

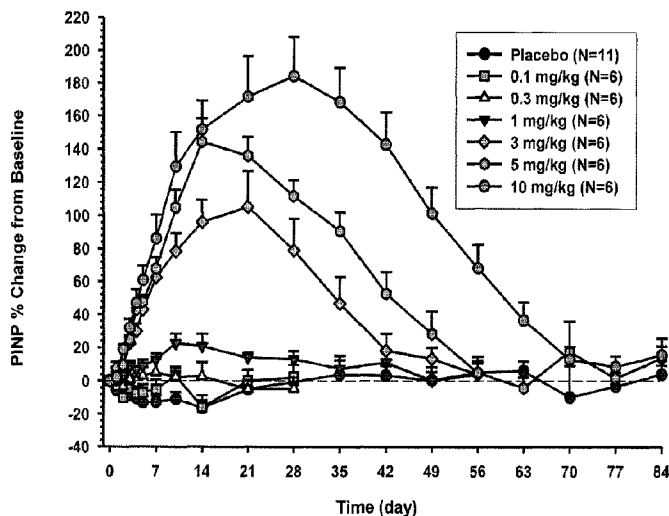


(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2008/09/17
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2009/03/26
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2023/09/05
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2010/03/17
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 2008/076679
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2009/039175
(30) Priorité/Priority: 2007/09/17 (US60/973,024)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *A61K 39/395* (2006.01),
A61P 19/08 (2006.01), *A61P 19/10* (2006.01)
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
PADHI, IAN DESMOND, US;
JANG, GRAHAM RICHARD, US
(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
AMGEN INC., US
(74) Agent: GOWLING WLG (CANADA) LLP

(54) Titre : PROCÉDE POUR INHIBER LA RESORPTION OSSEUSE
(54) Title: METHOD FOR INHIBITING BONE RESORPTION

Dose Related Increase Observed in PINP Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention is directed to a method of inhibiting bone resorption. The method comprises administering to a human an amount of sclerostin inhibitor that reduces a bone resorption marker level for at least 2 weeks. The invention also provides a method of monitoring anti-sclerostin therapy comprising measuring one or more bone resorption marker levels, administering a sclerostin binding agent, then measuring the bone resorption marker levels. Also provided is a method of increasing bone mineral density; a method of ameliorating the effects of an osteoclast-related disorder; a method of treating a bone-related disorder by maintaining bone density; and a method of treating a bone-related disorder in a human suffering from or at risk of hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia, a human in which treatment with a parathyroid hormone or analog thereof is contraindicated, or a human in which treatment with a bisphosphonate is contraindicated.

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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
26 March 2009 (26.03.2009)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/039175 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
A61K 39/395 (2006.01) A61P 19/08 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2008/076679
- (22) International Filing Date:
17 September 2008 (17.09.2008)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/973,024 17 September 2007 (17.09.2007) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AMGEN INC. [US/US]; Patent Operations, M/S 28-2-C, One Amgen Center Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-1799 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PADHI, Ian, Desmond [US/US]; 1079 Via Impresso, Newbury Park, CA 91320 (US). JANG, Graham, Richard [US/US]; 1223 20th Street, #202, Santa Monica, CA 90404 (US).
- (74) Agent: KISSLING, Heather, R.; Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300, Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60606-6357 (US).
- (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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, 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, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, 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, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- with sequence listing part of description published separately in electronic form and available upon request from the International Bureau

[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title: METHOD FOR INHIBITING BONE RESORPTION

Dose Related Increase Observed in PINP Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

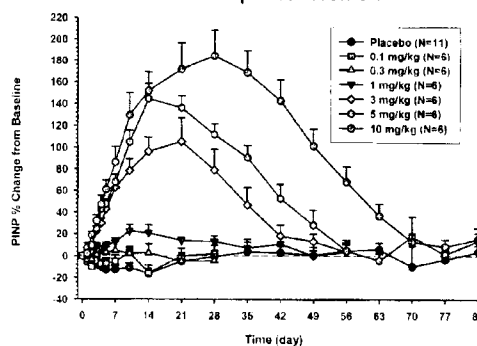


FIGURE 1

- (57) Abstract: The invention is directed to a method of inhibiting bone resorption. The method comprises administering to a human an amount of sclerostin inhibitor that reduces a bone resorption marker level for at least 2 weeks. The invention also provides a method of monitoring anti-sclerostin therapy comprising measuring one or more bone resorption marker levels, administering a sclerostin binding agent, then measuring the bone resorption marker levels. Also provided is a method of increasing bone mineral density; a method of ameliorating the effects of an osteoclast-related disorder; a method of treating a bone-related disorder by maintaining bone density; and a method of treating a bone-related disorder in a human suffering from or at risk of hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia, a human in which treatment with a parathyroid hormone or analog thereof is contraindicated, or a human in which treatment with a bisphosphonate is contraindicated.

