.

[285] Vectors that are useful in baculovirus/insect cell expression systems are known in the art and include, for example, insect expression and transfer vectors derived from the baculovirus *Autographacalifornica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV), which is a helper-independent, viral expression vector. Viral expression vectors derived from this system usually use the strong viral polyhedrin gene promoter to drive expression of heterologous genes. *See generally,* Reilly ET AL., BACULOVIRUS EXPRESSION VECTORS: A LABORATORY MANUAL (1992).

[286] Prior to inserting the foreign gene into the baculovirus genome, the above-described components, comprising a promoter, leader (if desired), coding sequence of interest, and transcription termination sequence, are typically assembled into an intermediate transplacement construct (transfer vector). Intermediate transplacement constructs are often maintained in a replicon, such as an extra chromosomal element (e.g., plasmids) capable of stable maintenance in a host, such as bacteria. The replicon will have a replication system, thus allowing it to be maintained in a suitable host for cloning and amplification. More specifically, the plasmid may contain the polyhedrin polyadenylation signal (Miller et al., ANN. REV. MICROBIOL. (1988) 42:177) and a prokaryotic ampicillin-resistance (*amp*) gene and origin of replication for selection and propagation in *E. coli.*

[287] One commonly used transfer vector for introducing foreign genes into AcNPV is pAc373. Many other vectors, known to those of skill in the art, have also been designed including, for example, pVL985, which alters the polyhedrin start codon from ATG to ATT, and which introduces a BamHI cloning site 32 base pairs downstream from the ATT. *See* Luckow and Summers, 17 VIROLOGY 31 (1989). Other commercially available vectors include, for example, PBlueBac4.5/V5-His; pBlueBacHis2; pMelBac; pBlueBac4.5 (Invitrogen Corp., Carlsbad, CA).

[288] After insertion of the heterologous gene, the transfer vector and wild type baculoviral genome are co-transfected into an insect cell host. Methods for introducing heterologous DNA into the desired site in the baculovirus virus are known in the art. *See* SUMMERS AND SMITH, TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETIN NO. 1555 (1987); Smith et al., MOL. CELL. BIOL. (1983) 3:2156; Luckow and Summers, VIROLOGY (1989) 17:31. For example, the insertion can be into a gene such as the polyhedrin gene, by homologous double crossover recombination; insertion can also be into a restriction enzyme site engineered into the desired baculovirus gene. *See* Miller et al., BIOESSAYS (1989) 4:91.

[289] Transfection may be accomplished by electroporation. *See* TROTTER AND WOOD, 39 METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (1995); Mann and King, J. GEN. VIROL. (1989) 70:3501. Alternatively, liposomes may be used to transfect the insect cells with the recombinant expression vector and the baculovirus. *See, e.g.,* Liebman et al., BIOTECHNIQUES (1999) 26(1):36; Graves et al., BIOCHEMISTRY (1998) 37:6050; Nomura et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1998) 273(22):13570; Schmidt et al., PROTEIN EXPRESSION AND PURIFICATION (1998) 12:323; Siffert et al., NATURE GENETICS (1998) 18:45; TILKINS ET AL., CELL BIOLOGY: A LABORATORY HANDBOOK 145-154 (1998); Cai et al., PROTEIN EXPRESSION AND PURIFICATION (1997) 10:263; Dolphin et al., NATURE GENETICS (1997) 17:491; Kost et al., GENE (1997) 190:139; Jakobsson et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1996) 271:22203; Rowles et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1996) 271(37):22376; Reversey et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1996) 271(39):23607-10; Stanley et al., J. BIOL. CHEM. (1995) 270:4121; Sisk et al., J. VIROL. (1994) 68(2):766; and Peng et al., BIOTECHNIQUES (1993) 14.2:274. Commercially available liposomes include, for example, Cellfectin® and Lipofectin® (Invitrogen, Corp., Carlsbad, CA). In addition, calcium phosphate transfection may be used. *See* TROTTER AND WOOD, 39 METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (1995); Kitts, NAR (1990) 18(19):5667; and Mann and King, J. GEN. VIROL. (1989) 70:3501.

[290] Baculovirus expression vectors usually contain a baculovirus promoter. A baculovirus promoter is any DNA sequence capable of binding a baculovirus RNA polymerase and initiating the downstream (3') transcription of a coding sequence (e.g., structural gene) into mRNA. A promoter will have a transcription initiation region which is usually placed proximal to the 5' end of the coding sequence. This transcription initiation region typically includes an RNA polymerase binding site and a transcription initiation site. A baculovirus promoter may also have a second domain called an enhancer, which, if present, is usually distal to the structural gene. Moreover, expression may be either regulated or constitutive.

[291] Structural genes, abundantly transcribed at late times in the infection cycle, provide particularly useful promoter sequences. Examples include sequences derived from the gene encoding the viral polyhedron protein (FRIESEN ET AL., *The Regulation of Baculovirus Gene Expression* in THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF BACULOVIRUSES (1986); EP 0 127 839 and 0 155 476) and the gene encoding the p10 protein (Vlak et al., J. GEN. VIROL. (1988) 69:765).

[292] The newly formed baculovirus expression vector is packaged into an infectious recombinant baculovirus and subsequently grown plaques may be purified by techniques known to those skilled in the art. *See* Miller et al., BIOESSAYS (1989) 4:91; SUMMERS AND SMITH, TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION BULLETIN NO. 1555 (1987).

[293] Recombinant baculovirus expression vectors have been developed for infection into several insect cells. For example, recombinant baculoviruses have been developed for, *inter alia*, *Aedes aegypti* (ATCC No. CCL-125), *Bombyx mori* (ATCC No. CRL-8910), *Drosophila melanogaster* (ATCC No. 1963), *Spodoptera frugiperda*, and *Trichoplusia ni*. *See* WO 89/046,699; Wright, NATURE (1986) 321:718; Carbonell et al., J. VIROL. (1985) 56:153; Smith et al., MOL. CELL. BIOL. (1983) 3:2156. *See generally*, Fraser et al., *IN VITRO* CELL. DEV. BIOL. (1989) 25:225. More specifically, the cell lines used for baculovirus expression vector systems commonly include, but are not limited to, Sf9 (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) (ATCC No. CRL-1711), Sf21 (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) (Invitrogen Corp., Cat. No. 11497-013 (Carlsbad, CA)), Tri-368 (*Trichopulsia ni*), and High-Five™ BTI-TN-5B1-4 (*Trichopulsia ni*).

[294] Cells and culture media are commercially available for both direct and fusion expression of heterologous polypeptides in a baculovirus/expression, and cell culture technology is generally known to those skilled in the art.

[295] *E. Coli and other Prokaryotes* Bacterial expression techniques are well known in the art. A wide variety of vectors are available for use in bacterial hosts. The vectors may be single copy or low or high multicopy vectors. Vectors may serve for cloning and/or expression. In view of the ample literature concerning vectors, commercial availability of many vectors, and even manuals describing vectors and their restriction maps and characteristics, no extensive discussion is required here. As is well-known, the vectors normally involve markers allowing for selection, which markers may provide for cytotoxic agent resistance, prototrophy or immunity. Frequently, a plurality of markers is present, which provide for different characteristics.

[296] A bacterial promoter is any DNA sequence capable of binding bacterial RNA polymerase and initiating the downstream (3') transcription of a coding sequence (e.g. structural gene) into mRNA. A promoter will have a transcription initiation region which is usually placed proximal to the 5' end of the coding sequence. This transcription initiation region typically includes an RNA polymerase binding site and a transcription initiation site. A bacterial promoter may also have a second domain called an operator, that may overlap an adjacent RNA polymerase binding site at which RNA synthesis begins. The operator permits negative regulated (inducible) transcription, as a gene repressor protein may bind the operator and thereby inhibit transcription of a specific gene. Constitutive expression may occur in the absence of negative regulatory elements, such as the operator. In addition, positive regulation may be achieved by a gene activator protein binding sequence, which, if present is usually

proximal (5') to the RNA polymerase binding sequence. An example of a gene activator protein is the catabolite activator protein (CAP), which helps initiate transcription of the lac operon in Escherichia coli (E. coli) [Raibaud et al., ANNU. REV. GENET. (1984) 18:173]. Regulated expression may therefore be either positive or negative, thereby either enhancing or reducing transcription.

[297] Sequences encoding metabolic pathway enzymes provide particularly useful promoter sequences. Examples include promoter sequences derived from sugar metabolizing enzymes, such as galactose, lactose (lac) [Chang et al., NATURE (1977) 198:1056], and maltose. Additional examples include promoter sequences derived from biosynthetic enzymes such as tryptophan (trp) [Goeddel et al., NUC. ACIDS RES. (1980) 8:4057; Yelverton et al., NUCL. ACIDS RES. (1981) 9:731; U.S. Pat. No. 4,738,921; EP Pub. Nos. 036 776 and 121 775, which are incorporated by reference herein]. The β-galactosidase (bla) promoter system [Weissmann (1981) "The cloning of interferon and other mistakes." In Interferon 3 (Ed. I. Gresser)], bacteriophage lambda PL [Shimatake et al., NATURE (1981) 292:128] and T5 [U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,406, which are incorporated by reference herein] promoter systems also provide useful promoter sequences. Preferred methods of the present invention utilize strong promoters, such as the T7 promoter to induce adiponectin polypeptides at high levels. Examples of such vectors are well known in the art and include the pET29 series from Novagen, and the pPOP vectors described in WO99/05297, which is incorporated by reference herein. Such expression systems produce high levels of adiponectin polypeptides in the host without compromising host cell viability or growth parameters.

[298] In addition, synthetic promoters which do not occur in nature also function as bacterial promoters. For example, transcription activation sequences of one bacterial or bacteriophage promoter may be joined with the operon sequences of another bacterial or bacteriophage promoter, creating a synthetic hybrid promoter [U.S. Pat. No. 4,551,433, which is incorporated by reference herein]. For example, the tac promoter is a hybrid trp-lac promoter comprised of both trp promoter and lac operon sequences that is regulated by the lac repressor [Amann et al., GENE (1983) 25:167; de Boer et al., PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. (1983) 80:21]. Furthermore, a bacterial promoter can include naturally occurring promoters of non-bacterial origin that have the ability to bind bacterial RNA polymerase and initiate transcription. A naturally occurring promoter of non-bacterial origin can also be coupled with a compatible RNA polymerase to produce high levels of expression of some genes in prokaryotes. The bacteriophage T7 RNA polymerase/promoter system is an example of a coupled promoter

system [Studier et al., J. MOL. BIOL. (1986) 189:113; Tabor et al., Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. (1985) 82:1074]. In addition, a hybrid promoter can also be comprised of a bacteriophage promoter and an E. coli operator region (EP Pub. No. 267 851).

[299] In addition to a functioning promoter sequence, an efficient ribosome binding site is also useful for the expression of foreign genes in prokaryotes. In E. coli, the ribosome binding site is called the Shine-Dalgarno (SD) sequence and includes an initiation codon (ATG) and a sequence 3-9 nucleotides in length located 3-11 nucleotides upstream of the initiation codon [Shine et al., NATURE (1975) 254:34]. The SD sequence is thought to promote binding of mRNA to the ribosome by the pairing of bases between the SD sequence and the 3' and of E. coli 16S rRNA [Steitz et al. "Genetic signals and nucleotide sequences in messenger RNA", In Biological Regulation and Development: Gene Expression (Ed. R. F. Goldberger, 1979)]. To express eukaryotic genes and prokaryotic genes with weak ribosome-binding site [Sambrook et al. "Expression of cloned genes in Escherichia coli", Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 1989].

[300] The term "bacterial host" or "bacterial host cell" refers to a bacterial that can be, or has been, used as a recipient for recombinant vectors or other transfer DNA. The term includes the progeny of the original bacterial host cell that has been transfected. It is understood that the progeny of a single parental cell may not necessarily be completely identical in morphology or in genomic or total DNA complement to the original parent, due to accidental or deliberate mutation. Progeny of the parental cell that are sufficiently similar to the parent to be characterized by the relevant property, such as the presence of a nucleotide sequence encoding an adiponectin polypeptide, are included in the progeny intended by this definition.

[301] The selection of suitable host bacteria for expression of adiponectin polypeptides is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. In selecting bacterial hosts for expression, suitable hosts may include those shown to have, *inter alia*, good inclusion body formation capacity, low proteolytic activity, and overall robustness. Bacterial hosts are generally available from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, the Bacterial Genetic Stock Center, Department of Biophysics and Medical Physics, University of California (Berkeley, CA); and the American Type Culture Collection ("ATCC") (Manassas, VA). Industrial/pharmaceutical fermentation generally use bacterial derived from K strains (e.g. W3110) or from bacteria derived from B strains (e.g. BL21). These strains are particularly useful because their growth parameters are extremely well known and robust. In addition, these strains are non-pathogenic, which is commercially important for safety and environmental

reasons. In one embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the *E. coli* host is a strain of BL21. In another embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the *E. coli* host is a protease minus strain including, but not limited to, OMP- and LON-. In another embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the host cell strain is a species of *Pseudomonas*, including but not limited to, *Pseudomonas fluorescens, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Pseudomonas putida. Pseudomonas fluorescens* biovar 1, designated strain MB101, is available for therapeutic protein production processes by The Dow Chemical Company as a host strain (Midland, MI available on the World Wide Web at dow.com). U.S. Patent Nos. 4,755,465 and 4,859,600, which are incorporated herein, describes the use of *Pseudomonas* strains as a host cell for hGH production.

[302] Once a recombinant host cell strain has been established (i.e., the expression construct has been introduced into the host cell and host cells with the proper expression construct are isolated), the recombinant host cell strain is cultured under conditions appropriate for production of adiponectin polypeptides. As will be apparent to one of skill in the art, the method of culture of the recombinant host cell strain will be dependent on the nature of the expression construct utilized and the identity of the host cell. Recombinant host strains are normally cultured using methods that are well known to the art. Recombinant host cells are typically cultured in liquid medium containing assimilatable sources of carbon, nitrogen, and inorganic salts and, optionally, containing vitamins, amino acids, growth factors, and other proteinaceous culture supplements well known to the art. Liquid media for culture of host cells may optionally contain antibiotics or anti-fungals to prevent the growth of undesirable microorganisms and/or compounds including, but not limited to, antibiotics to select for host cells containing the expression vector.

[303] Recombinant host cells may be cultured in batch or continuous formats, with either cell harvesting (in the case where the adiponectin polypeptide accumulates intracellularly) or harvesting of culture supernatant in either batch or continuous formats. For production in prokaryotic host cells, batch culture and cell harvest are preferred.

[304] The adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention are normally purified after expression in recombinant systems. The adiponectin polypeptide may be purified from host cells by a variety of methods known to the art. Normally, adiponectin polypeptides produced in bacterial host cells is poorly soluble or insoluble (in the form of inclusion bodies). In one embodiment of the present invention, amino acid substitutions may readily be made in the adiponectin polypeptide that are selected for the purpose of increasing the solubility of the

recombinantly produced protein utilizing the methods disclosed herein as well as those known in the art. In the case of insoluble protein, the protein may be collected from host cell lysates by centrifugation and may further be followed by homogenization of the cells. In the case of poorly soluble protein, compounds including, but not limited to, polyethylene imine (PEI) may be added to induce the precipitation of partially soluble protein. The precipitated protein may then be conveniently collected by centrifugation. Recombinant host cells may be disrupted or homogenized to release the inclusion bodies from within the cells using a variety of methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Host cell disruption or homogenization may be performed using well known techniques including, but not limited to, enzymatic cell disruption, sonication, dounce homogenization, or high pressure release disruption. In one embodiment of the method of the present invention, the high pressure release technique is used to disrupt the *E. coli* host cells to release the inclusion bodies of the adiponectin polypeptides. It has been found that yields of insoluble adiponectin polypeptide in the form of inclusion bodies may be increased by utilizing only one passage of the *E. coli* host cells through the homogenizer. When handling inclusion bodies of adiponectin polypeptide, it is advantageous to minimize the homogenization time on repetitions in order to maximize the yield of inclusion bodies without loss due to factors such as solubilization, mechanical shearing or proteolysis.

[305] Insoluble or precipitated adiponectin polypeptide may then be solubilized using any of a number of suitable solubilization agents known to the art. Preferably, the adiponectin polyeptide is solubilized with urea or guanidine hydrochloride. The volume of the solubilized adiponectin polypeptide should be minimized so that large batches may be produced using conveniently manageable batch sizes. This factor may be significant in a large-scale commercial setting where the recombinant host may be grown in batches that are thousands of liters in volume. In addition, when manufacturing adiponectin polypeptide in a large-scale commercial setting, in particular for human pharmaceutical uses, the avoidance of harsh chemicals that can damage the machinery and container, or the protein product itself, should be avoided, if possible. It has been shown in the method of the present invention that the milder denaturing agent urea can be used to solubilize the adiponectin polypeptide inclusion bodies in place of the harsher denaturing agent guanidine hydrochloride. The use of urea significantly reduces the risk of damage to stainless steel equipment utilized in the manufacturing and purification process of adiponectin polypeptide while efficiently solubilizing the adiponectin polypeptide inclusion bodies.

[306] When adiponectin polypeptide is produced as a fusion protein, the fusion sequence is preferably removed. Removal of a fusion sequence may be accomplished by enzymatic or chemical cleavage, preferably by enzymatic cleavage. Enzymatic removal of fusion sequences may be accomplished using methods well known to those in the art. The choice of enzyme for removal of the fusion sequence will be determined by the identity of the fusion, and the reaction conditions will be specified by the choice of enzyme as will be apparent to one skilled in the art. The cleaved adiponectin polypeptide is preferably purified from the cleaved fusion sequence by well known methods. Such methods will be determined by the identity and properties of the fusion sequence and the adiponectin polypeptide, as will be apparent to one skilled in the art. Methods for purification may include, but are not limited to, size-exclusion chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography or dialysis or any combination thereof.

[307] The adiponectin polypeptide is also preferably purified to remove DNA from the protein solution. DNA may be removed by any suitable method known to the art, such as precipitation or ion exchange chromatography, but is preferably removed by precipitation with a nucleic acid precipitating agent, such as, but not limited to, protamine sulfate. The adiponectin polypeptide may be separated from the precipitated DNA using standard well known methods including, but not limited to, centrifugation or filtration. Removal of host nucleic acid molecules is an important factor in a setting where the adiponectin polypeptide is to be used to treat humans and the methods of the present invention reduce host cell DNA to pharmaceutically acceptable levels.

[308] Methods for small-scale or large-scale fermentation can also be used in protein expression, including but not limited to, fermentors, shake flasks, fluidized bed bioreactors, hollow fiber bioreactors, roller bottle culture systems, and stirred tank bioreactor systems. Each of these methods can be performed in a batch, fed-batch, or continuous mode process.

[309] Human adiponectin polypeptides of the invention can generally be recovered using methods standard in the art. For example, culture medium or cell lysate can be centrifuged or filtered to remove cellular debris. The supernatant may be concentrated or diluted to a desired volume or diafiltered into a suitable buffer to condition the preparation for further purification. Further purification of the adiponectin polypeptide of the present invention include separating deamidated and clipped forms of the adiponectin polypeptide variant from the intact form.

[310] Any of the following exemplary procedures can be employed for purification of adiponectin polypeptides of the invention: affinity chromatography; anion- or cation-exchange chromatography (using, including but not limited to, DEAE SEPHAROSE); chromatography on silica; reverse phase HPLC; gel filtration (using, including but not limited to, SEPHADEX G-75); hydrophobic interaction chromatography; size-exclusion chromatography, metal-chelate chromatography; ultrafiltration/diafiltration; ethanol precipitation; ammonium sulfate precipitation; chromatofocusing; displacement chromatography; electrophoretic procedures (including but not limited to preparative isoelectric focusing), differential solubility (including but not limited to ammonium sulfate precipitation), SDS-PAGE, or extraction.

[311] Proteins of the present invention, including but not limited to, proteins comprising unnatural amino acids, antibodies to proteins comprising unnatural amino acids, binding partners for proteins comprising unnatural amino acids, etc., can be purified, either partially or substantially to homogeneity, according to standard procedures known to and used by those of skill in the art. Accordingly, polypeptides of the invention can be recovered and purified by any of a number of methods well known in the art, including but not limited to, ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid or base extraction, column chromatography, affinity column chromatography, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography, lectin chromatography, gel electrophoresis and the like. Protein refolding steps can be used, as desired, in making correctly folded mature proteins. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), affinity chromatography or other suitable methods can be employed in final purification steps where high purity is desired. In one embodiment, antibodies made against unnatural amino acids (or proteins comprising unnatural amino acids) are used as purification reagents, including but not limited to, for affinity-based purification of proteins comprising one or more unnatural amino acid(s). Once purified, partially or to homogeneity, as desired, the polypeptides are optionally used for a wide variety of utilities, including but not limited to, as assay components, therapeutics, prophylaxis, diagnostics, research reagents, and/or as immunogens for antibody production.

[312] In addition to other references noted herein, a variety of purification/protein folding methods are well known in the art, including, but not limited to, those set forth in R. Scopes, Protein Purification, Springer-Verlag, N.Y. (1982); Deutscher, Methods in Enzymology Vol. 182: Guide to Protein Purification, Academic Press, Inc. N.Y. (1990); Sandana, (1997) Bioseparation of Proteins, Academic Press, Inc.; Bollag et al. (1996) Protein Methods, 2nd

Edition Wiley-Liss, NY; Walker, (1996) The Protein Protocols Handbook Humana Press, NJ, Harris and Angal, (1990) Protein Purification Applications: A Practical Approach IRL Press at Oxford, Oxford, England; Harris and Angal, Protein Purification Methods: A Practical Approach IRL Press at Oxford, Oxford, England; Scopes, (1993) Protein Purification: Principles and Practice 3rd Edition Springer Verlag, NY; Janson and Ryden, (1998) Protein Purification: Principles, High Resolution Methods and Applications, Second Edition Wiley-VCH, NY; and Walker (1998), Protein Protocols on CD-ROM Humana Press, NJ; and the references cited therein.

[313] One advantage of producing a protein or polypeptide of interest with an unnatural amino acid in a eukaryotic host cell or non-eukaryotic host cell is that typically the proteins or polypeptides will be folded in their native conformations. However, in certain embodiments of the invention, those of skill in the art will recognize that, after synthesis, expression and/or purification, proteins can possess a conformation different from the desired conformations of the relevant polypeptides. In one aspect of the invention, the expressed protein is optionally denatured and then renatured. This is accomplished utilizing methods known in the art, including but not limited to, by adding a chaperonin to the protein or polypeptide of interest, by solubilizing the proteins in a chaotropic agent such as guanidine HCl, utilizing protein disulfide isomerase, etc.

[314] In general, it is occasionally desirable to denature and reduce expressed polypeptides and then to cause the polypeptides to re-fold into the preferred conformation. For example, guanidine, urea, DTT, DTE, and/or a chaperonin can be added to a translation product of interest. Methods of reducing, denaturing and renaturing proteins are well known to those of skill in the art (see, the references above, and Debinski, et al. (1993) J. Biol. Chem., 268: 14065-14070; Kreitman and Pastan (1993) Bioconjug. Chem., 4: 581-585; and Buchner, et al., (1992) Anal. Biochem., 205: 263-270). Debinski, et al., for example, describe the denaturation and reduction of inclusion body proteins in guanidine-DTE. The proteins can be refolded in a redox buffer containing, including but not limited to, oxidized glutathione and L-arginine. Refolding reagents can be flowed or otherwise moved into contact with the one or more polypeptide or other expression product, or vice-versa.

[315] In the case of prokaryotic production of adiponectin polypeptide, the adiponectin polypeptide thus produced may be misfolded and thus lacks or has reduced biological activity. The bioactivity of the protein may be restored by "refolding". In general, misfolded adiponectin polypeptide is refolded by solubilizing (where the adiponectin polypeptide is also insoluble),

unfolding and reducing the polypeptide chain using, for example, one or more chaotropic agents (e.g. urea and/or guanidine) and a reducing agent capable of reducing disulfide bonds (e.g. dithiothreitol, DTT or 2-mercaptoethanol, 2-ME). At a moderate concentration of chaotrope, an oxidizing agent is then added (e.g., oxygen, cystine or cystamine), which allows the reformation of disulfide bonds. Adiponectin polypeptide may be refolded using standard methods known in the art, such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,511,502, 4,511,503, and 4,512,922, which are incorporated by reference herein. The adiponectin polypeptide may also be cofolded with other proteins to form heterodimers or heteromultimers. After refolding or cofolding, the adiponectin polypeptide is preferably further purified.

[316] General Purification Methods Any one of a variety of isolation steps may be performed on the cell lysate comprising adiponectin polypeptide or on any adiponectin polypeptide mixtures resulting from any isolation steps including, but not limited to, affinity chromatography, ion exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, gel filtration chromatography, high performance liquid chromatography ("HPLC"), reversed phase-HPLC ("RP-HPLC"), expanded bed adsorption, or any combination and/or repetition thereof and in any appropriate order.

[317] Equipment and other necessary materials used in performing the techniques described herein are commercially available. Pumps, fraction collectors, monitors, recorders, and entire systems are available from, for example, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA), Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. (Hercules, CA), and Amersham Biosciences, Inc. (Piscataway, NJ). Chromatographic materials including, but not limited to, exchange matrix materials, media, and buffers are also available from such companies.

[318] Equilibration, and other steps in the column chromatography processes described herein such as washing and elution, may be more rapidly accomplished using specialized equipment such as a pump. Commercially available pumps include, but are not limited to, HILOAD® Pump P-50, Peristaltic Pump P-1, Pump P-901, and Pump P-903 (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ).

[319] Examples of fraction collectors include RediFrac Fraction Collector, FRAC-100 and FRAC-200 Fraction Collectors, and SUPERFRAC® Fraction Collector (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Mixers are also available to form pH and linear concentration gradients. Commercially available mixers include Gradient Mixer GM-1 and In-Line Mixers (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ).

[320] The chromatographic process may be monitored using any commercially available monitor. Such monitors may be used to gather information like UV, pH, and conductivity. Examples of detectors include Monitor UV-1, UVICORD® S II, Monitor UV-M II, Monitor UV-900, Monitor UPC-900, Monitor pH/C-900, and Conductivity Monitor (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Indeed, entire systems are commercially available including the various AKTA® systems from Amersham Biosciences (Piscataway, NJ).

[321] In one embodiment of the present invention, for example, the adiponectin polypeptide may be reduced and denatured by first denaturing the resultant purified adiponectin polypeptide in urea, followed by dilution into TRIS buffer containing a reducing agent (such as DTT) at a suitable pH. In another embodiment, the adiponectin polypeptide is denatured in urea in a concentration range of between about 2 M to about 9 M, followed by dilution in TRIS buffer at a pH in the range of about 5.0 to about 8.0. The refolding mixture of this embodiment may then be incubated. In one embodiment, the refolding mixture is incubated at room temperature for four to twenty-four hours. The reduced and denatured adiponectin polypeptide mixture may then be further isolated or purified.

[322] As stated herein, the pH of the first adiponectin polypeptide mixture may be adjusted prior to performing any subsequent isolation steps. In addition, the first adiponectin polypeptide mixture or any subsequent mixture thereof may be concentrated using techniques known in the art. Moreover, the elution buffer comprising the first adiponectin polypeptide mixture or any subsequent mixture thereof may be exchanged for a buffer suitable for the next isolation step using techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[323] Ion Exchange Chromatography In one embodiment, and as an optional, additional step, ion exchange chromatography may be performed on the first adiponectin polypeptide mixture. *See generally* ION EXCHANGE CHROMATOGRAPHY: PRINCIPLES AND METHODS (Cat. No. 18-1114-21, Amersham Biosciences (Piscataway, NJ)). Commercially available ion exchange columns include HITRAP®, HIPREP®, and HILOAD® Columns (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Such columns utilize strong anion exchangers such as Q SEPHAROSE® Fast Flow, Q SEPHAROSE® High Performance, and Q SEPHAROSE® XL; strong cation exchangers such as SP SEPHAROSE® High Performance, SP SEPHAROSE® Fast Flow, and SP SEPHAROSE® XL; weak anion exchangers such as DEAE SEPHAROSE® Fast Flow; and weak cation exchangers such as CM SEPHAROSE® Fast Flow (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Cation exchange column chromatography may be performed on the adiponectin polypeptide at any stage of the purification process to isolate substantially

purified adiponectin polypeptide. The cation exchange chromatography step may be performed using any suitable cation exchange matrix. Useful cation exchange matrices include, but are not limited to, fibrous, porous, non-porous, microgranular, beaded, or cross-linked cation exchange matrix materials. Such cation exchange matrix materials include, but are not limited to, cellulose, agarose, dextran, polyacrylate, polyvinyl, polystyrene, silica, polyether, or composites of any of the foregoing. Following adsorption of the adiponectin polypeptide to the cation exchanger matrix, substantially purified adiponectin polypeptide may be eluted by contacting the matrix with a buffer having a sufficiently high pH or ionic strength to displace the adiponectin polypeptide from the matrix. Suitable buffers for use in high pH elution of substantially purified adiponectin polypeptide include, but are not limited to, citrate, phosphate, formate, acetate, HEPES, and MES buffers ranging in concentration from at least about 5 mM to at least about 100 mM.

[324] Reverse-Phase Chromatography RP-HPLC may be performed to purify proteins following suitable protocols that are known to those of ordinary skill in the art. *See, e.g.,* Pearson et al., ANAL BIOCHEM. (1982) 124:217-230 (1982); Rivier et al., J. CHROM. (1983) 268:112-119; Kunitani et al., J. CHROM. (1986) 359:391-402. RP-HPLC may be performed on the 4HB polypeptide to isolate substantially purified 4HB polypeptide. In this regard, silica derivatized resins with alkyl functionalities with a wide variety of lengths, including, but not limited to, at least about C_3 to at least about C_{30}, at least about C_3 to at least about C_{20}, or at least about C_3 to at least about C_{18}, resins may be used. Alternatively, a polymeric resin may be used. For example, TosoHaas Amberchrome CG1000sd resin may be used, which is a styrene polymer resin. Cyano or polymeric resins with a wide variety of alkyl chain lengths may also be used. Furthermore, the RP-HPLC column may be washed with a solvent such as ethanol. A suitable elution buffer containing an ion pairing agent and an organic modifier such as methanol, isopropanol, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile or ethanol, may be used to elute the adiponectin polypeptide from the RP-HPLC column. The most commonly used ion pairing agents include, but are not limited to, acetic acid, formic acid, perchloric acid, phosphoric acid, trifluoroacetic acid, heptafluorobutyric acid, triethylamine, tetramethylammonium, tetrabutylammonium, triethylammonium acetate. Elution may be performed using one or more gradients or isocratic conditions, with gradient conditions preferred to reduce the separation time and to decrease peak width. Another method involves the use of two gradients with different solvent concentration ranges. Examples of suitable elution buffers for use herein may include, but are not limited to, ammonium acetate and acetonitrile solutions.

[325] Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography Purification Techniques Hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) may be performed on the adiponectin polypeptide. *See generally* HYDROPHOBIC INTERACTION CHROMATOGRAPHY HANDBOOK: PRINCIPLES AND METHODS (Cat. No. 18-1020-90, Amersham Biosciences (Piscataway, NJ) which is incorporated by reference herein. Suitable HIC matrices may include, but are not limited to, alkyl- or aryl-substituted matrices, such as butyl-, hexyl-, octyl- or phenyl-substituted matrices including agarose, cross-linked agarose, sepharose, cellulose, silica, dextran, polystyrene, poly(methacrylate) matrices, and mixed mode resins, including but not limited to, a polyethyleneamine resin or a butyl- or phenyl-substituted poly(methacrylate) matrix. Commercially available sources for hydrophobic interaction column chromatography include, but are not limited to, HITRAP®, HIPREP®, and HILOAD® columns (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Briefly, prior to loading, the HIC column may be equilibrated using standard buffers known to those of ordinary skill in the art, such as an acetic acid/sodium chloride solution or HEPES containing ammonium sulfate. After loading the adiponectin polypeptide, the column may then washed using standard buffers and conditions to remove unwanted materials but retaining the adiponectin polypeptide on the HIC column. The adiponectin polypeptide may be eluted with about 3 to about 10 column volumes of a standard buffer, such as a HEPES buffer containing EDTA and lower ammonium sulfate concentration than the equilibrating buffer, or an acetic acid/sodium chloride buffer, among others. A decreasing linear salt gradient using, for example, a gradient of potassium phosphate, may also be used to elute the adiponectin molecules. The eluant may then be concentrated, for example, by filtration such as diafiltration or ultrafiltration. Diafiltration may be utilized to remove the salt used to elute the adiponectin polypeptide.

[326] Other Purification Techniques Yet another isolation step using, for example, gel filtration (GEL FILTRATION: PRINCIPLES AND METHODS (Cat. No. 18-1022-18, Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ) which is incorporated by reference herein, HPLC, expanded bed adsorption, ultrafiltration, diafiltration, lyophilization, and the like, may be performed on the first adiponectin polypeptide mixture or any subsequent mixture thereof, to remove any excess salts and to replace the buffer with a suitable buffer for the next isolation step or even formulation of the final drug product. The yield of adiponectin polypeptide, including substantially purified adiponectin polypeptide, may be monitored at each step described herein using techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Such techniques may also used to assess the yield of substantially purified adiponectin polypeptide following the last isolation

step. For example, the yield of adiponectin polypeptide may be monitored using any of several reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography columns, having a variety of alkyl chain lengths such as cyano RP-HPLC, C_{18}RP-HPLC; as well as cation exchange HPLC and gel filtration HPLC.

[327] Purity may be determined using standard techniques, such as SDS-PAGE, or by measuring adiponectin polypeptide using Western blot and ELISA assays. For example, polyclonal antibodies may be generated against proteins isolated from negative control yeast fermentation and the cation exchange recovery. The antibodies may also be used to probe for the presence of contaminating host cell proteins.

[328] Additional purification procedures include those described in U.S. Patent No. 4,612,367 and includes, but is not limited to, (1) applying a mixture comprising an adiponectin polypeptide to a reverse phase macroporous acrylate ester copolymer resin support at a pH of from about 7 to about 9; and (2) eluting the adiponectin polypeptide from said support with an aqueous eluant having a pH of from about 7 to about 9 and containing from about 20% to about 80% by volume of an organic diluent selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile, and a combination of acetone and acetonitrile.

[329] A typical process for protein purification is disclosed in WO 96/35718 (Burg, published Nov. 14, 1996), and is described below because similar techniques can be used in the purification of adiponectin. Blue Sepharose (Pharmacia) consists of Sepharose beads to the surface of which the Cibacron blue dye is covalently bound. Since EPO binds more strongly to Blue Sepharose than most non-proteinaceous contaminants, some proteinaceous impurities and PVA, EPO can be enriched in this step. The elution of the Blue Sepharose column is performed by increasing the salt concentration as well as the pH. The column is filled with 80-100 l of Blue Sepharose, regenerated with NaOH and equilibrated with equilibration buffer (sodium/calcium chloride and sodium acetate). The acidified and filtered fermenter supernatant is loaded. After completion of the loading, the column is washed first with a buffer similar to the equilibration buffer containing a higher sodium chloride concentration and consecutively with a TRIS-base buffer. The product is eluted with a TRIS-base buffer and collected in a single fraction in accordance with the master elution profile.

[330] Butyl Toyopearl 650 C (Toso Haas) is a polystyrene based matrix to which aliphatic butyl-residues are covalently coupled. Since EPO binds more strongly to this gel than most of the impurities and PVA, it has to be eluted with a buffer containing isopropanol. The column is packed with 30-40 l of Butyl Toyopearl 650 C, regenerated with NaOH, washed with

a TRIS-base buffer and equilibrated with a TRIS-base buffer containing isopropanol. The Blue Sepharose eluate is adjusted to the concentration of isopropanol in the column equilibration buffer and loaded onto the column. Then the column is washed with equilibration buffer with increased isopropanol concentration. The product is eluted with elution buffer (TRIS-base buffer with high isopropanol content) and collected in a single fraction in accordance with the master elution profile.

[331] Hydroxyapatite Ultrogel (Biosepra) consists of hydroxyapatite which is incorporated in an agarose matrix to improve the mechanical properties. EPO has a low affinity to hydroxyapatite and can therefore be eluted at lower phosphate concentrations than protein impurities. The column is filled with 30-40 l of Hydroxyapatite Ultrogel and regenerated with a potassium phosphate/calcium chloride buffer and NaOH followed by a TRIS-base buffer. Then it is equilibrated with a TRIS-base buffer containing a low amount of isopropanol and sodium chloride. The EPO containing eluate of the Butyl Toyopearl chromatography is loaded onto the column. Subsequently the column is washed with equilibration buffer and a TRIS-base buffer without isopropanol and sodium chloride. The product is eluted with a TRIS-base buffer containing a low concentration of potassium phosphate and collected in a single fraction in accordance with the master elution profile.

[332] RP-HPLC material Vydac C4 (Vydac) consists of silica gel particles, the surfaces of which carry C4-alkyl chains. The separation of adiponectin polypeptide from the proteinaceous impurities is based on differences in the strength of hydrophobic interactions. Elution is performed with an acetonitrile gradient in diluted trifluoroacetic acid. Preparative HPLC is performed using a stainless steel column (filled with 2.8 to 3.2 liter of Vydac C4 silicagel). The Hydroxyapatite Ultrogel eluate is acidified by adding trifluoroacetic acid and loaded onto the Vydac C4 column. For washing and elution an acetonitrile gradient in diluted trifluoroacetic acid is used. Fractions are collected and immediately neutralized with phosphate buffer. The adiponectin polypeptide fractions which are within the IPC limits are pooled.

[333] DEAE Sepharose (Pharmacia) material consists of diethylaminoethyl (DEAE)-groups which are covalently bound to the surface of Sepharose beads. The binding of adiponectin polypeptide to the DEAE groups is mediated by ionic interactions. Acetonitrile and trifluoroacetic acid pass through the column without being retained. After these substances have been washed off, trace impurities are removed by washing the column with acetate buffer at a low pH. Then the column is washed with neutral phosphate buffer and adiponectin polypeptide is eluted with a buffer with increased ionic strength. The column is packed with DEAE

Sepharose fast flow. The column volume is adjusted to assure an adiponectin polypeptide load in the range of 3-10 mg adiponectin polypeptide/ml gel. The column is washed with water and equilibration buffer (sodium/potassium phosphate). The pooled fractions of the HPLC eluate are loaded and the column is washed with equilibration buffer. Then the column is washed with washing buffer (sodium acetate buffer) followed by washing with equilibration buffer. Subsequently, adiponectin polypeptide is eluted from the column with elution buffer (sodium chloride, sodium/potassium phosphate) and collected in a single fraction in accordance with the master elution profile. The eluate of the DEAE Sepharose column is adjusted to the specified conductivity. The resulting drug substance is sterile filtered into Teflon bottles and stored at -70°C.

[334] A wide variety of methods and procedures can be used to assess the yield and purity of a adiponectin protein one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids, including but not limited to, the Bradford assay, SDS-PAGE, silver stained SDS-PAGE, coomassie stained SDS-PAGE, mass spectrometry (including but not limited to, MALDI-TOF) and other methods for characterizing proteins known to one skilled in the art.

VII. Expression in Alternate Systems

[335] Several strategies have been employed to introduce unnatural amino acids into proteins in non-recombinant host cells, mutagenized host cells, or in cell-free systems. These systems are also suitable for use in making the adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention. Derivatization of amino acids with reactive side-chains such as Lys, Cys and Tyr resulted in the conversion of lysine to N^2-acetyl-lysine. Chemical synthesis also provides a straightforward method to incorporate unnatural amino acids. With the recent development of enzymatic ligation and native chemical ligation of peptide fragments, it is possible to make larger proteins. *See, e.g.,* P. E. Dawson and S. B. H. Kent, Annu. Rev. Biochem., 69:923 (2000). A general in vitro biosynthetic method in which a suppressor tRNA chemically acylated with the desired unnatural amino acid is added to an in vitro extract capable of supporting protein biosynthesis, has been used to site-specifically incorporate over 100 unnatural amino acids into a variety of proteins of virtually any size. *See, e.g.*, V. W. Cornish, D. Mendel and P. G. Schultz, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 1995, 34:621 (1995); C.J. Noren, S.J. Anthony-Cahill, M.C. Griffith, P.G. Schultz, *A general method for site-specific incorporation of unnatural amino acids into proteins*, Science 244:182-188 (1989); and, J.D. Bain, C.G. Glabe, T.A. Dix, A.R. Chamberlin, E.S. Diala, *Biosynthetic site-specific incorporation of a non-natural amino acid into a polypeptide*, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 111:8013-8014 (1989). A broad range of functional

groups has been introduced into proteins for studies of protein stability, protein folding, enzyme mechanism, and signal transduction.

[336] An in vivo method, termed selective pressure incorporation, was developed to exploit the promiscuity of wild-type synthetases. *See, e.g.,* N. Budisa, C. Minks, S. Alefelder, W. Wenger, F. M. Dong, L. Moroder and R. Huber, FASEB J., 13:41 (1999). An auxotrophic strain, in which the relevant metabolic pathway supplying the cell with a particular natural amino acid is switched off, is grown in minimal media containing limited concentrations of the natural amino acid, while transcription of the target gene is repressed. At the onset of a stationary growth phase, the natural amino acid is depleted and replaced with the unnatural amino acid analog. Induction of expression of the recombinant protein results in the accumulation of a protein containing the unnatural analog. For example, using this strategy, o, m and p-fluorophenylalanines have been incorporated into proteins, and exhibit two characteristic shoulders in the UV spectrum which can be easily identified, *see, e.g.*, C. Minks, R. Huber, L. Moroder and N. Budisa, Anal. Biochem., 284:29 (2000); trifluoromethionine has been used to replace methionine in bacteriophage T4 lysozyme to study its interaction with chitooligosaccharide ligands by ^{19}F NMR, *see, e.g.,* H. Duewel, E. Daub, V. Robinson and J. F. Honek, Biochemistry, 36:3404 (1997); and trifluoroleucine has been incorporated in place of leucine, resulting in increased thermal and chemical stability of a leucine-zipper protein. *See, e.g.,* Y. Tang, G. Ghirlanda, W. A. Petka, T. Nakajima, W. F. DeGrado and D. A. Tirrell, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 40:1494 (2001). Moreover, selenomethionine and telluromethionine are incorporated into various recombinant proteins to facilitate the solution of phases in X-ray crystallography. *See, e.g.,* W. A. Hendrickson, J. R. Horton and D. M. Lemaster, EMBO J., 9:1665 (1990); J. O. Boles, K. Lewinski, M. Kunkle, J. D. Odom, B. Dunlap, L. Lebioda and M. Hatada, Nat. Struct. Biol., 1:283 (1994); N. Budisa, B. Steipe, P. Demange, C. Eckerskorn, J. Kellermann and R. Huber, Eur. J. Biochem., 230:788 (1995); and, N. Budisa, W. Karnbrock, S. Steinbacher, A. Humm, L. Prade, T. Neuefeind, L. Moroder and R. Huber, J. Mol. Biol., 270:616 (1997). Methionine analogs with alkene or alkyne functionalities have also been incorporated efficiently, allowing for additional modification of proteins by chemical means. *See, e.g.,* J. C. M. vanHest and D. A. Tirrell, FEBS Lett., 428:68 (1998); J. C. M. van Hest, K. L. Kiick and D. A. Tirrell, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 122:1282 (2000); and, K. L. Kiick and D. A. Tirrell, Tetrahedron, 56:9487 (2000); U.S. Patent No. 6,586,207; U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0042097, which are incorporated by reference herein.

[337] The success of this method depends on the recognition of the unnatural amino acid analogs by aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases, which, in general, require high selectivity to insure the fidelity of protein translation. One way to expand the scope of this method is to relax the substrate specificity of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases, which has been achieved in a limited number of cases. For example, replacement of Ala^{294} by Gly in *Escherichia coli* phenylalanyl-tRNA synthetase (PheRS) increases the size of substrate binding pocket, and results in the acylation of tRNAPhe by p-Cl-phenylalanine (p-Cl-Phe). *See*, M. Ibba, P. Kast and H. Hennecke, Biochemistry, 33:7107 (1994). An *Escherichia coli* strain harboring this mutant PheRS allows the incorporation of p-Cl-phenylalanine or p-Br-phenylalanine in place of phenylalanine. *See, e.g.,* M. Ibba and H. Hennecke, FEBS Lett., 364:272 (1995); and, N. Sharma, R. Furter, P. Kast and D. A. Tirrell, FEBS Lett., 467:37 (2000). Similarly, a point mutation Phe130Ser near the amino acid binding site of *Escherichia coli* tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase was shown to allow azatyrosine to be incorporated more efficiently than tyrosine. *See,* F. Hamano-Takaku, T. Iwama, S. Saito-Yano, K. Takaku, Y. Monden, M. Kitabatake, D. Soll and S. Nishimura, J. Biol. Chem., 275:40324 (2000).

[338] Another strategy to incorporate unnatural amino acids into proteins in vivo is to modify synthetases that have proofreading mechanisms. These synthetases cannot discriminate and therefore activate amino acids that are structurally similar to the cognate natural amino acids. This error is corrected at a separate site, which deacylates the mischarged amino acid from the tRNA to maintain the fidelity of protein translation. If the proofreading activity of the synthetase is disabled, structural analogs that are misactivated may escape the editing function and be incorporated. This approach has been demonstrated recently with the valyl-tRNA synthetase (ValRS). *See*, V. Doring, H. D. Mootz, L. A. Nangle, T. L. Hendrickson, V. de Crecy-Lagard, P. Schimmel and P. Marliere, Science, 292:501 (2001). ValRS can misaminoacylate tRNAVal with Cys, Thr, or aminobutyrate (Abu); these noncognate amino acids are subsequently hydrolyzed by the editing domain. After random mutagenesis of the *Escherichia coli* chromosome, a mutant *Escherichia coli* strain was selected that has a mutation in the editing site of ValRS. This edit-defective ValRS incorrectly charges tRNAVal with Cys. Because Abu sterically resembles Cys (–SH group of Cys is replaced with –CH3 in Abu), the mutant ValRS also incorporates Abu into proteins when this mutant *Escherichia coli* strain is grown in the presence of Abu. Mass spectrometric analysis shows that about 24% of valines are replaced by Abu at each valine position in the native protein.

[339] Solid-phase synthesis and semisynthetic methods have also allowed for the synthesis of a number of proteins containing novel amino acids. For example, see the following publications and references cited within, which are as follows: Crick, F.J.C., Barrett, L. Brenner, S. Watts-Tobin, R. *General nature of the genetic code for proteins.* Nature, 192:1227-1232 (1961); Hofmann, K., Bohn, H. *Studies on polypeptides. XXXVI. The effect of pyrazole-imidazole replacements on the S-protein activating potency of an S-peptide fragment,* J. Am Chem, 88(24):5914-5919 (1966); Kaiser, E.T. *Synthetic approaches to biologically active peptides and proteins including enyzmes,* Acc Chem Res, 47-54 (1989); Nakatsuka, T., Sasaki, T., Kaiser, E.T. *Peptide segment coupling catalyzed by the semisynthetic enzyme thiosubtilisin,* J Am Chem Soc, 3808-3810 (1987); Schnolzer, M., Kent, S B H. *Constructing proteins by dovetailing unprotected synthetic peptides: backbone-engineered HIV protease,* Science, 256(5054):221-225 (1992); Chaiken, I.M. *Semisynthetic peptides and proteins,* CRC Crit Rev Biochem, 11(3):255-301 (1981); Offord, R.E. *Protein engineering by chemical means?* Protein Eng., 1(3):151-157 (1987); and, Jackson, D.Y., Burnier, J., Quan, C., Stanley, M., Tom, J., Wells, J.A. *A Designed Peptide Ligase for Total Synthesis of Ribonuclease A with Unnatural Catalytic Residues,* Science, 266(5183):243 (1994).

[340] Chemical modification has been used to introduce a variety of unnatural side chains, including cofactors, spin labels and oligonucleotides into proteins in vitro. *See, e.g.,* Corey, D.R., Schultz, P.G. *Generation of a hybrid sequence-specific single-stranded deoxyribonuclease,* Science, 238(4832):1401-1403 (1987); Kaiser, E.T., Lawrence D.S., Rokita, S.E. *The chemical modification of enzymatic specificity,* Annu Rev Biochem, 54:565-595 (1985); Kaiser, E.T., Lawrence, D.S. *Chemical mutation of enyzme active sites,* Science, 226(4674):505-511 (1984); Neet, K.E., Nanci A, Koshland, D.E. *Properties of thiol-subtilisin,* J Biol. Chem, 243(24):6392-6401 (1968); Polgar, L.B., M.L. *A new enzyme containing a synthetically formed active site. Thiol-subtilisin.* J. Am Chem Soc, 3153-3154 (1966); and, Pollack, S.J., Nakayama, G. Schultz, P.G. *Introduction of nucleophiles and spectroscopic probes into antibody combining sites,* Science, 242(4881):1038-1040 (1988).

[341] Alternatively, biosynthetic methods that employ chemically modified aminoacyl-tRNAs have been used to incorporate several biophysical probes into proteins synthesized in vitro. See the following publications and references cited within: Brunner, J. *New Photolabeling and crosslinking methods,* Annu. Rev Biochem, 62:483-514 (1993); and, Krieg, U.C., Walter, P., Hohnson, A.E. *Photocrosslinking of the signal sequence of nascent preprolactin of the 54-*

kilodalton polypeptide of the signal recognition particle, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci, 83(22):8604-8608 (1986).

[342] Previously, it has been shown that unnatural amino acids can be site-specifically incorporated into proteins in vitro by the addition of chemically aminoacylated suppressor tRNAs to protein synthesis reactions programmed with a gene containing a desired amber nonsense mutation. Using these approaches, one can substitute a number of the common twenty amino acids with close structural homologues, e.g., fluorophenylalanine for phenylalanine, using strains auxotropic for a particular amino acid. *See, e.g.,* Noren, C.J., Anthony-Cahill, Griffith, M.C., Schultz, P.G. *A general method for site-specific incorporation of unnatural amino acids into proteins,* Science, 244: 182-188 (1989); M.W. Nowak, et al., Science 268:439-42 (1995); Bain, J.D., Glabe, C.G., Dix, T.A., Chamberlin, A.R., Diala, E.S. *Biosynthetic site-specific Incorporation of a non-natural amino acid into a polypeptide,* J. Am Chem Soc, 111:8013-8014 (1989); N. Budisa et al., FASEB J. 13:41-51 (1999); Ellman, J.A., Mendel, D., Anthony-Cahill, S., Noren, C.J., Schultz, P.G. *Biosynthetic method for introducing unnatural amino acids site-specifically into proteins,* Methods in Enz., 301-336 (1992); and, Mendel, D., Cornish, V.W. & Schultz, P.G. *Site-Directed Mutagenesis with an Expanded Genetic Code,* Annu Rev Biophys. Biomol Struct. 24, 435-62 (1995).

[343] For example, a suppressor tRNA was prepared that recognized the stop codon UAG and was chemically aminoacylated with an unnatural amino acid. Conventional site-directed mutagenesis was used to introduce the stop codon TAG, at the site of interest in the protein gene. *See, e.g.,* Sayers, J.R., Schmidt, W. Eckstein, F. 5', 3' *Exonuclease in phosphorothioate-based oligonucleotide-directed mutagensis,* Nucleic Acids Res, 16(3):791-802 (1988). When the acylated suppressor tRNA and the mutant gene were combined in an in vitro transcription/translation system, the unnatural amino acid was incorporated in response to the UAG codon which gave a protein containing that amino acid at the specified position. Experiments using [^{3}H]-Phe and experiments with α-hydroxy acids demonstrated that only the desired amino acid is incorporated at the position specified by the UAG codon and that this amino acid is not incorporated at any other site in the protein. *See, e.g.,* Noren, et al, *supra*; Kobayashi et al., (2003) Nature Structural Biology 10(6):425-432; and, Ellman, J.A., Mendel, D., Schultz, P.G. *Site-specific incorporation of novel backbone structures into proteins,* Science, 255(5041):197-200 (1992).

[344] Microinjection techniques have also been used to incorporate unnatural amino acids into proteins. *See, e.g.,* M. W. Nowak, P. C. Kearney, J. R. Sampson, M. E. Saks, C. G.

Labarca, S. K. Silverman, W. G. Zhong, J. Thorson, J. N. Abelson, N. Davidson, P. G. Schultz, D. A. Dougherty and H. A. Lester, Science, 268:439 (1995); and, D. A. Dougherty, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 4:645 (2000). A Xenopus oocyte was coinjected with two RNA species made in vitro: an mRNA encoding the target protein with a UAG stop codon at the amino acid position of interest and an amber suppressor tRNA aminoacylated with the desired unnatural amino acid. The translational machinery of the oocyte then inserts the unnatural amino acid at the position specified by UAG. This method has allowed in vivo structure-function studies of integral membrane proteins, which are generally not amenable to in vitro expression systems. Examples include the incorporation of a fluorescent amino acid into tachykinin neurokinin-2 receptor to measure distances by fluorescence resonance energy transfer, see, e.g., G. Turcatti, K. Nemeth, M. D. Edgerton, U. Meseth, F. Talabot, M. Peitsch, J. Knowles, H. Vogel and A. Chollet, J. Biol. Chem., 271:19991 (1996); the incorporation of biotinylated amino acids to identify surface-exposed residues in ion channels, see, e.g., J. P. Gallivan, H. A. Lester and D. A. Dougherty, Chem. Biol., 4:739 (1997); the use of caged tyrosine analogs to monitor conformational changes in an ion channel in real time, see, e.g., J. C. Miller, S. K. Silverman, P. M. England, D. A. Dougherty and H. A. Lester, Neuron, 20:619 (1998); and, the use of alpha hydroxy amino acids to change ion channel backbones for probing their gating mechanisms. *See, e.g.*, P. M. England, Y. Zhang, D. A. Dougherty and H. A. Lester, Cell, 96:89 (1999); and, T. Lu, A. Y. Ting, J. Mainland, L. Y. Jan, P. G. Schultz and J. Yang, Nat. Neurosci., 4:239 (2001).

[345] The ability to incorporate unnatural amino acids directly into proteins in vivo offers the advantages of high yields of mutant proteins, technical ease, the potential to study the mutant proteins in cells or possibly in living organisms and the use of these mutant proteins in therapeutic treatments. The ability to include unnatural amino acids with various sizes, acidities, nucleophilicities, hydrophobicities, and other properties into proteins can greatly expand our ability to rationally and systematically manipulate the structures of proteins, both to probe protein function and create new proteins or organisms with novel properties. However, the process is difficult, because the complex nature of tRNA-synthetase interactions that are required to achieve a high degree of fidelity in protein translation.

[346] In one attempt to site-specifically incorporate para-F-Phe, a yeast amber suppressor tRNAPheCUA /phenylalanyl-tRNA synthetase pair was used in a p-F-Phe resistant, Phe auxotrophic *Escherichia coli* strain. *See, e.g.*, R. Furter, Protein Sci., 7:419 (1998).

[347] It may also be possible to obtain expression of an adiponectin polynucleotide of the present invention using a cell-free (in-vitro) translational system. In these systems, which

can include either mRNA as a template (in-vitro translation) or DNA as a template (combined in-vitro transcription and translation), the in vitro synthesis is directed by the ribosomes. Considerable effort has been applied to the development of cell-free protein expression systems. See, e.g., Kim, D.-M. and J.R. Swartz, *Biotechnology and Bioengineering*, 74 :309-316 (2001); Kim, D.-M. and J.R. Swartz, *Biotechnology Letters*, 22, 1537-1542, (2000); Kim, D.-M., and J.R. Swartz, *Biotechnology Progress*, 16, 385-390, (2000); Kim, D.-M., and J.R. Swartz, *Biotechnology and Bioengineering*, 66, 180-188, (1999); and Patnaik, R. and J.R. Swartz, *Biotechniques* 24, 862-868, (1998); U.S. Patent No. 6,337,191; U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0081660; WO 00/55353; WO 90/05785, which are incorporated by reference herein. Another approach that may be applied to the expression of adiponectin polypeptides comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid includes the mRNA-peptide fusion technique. *See, e.g.,* R. Roberts and J. Szostak, *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. (USA)* 94:12297-12302 (1997); A. Frankel, *et al.*, *Chemistry & Biology* 10:1043-1050 (2003). In this approach, an mRNA template linked to puromycin is translated into peptide on the ribosome. If one or more tRNA molecules has been modified, non-natural amino acids can be incorporated into the peptide as well. After the last mRNA codon has been read, puromycin captures the C-terminus of the peptide. If the resulting mRNA-peptide conjugate is found to have interesting properties in an in vitro assay, its identity can be easily revealed from the mRNA sequence. In this way, one may screen libraries of adiponectin polypeptides comprising one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids to identify polypeptides having desired properties. More recently, in vitro ribosome translations with purified components have been reported that permit the synthesis of peptides substituted with non-naturally encoded amino acids. *See, e.g.,* A. Forster *et al.*, *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. (USA)* 100:6353 (2003).