WO 2009/039175 A3

WO 2009/039175 A3



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 May 2009

METHOD FOR INHIBITING BONE RESORPTION

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention generally relates to methods of using sclerostin binding agents to modulate bone density.

[0002]

[0003]

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Loss of bone mineral content can be caused by a wide variety of conditions and may result in significant medical problems. For example, osteoporosis is a debilitating disease in humans and is characterized by marked decreases in skeletal bone mass and mineral density, structural deterioration of bone, including degradation of bone microarchitecture and corresponding increases in bone fragility (i.e., decreases in bone strength), and susceptibility to fracture in afflicted individuals. Osteoporosis in humans is generally preceded by clinical osteopenia, a condition found in approximately 25 million people in the United States. Another 7-8 million patients in the United States have been diagnosed with clinical osteoporosis. The frequency of osteoporosis in the human population increases with age. Among Caucasians, osteoporosis is predominant in women who, in the United States, comprise 80% of the osteoporosis patient pool. The increased fragility and susceptibility to fracture of skeletal bone in the aged is aggravated by the greater risk of

accidental falls in this population. Fractured hips, wrists, and vertebrae are among the most common injuries associated with osteoporosis. Hip fractures in particular are extremely uncomfortable and expensive for the patient, and for women, correlate with high rates of mortality and morbidity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The invention is directed to methods of using a sclerostin inhibitor for inhibiting bone resorption in humans. The method comprises administering to a human an amount of sclerostin inhibitor that is effective to reduce the level of a marker of bone resorption and optionally increase the level of a marker of bone formation. In some embodiments, bone resorption is inhibited and bone formation is increased for at least about 7 days, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 1 month, 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks, 8 weeks, 2 months, 3 months or longer. In related embodiments, the invention provides a method of increasing bone mineral density or treating a bone-related disorder. The invention further provides a method of ameliorating the effects of an osteoclast-related disorder. The method comprises administering to a human a sclerostin inhibitor that reduces the level of a marker of bone resorption compared to bone marker levels absent treatment. The sclerostin inhibitor also increases the level of a marker of bone formation by at least about 10% compared to bone marker levels absent treatment. The sclerostin inhibitor can be administered via a single dose or in multiple doses. For example, the sclerostin inhibitor can be administered in a short-term therapy regimen to, e.g., increase bone formation, and/or can be administered long-term to prevent loss of bone mineral density in a maintenance therapeutic regimen.

[0006] In any of the methods disclosed herein, the level of one or more markers of bone resorption is reduced by at least about 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% or more for at least 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 30 days, 1 month, 6 weeks, 2 months or longer, compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population. By way of non-limiting example, the level of the marker of bone resorption by 3 weeks after treatment is decreased by, e.g., at least about 20% compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population. In any of the preceding methods, the level of the marker of bone formation is increased by at least about 10%, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%, about 100% or more for at least about 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 30 days, 1 month, 6 weeks, 2 months or longer, compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population. By way of non-limiting example, the level of the marker of

bone formation by 3 weeks after treatment is increased by, e.g., at least about 20% compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population. In one exemplary embodiment, the marker of bone resorption is serum level of C-telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX). In other exemplary embodiments, the marker of bone formation is bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP), osteocalcin (OstCa), and/or N-terminal extension of procollagen type 1 (P1NP).

[0007] The invention also provides a method of treating a bone-related disorder, wherein the method comprises administering to a human one or more amounts of a sclerostin inhibitor effective to increase bone mineral density for the total body (e.g., head, trunk, arms, and legs) or at the hip (e.g., total hip and/or femoral neck), spine (e.g., lumbar spine), wrist, finger, shin bone and/or heel by about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 8%, about 10%, about 12%, about 15%, about 18%, about 20%, about 25%, or 30% or more. In some embodiments, the bone mineral density of the human before treatment is characteristic of osteoporosis or osteopenia, and one or more doses of sclerostin inhibitor are administered in an amount and for a time effective to improve bone mineral density such that the bone mineral density is no longer characteristic of osteoporosis and/or osteopenia. For example, one or more doses may be administered for an initial time period to increase bone mineral density to within 2.5, or one, standard deviations of the density normal for a young adult (i.e., a T-score ≥ -2.5 or a T-score ≥ -1 , as defined below). In exemplary embodiments, the initial time period is about 3 months or less, 6 months or less, 9 months or less, 1 year or less, 18 months or less, or longer. The method may further comprise subsequently administering one or more amounts of a sclerostin inhibitor effective to maintain bone mineral density, optionally for a maintenance time period of at least about 6 months, 1 year, 2 years or longer (e.g., over the life-time of the subject).