VIII. Macromolecular Polymers Coupled to Adiponectin Polypeptides

[348] Various modifications to the non-natural amino acid polypeptides described herein can be effected using the compositions, methods, techniques and strategies described herein. These modifications include the incorporation of further functionality onto the non-natural amino acid component of the polypeptide, including but not limited to, a label; a dye; a polymer; a water-soluble polymer; a derivative of polyethylene glycol; a photocrosslinker; a cytotoxic compound; a drug; an affinity label; a photoaffinity label; a reactive compound; a resin; a second protein or polypeptide or polypeptide analog; an antibody or antibody fragment; a metal chelator; a cofactor; a fatty acid; a carbohydrate; a polynucleotide; a DNA; a RNA; an antisense polynucleotide; an inhibitory ribonucleic acid; a biomaterial; a nanoparticle; a spin

label; a fluorophore, a metal-containing moiety; a radioactive moiety; a novel functional group; a group that covalently or noncovalently interacts with other molecules; a photocaged moiety; a photoisomerizable moiety; biotin; a derivative of biotin; a biotin analogue; a moiety incorporating a heavy atom; a chemically cleavable group; a photocleavable group; an elongated side chain; a carbon-linked sugar; a redox-active agent; an amino thioacid; a toxic moiety; an isotopically labeled moiety; a biophysical probe; a phosphorescent group; a chemiluminescent group; an electron dense group; a magnetic group; an intercalating group; a chromophore; an energy transfer agent; a biologically active agent; a detectable label; a small molecule; or any combination of the above, or any other desirable compound or substance. As an illustrative, non-limiting example of the compositions, methods, techniques and strategies described herein, the following description will focus on adding macromolecular polymers to the non-natural amino acid polypeptide with the understanding that the compositions, methods, techniques and strategies described thereto are also applicable (with appropriate modifications, if necessary and for which one of skill in the art could make with the disclosures herein) to adding other functionalities, including but not limited to those listed above.

[349] A wide variety of macromolecular polymers and other molecules can be linked to adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention to modulate biological properties of the adiponectin polypeptide, and/or provide new biological properties to the adiponectin molecule. These macromolecular polymers can be linked to the adiponectin polypeptide via a naturally encoded amino acid, via a non-naturally encoded amino acid, or any functional substituent of a natural or non-natural amino acid, or any substituent or functional group added to a natural or non-natural amino acid.

[350] The present invention provides substantially homogenous preparations of polymer:protein conjugates. "Substantially homogenous" as used herein means that polymer:protein conjugate molecules are observed to be greater than half of the total protein. The polymer:protein conjugate has biological activity and the present "substantially homogenous" PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide preparations provided herein are those which are homogenous enough to display the advantages of a homogenous preparation, e.g., ease in clinical application in predictability of lot to lot pharmacokinetics.

[351] One may also choose to prepare a mixture of polymer:protein conjugate molecules, and the advantage provided herein is that one may select the proportion of mono-polymer:protein conjugate to include in the mixture. Thus, if desired, one may prepare a mixture of various proteins with various numbers of polymer moieties attached (i.e., di-, tri-, tetra-,

penta-, hexa-, hepta-, octa-, nona-, deca-, etc.) and combine said conjugates with the mono-polymer:protein conjugate prepared using the methods of the present invention, and have a mixture with a predetermined proportion of mono-polymer:protein conjugates.

[352] The polymer selected may be water soluble so that the protein to which it is attached does not precipitate in an aqueous environment, such as a physiological environment. The polymer may be branched or unbranched. Preferably, for therapeutic use of the end-product preparation, the polymer will be pharmaceutically acceptable.

[353] The proportion of polyethylene glycol molecules to protein molecules will vary, as will their concentrations in the reaction mixture. In general, the optimum ratio (in terms of efficiency of reaction in that there is minimal excess unreacted protein or polymer) may be determined by the molecular weight of the polyethylene glycol selected and on the number of available reactive groups available. As relates to molecular weight, typically the higher the molecular weight of the polymer, the fewer number of polymer molecules which may be attached to the protein. Similarly, branching of the polymer should be taken into account when optimizing these parameters. Generally, the higher the molecular weight (or the more branches) the higher the polymer:protein ratio.

[354] As used herein, and when contemplating PEG: adiponectin polypeptide conjugates, the term "therapeutically effective amount" refers to an amount which gives an increase in circulating adiponectin that provides benefit to a patient. The amount will vary from one individual to another and will depend upon a number of factors, including the overall physical condition of the patient and the underlying cause of their disorder (including but not limited to diabetes, obesity, metabolic disorders, etc.). For example, a therapeutically effective amount of adiponectin polypeptide for a patient depends on the manner in which the adiponectin polypeptide is administered (including but not limited to oral formulation, intravenously, subcutaneously, transdermally, etc.) and the condition from which the patient is suffering from and for which administration of an adiponectin polypeptide can be therapeutic (including, but not limited to, conditions such as regulation of energy balance, obesity management, modulating onset of diabetes, modulating onset of Type II diabetes, modulating glucose, modulating lipid metabolism, modulating hypothalamic-pituitary neuroendocrine function, treatment of infertility, to promote immune function, to promote hematopoiesis, to increase angiogenesis, to increase wound healing, to decrease serum lipids). The amount of adiponectin polypeptide used for therapy gives an acceptable increase in circulating adiponectin. The amount of adiponectin may also work to maintain the serum levels of adiponectin at a beneficial level. A

therapeutically effective amount of the present compositions may be readily ascertained by one skilled in the art using publicly available materials and procedures.

[355] The water soluble polymer may be any structural form including but not limited to linear, forked or branched. Typically, the water soluble polymer is a poly(alkylene glycol), such as poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG), but other water soluble polymers can also be employed. By way of example, PEG is used to describe certain embodiments of this invention.

[356] PEG is a well-known, water soluble polymer that is commercially available or can be prepared by ring-opening polymerization of ethylene glycol according to methods well known in the art (Sandler and Karo, Polymer Synthesis, Academic Press, New York, Vol. 3, pages 138-161). The term "PEG" is used broadly to encompass any polyethylene glycol molecule, without regard to size or to modification at an end of the PEG, and can be represented as linked to the 4HB polypeptide by the formula:

$XO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-CH_2CH_2-Y$

where n is 2 to 10,000 and X is H or a terminal modification, including but not limited to, a C_{1-4} alkyl.

[357] In some cases, a PEG used in the invention terminates on one end with hydroxy or methoxy, i.e., X is H or CH_3 ("methoxy PEG"). Alternatively, the PEG can terminate with a reactive group, thereby forming a bifunctional polymer. Typical reactive groups can include those reactive groups that are commonly used to react with the functional groups found in the 20 common amino acids (including but not limited to, maleimide groups, activated carbonates (including but not limited to, p-nitrophenyl ester), activated esters (including but not limited to, N-hydroxysuccinimide, p-nitrophenyl ester) and aldehydes) as well as functional groups that are inert to the 20 common amino acids but that react specifically with complementary functional groups present in non-naturally encoded amino acids (including but not limited to, azide groups, alkyne groups). It is noted that the other end of the PEG, which is shown in the above formula by Y, will attach either directly or indirectly to an adiponectin polypeptide via a naturally-occurring or non-naturally encoded amino acid. For instance, Y may be an amide, carbamate or urea linkage to an amine group (including but not limited to, the epsilon amine of lysine or the *N*-terminus) of the polypeptide. Alternatively, Y may be a maleimide linkage to a thiol group (including but not limited to, the thiol group of cysteine). Alternatively, Y may be a linkage to a residue not commonly accessible via the 20 common amino acids. For example, an azide group on the PEG can be reacted with an alkyne group on the adiponectin polypeptide to form a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition product. Alternatively, an alkyne group on the PEG can be reacted

with an azide group present in a non-naturally encoded amino acid to form a similar product. In some embodiments, a strong nucleophile (including but not limited to, hydrazine, hydrazide, hydroxylamine, semicarbazide) can be reacted with an aldehyde or ketone group present in a non-naturally encoded amino acid to form a hydrazone, oxime or semicarbazone, as applicable, which in some cases can be further reduced by treatment with an appropriate reducing agent. Alternatively, the strong nucleophile can be incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide via a non-naturally encoded amino acid and used to react preferentially with a ketone or aldehyde group present in the water soluble polymer.

[358] Any molecular mass for a PEG can be used as practically desired, including but not limited to, from about 100 Daltons (Da) to 100,000 Da or more as desired (including but not limited to, sometimes 0.1-50 kDa or 10-40 kDa). Branched chain PEGs, including but not limited to, PEG molecules with each chain having a MW ranging from 1-100 kDa (including but not limited to, 1-50 kDa or 5-20 kDa) can also be used. A wide range of PEG molecules are described in, including but not limited to, the Shearwater Polymers, Inc. catalog, Nektar Therapeutics catalog, incorporated herein by reference.

[359] Generally, at least one terminus of the PEG molecule is available for reaction with the non-naturally-encoded amino acid. For example, PEG derivatives bearing alkyne and azide moieties for reaction with amino acid side chains can be used to attach PEG to non-naturally encoded amino acids as described herein. If the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an azide, then the PEG will typically contain either an alkyne moiety to effect formation of the [3+2] cycloaddition product or an activated PEG species (i.e., ester, carbonate) containing a phosphine group to effect formation of the amide linkage. Alternatively, if the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an alkyne, then the PEG will typically contain an azide moiety to effect formation of the [3+2] Huisgen cycloaddition product. If the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, the PEG will typically comprise a potent nucleophile (including but not limited to, a hydrazide, hydrazine, hydroxylamine, or semicarbazide functionality) in order to effect formation of corresponding hydrazone, oxime, and semicarbazone linkages, respectively. In other alternatives, a reverse of the orientation of the reactive groups described above can be used, i.e., an azide moiety in the non-naturally encoded amino acid can be reacted with a PEG derivative containing an alkyne.

[360] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptide variant with a PEG derivative contains a chemical functionality that is reactive with the chemical functionality present on the side chain of the non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[361] The invention provides in some embodiments azide- and acetylene-containing polymer derivatives comprising a water soluble polymer backbone having an average molecular weight from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da. The polymer backbone of the water-soluble polymer can be poly(ethylene glycol). However, it should be understood that a wide variety of water soluble polymers including but not limited to poly(ethylene)glycol and other related polymers, including poly(dextran) and poly(propylene glycol), are also suitable for use in the practice of this invention and that the use of the term PEG or poly(ethylene glycol) is intended to encompass and include all such molecules. The term PEG includes, but is not limited to, poly(ethylene glycol) in any of its forms, including bifunctional PEG, multiarmed PEG, derivatized PEG, forked PEG, branched PEG, pendent PEG (i.e. PEG or related polymers having one or more functional groups pendent to the polymer backbone), or PEG with degradable linkages therein.

[362] PEG is typically clear, colorless, odorless, soluble in water, stable to heat, inert to many chemical agents, does not hydrolyze or deteriorate, and is generally non-toxic. Poly(ethylene glycol) is considered to be biocompatible, which is to say that PEG is capable of coexistence with living tissues or organisms without causing harm. More specifically, PEG is substantially non-immunogenic, which is to say that PEG does not tend to produce an immune response in the body. When attached to a molecule having some desirable function in the body, such as a biologically active agent, the PEG tends to mask the agent and can reduce or eliminate any immune response so that an organism can tolerate the presence of the agent. PEG conjugates tend not to produce a substantial immune response or cause clotting or other undesirable effects. PEG having the formula -- CH_2CH_2O--$(CH_2CH_2O)_n$ -- CH_2CH_2--, where n is from about 3 to about 4000, typically from about 20 to about 2000, is suitable for use in the present invention. PEG having a molecular weight of from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da are in some embodiments of the present invention particularly useful as the polymer backbone.

[363] The polymer backbone can be linear or branched. Branched polymer backbones are generally known in the art. Typically, a branched polymer has a central branch core moiety and a plurality of linear polymer chains linked to the central branch core. PEG is commonly used in branched forms that can be prepared by addition of ethylene oxide to various polyols, such as glycerol, glycerol oligomers, pentaerythritol and sorbitol. The central branch moiety can also be derived from several amino acids, such as lysine. The branched poly(ethylene glycol) can be represented in general form as $R(\text{-PEG-OH})_m$ in which R is derived from a core moiety, such as glycerol, glycerol oligomers, or pentaerythritol, and m represents the number of arms.

Multi-armed PEG molecules, such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,932,462 5,643,575; 5,229,490; 4,289,872; U.S. Pat. Appl. 2003/0143596; WO 96/21469; and WO 93/21259, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety, can also be used as the polymer backbone.

[364] Branched PEG can also be in the form of a forked PEG represented by PEG(--$YCHZ_2)_n$, where Y is a linking group and Z is an activated terminal group linked to CH by a chain of atoms of defined length.

[365] Yet another branched form, the pendant PEG, has reactive groups, such as carboxyl, along the PEG backbone rather than at the end of PEG chains.

[366] In addition to these forms of PEG, the polymer can also be prepared with weak or degradable linkages in the backbone. For example, PEG can be prepared with ester linkages in the polymer backbone that are subject to hydrolysis. As shown below, this hydrolysis results in cleavage of the polymer into fragments of lower molecular weight:

-PEG-CO_2-PEG-+H_2O → PEG-CO_2H+HO-PEG-

It is understood by those skilled in the art that the term poly(ethylene glycol) or PEG represents or includes all the forms known in the art including but not limited to those disclosed herein.

[367] Many other polymers are also suitable for use in the present invention. In some embodiments, polymer backbones that are water-soluble, with from 2 to about 300 termini, are particularly useful in the invention. Examples of suitable polymers include, but are not limited to, other poly(alkylene glycols), such as poly(propylene glycol) ("PPG"), copolymers thereof (including but not limited to copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol), terpolymers thereof, mixtures thereof, and the like. Although the molecular weight of each chain of the polymer backbone can vary, it is typically in the range of from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da, often from about 6,000 Da to about 80,000 Da.

[368] Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing list for substantially water soluble backbones is by no means exhaustive and is merely illustrative, and that all polymeric materials having the qualities described above are contemplated as being suitable for use in the present invention.

[369] In some embodiments of the present invention the polymer derivatives are "multi-functional", meaning that the polymer backbone has at least two termini, and possibly as many as about 300 termini, functionalized or activated with a functional group. Multifunctional polymer derivatives include, but are not limited to, linear polymers having two termini, each terminus being bonded to a functional group which may be the same or different.

[370] In one embodiment, the polymer derivative has the structure:

X—A—POLY— B—N=N=N
wherein:

N=N=N is an azide moiety;

B is a linking moiety, which may be present or absent;

POLY is a water-soluble non-antigenic polymer;
A is a linking moiety, which may be present or absent and which may be the same as B or different; and

X is a second functional group.
Examples of a linking moiety for A and B include, but are not limited to, a multiply-functionalized alkyl group containing up to 18, and more preferably between 1-10 carbon atoms. A heteroatom such as nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur may be included with the alkyl chain. The alkyl chain may also be branched at a heteroatom. Other examples of a linking moiety for A and B include, but are not limited to, a multiply functionalized aryl group, containing up to 10 and more preferably 5-6 carbon atoms. The aryl group may be substituted with one more carbon atoms, nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms. Other examples of suitable linking groups include those linking groups described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,932,462; 5,643,575; and U.S. Pat. Appl. Publication 2003/0143596, each of which is incorporated by reference herein. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing list for linking moieties is by no means exhaustive and is merely illustrative, and that all linking moieties having the qualities described above are contemplated to be suitable for use in the present invention.

[371] Examples of suitable functional groups for use as X include, but are not limited to, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, alkoxyl, active ester, such as N-hydroxysuccinimidyl esters and 1-benzotriazolyl esters, active carbonate, such as N-hydroxysuccinimidyl carbonates and 1-benzotriazolyl carbonates, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, amine, aminooxy, protected amine, hydrazide, protected hydrazide, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, tresylate, alkene, ketone, and azide. As is understood by those skilled in the art, the selected X moiety should be compatible with the azide group so that reaction with the azide group does not occur. The azide-containing polymer derivatives may be

homobifunctional, meaning that the second functional group (i.e., X) is also an azide moiety, or heterobifunctional, meaning that the second functional group is a different functional group.

[372] The term "protected" refers to the presence of a protecting group or moiety that prevents reaction of the chemically reactive functional group under certain reaction conditions. The protecting group will vary depending on the type of chemically reactive group being protected. For example, if the chemically reactive group is an amine or a hydrazide, the protecting group can be selected from the group of tert-butyloxycarbonyl (t-Boc) and 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc). If the chemically reactive group is a thiol, the protecting group can be orthopyridyldisulfide. If the chemically reactive group is a carboxylic acid, such as butanoic or propionic acid, or a hydroxyl group, the protecting group can be benzyl or an alkyl group such as methyl, ethyl, or tert-butyl. Other protecting groups known in the art may also be used in the present invention.

[373] Specific examples of terminal functional groups in the literature include, but are not limited to, N-succinimidyl carbonate (see e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,281,698, 5,468,478), amine (see, e.g., Buckmann et al. Makromol. Chem. 182:1379 (1981), Zaplipsky et al. Eur. Polym. J. 19:1177 (1983)), hydrazide (See, e.g., Andresz et al. Makromol. Chem. 179:301 (1978)), succinimidyl propionate and succinimidyl butanoate (see, e.g., Olson et al. in Poly(ethylene glycol) Chemistry & Biological Applications, pp 170-181, Harris & Zaplipsky Eds., ACS, Washington, D.C., 1997; see also U.S. Pat. No. 5,672,662), succinimidyl succinate (See, e.g., Abuchowski et al. Cancer Biochem. Biophys. 7:175 (1984) and Joppich et al. Macrolol. Chem. 180:1381 (1979), succinimidyl ester (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,670,417), benzotriazole carbonate (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,650,234), glycidyl ether (see, e.g., Pitha et al. Eur. J Biochem. 94:11 (1979), Elling et al., Biotech. Appl. Biochem. 13:354 (1991), oxycarbonylimidazole (see, e.g., Beauchamp, et al., Anal. Biochem. 131:25 (1983), Tondelli et al. J. Controlled Release 1:251 (1985)), p-nitrophenyl carbonate (see, e.g., Veronese, et al., Appl. Biochem. Biotech., 11: 141 (1985); and Sartore et al., Appl. Biochem. Biotech., 27:45 (1991)), aldehyde (see, e.g., Harris et al. J. Polym. Sci. Chem. Ed. 22:341 (1984), U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,784, U.S. Pat. No. 5,252,714), maleimide (see, e.g., Goodson et al. Bio/Technology 8:343 (1990), Romani et al. in Chemistry of Peptides and Proteins 2:29 (1984)), and Kogan, Synthetic Comm. 22:2417 (1992)), orthopyridyl-disulfide (see, e.g., Woghiren, et al. Bioconj. Chem. 4:314(1993)), acrylol (see, e.g., Sawhney et al., Macromolecules, 26:581 (1993)), vinylsulfone (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,900,461). All of the above references and patents are incorporated herein by reference.

[374] In certain embodiments of the present invention, the polymer derivatives of the invention comprise a polymer backbone having the structure:

X—CH_2CH_2O--$(CH_2CH_2O)_n$ --CH_2CH_2 –N=N=N

wherein:

X is a functional group as described above; and

n is about 20 to about 4000.

In another embodiment, the polymer derivatives of the invention comprise a polymer backbone having the structure:

X—CH_2CH_2O--$(CH_2CH_2O)_n$ --CH_2CH_2 – O-$(CH_2)_m$-W-N=N=N

wherein:

W is an aliphatic or aromatic linker moiety comprising between 1-10 carbon atoms;

n is about 20 to about 4000; and

X is a functional group as described above. m is between 1 and 10.

[375] The azide-containing PEG derivatives of the invention can be prepared by a variety of methods known in the art and/or disclosed herein. In one method, shown below, a water soluble polymer backbone having an average molecular weight from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da, the polymer backbone having a first terminus bonded to a first functional group and a second terminus bonded to a suitable leaving group, is reacted with an azide anion (which may be paired with any of a number of suitable counter-ions, including sodium, potassium, tert-butylammonium and so forth). The leaving group undergoes a nucleophilic displacement and is replaced by the azide moiety, affording the desired azide-containing PEG polymer.

X-PEG-L + N_3^- → X-PEG- N_3

[376] As shown, a suitable polymer backbone for use in the present invention has the formula X-PEG-L, wherein PEG is poly(ethylene glycol) and X is a functional group which does not react with azide groups and L is a suitable leaving group. Examples of suitable functional groups include, but are not limited to, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, acetal, alkenyl, amine, aminooxy, protected amine, protected hydrazide, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, maleimide, dithiopyridine, and vinylpyridine, and ketone. Examples of suitable leaving groups include, but are not limited to, chloride, bromide, iodide, mesylate, tresylate, and tosylate.

[377] In another method for preparation of the azide-containing polymer derivatives of the present invention, a linking agent bearing an azide functionality is contacted with a water soluble polymer backbone having an average molecular weight from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da, wherein the linking agent bears a chemical functionality that will react selectively with a chemical functionality on the PEG polymer, to form an azide-containing polymer derivative product wherein the azide is separated from the polymer backbone by a linking group.

[378] An exemplary reaction scheme is shown below:

X-PEG-M + N-linker-N=N=N → PG-X-PEG-linker-N=N=N

wherein:

PEG is poly(ethylene glycol) and X is a capping group such as alkoxy or a functional group as described above; and

M is a functional group that is not reactive with the azide functionality but that will react efficiently and selectively with the N functional group.

[379] Examples of suitable functional groups include, but are not limited to, M being a carboxylic acid, carbonate or active ester if N is an amine; M being a ketone if N is a hydrazide or aminooxy moiety; M being a leaving group if N is a nucleophile.

[380] Purification of the crude product may be accomplished by known methods including, but are not limited to, precipitation of the product followed by chromatography, if necessary.

[381] A more specific example is shown below in the case of PEG diamine, in which one of the amines is protected by a protecting group moiety such as tert-butyl-Boc and the resulting mono-protected PEG diamine is reacted with a linking moiety that bears the azide functionality:

$BocHN\text{-}PEG\text{-}NH_2 + HO_2C\text{-}(CH_2)_3\text{-}N{=}N{=}N$

[382] In this instance, the amine group can be coupled to the carboxylic acid group using a variety of activating agents such as thionyl chloride or carbodiimide reagents and N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxybenzotriazole to create an amide bond between the monoamine PEG derivative and the azide-bearing linker moiety. After successful formation of the amide bond, the resulting N-tert-butyl-Boc-protected azide-containing derivative can be used directly to modify bioactive molecules or it can be further elaborated to install other useful functional groups. For instance, the N-t-Boc group can be hydrolyzed by treatment with strong acid to generate an omega-amino-PEG-azide. The resulting amine can be used as a synthetic

handle to install other useful functionality such as maleimide groups, activated disulfides, activated esters and so forth for the creation of valuable heterobifunctional reagents.

[383] Heterobifunctional derivatives are particularly useful when it is desired to attach different molecules to each terminus of the polymer. For example, the omega-N-amino-N-azido PEG would allow the attachment of a molecule having an activated electrophilic group, such as an aldehyde, ketone, activated ester, activated carbonate and so forth, to one terminus of the PEG and a molecule having an acetylene group to the other terminus of the PEG.

[384] In another embodiment of the invention, the polymer derivative has the structure:

X—A—POLY— B—C≡C-R

wherein:

R can be either H or an alkyl, alkene, alkyoxy, or aryl or substituted aryl group;

B is a linking moiety, which may be present or absent;

POLY is a water-soluble non-antigenic polymer;

A is a linking moiety, which may be present or absent and which may be the same as B or different; and

X is a second functional group.

[385] Examples of a linking moiety for A and B include, but are not limited to, a multiply-functionalized alkyl group containing up to 18, and more preferably between 1-10 carbon atoms. A heteroatom such as nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur may be included with the alkyl chain. The alkyl chain may also be branched at a heteroatom. Other examples of a linking moiety for A and B include, but are not limited to, a multiply functionalized aryl group, containing up to 10 and more preferably 5-6 carbon atoms. The aryl group may be substituted with one more carbon atoms, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur atoms. Other examples of suitable linking groups include those linking groups described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,932,462 and 5,643,575 and U.S. Pat. Appl. Publication 2003/0143596, each of which is incorporated by reference herein. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing list for linking moieties is by no means exhaustive and is intended to be merely illustrative, and that a wide variety of linking moieties having the qualities described above are contemplated to be useful in the present invention.

[386] Examples of suitable functional groups for use as X include hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, alkoxyl, active ester, such as N-hydroxysuccinimidyl esters and 1-benzotriazolyl esters, active carbonate, such as N-hydroxysuccinimidyl carbonates and 1-benzotriazolyl carbonates, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide,

active sulfone, amine, aminooxy, protected amine, hydrazide, protected hydrazide, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, and tresylate, alkene, ketone, and acetylene. As would be understood, the selected X moiety should be compatible with the acetylene group so that reaction with the acetylene group does not occur. The acetylene -containing polymer derivatives may be homobifunctional, meaning that the second functional group (i.e., X) is also an acetylene moiety, or heterobifunctional, meaning that the second functional group is a different functional group.

[387] In another embodiment of the present invention, the polymer derivatives comprise a polymer backbone having the structure:

$X—CH_2CH_2O-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-CH_2CH_2-O-(CH_2)_m-C\equiv CH$

wherein:

X is a functional group as described above;

n is about 20 to about 4000; and

m is between 1 and 10.

Specific examples of each of the heterobifunctional PEG polymers are shown below.

[388] The acetylene-containing PEG derivatives of the invention can be prepared using methods known to those skilled in the art and/or disclosed herein. In one method, a water soluble polymer backbone having an average molecular weight from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da, the polymer backbone having a first terminus bonded to a first functional group and a second terminus bonded to a suitable nucleophilic group, is reacted with a compound that bears both an acetylene functionality and a leaving group that is suitable for reaction with the nucleophilic group on the PEG. When the PEG polymer bearing the nucleophilic moiety and the molecule bearing the leaving group are combined, the leaving group undergoes a nucleophilic displacement and is replaced by the nucleophilic moiety, affording the desired acetylene-containing polymer.

X-PEG-Nu + L-A-C → X-PEG-Nu-A-C≡CR'

[389] As shown, a preferred polymer backbone for use in the reaction has the formula X-PEG-Nu, wherein PEG is poly(ethylene glycol), Nu is a nucleophilic moiety and X is a functional group that does not react with Nu, L or the acetylene functionality.

[390] Examples of Nu include, but are not limited to, amine, alkoxy, aryloxy, sulfhydryl, imino, carboxylate, hydrazide, aminoxy groups that would react primarily via a SN2-

type mechanism. Additional examples of Nu groups include those functional groups that would react primarily via an nucleophilic addition reaction. Examples of L groups include chloride, bromide, iodide, mesylate, tresylate, and tosylate and other groups expected to undergo nucleophilic displacement as well as ketones, aldehydes, thioesters, olefins, alpha-beta unsaturated carbonyl groups, carbonates and other electrophilic groups expected to undergo addition by nucleophiles.

[391] In another embodiment of the present invention, A is an aliphatic linker of between 1-10 carbon atoms or a substituted aryl ring of between 6-14 carbon atoms. X is a functional group which does not react with azide groups and L is a suitable leaving group

[392] In another method for preparation of the acetylene-containing polymer derivatives of the invention, a PEG polymer having an average molecular weight from about 800 Da to about 100,000 Da, bearing either a protected functional group or a capping agent at one terminus and a suitable leaving group at the other terminus is contacted by an acetylene anion.

[393] An exemplary reaction scheme is shown below:

X-PEG-L + -C≡CR' → X-PEG-C≡CR'

wherein:
PEG is poly(ethylene glycol) and X is a capping group such as alkoxy or a functional group as described above; and

R' is either H, an alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or aryloxy group or a substituted alkyl, alkoxyl, aryl or aryloxy group.

[394] In the example above, the leaving group L should be sufficiently reactive to undergo SN2-type displacement when contacted with a sufficient concentration of the acetylene anion. The reaction conditions required to accomplish SN2 displacement of leaving groups by acetylene anions are well known in the art.

[395] Purification of the crude product can usually be accomplished by methods known in the art including, but are not limited to, precipitation of the product followed by chromatography, if necessary.

[396] Water soluble polymers can be linked to the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention. The water soluble polymers may be linked via a non-naturally encoded amino acid incorporated in the adiponectin polypeptide or any functional group or substituent of a non-naturally encoded or naturally encoded amino acid, or any functional group or substituent added to a non-naturally encoded or naturally encoded amino acid. Alternatively, the water soluble

polymers are linked to an adiponectin polypeptide incorporating a non-naturally encoded amino acid via a naturally-occurring amino acid (including but not limited to, cysteine, lysine or the amine group of the N-terminal residue). In some cases, the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 non-natural amino acids, wherein one or more non-naturally-encoded amino acid(s) are linked to water soluble polymer(s) (including but not limited to, PEG and/or oligosaccharides). In some cases, the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention further comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more naturally-encoded amino acid(s) linked to water soluble polymers. In some cases, the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention comprise one or more non-naturally encoded amino acid(s) linked to water soluble polymers and one or more naturally-occurring amino acids linked to water soluble polymers. In some embodiments, the water soluble polymers used in the present invention enhance the serum half-life of the adiponectin polypeptide relative to the unconjugated form.

[397] The number of water soluble polymers linked to an adiponectin polypeptide (i.e., the extent of PEGylation or glycosylation) of the present invention can be adjusted to provide an altered (including but not limited to, increased or decreased) pharmacologic, pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic characteristic such as *in vivo* half-life. In some embodiments, the half-life of adiponectin is increased at least about 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 percent, 2- fold, 5-fold, 10-fold, 50-fold, or at least about 100-fold over an unmodified polypeptide.

PEG derivatives containing a strong nucleophilic group (i.e., hydrazide, hydrazine, hydroxylamine or semicarbazide)

[398] In one embodiment of the present invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid is modified with a PEG derivative that contains a terminal hydrazine, hydroxylamine, hydrazide or semicarbazide moiety that is linked directly to the PEG backbone.

[399] In some embodiments, the hydroxylamine-terminal PEG derivative will have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-O-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 (i.e., average molecular weight is between 5-40 kDa).

[400] In some embodiments, the hydrazine- or hydrazide-containing PEG derivative will have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-X-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 and X is optionally a carbonyl group (C=O) that can be present or absent.

[401] In some embodiments, the semicarbazide-containing PEG derivative will have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-NH-C(O)-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000.

[402] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing amino acid is modified with a PEG derivative that contains a terminal hydroxylamine, hydrazide, hydrazine, or semicarbazide moiety that is linked to the PEG backbone by means of an amide linkage.

[403] In some embodiments, the hydroxylamine-terminal PEG derivatives have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)(CH_2)_m-O-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 (i.e., average molecular weight is between 5-40 kDa).

[404] In some embodiments, the hydrazine- or hydrazide-containing PEG derivatives have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)(CH_2)_m-X-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10, n is 100-1,000 and X is optionally a carbonyl group (C=O) that can be present or absent.

[405] In some embodiments, the semicarbazide-containing PEG derivatives have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)(CH_2)_m-NH-C(O)-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000.

[406] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing amino acid is modified with a branched PEG derivative that contains a terminal hydrazine, hydroxylamine, hydrazide or semicarbazide moiety, with each chain of the branched PEG having a MW ranging from 10-40 kDa and, more preferably, from 5-20 kDa.

[407] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid is modified with a PEG derivative having a branched structure. For instance, in some embodiments, the hydrazine- or hydrazide-terminal PEG derivative will have the following structure:

$[RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)]_2CH(CH_2)_m-X-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000, and X is optionally a carbonyl group (C=O) that can be present or absent.

[408] In some embodiments, the PEG derivatives containing a semicarbazide group will have the structure:

$[RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-C(O)-NH-CH_2-CH_2]_2CH-X-(CH_2)_m-NH-C(O)-NH-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), X is optionally NH, O, S, C(O) or not present, m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000.

[409] In some embodiments, the PEG derivatives containing a hydroxylamine group will have the structure:

$[RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-C(O)-NH-CH_2-CH_2]_2CH-X-(CH_2)_m-O-NH_2$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), X is optionally NH, O, S, C(O) or not present, m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000.

[410] The degree and sites at which the water soluble polymer(s) are linked to the adiponectin polypeptide can modulate the binding of the adiponectin polypeptide to the adiponectin polypeptide receptor at Site 1. In some embodiments, the linkages are arranged such that the adiponectin polypeptide binds the adiponectin polypeptide receptor at Site 1 with a K_d of about 400 nM or lower, with a K_d of 150 nM or lower, and in some cases with a K_d of 100 nM or lower, as measured by an equilibrium binding assay, such as that described in Spencer *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 263:7862-7867 (1988) for hGH.

[411] Methods and chemistry for activation of polymers as well as for conjugation of peptides are described in the literature and are known in the art. Commonly used methods for activation of polymers include, but are not limited to, activation of functional groups with cyanogen bromide, periodate, glutaraldehyde, biepoxides, epichlorohydrin, divinylsulfone, carbodiimide, sulfonyl halides, trichlorotriazine, *etc.* (*see*, R. F. Taylor, (1991), PROTEIN IMMOBILISATION. FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLICATIONS, Marcel Dekker, N.Y.; S. S. Wong, (1992), CHEMISTRY OF PROTEIN CONJUGATION AND CROSSLINKING, CRC Press, Boca Raton; G. T. Hermanson *et al.*, (1993), IMMOBILIZED AFFINITY LIGAND TECHNIQUES, Academic Press, N.Y.; Dunn, R.L., *et al.*, Eds. POLYMERIC DRUGS AND DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS, ACS Symposium Series Vol. 469, American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. 1991).

[412] Several reviews and monographs on the functionalization and conjugation of PEG are available. *See,* for example, Harris, *Macronol. Chem. Phys.* C25: 325-373 (1985); Scouten, *Methods in Enzymology* 135: 30-65 (1987); Wong *et al.*, *Enzyme Microb. Technol.* 14: 866-874

(1992); Delgado *et al.*, *Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems* 9: 249-304 (1992); Zalipsky, *Bioconjugate Chem.* 6: 150-165 (1995).

[413] Methods for activation of polymers can also be found in WO 94/17039, U.S. Pat. No. 5,324,844, WO 94/18247, WO 94/04193, U.S. Pat. No. 5,219,564, U.S. Pat. No. 5,122,614, WO 90/13540, U.S. Pat. No. 5,281,698, and WO 93/15189, and for conjugation between activated polymers and enzymes including but not limited to Coagulation Factor VIII (WO 94/15625), hemoglobin (WO 94/09027), oxygen carrying molecule (U.S. Pat. No. 4,412,989), ribonuclease and superoxide dismutase (Veronese *at al., App. Biochem. Biotech.* 11: 141-45 (1985)). All references and patents cited are incorporated by reference herein.

[414] PEGylation (i.e., addition of any water soluble polymer) of adiponectin polypeptides containing a non-naturally encoded amino acid, such as *p*-azido-L-phenylalanine, is carried out by any convenient method. For example, adiponectin polypeptide is PEGylated with an alkyne-terminated mPEG derivative. Briefly, an excess of solid mPEG(5000)-O-CH_2-C≡CH is added, with stirring, to an aqueous solution of *p*-azido-L-Phe-containing adiponectin polypeptide at room temperature. Typically, the aqueous solution is buffered with a buffer having a pK_a near the pH at which the reaction is to be carried out (generally about pH 4-10). Examples of suitable buffers for PEGylation at pH 7.5, for instance, include, but are not limited to, HEPES, phosphate, borate, TRIS-HCl, EPPS, and TES. The pH is continuously monitored and adjusted if necessary. The reaction is typically allowed to continue for between about 1-48 hours.

[415] The reaction products are subsequently subjected to hydrophobic interaction chromatography to separate the PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide variants from free mPEG(5000)-O-CH_2-C≡CH and any high-molecular weight complexes of the pegylated adiponectin polypeptide which may form when unblocked PEG is activated at both ends of the molecule, thereby crosslinking adiponectin polypeptide variant molecules. The conditions during hydrophobic interaction chromatography are such that free mPEG(5000)-O-CH_2-C≡CH flows through the column, while any crosslinked PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide variant complexes elute after the desired forms, which contain one adiponectin polypeptide variant molecule conjugated to one or more PEG groups. Suitable conditions vary depending on the relative sizes of the cross-linked complexes versus the desired conjugates and are readily determined by those skilled in the art. The eluent containing the desired conjugates is concentrated by ultrafiltration and desalted by diafiltration.

[416] If necessary, the PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide obtained from the hydrophobic chromatography can be purified further by one or more procedures known to those skilled in the art including, but are not limited to, affinity chromatography; anion- or cation-exchange chromatography (using, including but not limited to, DEAE SEPHAROSE); chromatography on silica; reverse phase HPLC; gel filtration (using, including but not limited to, SEPHADEX G-75); hydrophobic interaction chromatography; size-exclusion chromatography, metal-chelate chromatography; ultrafiltration/diafiltration; ethanol precipitation; ammonium sulfate precipitation; chromatofocusing; displacement chromatography; electrophoretic procedures (including but not limited to preparative isoelectric focusing), differential solubility (including but not limited to ammonium sulfate precipitation), or extraction. Apparent molecular weight may be estimated by GPC by comparison to globular protein standards (PROTEIN PURIFICATION METHODS, A PRACTICAL APPROACH (Harris & Angal, Eds.) IRL Press 1989, 293-306). The purity of the adiponectin -PEG conjugate can be assessed by proteolytic degradation (including but not limited to, trypsin cleavage) followed by mass spectrometry analysis. Pepinsky B., *et al., J. Pharmcol. & Exp. Ther.* 297(3):1059-66 (2001).

[417] A water soluble polymer linked to an amino acid of an adiponectin polypeptide of the invention can be further derivatized or substituted without limitation.

Azide-containing PEG derivatives

[418] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide is modified with a PEG derivative that contains an azide moiety that will react with an alkyne moiety present on the side chain of the non-naturally encoded amino acid. In general, the PEG derivatives will have an average molecular weight ranging from 1-100 kDa and, in some embodiments, from 10-40 kDa.

[419] In some embodiments, the azide-terminal PEG derivative will have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-N_3$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 (i.e., average molecular weight is between 5-40 kDa).

[420] In another embodiment, the azide-terminal PEG derivative will have the structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-NH-C(O)-(CH_2)_p-N_3$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10, p is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 (i.e., average molecular weight is between 5-40 kDa).

[421] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a alkyne-containing amino acid is modified with a branched PEG derivative that contains a

terminal azide moiety, with each chain of the branched PEG having a MW ranging from 10-40 kDa and, more preferably, from 5-20 kDa. For instance, in some embodiments, the azide-terminal PEG derivative will have the following structure:

$[RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)]_2CH(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_pN_3$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10, p is 2-10, and n is 100-1,000, and X is optionally an O, N, S or carbonyl group (C=O), in each case that can be present or absent.

Alkyne-containing PEG derivatives

[422] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide is modified with a PEG derivative that contains an alkyne moiety that will react with an azide moiety present on the side chain of the non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[423] In some embodiments, the alkyne-terminal PEG derivative will have the following structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-C\equiv CH$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000 (i.e., average molecular weight is between 5-40 kDa).

[424] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising an alkyne-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid is modified with a PEG derivative that contains a terminal azide or terminal alkyne moiety that is linked to the PEG backbone by means of an amide linkage.

[425] In some embodiments, the alkyne-terminal PEG derivative will have the following structure:

$RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-NH-C(O)-(CH_2)_p-C\equiv CH$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10, p is 2-10 and n is 100-1,000.

[426] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising an azide-containing amino acid is modified with a branched PEG derivative that contains a terminal alkyne moiety, with each chain of the branched PEG having a MW ranging from 10-40 kDa and, more preferably, from 5-20 kDa. For instance, in some embodiments, the alkyne-terminal PEG derivative will have the following structure:

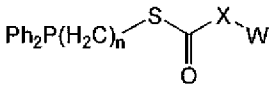
$[RO-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-O-(CH_2)_2-NH-C(O)]_2CH(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_p\ C\equiv CH$

where R is a simple alkyl (methyl, ethyl, propyl, etc.), m is 2-10, p is 2-10, and n is 100-1,000, and X is optionally an O, N, S or carbonyl group (C=O), or not present.

Phosphine-containing PEG derivatives

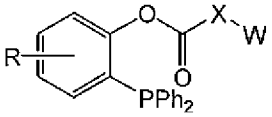
[427] In another embodiment of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide is modified with a PEG derivative that contains an activated functional group (including but not limited to, ester, carbonate) further comprising an aryl phosphine group that will react with an azide moiety present on the side chain of the non-naturally encoded amino acid. In general, the PEG derivatives will have an average molecular weight ranging from 1-100 kDa and, in some embodiments, from 10-40 kDa.

[428] In some embodiments, the PEG derivative will have the structure:



wherein n is 1-10; X can be O, N, S or not present, Ph is phenyl, and W is a water soluble polymer.

[429] In some embodiments, the PEG derivative will have the structure:



wherein X can be O, N, S or not present, Ph is phenyl, W is a water soluble polymer and R can be H, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl and substituted aryl groups. Exemplary R groups include but are not limited to $-CH_2$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, -OR', -NR'R", -SR', -halogen, -C(O)R', -CONR'R", $-S(O)_2R'$, $-S(O)_2NR'R"$, -CN and $-NO_2$. R', R", R"' and R"" each independently refer to hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, including but not limited to, aryl substituted with 1-3 halogens, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups, or arylalkyl groups. When a compound of the invention includes more than one R group, for example, each of the R groups is independently selected as are each R', R", R"' and R"" groups when more than one of these groups is present. When R' and R" are attached to the same nitrogen atom, they can be combined with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6-, or 7-membered ring. For example, -NR'R" is meant to include, but not be limited to, 1-pyrrolidinyl and 4-morpholinyl. From the above discussion of substituents, one of skill in the art will understand that the term "alkyl" is meant to include groups including carbon atoms bound to groups other than hydrogen groups, such as haloalkyl (including but not limited to, $-CF_3$ and $-CH_2CF_3$) and acyl (including but not limited to, $-C(O)CH_3$, $-C(O)CF_3$, $-C(O)CH_2OCH_3$, and the like).

Other PEG derivatives and General PEGylation techniques

[430] Other exemplary PEG molecules that may be linked to adiponectin polypeptides, as well as PEGylation methods include those described in, e.g., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0001838; 2002/0052009; 2003/0162949; 2004/0013637; 2003/0228274; 2003/0220447; 2003/0158333; 2003/0143596; 2003/0114647; 2003/0105275; 2003/0105224; 2003/0023023; 2002/0156047; 2002/0099133; 2002/0086939; 2002/0082345; 2002/0072573; 2002/0052430; 2002/0040076; 2002/0037949; 2002/0002250; 2001/0056171; 2001/0044526; 2001/0027217; 2001/0021763; U.S. Patent No. 6,646,110; 5,824,778; 5,476,653; 5,219,564; 5,629,384; 5,736,625; 4,902,502; 5,281,698; 5,122,614; 5,473,034; 5,516,673; 5,382,657; 6,552,167; 6,610,281; 6,515,100; 6,461,603; 6,436,386; 6,214,966; 5,990,237; 5,900,461; 5,739,208; 5,672,662; 5,446,090; 5,808,096; 5,612,460; 5,324,844; 5,252,714; 6,420,339; 6,201,072; 6,451,346; 6,306,821; 5,559,213; 5,612,460; 5,747,646; 5,834,594; 5,849,860; 5,980,948; 6,004,573; 6,129,912; WO 97/32607, EP 229,108, EP 402,378, WO 92/16555, WO 94/04193, WO 94/14758, WO 94/17039, WO 94/18247, WO 94/28024, WO 95/00162, WO 95/11924, WO95/13090, WO 95/33490, WO 96/00080, WO 97/18832, WO 98/41562, WO 98/48837, WO 99/32134, WO 99/32139, WO 99/32140, WO 96/40791, WO 98/32466, WO 95/06058, EP 439 508, WO 97/03106, WO 96/21469, WO 95/13312, EP 921 131, , WO 98/05363, EP 809 996, WO 96/41813, WO 96/07670, EP 605 963, EP 510 356, EP 400 472, EP 183 503 and EP 154 316, which are incorporated by reference herein. Any of the PEG molecules described herein may be used in any form, including but not limited to, single chain, branched chain, multiarm chain, single functional, bi-functional, multi-functional, or any combination thereof.

Enhancing affinity for serum albumin

[431] Various molecules can also be fused to the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention to modulate the half-life of adiponectin polypeptides in serum. In some embodiments, molecules are linked or fused to adiponectin polypeptides of the invention to enhance affinity for endogenous serum albumin in an animal.

[432] For example, in some cases, a recombinant fusion of an adiponectin polypeptide and an albumin binding sequence is made. Exemplary albumin binding sequences include, but are not limited to, the albumin binding domain from streptococcal protein G (*see. e.g.*, Makrides *et al., J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 277:534-542 (1996) and Sjolander *et al., J, Immunol. Methods* 201:115-123 (1997)), or albumin-binding peptides such as those described in, e.g., Dennis, *et al., J. Biol. Chem.* 277:35035-35043 (2002).

[433] In other embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention are acylated with fatty acids. In some cases, the fatty acids promote binding to serum albumin. *See, e.g.*, Kurtzhals, *et al.*, *Biochem. J.* 312:725-731 (1995).

[434] In other embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptides of the invention are fused directly with serum albumin (including but not limited to, human serum albumin). *See, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,548,653, which is incorporated by reference herein, for serum albumin fusions of EPO analogs. Those of skill in the art will recognize that a wide variety of other molecules can also be linked to adiponectin in the present invention to modulate binding to serum albumin or other serum components.

IX. Glycosylation of *Adiponectin Polypeptides*

[435] The invention includes adiponectin polypeptides incorporating one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids bearing saccharide residues. The saccharide residues may be either natural (including but not limited to, N-acetylglucosamine) or non-natural (including but not limited to, 3-fluorogalactose). The saccharides may be linked to the non-naturally encoded amino acids either by an N- or O-linked glycosidic linkage (including but not limited to, N-acetylgalactose-L-serine) or a non-natural linkage (including but not limited to, an oxime or the corresponding C- or S-linked glycoside).

[436] The saccharide (including but not limited to, glycosyl) moieties can be added to adiponectin polypeptides either *in vivo* or *in vitro*. In some embodiments of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid is modified with a saccharide derivatized with an aminooxy group to generate the corresponding glycosylated polypeptide linked via an oxime linkage. Once attached to the non-naturally encoded amino acid, the saccharide may be further elaborated by treatment with glycosyltransferases and other enzymes to generate an oligosaccharide bound to the adiponectin polypeptide. *See, e.g.*, H. Liu, et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 125: 1702-1703 (2003)

[437] In some embodiments of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid is modified directly with a glycan with defined structure prepared as an aminooxy derivative. One skilled in the art will recognize that other functionalities, including azide, alkyne, hydrazide, hydrazine, and semicarbazide, can be used to link the saccharide to the non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[438] In some embodiments of the invention, an adiponectin polypeptide comprising an azide or alkynyl-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid can then be modified by, including but not limited to, a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition reaction with, including but not

limited to, alkynyl or azide derivatives, respectively. This method allows for proteins to be modified with extremely high selectivity.

X. Adiponectin Dimers and Multimers

[439] The present invention also provides for adiponectin homodimers, heterodimers, homomultimers, or heteromultimers (i.e., trimers, tetramers, pentamers, hexamers, heptamers, octamers, nonamers, decamers, docemers, etc.) where an adiponectin family member polypeptide containing one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids is bound to an adiponectin family member or variant thereof, either directly to the polypeptide backbone or via a linker. The present invention also provides for adiponectin homodimers, heterodimers, homomultimers, or heteromultimers (i.e., trimers, tetramers, pentamers, hexamers, heptamers, octamers, nonamers, decamers, docemers, etc.) where an adiponectin polypeptide containing one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids is bound to an adiponectin polypeptide or variant thereof, either directly to the polypeptide backbone or via a linker. Due to its increased molecular weight compared to monomers, the adiponectin dimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, or multimer conjugates may exhibit new or desirable properties, including but not limited to different pharmacological, pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, modulated therapeutic half-life, or modulated plasma half-life relative to the monomeric adiponectin family member. In some embodiments, the adiponectin dimers of the invention will modulate the dimerization of the adiponectin receptor. In other embodiments, the adiponectin dimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, or multimers of the present invention will act as an adiponectin receptor antagonist, agonist, or modulator.

[440] In some embodiments, one or more of the adiponectin molecules present in an adiponectin-containing dimer or multimer comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer that is present within the Site II binding region. As such, each of the adiponectin molecules of the dimer or multimer are accessible for binding to the adiponectin polypeptide receptor via the Site I interface but are unavailable for binding to a second adiponectin polypeptide receptor via the Site II interface. Thus, the adiponectin polypeptide dimer or multimer can engage the Site I binding sites of each of two distinct adiponectin polypeptide receptors but, as the adiponectin molecules have a water soluble polymer attached to a non-genetically encoded amino acid present in the Site II region, the adiponectin polypeptide receptors cannot engage the Site II region of the adiponectin polypeptide ligand and the dimer or multimer acts as a adiponectin polypeptide antagonist. In some embodiments, one or more of the adiponectin molecules present in a adiponectin polypeptide containing dimer or

multimer comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer that is present within the Site I binding region, allowing binding to the Site II region. Alternatively, in some embodiments one or more of the adiponectin molecules present in an adiponectin polypeptide containing dimer or multimer comprises a non-naturally encoded amino acid linked to a water soluble polymer that is present at a site that is not within the Site I or Site II binding region, such that both are available for binding. In some embodiments a combination of adiponectin molecules is used having Site I, Site II, or both available for binding. A combination of adiponectin molecules wherein at least one has Site I available for binding, and at least one has Site II available for binding may provide molecules having a desired activity or property. In addition, a combination of adiponectin molecules having both Site I and Site II available for binding may produce a super-agonist adiponectin molecule.

[441] In some embodiments, the adiponectin polypeptides are linked directly, including but not limited to, via an Asn-Lys amide linkage or Cys-Cys disulfide linkage. In some embodiments, the linked adiponectin polypeptides, and/or the linked 4HB family member, will comprise different non-naturally encoded amino acids to facilitate dimerization, including but not limited to, an alkyne in one non-naturally encoded amino acid of a first adiponectin polypeptide and an azide in a second non-naturally encoded amino acid of a second adiponectin polypeptide will be conjugated via a Huisgen [3+2] cycloaddition. Alternatively, a first adiponectin polypeptide, and/or the linked 4HB family member, polypeptide comprising a ketone-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid can be conjugated to a second adiponectin polypeptide comprising a hydroxylamine-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid and the polypeptides are reacted via formation of the corresponding oxime.

[442] Alternatively, the two adiponectin polypeptides, and/or the linked adiponectin polypeptides, are linked via a linker. Any hetero- or homo-bifunctional linker can be used to link the two adiponectin polypeptides, and/or the linked adiponectin family member, polypeptides, which can have the same or different primary sequence. In some cases, the linker used to tether the adiponectin polypeptide, and/or the linked adiponectin family member, polypeptides together can be a bifunctional PEG reagent.

[443] In some embodiments, the invention provides water-soluble bifunctional linkers that have a dumbbell structure that includes: a) an azide, an alkyne, a hydrazine, a hydrazide, a hydroxylamine, or a carbonyl-containing moiety on at least a first end of a polymer backbone; and b) at least a second functional group on a second end of the polymer backbone. The second functional group can be the same or different as the first functional group. The second functional

group, in some embodiments, is not reactive with the first functional group. The invention provides, in some embodiments, water-soluble compounds that comprise at least one arm of a branched molecular structure. For example, the branched molecular structure can be dendritic.

[444] In some embodiments, the invention provides multimers comprising one or more adiponectin polypeptides formed by reactions with water soluble activated polymers that have the structure:

$R\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_n\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{-}X$

wherein n is from about 5 to 3,000, m is 2-10, X can be an azide, an alkyne, a hydrazine, a hydrazide, an aminooxy group, a hydroxylamine, a acetyl, or carbonyl-containing moiety, and R is a capping group, a functional group, or a leaving group that can be the same or different as X. R can be, for example, a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, alkoxyl, N-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester, 1-benzotriazolyl ester, N-hydroxysuccinimidyl carbonate, 1-benzotriazolyl carbonate, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, amine, aminooxy, protected amine, hydrazide, protected hydrazide, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, and tresylate, alkene, and ketone.

[445] In some embodiments, the invention provides multimers comprising one or more adiponectin polypeptides coupled to insulin, leptin, FGF-21, FGF-23, or any variants thereof, formed by reactions with water soluble activated polymers that have the structure:

$R\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_n\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{-}X$

wherein n is from about 5 to 3,000, m is 2-10, X can be an azide, an alkyne, a hydrazine, a hydrazide, an aminooxy group, a hydroxylamine, a acetyl, or carbonyl-containing moiety, and R is a capping group, a functional group, or a leaving group that can be the same or different as X. R can be, for example, a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, alkoxyl, N-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester, 1-benzotriazolyl ester, N-hydroxysuccinimidyl carbonate, 1-benzotriazolyl carbonate, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, amine, aminooxy, protected amine, hydrazide, protected hydrazide, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, and tresylate, alkene, and ketone.

XI. Measurement of Adiponectin Polypeptide Activity and Affinity of Adiponectin Polypeptide for the Adiponectin Polypeptide Receptor

[446] Adiponectin polypeptide activity can be determined using standard *in vitro* or *in vivo* assays. For example, cell lines that proliferate in the presence of adiponectin (e.g., including but not limited to a cell line expressing the adiponectin receptor) can be used to monitor adiponectin receptor binding. *See, e.g.*, Clark, R., *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271(36):21969 (1996); Wada, *et al.*, *Mol. Endocrinol.* 12:146-156 (1998); Gout, P. W., *et al. Cancer Res.* 40, 2433-2436 (1980); WO 99/03887. For a non-PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-natural amino acid, the affinity of the hormone for its receptor can be measured by using a BIAcore™ biosensor (Pharmacia). *See, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,849,535; Spencer, S. A., *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 263:7862-7867 (1988). *In vivo* animal models for testing adiponectin activity include those described in, e.g., Clark *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271(36):21969-21977 (1996). Assays for dimerization capability of adiponectin polypeptides comprising one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids can be conducted as described in Cunningham, B., *et al.*, *Science,* 254:821-825 (1991) and Fuh, G., *et al.*, *Science*, 256:1677-1680 (1992). All references and patents cited are incorporated by reference herein.

[447] For a non-PEGylated or PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-natural amino acid, the affinity of the hormone for its receptor can be measured by using techniques known in the art such as a BIAcore™ biosensor (Pharmacia). *In vivo* animal models as well as human clinical trials for testing adiponectin activity include those described in, e.g., Kontsek et al., Acta Virol. 43:63 (1999); Youngster et al., Current Pharma Design 8:2139 (2002); Kozlowski et al., BioDrugs 15:419 (2001); U.S. Patent No. 6,180,096; 6,177,074; 6,042,822; 5,981,709; 5,951,974; 5,908,621; 5,711,944; 5,738,846, which are incorporated by reference herein.