[0008] The invention further provides a method of treating a bone-related disorder in a human by administering one or more doses between about 0.1 to about 20 mg/kg, or about 0.1 to about 12 mg/kg, or about 0.5 to about 12 mg/kg, or about 1 to about 10 mg/kg, or about 1 to about 8 mg/kg, or about 2 to about 8 mg/kg, or about 3 to about 8 mg/kg. In some embodiments, doses may be administered at an interval of about once 2 weeks or longer, once every month or longer, or once every 2 months or longer, or once every 3 months or longer, or once every 4 months or longer, or once every 5 months or longer, or once every 6 months or longer, or once every 9 months or longer, or once every year or longer. The sclerostin inhibitor may be used in the preparation of a medicament for administration using any of the dosing and timing regimens described herein. Optionally, the sclerostin inhibitor

is presented in a container, such as a single dose or multidose vial, containing a dose of sclerostin inhibitor for administration (e.g., about 70 to about 450 mg of sclerostin inhibitor). In one exemplary embodiment, a vial may contain about 70 mg or 75 mg of sclerostin inhibitor, e.g. anti-sclerostin antibody, and would be suitable for administering a single dose of about 1 mg/kg. In other embodiments, a vial may contain about 140 mg or 150 mg; or about 210 mg or 220 mg or 250 mg; or about 280 mg or 290 mg or 300 mg; or about 350 mg or 360 mg; or about 420 mg or 430 mg or 440 mg or 450 mg of sclerostin inhibitor, e.g., anti-sclerostin antibody.

[0009] Additionally, the invention provides a method of treating a bone-related disorder in a human suffering from or at risk of hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia, a human in which treatment with a parathyroid hormone or analog thereof is contraindicated, or a human in which treatment with a bisphosphonate is contraindicated. The method comprises administering to the human an amount of a sclerostin inhibitor effective to increase the level of a marker of bone formation and/or reduce the level of a marker of bone resorption, without resulting in hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia (e.g., clinically-significant hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia).

[0010] The invention also provides a method of monitoring anti-sclerostin therapy, i.e., the physiological response to a sclerostin inhibitor. The method comprises the steps of administering one or more doses of a sclerostin inhibitor, and detecting the level of one or more markers of bone resorption, wherein a reduction of at least about 5%, about 10%, about 15%, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50% or more in the level of a marker of bone resorption, compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population, is indicative of effective treatment. The method optionally further comprises the step of detecting the level of one or more markers of bone formation, wherein an increase of at least about 10%, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%, or about 100% in the level of a marker of bone formation, compared to pre-treatment levels or normal levels for that patient population, is indicative of effective treatment. In certain embodiments, the increase in bone formation marker levels is about 20%. The method may further comprise the step of adjusting the dose of a sclerostin inhibitor to a different amount, e.g., higher if the change in bone resorption and/or bone formation is less than desired, or lower if the change in bone resorption and/or bone formation is more than desired.

[0011] In a different aspect, the invention provides selected sclerostin inhibitors that reduce the level of a marker of bone resorption by at least about 5%, about 10%, about 15%,

about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50% or more and increase the level of a marker of bone formation by at least about 10%, about 20%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%, about 100%, or more, for at least about 1 week, about 2 weeks, about 1 month, about 6 weeks, about 2 months, about 10 weeks, or about 3 months. In a related aspect, the invention provides a method of selecting such sclerostin inhibitors by administering a candidate sclerostin inhibitor to an animal and selecting a candidate sclerostin inhibitor that changes the level of a marker of bone resorption and/or formation to the desired extent.

[0012] In any of the preceding methods or embodiments of the invention, the sclerostin inhibitor may be a sclerostin binding agent. The use of sclerostin binding agents disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747, e.g., in any of the methods disclosed herein or for preparation of medicaments for administration according to any of the methods disclosed herein, is specifically contemplated. In this regard, the invention includes use of a sclerostin binding agent in preparation of a medicament for inhibiting bone resorption in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg, wherein the amount is effective to reduce serum level of C-telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX) by at least 20%, compared to pre-treatment or normal levels, by 3 weeks after treatment begins. The invention also includes use of a sclerostin binding agent in preparation of a medicament for increasing bone mineral density in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg, wherein the amount is effective to (a) reduce serum level of CTX by at least 20% compared to pre-treatment or normal levels, by 3 weeks after treatment begins, and (b) increase serum level of a bone formation marker selected from the group consisting of serum level of bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP), serum level of amino-terminal extension of peptide of procollagen type 1 (PINP), and serum level of osteocalcin (OstCa), by at least 20%, compared to pre-treatment or normal levels, by 3 weeks after treatment begins.