[448] Regardless of which methods are used to create the present adiponectin analogs, the analogs are subject to assays for biological activity. Tritiated thymidine assays may be conducted to ascertain the degree of cell division. Other biological assays, however, may be used to ascertain the desired activity. Biological assays such as assaying for glucose challenge responses from cells or in animal models, also provides indication of adiponectin activity. OB mice models are available, but other cell-based and animal assays are available for assessment of adiponectin proteins, including those found in Bailon et al., Bioconj. Chem. 12:195 (2001); Forti et al., Meth. Enzymol. 119:533 (1986); Walter et al., Cancer Biother. & Radiopharm. 13:143 (1998); DiMarco et al., BioChem. Biophys. Res. Com. 202:1445 (1994); and U.S. Patent No.:

4,675,282; 4,241,174; 4,514,507; 4,622,292; 5,766,864, which are incorporated by reference herein. Other in vitro assays may be used to ascertain biological activity. In general, the test for biological activity should provide analysis for the desired result, such as increase or decrease in biological activity (as compared to non-altered adiponectin), different biological activity (as compared to non-altered adiponectin), receptor affinity analysis, or serum half-life analysis.

[449] The above compilation of references for assay methodologies is not exhaustive, and those skilled in the art will recognize other assays useful for testing for the desired end result.

XII. Measurement of Potency, Functional In Vivo Half-Life, and Pharmacokinetic Parameters

[450] An important aspect of the invention is the prolonged biological half-life that is obtained by construction of the adiponectin polypeptide with or without conjugation of the polypeptide to a water soluble polymer moiety. The rapid decrease of adiponectin polypeptide serum concentrations makes it important to evaluate biological responses to treatment with conjugated and non-conjugated adiponectin polypeptide and variants thereof. Preferably, the conjugated and non-conjugated adiponectin polypeptide and variants thereof of the present invention have prolonged serum half-lives also after i.v. administration, making it possible to measure by, e.g. ELISA method or by a primary screening assay. ELISA or RIA kits from either BioSource International (Camarillo, CA) or Diagnostic Systems Laboratories (Webster, TX) may be used. Another example of an assay for the measurement of in vivo half-life of adiponectin or variants thereof is described in Kozlowski et al., BioDrugs 15:419 (2001); Bailon et al., Bioconj. Chem. 12:195 (2001); Youngster et al., Current Pharm. Design 8:2139 (2002); U.S. Pat. No. 6,524,570; 6,250,469; 6,180,096; 6,177,074; 6,042,822; 5,981,709; 5,591,974; 5,908,621; 5,738,846, which are incorporated by reference herein. Another example of an assay for the measurement of in vivo half-life of G-CSF or variants thereof is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,778, which is incorporated by reference herein, to employ the same methods in measuring the serum half-life of adiponectin. Measurement of in vivo biological half-life is carried out as described herein.

[451] The potency and functional in vivo half-life of an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid can be determined according to any of the following protocols e.g. Clark, R., *et al., J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 36, 21969-21977 (1996); U.S. Patent No. 5,711,944; 5,382,657; 6,646,110; 6,555,660; 6,166,183; 5,985,265; 5,824,778;

5,773,581; 6,586,398; 5,583,272; and U.S. Patent application Publication No. 2003/0198691A1, which are incorporated by reference herein.

[452] Pharmacokinetic parameters for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid can be evaluated in normal Sprague-Dawley male rats (N=5 animals per treatment group). Animals will receive either a single dose of 25 ug/rat iv or 50 ug/rat sc, and approximately 5-7 blood samples will be taken according to a pre-defined time course, generally covering about 6 hours for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid not conjugated to a water soluble polymer and about 4 days for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid and conjugated to a water soluble polymer. Pharmacokinetic data for adiponectin polypeptides is well-studied in several species and can be compared directly to the data obtained for adiponectin polypeptides comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid. *See* Mordenti J., *et al.*, *Pharm. Res.* 8(11):1351-59 (1991) for studies related to adiponectin.

[453] Pharmacokinetic parameters for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid can be evaluated in normal Sprague-Dawley male rats (N=5 animals per treatment group). Animals will receive either a single dose of 10 ug/rat iv or 20 ug/rat sc, and approximately 5-7 blood samples will be taken according to a pre-defined time course, generally covering about 6 hours for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid not conjugated to a water soluble polymer and about 4 days for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid and conjugated to a water soluble polymer. Pharmacokinetic data for adiponectin polypeptides is well-studied in several species and can be compared directly to the data obtained for adiponectin polypeptides comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid. *See* Mordenti J., *et al.*, *Pharm. Res.* 8(11):1351-59 (1991) for studies related to adiponectin.

[454] Pharmacokinetic parameters for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid can be evaluated in normal Sprague-Dawley male rats (N=5 animals per treatment group). Animals will receive either a single dose of 75 ug/rat iv or 150 ug/rat sc, and approximately 5-7 blood samples will be taken according to a pre-defined time course, generally covering about 6 hours for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid not conjugated to a water soluble polymer and about 4 days for an adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid and conjugated to a water soluble polymer. Pharmacokinetic data for adiponectin polypeptides is well-studied in several species and can be compared directly to the data obtained for adiponectin polypeptides

comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid. *See* Mordenti J., *et al.*, *Pharm. Res.* 8(11):1351-59 (1991) for studies related to adiponectin.

[455] The specific activity of adiponectin polypeptides in accordance with this invention can be determined by various assays known in the art. The biological activity of the purified adiponectin proteins of this invention are such that administration of the adiponectin protein by injection to human patients can show demonstrable results of biological activity by lowering glucose levels, decreasing appetite, exhibiting physiological changes in metabolism, increasing angiogenesis, increasing wound-healing, or any combination of these. The biological activity of the adiponectin muteins, or fragments thereof, obtained and purified in accordance with this invention can be tested by methods similar to those in Pharm. Europa Spec. Issue Erythropoietin BRP Bio 1997(2). Another biological assay for determining the activity of adiponectin that can be employed in determining the biological activity of adiponectin is the normocythaemic mouse assay (Pharm. Europa Spec. Issue Erythropoietin BRP Bio 1997(2)). The biological activity of the adiponectin polypeptide muteins, or fragments thereof, obtained and purified in accordance with this invention can be tested by methods described or referenced herein or known to those skilled in the art.

[456] Further examples of assays for the measurement of in vivo biological activity of hG-CSF which may similarly be employed for testing of biological activity in adiponectin polypeptides or variants thereof are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,681,720; 5,795,968; 5,824,778; 5,985,265; and Bowen et al., Experimental Hematology 27:425-432 (1999), each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

XIII. Administration and Pharmaceutical Compositions

[457] The adiponectin polypeptides or proteins of the invention are optionally employed for therapeutic uses, including but not limited to, in combination with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier. Such compositions, for example, comprise a therapeutically effective amount of the compound, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Such a carrier or excipient includes, but is not limited to, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, ethanol, and/or combinations thereof. The formulation is made to suit the mode of administration. In general, methods of administering proteins are well known in the art and can be applied to administration of the polypeptides of the invention.

[458] Therapeutic compositions comprising one or more polypeptide of the invention are optionally tested in one or more appropriate in vitro and/or in vivo animal models of disease, to confirm efficacy, tissue metabolism, and to estimate dosages, according to methods well

known in the art. In particular, dosages can be initially determined by activity, stability or other suitable measures of unnatural herein to natural amino acid homologues (including but not limited to, comparison of an adiponectin polypeptide modified to include one or more unnatural amino acids to a natural amino acid adiponectin polypeptide), i.e., in a relevant assay.

[459] Administration is by any of the routes normally used for introducing a molecule into ultimate contact with blood or tissue cells. The unnatural amino acid polypeptides of the invention are administered in any suitable manner, optionally with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Suitable methods of administering such polypeptides in the context of the present invention to a patient are available, and, although more than one route can be used to administer a particular composition, a particular route can often provide a more immediate and more effective action or reaction than another route.

[460] Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are determined in part by the particular composition being administered, as well as by the particular method used to administer the composition. Accordingly, there is a wide variety of suitable formulations of pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention.

[461] Polypeptide compositions can be administered by a number of routes including, but not limited to oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, transdermal, subcutaneous, topical, sublingual, or rectal means. Compositions comprising non-natural amino acid polypeptides, modified or unmodified, can also be administered via liposomes. Such administration routes and appropriate formulations are generally known to those of skill in the art.

[462] The adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-natural amino acid, alone or in combination with other suitable components, can also be made into aerosol formulations (i.e., they can be "nebulized") to be administered via inhalation. Aerosol formulations can be placed into pressurized acceptable propellants, such as dichlorodifluoromethane, propane, nitrogen, and the like.

[463] Formulations suitable for parenteral administration, such as, for example, by intraarticular (in the joints), intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal, and subcutaneous routes, include aqueous and non-aqueous, isotonic sterile injection solutions, which can contain antioxidants, buffers, bacteriostats, and solutes that render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient, and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that can include suspending agents, solubilizers, thickening agents, stabilizers, and

preservatives. The formulations of packaged nucleic acid can be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose sealed containers, such as ampules and vials.

[464] Parenteral administration and intravenous administration are preferred methods of administration. In particular, the routes of administration already in use for natural amino acid homologue therapeutics (including but not limited to, those typically used for EPO, GH, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFNs, interleukins, antibodies, and/or any other pharmaceutically delivered protein), along with formulations in current use, provide preferred routes of administration and formulation for the polypeptides of the invention.

[465] The dose administered to a patient, in the context of the present invention, is sufficient to have a beneficial therapeutic response in the patient over time, or, including but not limited to, to inhibit infection by a pathogen, or other appropriate activity, depending on the application. The dose is determined by the efficacy of the particular vector, or formulation, and the activity, stability or serum half-life of the unnatural amino acid polypeptide employed and the condition of the patient, as well as the body weight or surface area of the patient to be treated. The size of the dose is also determined by the existence, nature, and extent of any adverse side-effects that accompany the administration of a particular vector, formulation, or the like in a particular patient.

[466] In determining the effective amount of the vector or formulation to be administered in the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions including, but not limited to, regulation of energy balance, obesity management, modulating glucose, modulating lipid metabolism, modulating hypothalamic-pituitary neuroendocrine function, treatment of infertility, to promote immune function, to promote hematopoiesis, to increase angiogenesis, to increase wound healing, or to decrease serum lipids, the physician evaluates circulating plasma levels, formulation toxicities, progression of the disease, and/or where relevant, the production of anti- unnatural amino acid polypeptide antibodies.

[467] The dose administered, for example, to a 70 kilogram patient, is typically in the range equivalent to dosages of currently-used therapeutic proteins, adjusted for the altered activity or serum half-life of the relevant composition. The vectors of this invention can supplement treatment conditions by any known conventional therapy, including antibody administration, vaccine administration, administration of cytotoxic agents, natural amino acid polypeptides, nucleic acids, nucleotide analogues, biologic response modifiers, and the like.

[468] For administration, formulations of the present invention are administered at a rate determined by the LD-50 or ED-50 of the relevant formulation, and/or observation of any

side-effects of the unnatural amino acids at various concentrations, including but not limited to, as applied to the mass and overall health of the patient. Administration can be accomplished via single or divided doses.

[469] If a patient undergoing infusion of a formulation develops fevers, chills, or muscle aches, he/she receives the appropriate dose of aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen or other pain/fever controlling drug. Patients who experience reactions to the infusion such as fever, muscle aches, and chills are premedicated 30 minutes prior to the future infusions with either aspirin, acetaminophen, or, including but not limited to, diphenhydramine. Meperidine is used for more severe chills and muscle aches that do not quickly respond to antipyretics and antihistamines. Cell infusion is slowed or discontinued depending upon the severity of the reaction.

[470] Human adiponectin polypeptides of the invention can be administered directly to a mammalian subject. Administration is by any of the routes normally used for introducing adiponectin polypeptide to a subject. The adiponectin polypeptide compositions according to embodiments of the present invention include those suitable for oral, rectal, topical, inhalation (including but not limited to, via an aerosol), buccal (including but not limited to, sub-lingual), vaginal, parenteral (including but not limited to, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraarticular, intrapleural, intraperitoneal, inracerebral, intraarterial, or intravenous), topical (i.e., both skin and mucosal surfaces, including airway surfaces) and transdermal administration, although the most suitable route in any given case will depend on the nature and severity of the condition being treated. Administration can be either local or systemic. The formulations of compounds can be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose sealed containers, such as ampoules and vials. Adiponectin polypeptides of the invention can be prepared in a mixture in a unit dosage injectable form (including but not limited to, solution, suspension, or emulsion) with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Adiponectin polypeptides of the invention can also be administered by continuous infusion (using, including but not limited to, minipumps such as osmotic pumps), single bolus or slow-release depot formulations.

[471] Formulations suitable for administration include aqueous and non-aqueous solutions, isotonic sterile solutions, which can contain antioxidants, buffers, bacteriostats, and solutes that render the formulation isotonic, and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that can include suspending agents, solubilizers, thickening agents, stabilizers, and preservatives. Solutions and suspensions can be prepared from sterile powders, granules, and tablets of the kind previously described.

[472] The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are determined in part by the particular composition being administered, as well as by the particular method used to administer the composition. Accordingly, there is a wide variety of suitable formulations of pharmaceutical compositions (including optional pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, or stabilizers) of the present invention (*see, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 17th ed. 1985)).

[473] Suitable carriers include buffers containing phosphate, borate, HEPES, citrate, and other organic acids; antioxidants including ascorbic acid; low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides; proteins, such as serum albumin, gelatin, or immunoglobulins; hydrophilic polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone; amino acids such as glycine, glutamine, asparagine, arginine, or lysine; monosaccharides, disaccharides, and other carbohydrates, including glucose, mannose, or dextrins; chelating agents such as EDTA; divalent metal ions such as zinc, cobalt, or copper; sugar alcohols such as mannitol or sorbitol; salt-forming counter ions such as sodium; and/or nonionic surfactants such as Tween™, Pluronics™, or PEG.

[474] Adiponectin polypeptides of the invention, including those linked to water soluble polymers such as PEG can also be administered by or as part of sustained-release systems. Sustained-release compositions include, including but not limited to, semi-permeable polymer matrices in the form of shaped articles, including but not limited to, films, or microcapsules. Sustained-release matrices include from biocompatible materials such as poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) (Langer *et al.*, *J. Biomed. Mater. Res.*, 15: 167-277 (1981); Langer, *Chem. Tech.*, 12: 98-105 (1982), ethylene vinyl acetate (Langer *et al.*, *supra*) or poly-D-(-)-3-hydroxybutyric acid (EP 133,988), polylactides (polylactic acid) (U.S. Patent No. 3,773,919; EP 58,481), polyglycolide (polymer of glycolic acid), polylactide co-glycolide (copolymers of lactic acid and glycolic acid) polyanhydrides, copolymers of L-glutamic acid and gamma-ethyl-L-glutamate (U. Sidman *et al.*, *Biopolymers*, 22, 547-556 (1983), poly(ortho)esters, polypeptides, hyaluronic acid, collagen, chondroitin sulfate, carboxylic acids, fatty acids, phospholipids, polysaccharides, nucleic acids, polyamino acids, amino acids such as phenylalanine, tyrosine, isoleucine, polynucleotides, polyvinyl propylene, polyvinylpyrrolidone and silicone. Sustained-release compositions also include a liposomally entrapped compound. Liposomes containing the compound are prepared by methods known per se: DE 3,218,121; Epstein *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 82: 3688-3692 (1985); Hwang *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 77: 4030-4034 (1980); EP 52,322; EP 36,676; EP 88,046; EP 143,949; EP 142,641; Japanese Pat. Appln.

83-118008; U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,485,045 and 4,544,545; and EP 102,324. All references and patents cited are incorporated by reference herein.

[475] Liposomally entrapped adiponectin polypeptides can be prepared by methods described in, e.g., DE 3,218,121; Epstein *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 82: 3688-3692 (1985); Hwang *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 77: 4030-4034 (1980); EP 52,322; EP 36,676; EP 88,046; EP 143,949; EP 142,641; Japanese Pat. Appln. 83-118008; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,485,045 and 4,544,545; and EP 102,324. Composition and size of liposomes are well known or able to be readily determined empirically by one skilled in the art. Some examples of liposomes asdescribed in, e.g., Park JW, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 92:1327-1331 (1995); Lasic D and Papahadjopoulos D (eds): MEDICAL APPLICATIONS OF LIPOSOMES (1998); Drummond DC, *et al.*, Liposomal drug delivery systems for cancer therapy, in Teicher B (ed): CANCER DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT (2002); Park JW, *et al.*, *Clin. Cancer Res.* 8:1172-1181 (2002); Nielsen UB, *et al.*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1591(1-3):109-118 (2002); Mamot C, *et al.*, *Cancer Res.* 63: 3154-3161 (2003). All references and patents cited are incorporated by reference herein.

[476] The dose administered to a patient in the context of the present invention should be sufficient to cause a beneficial response in the subject over time. Generally, the total pharmaceutically effective amount of the adiponectin polypeptide of the present invention administered parenterally per dose is in the range of about 0.01 μg/kg/day to about 100 μg/kg, or about 0.05 mg/kg to about 1 mg/kg, of patient body weight, although this is subject to therapeutic discretion. The frequency of dosing is also subject to therapeutic discretion, and, generally a PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide of the invention can be administered by any of the routes of administration described above.

XIV. Therapeutic Uses of Adiponectin Polypeptides of the Invention

[477] The adiponectin polypeptides of the invention are useful for treating a wide range of disorders.

[478] The adiponectin agonist polypeptides of the invention may be useful, for example, for treating conditions including, but not limited to, conditions related to metabolic diseases, regulation of energy balance, obesity management, onset of Type II diabetes, modulating glucose, modulating lipid metabolism, modulating hypothalamic-pituitary neuroendocrine function, treatment of infertility, to promote immune function, to promote hematopoiesis, to modulate angiogenesis, to increase wound healing, or to decrease serum lipids.

[479] Average quantities of adiponectin may vary and in particular should be based upon the recommendations and prescription of a qualified physician. The exact amount of adiponectin is a matter of preference subject to such factors as the exact type of condition being treated, the condition of the patient being treated, as well as the other ingredients in the composition.

[480] Administration of the adiponectin products of the present invention results in any of the activities demonstrated by commercially available adiponectin preparations (in humans). The pharmaceutical compositions containing the adiponectin glycoprotein products may be formulated at a strength effective for administration by various means to a human patient experiencing disorders that may be affected by adiponectin agonists or antagonists, such as but not limited to, anti-obesity, anti-lipid, glucose-lowering, or angiogenesis agonists are used, either alone or as part of a condition or disease. Average quantities of the adiponectin glycoprotein product may vary and in particular should be based upon the recommendations and prescription of a qualified physician. The exact amount of adiponectin is a matter of preference subject to such factors as the exact type of condition being treated, the condition of the patient being treated, as well as the other ingredients in the composition. The adiponectin of the present invention may thus be used to interrupt or modulate energy balance, energy regulation, obesity management, serum lipids, serum glucose, modulating glucose, modulating lipid metabolism, modulating hypothalamic-pituitary neuroendocrine function, treatment of infertility, to promote immune function, to promote hematopoiesis, to increase angiogenesis, or to increase wound healing. The invention also provides for administration of a therapeutically effective amount of another active agent such as an anti-diabetic, anti-lipid, appetite suppressing, or other agent. The amount to be given may be readily determined by one skilled in the art based upon therapy with adiponectin.

EXAMPLES

[481] The following examples are offered to illustrate, but not to limit the claimed invention.

Example 1

[482] This example describes one of the many potential sets of criteria for the selection of preferred sites of incorporation of non-naturally encoded amino acids into adiponectin.

[483] This example demonstrates how preferred sites within the adiponectin polypeptide were selected for introduction of a non-naturally encoded amino acid. The crystal structure of adiponectin, adiponectin dimers, adiponectin trimers, and adiponectin multimers are used to determine preferred positions into which one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids could be introduced. Other adiponectin structures (e.g. from computer modeling, etc.) can be utilized to examine potential variation of primary and secondary structural elements between crystal structure datasets. The coordinates for these structures are available from the Protein Data Bank (PDB) (Berstein et al. *J. Mol. Biol.* 1997, 112, pp 535) or via The Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics PDB available on the World Wide Web at rcsb.org. The structural model of adiponectin contains the entire mature 30 kDa sequence of adiponectin, the 60 kDa dimer, 90 kDa trimer, 180 kDa hexamer, 360 kDa dodecamer, and larger adiponectin multimers. The following criteria were used to evaluate each position of adiponectin for the introduction of a non-naturally encoded amino acid: the residue (a) should not interfere with binding of either adiponectin polypeptides or adiponectin receptors, based on structural analysis (e.g., crystallographic structures of adiponectin and adiponectin multimers conjugated with adiponectin receptor), b) should not be affected by alanine or homolog scanning mutagenesis (Cunningham et al. *Science* (1989) 244:1081-1085 and Cummingham et al. *Science* (1989) 243:1330-1336), (c) should be surface exposed and exhibit minimal van der Waals or hydrogen bonding interactions with surrounding residues, (d) should be either deleted or variable in adiponectin variants, (e) would result in conservative changes upon substitution with a non-naturally encoded amino acid and (f) could be found in either highly flexible regions or structurally rigid regions. In addition, further calculations are performed on the adiponectin molecule, utilizing the Cx program (Pintar et al. *Bioinformatics*, 18, pp 980) to evaluate the extent of protrusion for each protein atom.

[484] As a result, in some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded encoded amino acids are incorporated at, but not limited to, one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151,

152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded encoded amino acids are incorporated at, but not limited to, one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In another embodiment, one or more non-naturally encoded encoded amino acids are incorporated at, but not limited to, one or more of the following positions of adiponectin: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232,

233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[485] In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 (SEQ ID NO: 1). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids are substituted at one or more of the following positions: 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4).

[486] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130,

131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4). In another embodiment, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer, including but not limited to, positions: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

[487] In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer: 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 (SEQ ID NO: 1). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer: 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 (SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2). In some embodiments, the non-naturally occurring amino acid at one or more of these positions is linked to a water soluble polymer: 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 (SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4).

Example 2

[488] This example details cloning and expression of an hGH polypeptide including a non-naturally encoded amino acid in *E. coli*. This example also describes one method to assess the biological activity of modified hGH polypeptides, and these cloning, expression, and assessment techniques can also be used for adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention.

[489] Methods for cloning hGH and fragments thereof are detailed in U.S. Patent Nos, 4,601,980; 4,604,359; 4,634,677; 4,658,021; 4,898,830; 5,424,199; and 5,795,745. Sequences for hGH or the mature form of hGH lacking the N-terminal signal sequence are included in Patent Nos 4,601,980; 4,604,359; 4,634,677; 4,658,021; 4,898,830; 5,424,199; 5,795,745; and 8,178,108; each of which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

[490] An introduced translation system that comprises an orthogonal tRNA (O-tRNA) and an orthogonal aminoacyl tRNA synthetase (O-RS) is used to express hGH containing a non-naturally encoded amino acid. The O-RS preferentially aminoacylates the O-tRNA with a non-naturally encoded amino acid. In turn the translation system inserts the non-naturally encoded amino acid into hGH, in response to an encoded selector codon.

Table 2: O-RS and O-tRNA sequences.

SEQ ID NO:6	*M. jannaschii* $mtRNA^{Tyr}_{CUA}$	tRNA
SEQ ID NO:7	*HLAD03; an optimized amber supressor tRNA*	tRNA
SEQ ID NO:8	*HL325A; an optimized AGGA frameshift supressor tRNA*	tRNA
SEQ ID NO:9	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-L-phenylalanine p-Az-PheRS(6)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:10	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-benzoyl-L-phenylalanine p-BpaRS(1)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:11	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of propargyl-phenylalanine Propargyl-PheRS*	RS
SEQ ID NO:12	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of propargyl-phenylalanine Propargyl-PheRS*	RS
SEQ ID NO:13	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of propargyl-phenylalanine Propargyl-PheRS*	RS
SEQ ID NO:14	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine p-Az-PheRS(1)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:15	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine p-Az-PheRS(3)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:16	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine p-Az-PheRS(4)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:17	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine p-Az-PheRS(2)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:18	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-acetyl-phenylalanine (LW1)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:19	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-acetyl -phenylalanine (LW5)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:20	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-acetyl-phenylalanine (LW6)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:21	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine (AzPheRS-5)*	RS
SEQ ID NO:22	*Aminoacyl tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of p-azido-phenylalanine (AzPheRS-6)*	RS

[491] The transformation of *E. coli* with plasmids containing the modified hGH gene and the orthogonal aminoacyl tRNA synthetase/tRNA pair (specific for the desired non-naturally encoded amino acid) allows the site-specific incorporation of non-naturally encoded amino acid into the hGH polypeptide. The transformed *E. coli*, grown at 37° C in media containing between 0.01 – 100 mM of the particular non-naturally encoded amino acid, expresses modified hGH with high fidelity and efficiency. The His-tagged hGH containing a non-naturally encoded amino acid is produced by the E. coli host cells as inclusion bodies or aggregates. The aggregates are solubilized and affinity purified under denaturing conditions in 6M guanidine HCl. Refolding is performed by dialysis at 4°C overnight in 50mM TRIS-HCl, pH8.0, 40μM $CuSO_4$, and 2% (w/v) Sarkosyl. The material is then dialyzed against 20mM TRIS-HCl, pH 8.0, 100mM NaCl, 2mM $CaCl_2$, followed by removal of the His-tag. See Boissel et al., (1993) 268:15983-93. Methods for purification of hGH are well known in the art and are confirmed by SDS-PAGE, Western Blot analyses, or electrospray-ionization ion trap mass spectrometry and the like.

[492] Figure 6 is an SDS-PAGE of purified hGH polypeptides. The His-tagged mutant hGH proteins were purified using the ProBond Nickel-Chelating Resin (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) via the standard His-tagged protein purification procedures provided by the manufacturer, followed by an anion exchange column prior to loading on the gel. Lane 1 shows the molecular weight marker, and lane 2 represents N-His hGH without incorporation of a non-natural amino acid. Lanes 3-10 contain N-His hGH mutants comprising the non-natural amino acid p-acetyl-phenylalanine at each of the positions Y35, F92, Y111, G131, R134, K140, Y143, and K145, respectively.

[493] To further assess the biological activity of modified hGH polypeptides, an assay measuring a downstream marker of hGH's interaction with its receptor was used. The interaction of hGH with its endogenously produced receptor leads to the tyrosine phosphorylation of a signal transducer and activator of transcription family member, STAT5, in the human IM-9 lymphocyte cell line. Two forms of STAT5, STAT5A and STAT5B were identified from an IM-9 cDNA library. *See, e.g.,* Silva et al., Mol. Endocrinol. (1996) 10(5):508-518. The human growth hormone receptor on IM-9 cells is selective for human growth hormone as neither rat growth hormone nor human prolactin resulted in detectable STAT5 phosphorylation. Importantly, rat GHR (L43R) extra cellular domain and the G120R bearing hGH compete effectively against hGH stimulated pSTAT5 phoshorylation.

[494] IM-9 cells were stimulated with hGH polypeptides of the present invention. The human IM-9 lymphocytes were purchased from ATCC (Manassas, VA) and grown in RPMI 1640 supplemented with sodium pyruvate, penicillin, streptomycin (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, San Diego) and 10% heat inactivated fetal calf serum (Hyclone, Logan, UT). The IM-9 cells were starved overnight in assay media (phenol-red free RPMI, 10mM Hepes, 1% heat inactivated charcoal/dextran treated FBS, sodium pyruvate, penicillin and streptomycin) before stimulation with a 12-point dose range of hGH polypeptides for 10 min at 37°C. Stimulated cells were fixed with 1% formaldehyde before permeabilization with 90% ice-cold methanol for 1 hour on ice. The level of STAT5 phosphorylation was detected by intra-cellular staining with a primary phospho-STAT5 antibody (Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA) at room temperature for 30 min followed by a PE-conjugated secondary antibody. Sample acquisition was performed on the FACS Array with acquired data analyzed on the Flowjo software (Tree Star Inc., Ashland, OR). EC_{50} values were derived from dose response curves plotted with mean fluorescent intensity (MFI) against protein concentration utilizing SigmaPlot.

[495] Table 3 below summarizes the IM-9 data generated with mutant hGH polypeptides. Various hGH polypeptides with a non-natural amino acid substitution at different positions were tested with human IM-9 cells as described. Specifically, Figure 7, Panel A shows the IM-9 data for a His-tagged hGH polypeptide, and Figure 7, Panel B shows the IM-9 data for His-tagged hGH comprising the non-natural amino acid p-acetyl-phenylalanine substitution for Y143. The same assay was used to assess biological activity of hGH polypeptides comprising a non-natural amino acid that is PEGylated.

TABLE 3

GH	EC_{50} (nM)	GH	EC_{50} (nM)
WHO WT	0.4 ± 0.1 (n=8)	N-6His G120R	>200,000
N-6His WT	0.6 ± 0.3 (n=3)	N-6His G120pAF	>200,000
rat GH WT	>200,000	N-6His G131pAF	0.8 ± 0.5 (n=3)
N-6His Y35pAF	0.7 ± 0.2 (n=4)	N-6His P133pAF	1.0
N-6His E88pAF	0.9	N-6His R134pAF	0.9 ± 0.3 (n=4)
N-6His Q91pAF	2.0 ± 0.6 (n=2)	N-6His T135pAF	0.9
N-6His F92pAF	0.8 ± 0.4 (n=9)	N-6His G136pAF	1.4
N-6His R94pAF	0.7	N-6His F139pAF	3.3
N-6His S95pAF	16.7 ± 1.0 (n=2)	N-6His K140pAF	2.7 ± 0.9 (n=2)
N-6His N99pAF	8.5	N-6His Y143pAF	0.8 ± 0.3 (n=3)
N-6His Y103pAF	130,000	N-6His K145pAF	0.6 ± 0.2 (n=3)
N-6His Y111pAF	1.0	N-6His A155pAF	1.3

TABLE 4				
GH	**EC_{50} (nM)**		**GH**	**EC_{50} (nM)**
WHO WT	0.4 ± 0.1 (n=8)		G120R	>200,000
N-6His WT	0.6 ± 0.3 (n=3)		G120pAF	>200,000
rat GH WT	>200,000		G131pAF	0.8 ± 0.5 (n=3)
Y35pAF	0.7 ± 0.2 (n=4)		P133pAF	1.0
E88pAF	0.9		R134pAF	0.9 ± 0.3 (n=4)
Q91pAF	2.0 ± 0.6 (n=2)		T135pAF	0.9
F92pAF	0.8 ± 0.4 (n=9)		G136pAF	1.4
R94pAF	0.7		F139pAF	3.3
S95pAF	16.7 ± 1.0 (n=2)		K140pAF	2.7 ± 0.9 (n=2)
N99pAF	8.5		Y143pAF	0.8 ± 0.3 (n=3)
Y103pAF	130,000		K145pAF	0.6 ± 0.2 (n=3)
Y111pAF	1.0		A155pAF	1.3

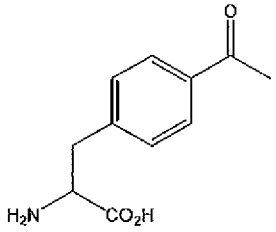
[496] This example details cloning, expression, and assessment techniques that can also be used for adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention.

Example 3

[497] This example details introduction of a carbonyl-containing amino acid and subsequent reaction with an aminooxy-containing PEG.

[498] This Example demonstrates a method for the generation of an adiponectin polypeptide that incorporates a ketone-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid that is subsequently reacted with an aminooxy-containing PEG of approximately 5,000 MW. Each of the residues before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 3 or the

corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; or before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4; or residues before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 1; each is separately substituted with a non-naturally encoded amino acid having the following structure:



[499] The sequences utilized for site-specific incorporation of p-acetyl-phenylalanine into adiponectin are SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5 (adiponectin), and (muttRNA, *M. jannaschii* $mtRNA^{Tyr}_{CUA}$), and 16, 17 or 18 (TyrRS LW1, 5, or 6) described in Example 2 above.

[500] Once modified, the adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the carbonyl-containing amino acid is reacted with an aminooxy-containing PEG derivative of the form:

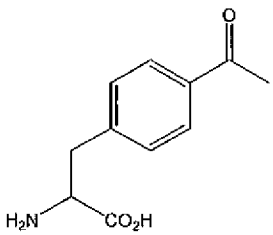
R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_n$-O-NH_2

where R is methyl, n is 3 and N is approximately 5,000 MW. The purified adiponectin containing *p*-acetylphenylalanine dissolved at 10 mg/mL in 25 mM MES (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 6.0, 25 mM Hepes (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 7.0, or in 10 mM Sodium Acetate (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 4.5, is reacted with a 10 to 100-fold excess of aminooxy-containing PEG, and then stirred for 10 – 16 hours at room temperature (Jencks, W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1959, 81, pp 475). The PEG- adiponectin is then diluted into appropriate buffer for immediate purification and analysis.

Example 4

[501] This example details introduction of a carbonyl-containing amino acid and subsequent reaction with an aminooxy-containing PEG.

[502] This Example demonstrates a method for the generation of an adiponectin polypeptide that incorporates a ketone-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid that is subsequently reacted with an aminooxy-containing PEG of approximately 5,000 MW. Each of the residues 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 of SEQ ID NO: 1; 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 of SEQ ID NO: 3, or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; and/or 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4; identified according to the aforementioned selection criteria for residues for substitution, each is separately substituted with a non-naturally encoded amino acid having the following structure:



[503] The sequences utilized for site-specific incorporation of p-acetyl-phenylalanine into adiponectin are SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5 (adiponectin), and (muttRNA, *M. jannaschii* $mtRNA^{Tyr}_{CUA}$), and 16, 17 or 18 (TyrRS LW1, 5, or 6) described in Example 2 above.

[504] Once modified, the adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the carbonyl-containing amino acid is reacted with an aminooxy-containing PEG derivative of the form:

R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_n$-O-NH_2

where R is methyl, n is 3 and N is approximately 5,000 MW. The purified adiponectin containing *p*-acetylphenylalanine dissolved at 10 mg/mL in 25 mM MES (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 6.0, 25 mM Hepes (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 7.0, or in 10 mM Sodium Acetate (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 4.5, is reacted with a 10 to 100-fold excess of aminooxy-containing PEG, and then stirred for 10 – 16 hours at room temperature (Jencks, W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1959, 81, pp 475). The PEG- adiponectin is then diluted into appropriate buffer for immediate purification and analysis.

Example 5

[505] Conjugation with a PEG consisting of a hydroxylamine group linked to the PEG via an amide linkage.

[506] A PEG reagent having the following structure is coupled to a ketone-containing non-naturally encoded amino acid using the procedure described in Examples 3 and 4:

R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_2$-NH-C(O)$(CH_2)_n$-O-NH_2

where R = methyl, n=4 and N is approximately 20,000 MW. The reaction, purification, and analysis conditions are as described in Examples 3 and 4.

Example 6

[507] This example details the introduction of two distinct non-naturally encoded amino acids into adiponectin polypeptides.

[508] This example demonstrates a method for the generation of an adiponectin polypeptide that incorporates non-naturally encoded amino acid comprising a ketone functionality at two positions among the following residues: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102,

103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; or before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4; or residues before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of

SEQ ID NO: 1;. The adiponectin polypeptide is prepared as described in Examples 1 and 2, except that the suppressor codon is introduced at two distinct sites within the nucleic acid.

Example 7

[509] This example details conjugation of adiponectin polypeptide to a hydrazide-containing PEG and subsequent in situ reduction.

[510] An adiponectin polypeptide incorporating a carbonyl-containing amino acid is prepared according to the procedure described in Examples 2 and 3. Once modified, a hydrazide-containing PEG having the following structure is conjugated to the adiponectin polypeptide:

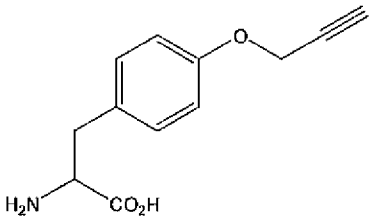
R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_2$-NH-C(O)$(CH_2)_n$-X-NH-NH_2

where R = methyl, n=2 and N = 10,000 MW and X is a carbonyl (C=O) group. The purified adiponectin containing *p*-acetylphenylalanine is dissolved at between 0.1-10 mg/mL in 25 mM MES (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 6.0, 25 mM Hepes (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 7.0, or in 10 mM Sodium Acetate (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) pH 4.5, is reacted with a 1 to 100-fold excess of hydrazide-containing PEG, and the corresponding hydrazone is reduced *in situ* by addition of stock 1M $NaCNBH_3$ (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO), dissolved in H_2O, to a final concentration of 10-50 mM. Reactions are carried out in the dark at 4 °C to RT for 18-24 hours. Reactions are stopped by addition of 1 M Tris (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) at about pH 7.6 to a final Tris concentration of 50 mM or diluted into appropriate buffer for immediate purification.

Example 8

[511] This example details introduction of an alkyne-containing amino acid into an adiponectin polypeptide and derivatization with mPEG-azide.

[512] The following residues, 122, 221, 192, 228, 146, 141, 180, 168, 128, 207, 178, 191, 220 of SEQ ID NO: 1; 108, 207, 178, 214, 132, 127, 166, 154, 114, 193, 164, 177, 206 of SEQ ID NO: 3, or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; and/or 109, 208, 179, 215, 133, 128, 167, 155, 115, 194, 165, 178, 207 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4;, are each substituted with the following non-naturally encoded amino:



[513] The sequences utilized for site-specific incorporation of p-propargyl-tyrosine into adiponectin are SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 (or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2), SEQ ID NO: 5 (or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4), (muttRNA, *M. jannaschii* $mtRNA^{Tyr}_{CUA}$), and 9, 10 or 11 described in Example 2 above. Any of the residues of adiponectin identified herein may be substituted with this non-naturally encoded amino acid. The adiponectin polypeptide containing the propargyl tyrosine is expressed in *E. coli* and purified using the conditions described in Examples 3 and 4.

[514] The purified adiponectin containing propargyl-tyrosine is dissolved at between 0.1-10 mg/mL in PB buffer (100 mM sodium phosphate, 0.15 M NaCl, pH = 8) and a 10 to 1000-fold excess of an azide-containing PEG is added to the reaction mixture. A catalytic amount of $CuSO_4$ and Cu wire are then added to the reaction mixture. After the mixture is incubated (including but not limited to, about 4 hours at room temperature or 37° C, or overnight at 4°C), H_2O is added and the mixture is filtered through a dialysis membrane. The sample can be analyzed for the addition, including but not limited to, by similar procedures described in Examples 3 and 4.

[515] In this Example, the PEG will have the following structure:

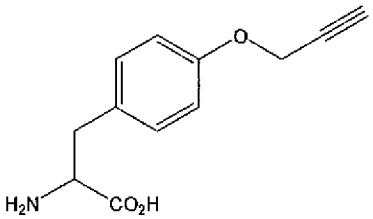
R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_2$-NH-C(O)$(CH_2)_n$-N_3

where R is methyl, n is 4 and N is 10,000 MW.

Example 9

[516] This example details substitution of a large, hydrophobic amino acid in an adiponectin polypeptide with propargyl tyrosine.

[517] A Phe, Trp or Tyr residue present within one the following regions of adiponectin: : 1-18 (signal sequence), 19-41 (variable region), 42-107 (collagenous domain), 108-245(C-terminus) (globular domain) (SEQ ID NO: 1 and matcing residues from SEQ ID NO: 3 and 5), is substituted with the following non-naturally encoded amino acid as described in Example 8:



[518] Once modified, a PEG is attached to the adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the alkyne-containing amino acid. The PEG will have the following structure:

Me-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_2$-N_3

and coupling procedures would follow those in Example 7. This will generate a adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid that is approximately isosteric with one of the naturally-occurring, large hydrophobic amino acids and which is modified with a PEG derivative at a distinct site within the polypeptide.

Example 10

[519] This example details generation of an adiponectin polypeptide homodimer, heterodimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, high molecular weight adiponectin, low molecular weight adiponectin, middle molecular weight adiponectin, homomultimer, or heteromultimer separated by one or more PEG linkers.

[520] The alkyne-containing adiponectin polypeptide variant produced in Example 8 is reacted with a bifunctional PEG derivative of the form:

N_3-$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)-NH-$(CH_2)_2$-O-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_2$-NH-C(O)-$(CH_2)_n$-N_3

where n is 4 and the PEG has an average MW of approximately 5,000, to generate the corresponding adiponectin polypeptide multimer where the adiponectin molecules are physically separated by PEG. In an analogous manner an adiponectin polypeptide may be coupled to one or more other polypeptides to form heterodimers, homomultimers, or heteromultimers. Coupling, purification, and analyses will be performed as in Examples 8, 4, and 3.

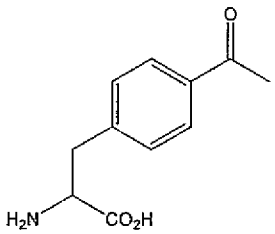
Example 11

[521] This example details coupling of a saccharide moiety to an adiponectin polypeptide.

[522] One residue of the following is substituted with the non-natural encoded amino acid below: before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92,

93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; or before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4; or residues before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242,

243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 1; as described in Example 3.



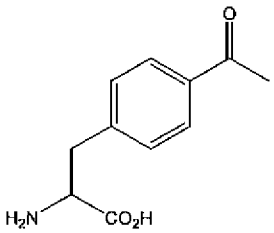
[523] Once modified, the adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the carbonyl-containing amino acid is reacted with a β-linked aminooxy analogue of N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc). The adiponectin polypeptide variant (10 mg/mL) and the aminooxy saccharide (21 mM) are mixed in aqueous 100 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.5) and incubated at 37°C for 7 to 26 hours. A second saccharide is coupled to the first enzymatically by incubating the saccharide-conjugated adiponectin polypeptide (5 mg/mL) with UDP-galactose (16 mM) and β-1,4-galacytosyltransferase (0.4 units/mL) in 150 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) for 48 hours at ambient temperature (Schanbacher et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 1970, 245, 5057-5061).

Example 12

[524] This example details generation of a PEGylated adiponectin polypeptide antagonist.

[525] One of the following residues, before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 3 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2; or before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the corresponding amino acids encoded by SEQ ID NO: 4; or residues before position 1 (i.e. at the N-terminus), 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, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245 (i.e., at the carboxyl terminus of the protein) of SEQ ID NO: 1; is substituted with the following non-naturally encoded amino acid as described in Example 3 or 4.



[526] Once modified, the adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the carbonyl-containing amino acid will be reacted with an aminooxy-containing PEG derivative of the form: R-PEG(N)-O-$(CH_2)_n$-O-NH_2

where R is methyl, n is 4 and N is 20,000 MW to generate an adiponectin polypeptide antagonist comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid that is modified with a PEG derivative at a single site within the polypeptide. Coupling, purification, and analyses are performed as in Example 3 or 4.

Example 13

Generation of an adiopnectin polypeptide homodimer, heterodimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, high molecular weight adiponectin, low molecular weight adiponectin, middle molecular weight adiponectin, homomultimer, or heteromultimer in which the adiopnectin molecules are linked directly.

[527] An adiponectin polypeptide variant comprising the alkyne-containing amino acid can be directly coupled to another adiopnectin polypeptide variant comprising the azido-containing amino acid, each of which comprise non-naturally encoded amino acid substitutions at the sites described in, but not limited to, Example 11. This will generate the corresponding adiopnectin polypeptide homodimer where the two adiopnectin polypeptide variants are physically joined at the site II binding interface. In an analogous manner a adiponectin polypeptide polypeptide may be coupled to one or more other polypeptides to form homodimer, heterodimer, trimer, hexamer, dodecamer, high molecular weight adiponectin, low molecular weight adiponectin, middle molecular weight adiponectin, homomultimer, or heteromultimer. Coupling, purification, and analyses are performed as in Examples 3, 4, 7, and 8.

Example 14

PEG-OH + Br-$(CH_2)_n$-C≡CR' → PEG-O-$(CH_2)_n$-C≡CR'

A B

[528] The polyalkylene glycol (P-OH) is reacted with the alkyl halide (A) to form the ether (B). In these compounds, n is an integer from one to nine and R' can be a straight- or branched-chain, saturated or unsaturated C1, to C20 alkyl or heteroalkyl group. R' can also be a C3 to C7 saturated or unsaturated cyclic alkyl or cyclic heteroalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkaryl (the alkyl is a C1 to C20 saturated or unsaturated alkyl) or heteroalkaryl group. Typically, PEG-OH is polyethylene glycol (PEG) or monomethoxy polyethylene glycol (mPEG) having a molecular weight of 800 to 40,000 Daltons (Da).

Example 15

mPEG-OH + Br-CH_2 -C≡CH → mPEG-O-CH_2-C≡CH

[529] mPEG-OH with a molecular weight of 20,000 Da (mPEG-OH 20 kDa; 2.0 g, 0.1 mmol, Sunbio) was treated with NaH (12 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (35 mL). A solution of propargyl bromide, dissolved as an 80% weight solution in xylene (0.56 mL, 5 mmol, 50 equiv., Aldrich), and a catalytic amount of KI were then added to the solution and the resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 2 hours. Water (1 mL) was then added and the solvent was removed under vacuum. To the residue was added CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and the volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL. This CH_2Cl_2 solution was added to diethyl ether (150 mL) drop-wise. The resulting precipitate was collected, washed with several portions of cold diethyl ether, and dried to afford propargyl-O-PEG.

Example 16

mPEG-OH + Br-$(CH_2)_3$-C≡CH → mPEG-O-$(CH_2)_3$-C≡CH

[530] The mPEG-OH with a molecular weight of 20,000 Da (mPEG-OH 20 kDa; 2.0 g, 0.1 mmol, Sunbio) was treated with NaH (12 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (35 mL). Fifty equivalents of 5-bromo-1-pentyne (0.53 mL, 5 mmol, Aldrich) and a catalytic amount of KI were then added to the mixture. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 16 hours. Water (1 mL) was then added and the solvent was removed under vacuum. To the residue was added CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and the volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL. This CH_2Cl_2 solution was added to diethyl ether (150 mL) drop-wise. The resulting precipitate was collected, washed with several portions of cold diethyl ether, and dried to afford the corresponding alkyne. 5-chloro-1-pentyne may be used in a similar reaction.

Example 17

(1) *m*-$HOCH_2C_6H_4OH$ + NaOH + Br- CH_2-C≡CH → *m*-$HOCH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH

(2) *m*-$HOCH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH + MsCl + $N(Et)_3$ → *m*-$MsOCH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH

(3) *m*-$MsOCH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH + LiBr → *m*-Br-$CH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH

(4) mPEG-OH + *m*-Br-$CH_2C_6H_4O$-CH_2-C≡CH → mPEG-O-CH_2-C_6H_4O-CH_2-C≡CH

[531] To a solution of 3-hydroxybenzylalcohol (2.4 g, 20 mmol) in THF (50 mL) and water (2.5 mL) was first added powdered sodium hydroxide (1.5 g, 37.5 mmol) and then a solution of propargyl bromide, dissolved as an 80% weight solution in xylene (3.36 mL, 30 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 6 hours. To the mixture was added 10% citric acid (2.5 mL) and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaCl solution (10 mL), dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated to give the 3-propargyloxybenzyl alcohol.

[532] Methanesulfonyl chloride (2.5 g, 15.7 mmol) and triethylamine (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) were added to a solution of compound 3 (2.0 g, 11.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 at 0°C and the reaction was placed in the refrigerator for 16 hours. A usual work-up afforded the mesylate as a pale yellow oil. This oil (2.4 g, 9.2 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and LiBr (2.0 g, 23.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1 hour and was then cooled to room temperature. To the mixture was added water (2.5 mL) and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaCl solution (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and concentrated to give the desired bromide.

[533] mPEG-OH 20 kDa (1.0 g, 0.05 mmol, Sunbio) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and the solution was cooled in an ice bath. NaH (6 mg, 0.25 mmol) was added with vigorous stirring over a period of several minutes followed by addition of the bromide obtained from above (2.55 g, 11.4 mmol) and a catalytic amount of KI. The cooling bath was removed and the resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 12 hours. Water (1.0 mL) was added to the mixture and the solvent was removed under vacuum. To the residue was added CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and the volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL. Dropwise addition to an ether solution (150 mL) resulted in a white precipitate, which was collected to yield the PEG derivative.

Example 18

mPEG-NH_2 + X-C(O)-$(CH_2)_n$-C≡CR' → mPEG-NH-C(O)-$(CH_2)_n$-C≡CR'

[534] The terminal alkyne-containing poly(ethylene glycol) polymers can also be obtained by coupling a poly(ethylene glycol) polymer containing a terminal functional group to a reactive molecule containing the alkyne functionality as shown above. n is between 1 and 10. R' can be H or a small alkyl group from C1 to C4.

Example 19

(1) $HO_2C-(CH_2)_2-C\equiv CH + NHS + DCC \rightarrow NHSO-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-C\equiv CH$

(2) $mPEG-NH_2 + NHSO-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-C\equiv CH \rightarrow mPEG-NH-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-C\equiv CH$

[535] 4-pentynoic acid (2.943 g, 3.0 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL). N-hydroxysuccinimide (3.80 g, 3.3 mmol) and DCC (4.66 g, 3.0 mmol) were added and the solution was stirred overnight at room temperature. The resulting crude NHS ester **7** was used in the following reaction without further purification.

[536] $mPEG-NH_2$ with a molecular weight of 5,000 Da ($mPEG-NH_2$, 1 g, Sunbio) was dissolved in THF (50 mL) and the mixture was cooled to 4 °C. NHS ester **7** (400 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added portion-wise with vigorous stirring. The mixture was allowed to stir for 3 hours while warming to room temperature. Water (2 mL) was then added and the solvent was removed under vacuum. To the residue was added CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) and the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and the volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL. This CH_2Cl_2 solution was added to ether (150 mL) drop-wise. The resulting precipitate was collected and dried in vacuo.

Example 20

[537] This Example represents the preparation of the methane sulfonyl ester of poly(ethylene glycol), which can also be referred to as the methanesulfonate or mesylate of poly(ethylene glycol). The corresponding tosylate and the halides can be prepared by similar procedures.

$mPEG-OH + CH_3SO_2Cl + N(Et)_3 \rightarrow mPEG-O-SO_2CH_3 \rightarrow mPEG-N_3$

[538] The mPEG-OH (MW = 3,400, 25 g, 10 mmol) in 150 mL of toluene was azeotropically distilled for 2 hours under nitrogen and the solution was cooled to room temperature. 40 mL of dry CH_2Cl_2 and 2.1 mL of dry triethylamine (15 mmol) were added to the solution. The solution was cooled in an ice bath and 1.2 mL of distilled methanesulfonyl

chloride (15 mmol) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen overnight, and the reaction was quenched by adding 2 mL of absolute ethanol. The mixture was evaporated under vacuum to remove solvents, primarily those other than toluene, filtered, concentrated again under vacuum, and then precipitated into 100 mL of diethyl ether. The filtrate was washed with several portions of cold diethyl ether and dried in vacuo to afford the mesylate.

[539] The mesylate (20 g, 8 mmol) was dissolved in 75 ml of THF and the solution was cooled to 4 °C. To the cooled solution was added sodium azide (1.56 g, 24 mmol). The reaction was heated to reflux under nitrogen for 2 hours. The solvents were then evaporated and the residue diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL). The organic fraction was washed with NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. The volume was reduced to 20 ml and the product was precipitated by addition to 150 ml of cold dry ether.

Example 21

(1) N_3-C_6H_4-CO_2H → N_3-$C_6H_4CH_2OH$

(2) N_3-$C_6H_4CH_2OH$ → Br-CH_2-C_6H_4-N_3

(3) mPEG-OH + Br-CH_2-C_6H_4-N_3 → mPEG-O-CH_2-C_6H_4-N_3

[540] 4-azidobenzyl alcohol can be produced using the method described in U.S. Patent 5,998,595, which is incorporated by reference herein. Methanesulfonyl chloride (2.5 g, 15.7 mmol) and triethylamine (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) were added to a solution of 4-azidobenzyl alcohol (1.75 g, 11.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 at 0 °C and the reaction was placed in the refrigerator for 16 hours. A usual work-up afforded the mesylate as a pale yellow oil. This oil (9.2 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and LiBr (2.0 g, 23.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1 hour and was then cooled to room temperature. To the mixture was added water (2.5 mL) and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaCl solution (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and concentrated to give the desired bromide.

[541] mPEG-OH 20 kDa (2.0 g, 0.1 mmol, Sunbio) was treated with NaH (12 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (35 mL) and the bromide (3.32 g, 15 mmol) was added to the mixture along with a catalytic amount of KI. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 12 hours. Water (1.0 mL) was added to the mixture and the solvent was removed under vacuum. To the residue was added CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and the organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4, and

the volume was reduced to approximately 2 mL. Dropwise addition to an ether solution (150 mL) resulted in a precipitate, which was collected to yield mPEG-O-CH_2-C_6H_4-N_3.

Example 22

NH_2-PEG-O-$CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ + N_3-$CH_2CH_2CO_2$-NHS → N_3-CH_2CH_2-C(O)NH-PEG-O-$CH_2CH_2CO_2H$

[542] NH_2-PEG-O-$CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ (MW 3,400 Da, 2.0 g) was dissolved in a saturated aqueous solution of $NaHCO_3$ (10 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0°C. 3-azido-1-N-hydroxysuccinimido propionate (5 equiv.) was added with vigorous stirring. After 3 hours, 20 mL of H_2O was added and the mixture was stirred for an additional 45 minutes at room temperature. The pH was adjusted to 3 with 0.5 N H_2SO_4 and NaCl was added to a concentration of approximately 15 wt%. The reaction mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL x 3), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. After precipitation with cold diethyl ether, the product was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to yield the omega-carboxy-azide PEG derivative.

Example 23

mPEG-OMs + HC≡CLi → mPEG-O-CH_2-CH_2-C≡C-H

[543] To a solution of lithium acetylide (4 equiv.), prepared as known in the art and cooled to -78°C in THF, is added dropwise a solution of mPEG-OMs dissolved in THF with vigorous stirring. After 3 hours, the reaction is permitted to warm to room temperature and quenched with the addition of 1 mL of butanol. 20 mL of H_2O is then added and the mixture was stirred for an additional 45 minutes at room temperature. The pH was adjusted to 3 with 0.5 N H_2SO_4 and NaCl was added to a concentration of approximately 15 wt%. The reaction mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL x 3), dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. After precipitation with cold diethyl ether, the product was collected by filtration and dried under vacuum to yield the 1-(but-3-ynyloxy)-methoxypolyethylene glycol (mPEG).

Example 24

[544] The azide- and acetylene-containing amino acids were incorporated site-selectively into proteins using the methods described in L. Wang, et al., (2001), Science

292:498-500, J.W. Chin et al., Science 301:964-7 (2003)), J. W. Chin et al., (2002), Journal of the American Chemical Society 124:9026-9027; J. W. Chin, & P. G. Schultz, (2002), Chem Bio Chem 11:1135-1137; J. W. Chin, et al., (2002), PNAS United States of America 99:11020-11024: and, L. Wang, & P. G. Schultz, (2002), Chem. Comm., 1-10. Once the amino acids were incorporated, the cycloaddition reaction was carried out with 0.01 mM protein in phosphate buffer (PB), pH 8, in the presence of 2 mM PEG derivative, 1 mM $CuSO_4$, and ~1 mg Cu-wire for 4 hours at 37 °C.

Example 25

[545] This example describes the synthesis of p-Acetyl-D,L-phenylalanine (pAF) and m-PEG-hydroxylamine derivatives.

[546] The racemic pAF was synthesized using the previously described procedure in Zhang, Z., Smith, B. A. C., Wang, L., Brock, A., Cho, C. & Schultz, P. G., Biochemistry, (2003) *42*, 6735-6746 .

[547] To synthesize the m-PEG-hydroxylamine derivative, the following procedures were completed. To a solution of (N-t-Boc-aminooxy)acetic acid (0.382 g, 2.0 mmol) and 1,3-Diisopropylcarbodiimide (0.16 mL, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (DCM, 70mL), which was stirred at room temperature (RT) for 1 hour, methoxy-polyethylene glycol amine (m-PEG-NH_2, 7.5 g, 0.25 mmol, Mt. 30 K, from BioVectra) and Diisopropylethylamine (0.1 mL, 0.5 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred at RT for 48 hours, and then was concentrated to about 100 mL. The mixture was added dropwise to cold ether (800 mL). The t-Boc-protected product precipitated out and was collected by filtering, washed by ether 3x100mL. It was further purified by re-dissolving in DCM (100 mL) and precipitating in ether (800 mL) twice. The product was dried in vacuum yielding 7.2 g (96%), confirmed by NMR and Nihydrin test.

[548] The deBoc of the protected product (7.0 g) obtained above was carried out in 50% TFA/DCM (40 mL) at 0 °C for 1 hour and then at RT for 1.5 hour. After removing most of TFA in vacuum, the TFA salt of the hydroxylamine derivative was converted to the HCl salt by adding 4N HCl in dioxane (1mL) to the residue. The precipitate was dissolved in DCM (50 mL) and re-precipitated in ether (800 mL). The final product (6.8 g, 97%) was collected by filtering, washed with ether 3x 100mL, dried in vacuum, stored under nitrogen. Other PEG (5K, 20K) hydroxylamine derivatives were synthesized using the same procedure.

Example 26

[549] This example describes expression and purification methods used for adiponectin polypeptides comprising a non-natural amino acid. Host cells have been transformed with orthogonal tRNA, orthogonal aminoacyl tRNA synthetase, and adiponectin constructs.

[550] A small stab from a frozen glycerol stock of the transformed DH10B(fis3) cells were first grown in 2 ml defined medium (glucose minimal medium supplemented with leucine, isoleucine, trace metals, and vitamins) with 100 μg/ml ampicillin at 37 °C. When the OD_{600} reached 2-5, 60 μl was transferred to 60 ml fresh defined medium with 100 μg/ml ampicillin and again grown at 37 °C to an OD_{600} of 2-5. 50 ml of the culture was transferred to 2 liters of defined medium with 100 μg/ml ampicillin in a 5 liter fermenter (Sartorius BBI). The fermenter pH was controlled at pH 6.9 with potassium carbonate, the temperature at 37 °C, the air flow rate at 5 lpm, and foam with the polyalkylene defoamer KFO F119 (Lubrizol). Stirrer speeds were automatically adjusted to maintain dissolved oxygen levels ≥ 30% and pure oxygen was used to supplement the air sparging if stirrer speeds reached their maximum value. After 8 hours at 37 °C, the culture was fed a 50X concentrate of the defined medium at an exponentially increasing rate to maintain a specific growth rate of 0.15 $hour^{-1}$. When the OD_{600} reached approximately 100, a racemic mixture of para-acetyl-phenylalanine was added to a final concentration of 3.3 mM, and the temperature was lowered to 28°C. After 0.75 hour, isopropyl-b-D-thiogalactopyranoside was added to a final concentration of 0.25 mM. Cells were grown an additional 8 hour at 28 °C, pelleted, and frozen at -80 °C until further processing.

[551] The His-tagged mutant adiopnectin proteins were purified using the ProBond Nickel-Chelating Resin (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) via the standard His-tagged protein purification procedures provided by Invitrogen's instruction manual, followed by an anion exchange column.

[552] The purified adiponectin was concentrated to 8 mg/ml and buffer exchanged to the reaction buffer (20 mM sodium acetate, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 4.0). MPEG-Oxyamine powder was added to the adiponectin solution at a 20:1 molar ratio of PEG:hGH. The reaction was carried out at 28°C for 2 days with gentle shaking. The PEG- adiponectin was purified from un-reacted PEG and hGH via an anion exchange column.

[553] The quality of each PEGylated mutant adiponectin was evaluated by three assays before entering animal experiments. The purity of the PEG- adiponectin was examined by running a 4-12% acrylamide NuPAGE Bis-Tris gel with MES SDS running buffer under non-reducing conditions (Invitrogen). The gels were stained with Coomassie blue. The PEG-

adiponectin band was greater than 95% pure based on densitometry scan. The endotoxin level in each PEG- adiponectin was tested by a kinetic LAL assay using the KTA^2 kit from Charles River Laboratories (Wilmington, MA), and it was less than 5 EU per dose. The biological activity of the PEG- adiponectin was assessed with the IM-9 pSTAT5 bioassay (mentioned in Example 2), and the EC_{50} value was less than 15 nM.

Example 27

[554] This example describes methods for evaluating purification and homogeneity of adiponectin polypeptides comprising a non-natural amino acid.

[555] Figure 8 is an SDS-PAGE of adiponectin polypeptides inclusion bodies solubilized and refolded: Lane 1, molecular weight marker.

[556] This demonstrates the ability to express, solubilize, and refold adiponectin polypeptides of the present invention. When further steps are taken, to express adiponectin with a non-natural amino acid and pegylate the adipoonectin polypeptide, the purity of the adiponectin-PEG conjugate can be assessed by proteolytic degradation (including but not limited to, trypsin cleavage) followed by mass spectrometry analysis. Pepinsky B., *et al., J. Pharmcol. & Exp. Ther.* 297(3):1059-66 (2001). Methods for performing tryptic digests are also described in the European Pharmacopoeia (2002) 4th Edition, pp. 1938). Modifications to the methods described can be performed. Samples can be dialyzed overnight in 50 mM TRIS-HCl, pH 7.5. rAdiponectin polypeptides can be incubated with trypsin (TPCK-treated trypsin, Worthington) at a mass ratio of 66:1 for 4 hours in a 37°C water bath. The samples can be incubated on ice for several minutes to stop the digestion reaction and subsequently maintained at 4°C during HPLC analysis. Digested samples (~200 μg) were loaded onto a 25 x 0.46 cm Vydac C-8 column (5-μm bead size, 100 Å pore size) in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid and eluted with a gradient from 0 to 80% acetonitrile over 70 min at a flow rate of 1 ml/min at 30°C. The elution of tryptic peptides is monitored by absorbance at 214 nm.

[557] Comparison of the tryptic maps of WHO rAdiponectin and, for example, His_6-tagged or His-pAF rAdiopnectin can reveal two peak shifts, peptide peak 1 and peptide peak 2, and the remaining peaks are identical. These differences are caused by the addition of the His_6 on the N-terminus of the expressed His_6-pAF adiponectin, resulting in peak 1 shifting; whereas the shift in peak 2 can be caused by the substitution of phenylalanine at the selected residue with p-acetyl-phenylalanine.

Example 28

[558] This example details the measurement of adiponectin activity and affinity of adiponectin polypeptides for the adiopnectin receptor.

[559] Cloning and purification of rat adiopnectin receptor The extracellular domain of rat adiponectin receptor is cloned into pET20b vector (Novagen) between Nde I and Hind III sites in frame with C-terminal 6His tag or other available or laboratory derived vector. A mutation is introduced to further approximate the human adiponectin receptor binding site (demonstrated for GH in incorporated reference: Souza et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* (1995) 92(4): 959-63). Recombinant protein was produced in BL21(DE3) E. coli cells (Novagen) by induction with 0.4 mM IPTG at 30°C for 4-5 hours. After lysing the cells, the pellet was washed four times by resuspending in a dounce with 30mL of 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 100mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, and twice with the same buffer without Triton X-100. At this point inclusion bodies consisted of more than 95% adiponectin-R ECD and were solubilized in 0.1M Tris, pH 11.5, 2M urea. Refolding was accomplished by means of passing an aliquot of the inclusion body solution through a S100 (Sigma) gel filtration column, equilibrated with 50 mM Tris, pH 7.8, 1 M L-arginine, 3.7 mM cystamine, 6.5 mM cysteamine. Fractions containing soluble protein were combined and dialyzed against 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 200 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol. The sample was briefly centrifuged to remove any precipitate and incubated with an aliquot of Talon resin (Clontech), according to manufacturer's instructions. After washing the resin with 20 volumes of dialysis buffer supplemented with 5 mM imidazole, protein was eluted with 120 mM imidazole in dialysis buffer. Finally, the sample was dialyzed overnight against 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 30 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, centrifuged briefly to remove any precipitate, adjusted to 20% glycerol final concentration, aliquoted and stored at -80 C. Concentration of the protein was measured by OD(280) using calculated extinction coefficient of ε=65,700 $M^{-1}*cm^{-1}$.

Biocore™ Analysis of binding of Adiponectin to Adiponectin-R

[560] Approximately 600-800 RUs of soluble Adiponectin-R ECD is immobilized on a Biacore™ CM5 chip, using a standard amine-coupling procedure, as recommended by the manufacturer. Even though a significant portion of the receptor can be inactivated by this technique, it has been found experimentally that this level of immobilization can be sufficient to produce maximal specific adiponectin binding response of about 100-150 RUs, with no noticeable change in binding kinetics. *See, e.g.,* Cunningham et al. *J Mol Biol.* (1993) 234(3): 554-63 and Wells JA. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* (1996) 93(1): 1-6).

[561] Various concentrations of wild type or mutant adiponectin (e.g. 0.1- 300nM) in HBS-EP buffer (Biacore™, Pharmacia) are injected over the adiponectin receptor (adiponectin-R, or APN-R) surface at a flow rate of 40 μl/min for 4-5 minutes, and dissociation was monitored for 15 minutes post-injection. The surface is regenerated by a 15 second pulse of 4.5M $MgCl_2$. A minimal loss of binding affinity (1-5%) may be observed after at least 100 regeneration cycles. Reference cell with no receptor immobilized can be used to subtract any buffer bulk effects and non-specific binding.

[562] Kinetic binding data obtained from adiopnectin titration experiments is processed with BiaEvaluation 4.1 software (BIACORE™). "Bivalent analyte" association model provided satisfactory fit (chi^2 values generally below 3), in agreement with proposed sequential 1:2 (Adiponectin:Adiponectin-R) dimerization (Wells JA. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* (1996) 93(1): 1-6). Equilibrium dissociation constants (Kd) were calculated as ratios of individual rate constants (k_{off}/k_{on}).

Example 29

[563] This example describes methods to measure in vitro and in vivo activity of PEGylated adiponectin.

Cell Binding Assays

[564] Cells ($3x10^6$) are incubated in duplicate in PBS/1% BSA (100 μl) in the absence or presence of various concentrations (volume: 10 μl) of unlabeled adiponectin in the presence of ^{125}I- adiponectin (approx. 100,000 cpm or 1 ng) at 0°C for 90 minutes (total volume: 120 μl). Cells are then resuspended and layered over 200 μl ice cold FCS in a 350 μl plastic centrifuge tube and centrifuged (1000 g; 1 minute). The pellet is collected by cutting off the end of the tube and pellet and supernatant counted separately in a gamma counter (Packard).

[565] Specific binding (cpm) is determined as total binding in the absence of a competitor (mean of duplicates) minus binding (cpm) in the presence of 100-fold excess of unlabeled adiponectin (non-specific binding). The non-specific binding is measured for each of the cell types used. Experiments are run on separate days using the same preparation of ^{125}I-adiponectin and should display internal consistency. ^{125}I- adiponectin demonstrates binding to the adiponectin receptor-producing cells. The binding is inhibited in a dose dependent manner by unlabeled natural adiponectin, but not by other negative control. The ability of adiponectin to compete for the binding of natural ^{125} I- adiponectin, similar to natural adiponectin, suggests that the receptors recognize both forms equally well.

In Vivo Studies of PEGylated Adiponectin

[566] PEG- adiponectin, unmodified adiponectin and buffer solution are administered to mice or rats. The results will show superior activity and prolonged half life of the PEGylated adiponectin of the present invention compared to unmodified adiponectin which is indicated by significantly increased bodyweight.

Measurement of the in vivo Half-life of Conjugated and Non-conjugated Adiponectin and Variants Thereof.

[567] All animal experimentation may be conducted in an AAALAC accredited facility and under protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of St. Louis University. Rats are intended to be housed individually in cages in rooms with a 12-hour light/dark cycle. Animals will be provided access to certified Purina rodent chow 5001 and water ad libitum. For hypophysectomized rats, the drinking water additionally contained 5% glucose.

Pharmacokinetic studies

[568] The quality of each PEGylated mutant adiponectin may be evaluated by three assays before entering animal experiments. The purity of the PEG- adiponectin is examined by running a 4-12% acrylamide NuPAGE Bis-Tris gel with MES SDS running buffer under non-reducing conditions (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The gels may be stained with Coomassie blue. The endotoxin level in each PEG- adiponectin can be tested by a kinetic LAL assay using the KTA^2 kit from Charles River Laboratories (Wilmington, MA), and was less than 5 EU per dose. The biological activity of the PEG- adiponectin can be assessed with the IM-9 pSTAT5 bioassay (described in Example 2), and the EC_{50} value confirmed to be less than 15 nM.

[569] Pharmacokinetic properties of PEG-modified adiponectin compounds may be compared to each other and to nonPEGylated growth hormone in male Sprague-Dawley rats (261-425g) obtained from Charles River Laboratories. Catheters are surgically installed into the carotid artery for blood collection. Following successful catheter installation, animals were assigned to treatment groups (three to six per group) prior to dosing. Animals are dosed subcutaneously with 1 mg/kg of compound in a dose volume of 0.41-0.55 ml/kg. Blood samples were collected at various time points via the indwelling catheter and into EDTA-coated microfuge tubes. Plasma is collected after centrifugation, and stored at -80°C until analysis. Compound concentrations were measured using antibody sandwich growth hormone ELISA kits from either BioSource International (Camarillo, CA) or Diagnostic Systems Laboratories (Webster, TX). Concentrations are calculated using standards corresponding to the analog that

was dosed. Pharmacokinetic parameters were estimated using the modeling program WinNonlin (Pharsight, version 4.1). Noncompartmental analysis with linear-up/log-down trapezoidal integration was used, and concentration data was uniformly weighted.

Pharmacodynamic studies

[570] Hypophysectomized male Sprague-Dawley rats can be obtained from Charles River Laboratories. Pituitaries are surgically removed at 3-4 weeks of age. Animals are allowed to acclimate for a period of three weeks, during which time bodyweight is monitored. Animals with a bodyweight gain of 0-8g over a period of seven days before the start of the study are included and randomized to treatment groups. Rats are administered either a bolus dose or daily dose subcutaneously. Throughout the study rats are daily and sequentially weighed, anesthetized, bled, and dosed (when applicable). Blood is collected from the orbital sinus using a heparinized capillary tube and placed into an EDTA coated microfuge tube. Plasma is isolated by centrifugation and stored at -80°C until analysis.

Example 30

[571] Human Clinical Trial of the Safety and/or Efficacy of PEGylated Adiponectin Comprising a Non-Naturally Encoded Amino Acid. adiponectin

[572] Objective To compare the safety and pharmacokinetics of subcutaneously administered PEGylated recombinant human adiopnectin comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid with one or more of the commercially available adiponectin products (including, but not limited to Humatrope™ (Eli Lilly & Co.), Nutropin™ (Genentech), Norditropin™ (Novo-Nordisk), Genotropin™ (Pfizer) and Saizen/Serostim™ (Serono)).

[573] Patients Eighteen healthy volunteers ranging between 20-40 years of age and weighing between 60-90 kg are enrolled in the study. The subjects will have no clinically significant abnormal laboratory values for hematology or serum chemistry, and a negative urine toxicology screen, HIV screen, and hepatitis B surface antigen. They should not have any evidence of the following: hypertension; a history of any primary hematologic disease; history of significant hepatic, renal, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, metabolic, neurologic disease; a history of anemia or seizure disorder; a known sensitivity to bacterial or mammalian-derived products, PEG, or human serum albumin; habitual and heavy consumer to beverages containing caffeine; participation in any other clinical trial or had blood transfused or donated within 30 days of study entry; had exposure to adiponectin within three months of study entry; had an illness within seven days of study entry; and have significant abnormalities on the

pre-study physical examination or the clinical laboratory evaluations within 14 days of study entry. All subjects are evaluable for safety and all blood collections for pharmacokinetic analysis are collected as scheduled. All studies are performed with institutional ethics committee approval and patient consent.

[574] Study Design This will be a Phase I, single-center, open-label, randomized, two-period crossover study in healthy male volunteers. Eighteen subjects are randomly assigned to one of two treatment sequence groups (nine subjects/group). Adiponectin is administered over two separate dosing periods as a bolus s.c. injection in the upper thigh using equivalent doses of the PEGylated hGH comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid and the commercially available product chosen. The dose and frequency of administration of the commercially available product is as instructed in the package label. Additional dosing, dosing frequency, or other parameter as desired, using the commercially available products may be added to the study by including additional groups of subjects. Each dosing period is separated by a 14-day washout period. Subjects are confined to the study center at least 12 hours prior to and 72 hours following dosing for each of the two dosing periods, but not between dosing periods. Additional groups of subjects may be added if there are to be additional dosing, frequency, or other parameter, to be tested for the PEGylated hGH as well. The experimental formulation of adiponectin is the PEGylated adiponectin comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[575] Blood Sampling Serial blood is drawn by direct vein puncture before and after administration of adiponectin. Venous blood samples (5 mL) for determination of serum adiponectin concentrations are obtained at about 30, 20, and 10 minutes prior to dosing (3 baseline samples) and at approximately the following times after dosing: 30 minutes and at 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, 60 and 72 hours. Each serum sample is divided into two aliquots. All serum samples are stored at -20°C. Serum samples are shipped on dry ice. Fasting clinical laboratory tests (hematology, serum chemistry, and urinalysis) are performed immediately prior to the initial dose on day 1, the morning of day 4, immediately prior to dosing on day 16, and the morning of day 19.

[576] Bioanalytical Methods An ELISA kit procedure (Diagnostic Systems Laboratory [DSL], Webster TX), is used for the determination of serum adiponectin concentrations.

[577] Safety Determinations Vital signs are recorded immediately prior to each dosing (Days 1 and 16), and at 6, 24, 48, and 72 hours after each dosing. Safety determinations are based on the incidence and type of adverse events and the changes in clinical laboratory tests

from baseline. In addition, changes from pre-study in vital sign measurements, including blood pressure, and physical examination results are evaluated.

[578] Data Analysis Post-dose serum concentration values are corrected for pre-dose baseline adiponectin concentrations by subtracting from each of the post-dose values the mean baseline GH concentration determined from averaging the adiponectin levels from the three samples collected at 30, 20, and 10 minutes before dosing. Pre-dose serum adiponectin concentrations are not included in the calculation of the mean value if they are below the quantification level of the assay. Pharmacokinetic parameters are determined from serum concentration data corrected for baseline adiponectin concentrations. Pharmacokinetic parameters are calculated by model independent methods on a Digital Equipment Corporation VAX 8600 computer system using the latest version of the BIOAVL software. The following pharmacokinetics parameters are determined: peak serum concentration (C_{max}); time to peak serum concentration (t_{max}); area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) from time zero to the last blood sampling time (AUC_{0-72}) calculated with the use of the linear trapezoidal rule; and terminal elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$), computed from the elimination rate constant. The elimination rate constant is estimated by linear regression of consecutive data points in the terminal linear region of the log-linear concentration-time plot. The mean, standard deviation (SD), and coefficient of variation (CV) of the pharmacokinetic parameters are calculated for each treatment. The ratio of the parameter means (preserved formulation/non-preserved formulation) is calculated.

[579] Safety Results The incidence of adverse events is equally distributed across the treatment groups. There are no clinically significant changes from baseline or pre-study clinical laboratory tests or blood pressures, and no notable changes from pre-study in physical examination results and vital sign measurements. The safety profiles for the two treatment groups should appear similar.

[580] Pharmacokinetic Results Mean serum adiponectin concentration-time profiles (uncorrected for baseline adiponectin levels) in all 18 subjects after receiving a single dose of one or more of commercially available adiponectin products are compared to the PEGylated adiponectin comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid at each time point measured. All subjects should have pre-dose baseline adiponectin concentrations within the normal physiologic range. Pharmacokinetic parameters are determined from serum data corrected for pre-dose mean baseline adiponectin concentrations and the C_{max} and t_{max} are determined. The mean t_{max} for the clinical comparator will be shown to be different than the t_{max} for the PEGylated

adiponectin comprising the non-naturally encoded amino acid. Terminal half-life values are significantly shorter for the commerically available adiponectin products tested compared with the terminal half-life for the PEGylated adiponectin comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid.

[581] Although the present study is conducted in healthy male subjects, similar absorption characteristics and safety profiles would be anticipated in other patient populations; such as male or female patients with cancer or chronic renal failure, pediatric renal failure patients, patients in autologous predeposit programs, or patients scheduled for elective surgery.

[582] In conclusion, subcutaneously administered single doses of PEGylated adiponectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid will be safe and well tolerated by healthy male subjects. Based on a comparative incidence of adverse events, clinical laboratory values, vital signs, and physical examination results, the safety profiles of the commercially available forms of adiponectin and PEGylated adiponectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid will be equivalent. The PEGylated adiponectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid potentially provides large clinical utility to patients and health care providers.

Example 31

Adiponectin Inclusion Body Prep Solubilization, Refolding, Purification

[583] Inclusion Body Prep Solubilization: Resuspend cell paste by mixing to a final 10% solid in 4°C inclusion body (IB) Buffer I (50mM Tris pH 8.0; 100 mM NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 1% Triton X-100; 4°C). Lyse cells by passing resuspended material through a micro fluidizer a total of two times. Centrifuge (10,000g; 15 min; 4°C) and decant supernatant. Wash IB pellet by resuspending in an additional volume of IB buffer I (50mM Tris pH 8.0; 100 mM NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 1% Triton X-100; 4°C) and pass resuspended material through micro fluidizer a total of two times. Centrifuge (10,000g; 15 min; 4°C) and decant supernatant. Resuspend IB pellet in one volume of buffer II (50mM Tris pH 8.0; 100 mM NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 4°C). Centrifuge (10,000g; 15 min; 4°C) and decant supernatant. Resuspend IB pellet in ½ volume of buffer II (50mM Tris pH 8.0; 100 mM NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 4°C). Aliquot IB into appropriate containers. Centrifuge (10,000g; 15 min; 4°C) and decant supernatant. Solubilize inclusion bodies or store at -80°C until further use.

[584] Inclusion Body Solubilization: Solubilize inclusion bodies to a final concentration between 10-15mg/mL in solubilization buffer (20mM Tris, pH 8.0; 8M Urea; 10mM ß-ME). Incubate solubilized IB at RT under constant mixing for 1 hour. Remove

insoluble material by centrifugation (12,000g; 20min.; 4°C). Adjust protein concentration, if necessary, by dilution with additional solubilization buffer if protein concentration is high.

[585] Refold: Refold by dilution to a final protein concentration of 1.0mg/mL in 50mM Glycine, pH 9.0; 1M Urea; 0.2mM Cysteine; 2.0mM Cystine. Allow to refold for 24 hours at 4°C.

[586] Purification: Filter refold reaction through a 0.22μM PES filter. Load material over a Q HP column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in Buffer A (20mM Tris, pH 8.0). Elute Adiponectin with a linear gradient over 20CV to 100% Buffer B (20mMTris, pH 8.0; 250mM NaCl). Pool monomeric adiponectin. Also possible to pool trimeric, hexameric, dodecamerica, and higher molecular weight adiponectin polypeptides.

[587] Pegylation and Purification: Take Q HP pool and concentrate down to 2.0 mg/mL. Drop pH to 4.0 with 10% glacial acetic acid. Add 12:1 molar excess PEG. Incubate at 28°C for 72 hours. Add a final of 50mM Tris base to PEG reaction and dilute 10 fold with RO water. Make sure conductivity is <1mS/cm and pH is between 8.0-9.0. Load material over a Q HP column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in Buffer A (20mM Tris, pH 8.0). Elute PEG-Adiponectin with a linear gradient over 50CV to 100%B (20mM Tris, pH 8.0; 250mM NaCl). Pool PEG-Adiponectin and buffer exchange into 20mM Tris, pH 7.5; 100mM NaCl. Concentrate PEG material between 1-2mg/mL and filter sterilize using 0.22μm PES filter. Store at 4°C.

Example 32

Study Title: Preliminary Efficacy of Adiponectin compounds in ob/ob B6 mice

[588] Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of native (WT) and PEG-modified human adiponectin compounds produced by Ambrx's proprietary technology in ob/ob mutant mice. The efficacy of test articles will be assayed by their effect on body weight (BW) obtained at specific time points after drug dosing.

[589] Test articles:

1. Recombinant human Adiopnectin
2. Human PEG-Adiponectin variant 1
3. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 2
4. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 3
5. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 4

[590] Test Article Quality / Formulation:

20.0 mM Tris

100-150 mM NaCl

pH- 8.0

[591] Stock Concentrations:

1. Adiponectin: 0.5 mg/mL in PBS
2. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 1: 0.11 mg/mL
3. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 2: TBD
4. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 3: TBD
5. Human PEG- Adiponectin variant 4: TBD

[592] Animals: 30 female ob/ob mutant mice of approximately 8 weeks of age at study initiation were received from Harlan Labs in good condition and have acclimated to the study location for at least 3 days prior to the start of the study. Mice will be weighed on the day of test article administration. Animals will be housed in standard, pathogen-free conditions with food (Purina chow 5008) and water ad libitum.

[593] Vendor/animal receipt date

[594] Harlan Laboratory. Animals received 1/29/08.

[595] Animal Groups: All compounds will be administered subcutaneously

Group 1 (n=5): SC injection 0 mg/kg (PBS)

Group 2 (n=5): SC injection 0.5 mg/kg Adiponectin (RnD)

Group 3 (n=5): SC injection 0.5 mg/kg PEG- Adiponectin variant 1

Group 4 (n=5): SC injection 0.5 mg/kg PEG- Adiponectin variant 2

Group 5 (n=5): SC injection 0.5 mg/kg PEG- Adiponectin variant 3

Group 6 (n=5): SC injection 0.5 mg/kg PEG- Adiponectin variant 4

[596] Procedure:

[597] Animals will be weighed prior to administration of test article. Compounds are formulated so as to be administered at 5X BW in □L. Test articles will be administrated subcutaneously into the dorsal scapular region. Animals will receive a single injection of test article (Day1).

[598] Data Collection / End point: Animals will be weighed daily at approximately the same time each day. The body weights will be recorded and used to evaluate food intake as compared to pre-dose body weight of each individual animal. At the end of 7 days, the animals will be sedated for terminal blood collection. Serum will be analyzed for secondary end-points (eg. Adiponectin levels).

[599] Termination: All animals will be euthanized for the collection of tissue material.

Example 33:

[600] A synthetic adiopnectin gene is cloned (optimized for *E. Coli* expression) into the adiponectin plasmid, AXID 1424, suppression system. Several amber mutants are produced, and these are used for PEGylation with 30K PEG, using published SAR information.

[601] The wild type is purified and all mutants will be pegylated -- data can be shown from the pegylation of thorugh SDS-PAGE gels and chromatograms.

[602] The process used for this is:

Purify inclusion bodies, solubilize in 8M urea

Refold at 0.3-1 mg/ml at pH 8 with a redox pair

Q HP FPLC to purify the monomer

pH adjustment to 4 for PEGylation (still not optimized, losing a lot of material there)

PEGylation under standard conditions (27C, 12x excess of PEG, 48-72 hours)

Another Q HP FLPC to purify PEGylated protein

[603] In conclusion, subcutaneously administered single doses of PEGylated adiponectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid can be tested for their safety and tolerance by healthy male subjects. Based on a comparative incidence of adverse events, clinical laboratory values, vital signs, and physical examination results, the safety profiles of adiopnectin and PEGylated adiopnectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid are equivalent. The

PEGylated adiponectin comprising non-naturally encoded amino acid potentially provides large clinical utility to patients and health care providers.

[604] It is understood that the examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the spirit and purview of this application and scope of the appended claims. All publications, patents, and patent applications cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety for all purposes.

TABLE 9: Adiponectin Sequences Cited.

SEQ ID NO:	Sequence Name	Sequence
1	Full-length amino acid sequence of Adiponectin	M L L L G A V L L L L A L P G H D Q E T T T Q G P G V L L P L P K G A C T G W M A G I P G H P G H N G A P G R D G R D G T P G E K G E K G D P G L I G P K G D I G E T G V P G A E G P R G F P G I Q G R K G E P G E G A Y V Y R S A F S V G L E T Y V T I P N M P I R F T K I F Y N Q Q N H Y D G S T G K F H C N I P G L Y Y F A Y H I T V Y M K D V K V S L F K K D K A M L F T Y D Q Y Q E N N V D Q A S G S V L L H L E V G D Q V W L Q V Y G E G E R N G L Y A D N D N D S T F T G F L L Y H D T N
2	Mature Adiponectin nucleotide sequence	ggtcatgatcaagaaaccacgactcaagggcccggagtcctgcttcccctgcccaagg gggcctgcacaggttggatggcgggcatcccagggcatccgggccataatggggcc ccaggccgtgatggcagagatggcacccctggtgagaagggtgagaaaggagatcc aggtcttattggtcctaagggagacatcggtgaaaccggagtacccggggctgaaggt ccccgaggctttccgggaatccaaggcaggaaaggagaacctggagaaggtgcctat gtataccgctcagcattcagtgtgggattggagacttacgttactatccccaacatgccca ttcgctttaccaagatcttctacaatcagcaaaaccactatgatggctccactggtaaattc cactgcaacattcctgggctgtactactttgcctaccacatcacagtctatatgaaggatgt gaaggtcagcctcttcaagaaggacaaggctatgctcttcacctatgatcagtaccagg aaaataatgtggaccaggcctccggctctgtgctcctgcatctggaggtgggcgacca agtctggctccaggtgtatggggaaggagagcgtaatggactctatgctgataatgaca atgactccaccttcacaggctttcttctctaccatgacaccaactaa
3	Mature Adiponectin amino acid sequence	G H D Q E T T T Q G P G V L L P L P K G A C T G W M A G I P G H P G H N G A P G R D G R D G T P G E K G E K G D P G L I G P K G D I G E T G V P G A E G P R G F P G I Q G R K G E P G E G A Y V Y R S A F S V G L E T Y V T I P N M P I R F T K I F Y N Q Q N H Y D G S T G K F H C N I P G L Y Y F A Y H I T V Y M K D V K V S L F K K D K A M L F T Y D Q Y Q E N N V D Q A S G S V L L H L E V G D Q V W L Q V Y G E G E R N G L Y A D N D N D S T F T G F L L Y H D T N

SEQ ID NO:	Sequence Name	Sequence
4	Met-Adiponectin nucleotide sequence	atgggtcatgatcaagaaaccacgactcaagggcccggagtcctgcttcccctgccca aggggggcctgcacaggttggatggcgggcatcccagggcatccgggccataatggg gccccaggccgtgatggcagagatggcacccctggtgagaagggtgagaaaggaga tccaggtcttattggtcctaagggagacatcggtgaaaccggagtacccggggctgaa ggtccccgaggctttccgggaatccaaggcaggaaaggagaacctggagaaggtgc ctatgtataccgctcagcattcagtgtgggattggagacttacgttactatccccaacatg cccattcgctttaccaagatcttctacaatcagcaaaaccactatgatggctccactggta aattccactgcaacattcctgggctgtactactttgcctaccacatcacagtctatatgaag gatgtgaaggtcagcctcttcaagaaggacaaggctatgctcttcacctatgatcagtac caggaaaataatgtggaccaggcctccggctctgtgctcctgcatctggaggtgggcg accaagtctggctccaggtgtatggggaaggagagcgtaatggactctatgctgataat gacaatgactccaccttcacaggctttcttctctaccatgacaccaactaa
5	Met-Adiponectin amino acid sequence	M G H D Q E T T T Q G P G V L L P L P K G A C T G W M A G I P G H P G H N G A P G R D G R D G T P G E K G EK G D P G L I G P K G D I G E T G V P G A E G P R G F P G I Q G R K G E P G E GA Y V Y R S A F S V G L E T Y V T I P NM P I R F T K I F Y N Q Q N H Y D G S T G K F H C N I P G L Y Y F A Y H I T V YM K D V K V S L F K K D K A M L F T Y D Q Y Q E N N V D Q A S G S V L L H L E V G D Q V W L Q V Y G E G E R N G L Y A D N D N D S T F T G F L L Y H D T N

SEQ ID #	Sequence Name
1	Full-length amino acid sequence of adiponectin
2	The mature nucleotide sequence of adiponectin
3	The mature amino acid sequence of adiopnectin
4	Nucleotide sequence of adiponectin without leader, plus Met
5	Amino acid sequence of adiponectin without leader, plus Met

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adiponectin polypeptide comprising one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids.

2. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more post-translational modifications.

3. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is linked to a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule.

4. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is linked to a water soluble polymer.

5. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is linked to a bifunctional polymer, bifunctional linker, or at least one additional adiponectin polypeptide.

6. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 5, wherein the bifunctional linker or bifunctional polymer is linked to a second polypeptide.

7. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the second polypeptide is a adiponectin polypeptide.

8. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

9. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, wherein said water soluble polymer is linked to a non-naturally encoded amino acid present in said adiponectin polypeptide.

10. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition or deletion that modulates affinity of the adiponectin polypeptide for a adiponectin receptor.

11. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition or deletion that increases the stability or solubility of the adiponectin polypeptide.

12. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition or deletion that increases the expression of the adiponectin polypeptide in a recombinant host cell or synthesized in vitro.

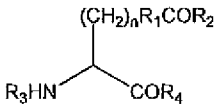
13. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition or deletion that increases protease resistance of the adiponectin polypeptide.

14. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is reactive toward a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule that is otherwise unreactive toward any of the 20 common amino acids in the polypeptide.

15. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazine group, a hydrazide group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group.

16. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group.

17. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:



wherein n is 0-10; R1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl; R2 is H, an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, and substituted aryl; and R3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R4 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

18. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an aminooxy group.

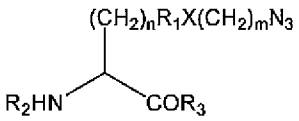
19. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a hydrazide group.

20. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a hydrazine group.

21. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises a semicarbazide group.

22. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises an azide group.

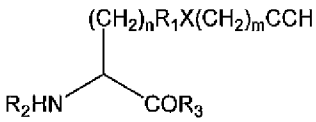
23. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:



wherein n is 0-10; R1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, substituted aryl or not present; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10; R2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

24. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises an alkyne group.

25. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 24, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid has the structure:



wherein n is 0-10; R1 is an alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl; X is O, N, S or not present; m is 0-10, R2 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or an amino terminus modification group, and R3 is H, an amino acid, a polypeptide, or a carboxy terminus modification group.

26. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer has a molecular weight of between about 0.1 kDa and about 100 kDa.

27. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 26, wherein the water soluble polymer has a molecular weight of between about 0.1 kDa and about 50 kDa.

28. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, which is made by reacting an adiopnectin polypeptide comprising a carbonyl-containing amino acid with a water soluble polymer comprising an aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide group.

29. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 28, wherein the aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide group is linked to the water soluble polymer through an amide linkage.

30. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, which is made by reacting a water soluble polymer comprising a carbonyl group with a polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid that comprises an aminooxy, a hydrazine, a hydrazide or a semicarbazide group.

31. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, which is made by reacting a adiponectin polypeptide comprising an alkyne-containing amino acid with a water soluble polymer comprising an azide moiety.

32. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, which is made by reacting a adiponectin polypeptide comprising an azide-containing amino acid with a water soluble polymer comprising an alkyne moiety.

33. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 15, wherein the azide or alkyne group is linked to a water soluble polymer through an amide linkage.

34. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer is a branched or multiarmed polymer.

35. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 34, wherein each branch of the branched polymer has a molecular weight of between about 1 kDa and about 100 kDa.

36. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is an adiopnectin antagonist.

37. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises one or more post-translational modification, linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule.

38. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the polymer comprises a moiety selected from a group consisting of a water soluble polymer and poly(ethylene glycol).

39. The adiponectin polypeptide according to claim 36, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is present within the globular domain of the adiopnectin polypeptide.

40. The adiponectin polypeptide according to claim 36, wherein the polypeptide prevents dimerization of an adiponectin receptor.

41. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a saccharide moiety.

42. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule is linked to the polypeptide via a saccharide moiety.

43. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a adiponectin polypeptide, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least one selector codon.

44. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 43, wherein the selector codon is selected from the group consisting of an amber codon, ochre codon, opal codon, a unique codon, a rare codon, and a four-base codon.

45. A method of making the adiponectin polypeptide of claim 3, the method comprising contacting an isolated adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid with a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule comprising a moiety that reacts with the non-naturally encoded amino acid.

46. The method of claim 46, wherein the polymer comprises a moiety selected from a group consisting of a water soluble polymer and a poly(ethylene glycol).

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl moiety and the linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule comprises an aminooxy, a hydrazine, a hydrazide or a semicarbazide moiety.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the aminooxy, hydrazine, hydrazide or semicarbazide moiety is linked to the linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule through an amide linkage.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises an alkyne moiety and the linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule comprises an azide moiety.

51. The method of claim 46, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid residue comprises an azide moiety and the linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule comprises an alkyne moiety.

52. The method of claim 48, wherein the azide or alkyne moiety is linked to a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule through an amide linkage.

53. The method of claim 46, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has an average molecular weight of between about 0.1 kDa and about 100 kDa.

54. The method of claim 46, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is a branched or multiarmed polymer.

55. A composition comprising the adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

56. The composition of claim 55, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a water soluble polymer.

57. A method of treating a patient having a disorder modulated by adiponectin comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically-effective amount of the composition of claim 55.

58. A cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 43.

59. The cell of claim 58, wherein the cell comprises an orthogonal tRNA synthetase or an orthogonal tRNA.

60. A method of making a adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid, the method comprising, culturing cells comprising a polynucleotide or polynucleotides encoding a adiponectin polypeptide and comprising a selector codon, an orthogonal RNA synthetase and an orthogonal tRNA under conditions to permit expression of the adiponectin polypeptide comprising a non-naturally encoded amino acid; and purifying the adiponectin polypeptide.

61. A method of increasing serum half-life or circulation time of a adiponectin polypeptide, the method comprising substituting one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids for any one or more naturally occurring amino acids in the adiponectin polypeptide.

62. An adiponectin polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a selector codon, and wherein said polypeptide comprises at least one non-naturally encoded amino acid.

63. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a linker, polymer, water soluble polymer, or biologically active molecule.

64. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 63, wherein the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

65. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the non-naturally encoded amino acid comprises a carbonyl group, an aminooxy group, a hydrazide group, a hydrazine group, a semicarbazide group, an azide group, or an alkyne group.

66. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight of between about 0.1 kDa and about 100 kDa.

67. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 64, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is a branched or multiarmed polymer.

68. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 67, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight of between about 1 kDa and about 100 kDa.

69. A composition comprising the adiponectin polypeptide of claim 63 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

70. An adiponectin polypeptide comprising one or more amino acid substitution, addition or deletion that increases the expression of the adiponectin polypeptide in a recombinant host cell.

71. An adiponectin polypeptide comprising a water soluble polymer linked by a covalent bond to the adiponectin polypeptide at a single amino acid.

72. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 72, wherein the water soluble polymer comprises a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

73. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 72, wherein the amino acid covalently linked to the water soluble polymer is a non-naturally encoded amino acid.

74. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 10 wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is linked to a poly(ethylene glycol) molecule.

75. An adiponectin polypeptide comprising at least one linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule, wherein said linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule is attached to the adiponectin polypeptide through a functional group of a non-naturally encoded amino acid ribosomally incorporated into the adiponectin polypeptide.

76. The polypeptide of claim 75, wherein said polypeptide is monoPEGylated.

77. The polypeptide of claim 75, wherein said polypeptide is an adiponectin polypeptide.

78. An adiponectin polypeptide comprising a linker, polymer, or biologically active molecule that is attached to one or more non-naturally encoded amino acid wherein said non-naturally encoded amino acid is ribosomally incorporated into the polypeptide at pre-selected sites.

79. The polypeptide of claim 78, wherein said polypeptide is a adiponectin polypeptide.

80. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition, or deletion that modulates immunogenicity of the adiponectin polypeptide.

81. The adiponectin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition, or deletion that modulates serum half-life or circulation time of the adiponectin polypeptide.

82. A method of modulating immunogenicity of a adiponectin polypeptide, the method comprising substituting one or more non-naturally encoded amino acids for any one or more naturally occurring amino acids in the adiponectin polypeptide.

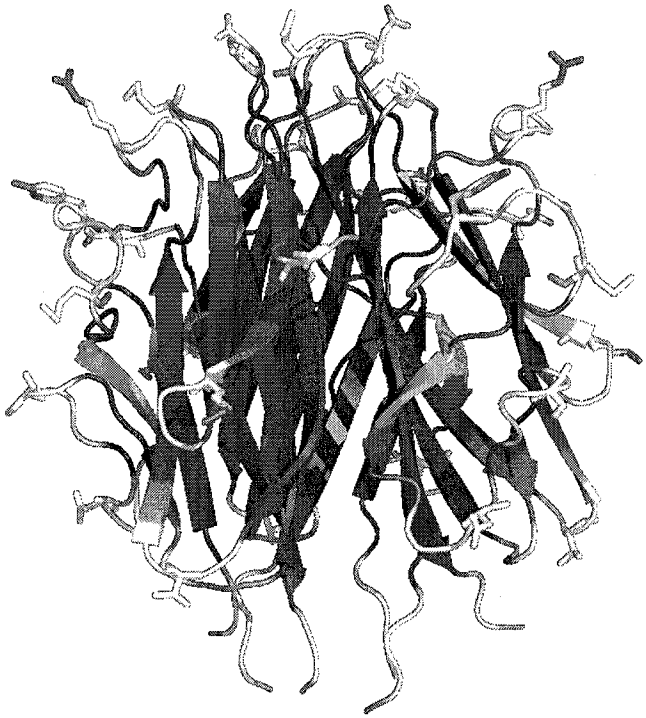
83. An adiponectin polypeptide, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide comprises one or more amino acid substitution, addition, or deletion and wherein the adiponectin polypeptide is a multimer.

84. The adiopnectin polypeptide of claim 83, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide is a trimer.

85. The adiopnectin polypeptide of claim 83, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide is a hexamer.

86. The adiopnectin polypeptide of claim 83, wherein the adiponectin polypeptide is a dodecamer.

Figure 1



A Four Helical Bundle Protein

Figure 2



Figure 3

Surface Exposure for Adiponectin

ALA	108	2.62642
TYR	109	2.132335
VAL	110	0.941475
TYR	111	0.711177
ARG	112	0.33809
SER	113	0.004702
ALA	114	0
PHE	115	0
SER	116	0.010768
VAL	117	0.002368
GLY	118	0.061523
LEU	119	0.096149
GLU	120	0.785355
THR	121	0.887435
TYR	122	1.782338
VAL	123	0.292422
THR	124	1.11262
ILE	125	0.972429
PRO	126	0.624333
ASN	127	0.637028
MET	128	0.801109
PRO	129	0.257854
ILE	130	0.021707
ARG	131	0.449709
PHE	132	0.051316
THR	133	0.639575
LYS	134	0.274637
ILE	135	0.48249
PHE	136	0.107697
TYR	137	0.088529
ASN	138	0.309951
GLN	139	0.760055
GLN	140	0.536632
ASN	141	1.160974
HIS	142	0.31273
TYR	143	0.069073
ASP	144	0.697814
GLY	145	0.635792
SER	146	1.577336
THR	147	0.729824
GLY	148	0.160054
LYS	149	0.241251
PHE	150	0.009077
HIS	151	0.392156

CYS	152	0.287116
ASN	153	0.707895
ILE	154	0.237997
PRO	155	0.379383
GLY	156	0.111468
LEU	157	0.014873
TYR	158	0
TYR	159	0
PHE	160	0.001227
ALA	161	0
TYR	162	0
HIS	163	0
ILE	164	0
THR	165	0
VAL	166	0
TYR	167	0.357274
MET	168	0.858545
LYS	169	0.541499
ASP	170	0.266213
VAL	171	0.008409
LYS	172	0.125477
VAL	173	0
SER	174	0.046528
LEU	175	0.025025
PHE	176	0.17581
LYS	177	0.376073
LYS	178	0.956987
ASP	179	1.153497
LYS	180	1.762899
ALA	181	0.504966
MET	182	0.257689
LEU	183	0.063507
PHE	184	0.211636
THR	185	0
TYR	186	0.223446
ASP	187	0.002695
GLN	188	0.273793
TYR	189	0.180363
GLN	190	0.325984
GLU	191	1.304318
ASN	192	0.972504
ASN	193	0.037938
VAL	194	0.002368
ASP	195	0
GLN	196	0

ALA	197	0
SER	198	0
GLY	199	0
SER	200	0
VAL	201	0.00933
LEU	202	0.01518
LEU	203	0.080565
HIS	204	0.3621
LEU	205	0.144777
GLU	206	0.87162
VAL	207	1.117219
GLY	208	0.782232
ASP	209	0.413768
GLN	210	0.440684
VAL	211	0.000964
TRP	212	0.106192
LEU	213	0.000239
GLN	214	0.112978
VAL	215	0.0506
TYR	216	0.450563
GLY	217	0.362713
GLU	218	0.183825
GLY	219	0.963905
GLU	220	1.409064
ARG	221	2.419737
ASN	222	0.23797
GLY	223	0.072075
LEU	224	0.033725
TYR	225	0.226799
ALA	226	0.179489
ASP	227	0.49099
ASN	228	1.22345
ASP	229	0.243061
ASN	230	0.061252
ASP	231	0
SER	232	0
THR	233	0
PHE	234	0
THR	235	0
GLY	236	0
PHE	237	0
LEU	238	0.030144
LEU	239	0.015426
TYR	240	0.09948
HIS	241	0.365382
ASP	242	0.587935
THR	243	1.46699
ASN	244	3.366225

Figure 4

Top PEGylation Sites

Human Adiponectin (numbering taken from NP_004788 NCBI)
Tyr122
Arg221
Asn192
Asn228
Ser146
Asn141
Lys180
Met168
Met128
Val207
Lys178
Glu191
Glu220

Figure 5

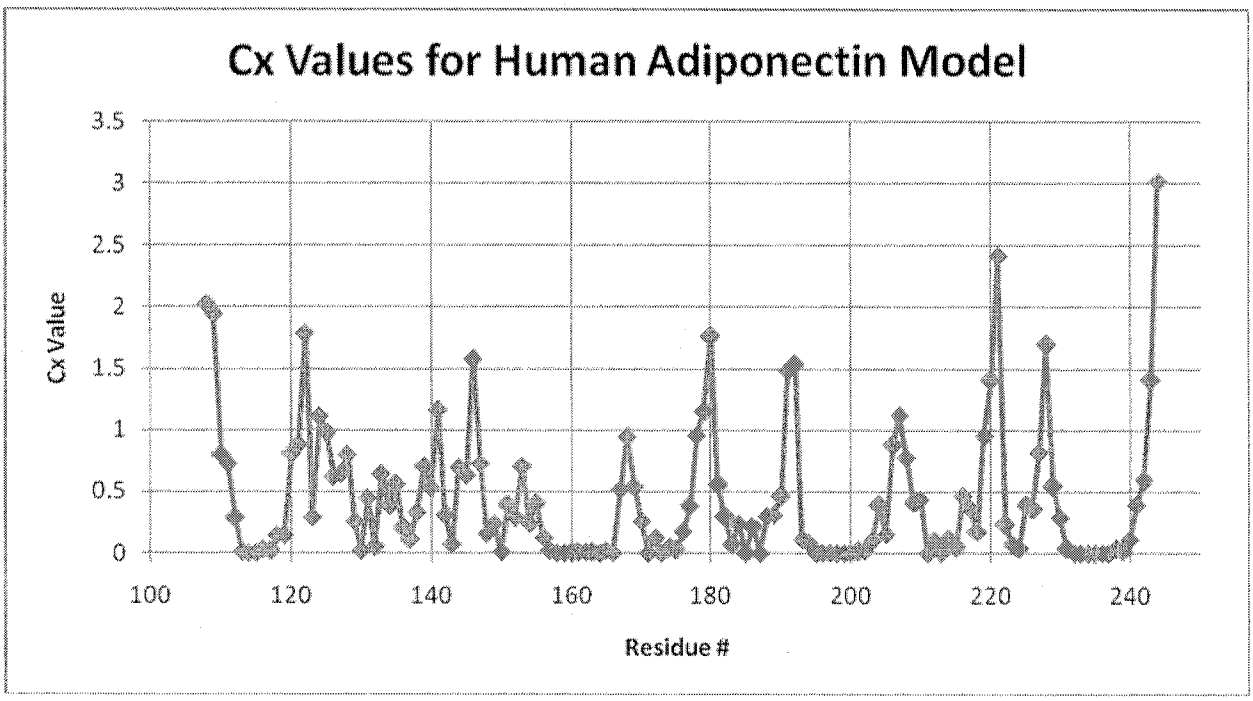

Cx Values for Human Adiponectin Model
Cx Value
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
100
120
140
160
180
200
220
240
Residue #

Figure 6

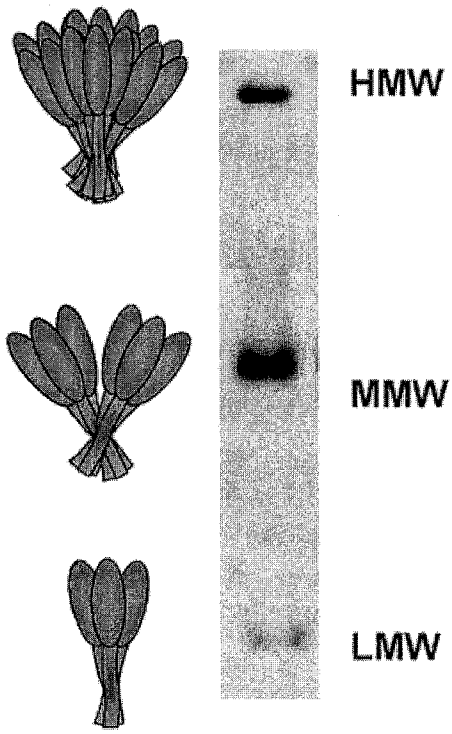


Figure 7A

SEQ #																				
5	1														2					7
3															1					6
1	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	M	L	L	L	G	A	V	L	L	L	L	A	L	P	G	H	D	Q	E	T
5	8									17										27
3	7									16										26
1	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	T	T	Q	G	P	G	V	L	L	P	L	P	K	G	A	C	T	G	W	M
5	28									37										47
3	27									36										46
1	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	A	G	I	P	G	H	P	G	H	N	G	A	P	G	R	D	G	R	D	G
5	48									57										67
3	47									56										66
1	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
	T	P	G	E	K	G	E	K	G	D	P	G	L	I	G	P	K	G	D	I
5	68									77										87
3	67									76										86
1	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
	G	E	T	G	V	P	G	A	E	G	P	R	G	F	P	G	I	Q	G	R

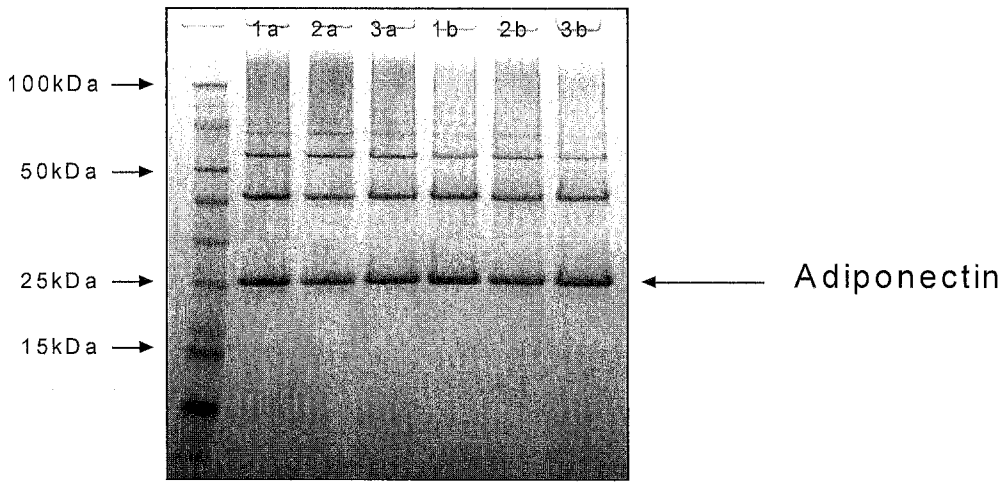
Figure 7B

SEQ #																				
5	88									97										107
3	87									96										106
1	101									110										120
	K	G	E	P	G	E	G	A	Y	V	Y	R	S	A	F	S	V	G	L	E
		(1)						(9)												
5	108	109						115		117										127
3	107	108						114		116										126
1	121	122						128		130										140
	T	Y	V	T	I	P	N	M	P	I	R	F	T	K	I	F	Y	N	Q	Q
	(6)					(5)														
5	128					133				137										147
3	127					132				136										146
1	141					146				150										160
	N	H	Y	D	G	S	T	G	K	F	H	C	N	I	P	G	L	Y	Y	F
								(8)										(11)		(7)
5	148							155		157								165		167
3	147							154		156								164		166
1	161							168		170								178		180
	A	Y	H	I	T	V	Y	M	K	D	V	K	V	S	L	F	K	K	D	K
											(12)	(3)								
5	168									177	178	179								287
3	167									176	177	178								186
1	181									190	191	192								200
	A	M	L	F	T	Y	D	Q	Y	Q	E	N	N	V	D	Q	A	S	G	S
							(10)													(13)

Figure 7C

SEQ #																				
5	188						194			197										207
3	187						193			196										206
1	201						207			210										220
	V	L	L	H	L	E	V	G	D	Q	V	W	L	Q	V	Y	G	E	G	E
	(2)							(4)												
5	208							215		217										227
3	207							214		216										226
1	221							228		230										240
	R	N	G	L	Y	A	D	N	D	N	D	S	T	F	T	G	F	L	L	Y
5	228			231																
3	227			230																
1	241			244																
	H	D	T	N																

Figure 8



*After 1 day

Refold Conditions

- 20mM Tris; 8.0; 2 M Urea
- 50mM Tris; 8.0;
- 50mM Tris; 8.0; 2 M Urea

Solubilized with

a. 20mM Tris; 8.0; 30mM BME
b. 20mM Tris; 8.0; 50mM BME

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 13/28106

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - C07K 14/00 (2013.01)
USPC - 530/350
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
USPC: 530/350

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 530/350
(keyword limited; terms below)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PatBase; Google; PubMed
Search terms: adiponectin, adipoQ, gbp28, acrp30, non-natural, amino acid, PEG, polyethylene glycol, aminooxy, protease resistance, semicarbazide, azide, multiarmed, saccharide, selector codon, orthogonal trna, kda, dodecamer, multimer, trimer, variant

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2006/0286035 A1 (SAUDAN et al.) 21 December 2006 (21.12.2006) abstract; para [0006], [0030], [0039]-[0040], [0067], [0108], [0138], [0154]-[0155], [0162], [0164], [0169]	1-3, 5, 10-13, 36-37, 39, 41, 55, 57, 70, 80, 82-86 --- 4, 6-9, 14-35, 38, 40, 42-54, 56, 58-69, 71-79, 81
Y	US 2010/0298212 A1 (MIAO et al.) 25 November 2010 (25.11.2010) para [0014], [0037], [0057]-[0059], [0061]-[0062], [0064]-[0073], [0075]-[0077], [0080]-[0082], [0140], [0216], [0488]	4, 6-9, 14-35, 38, 40, 42-54, 56, 58-69, 71-79, 81 1-86
A	WO 2008/121009 A1 (COOPER et al.) 09 October 2008 (09.10.2008)	1-86
A	US 2006/0052292 A1 (RASMUSSEN et al.) 09 March 2006 (09.03.2006)	1-86
A	US 2006/0281151 A1 (ZALEVSKY et al.) 14 December 2006 (14.12.2006)	1-86
A	US 2007/0015909 A1 (CASH et al.) 18 January 2007 (18.01.2007)	

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"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
21 April 2013 (21.04.2013)	14 MAY 2013
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

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