[0013] The invention further includes use of a sclerostin binding agent in preparation of a medicament for treating a bone-related disorder in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg for a first period of time, wherein the amount is effective to increase bone mineral density at the hip, spine, wrist, finger, shin bone and/or heel by at least about 3%, followed by an amount of from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg for a second period of time effective to maintain bone mineral density. Use of a sclerostin binding agent in preparation of a medicament for treating a bone-related disorder in a human suffering from or at risk of hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg, also is contemplated, as well as use of a sclerostin binding agent in preparation of a medicament for

treating a bone-related disorder in (a) a human in which treatment with a parathyroid hormone or analog thereof is contraindicated or (b) a human in which treatment with bisphosphonate is contraindicated.

[0014] The invention also includes containers comprising anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof. In one embodiment, the container comprises anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof and instructions for administering the antibody or fragment thereof in an amount effective to (a) reduce serum level of C-telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX) by at least 20%, compared to pre-treatment or normal levels, by 3 weeks after treatment begins, and (b) increase serum level bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP), serum level of amino-terminal extension of peptide of procollagen type 1 (PINP), or serum level of osteocalcin (OstCa) by at least 20%, compared to pre-treatment or normal levels, by 3 weeks after treatment begins. Alternatively or in addition, the container comprises an amount of anti-sclerostin antibody from about 70 mg to about 450 mg. The invention further provides a container comprising anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof and instructions for administering the antibody or fragment thereof for treating a bone-related disorder in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg every two or four weeks. In addition, the invention provides a container comprising anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof and instructions for administering the antibody or fragment thereof for treating a bone-related disorder in an amount from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg for a period of about 3 months.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0015] Figure 1 is a graph of percent change of N-terminal extension of procollagen type 1 (PINP) levels compared to baseline and placebo PINP levels versus time (day) post-administration of various single doses of a sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0016] Figure 2 is a graph of percent change of bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP) levels compared to baseline and placebo BSAP levels versus time (day) post-administration of various single doses of a sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0017] Figure 3 is a graph of percent change of osteocalcin levels compared to baseline and placebo osteocalcin levels versus time (day) post-administration of various single doses of a sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0018] Figure 4 is a graph of percent change of serum C-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX) levels compared to baseline and placebo serum CTX levels versus time (day)

post-administration of various single doses of a sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0019] Figure 5 are graphs of percent change of osteocalcin, BSAP, PINP, and CTX levels compared to baseline and placebo levels versus time (day) post-administration of a single dose of 5 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg of sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0020] Figure 6 is a graph of percent change of serum calcium levels compared to baseline and placebo serum calcium levels versus time (day) post-administration of various single doses of a sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

[0021] Figure 7 are graphs of percent change of bone mineral density compared to baseline and placebo versus time (day) post-administration of various single doses of sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0022] The invention is predicated, at least in part, on the surprising discovery that blocking or inhibiting the biological activity of human sclerostin triggers multiple physiological responses linked to increased bone mineral density (BMD), including significant inhibition of bone resorption. Most currently available therapies only inhibit bone resorption without increasing bone formation. Some currently available therapies for disorders associated with reduced BMD only increase bone formation without significantly reducing bone resorption. For example, when bone formation is triggered by some current drugs, bone resorption may also increase (albeit potentially at a lower rate than before therapy). In contrast, agents that interfere with sclerostin activity both enhance bone formation *and* reduce bone resorption. In other words, sclerostin inhibitors “uncouple” bone formation and bone resorption to more effectively build bone. The materials and methods of the invention are superior to existing therapies whose therapeutic efficacy is limited and which are accompanied by potentially serious adverse side effects.

[0023] In this regard, the invention provides a method of inhibiting bone resorption, e.g., bone resorption mediated by osteoclasts, bone cells that dissolve bone mineral matrices. The invention further provides a method of ameliorating the effects of an osteoclast-related disorder, i.e., a disorder caused by abnormally increased osteoclast activity that, in some embodiments, manifests as abnormally high bone resorption. The inventive method comprises administering to a human an amount of sclerostin binding agent that reduces the

level of a marker of bone resorption and, optionally, increases the level of a marker of bone formation.

[0024] Activity of a sclerostin inhibitor, e.g., a sclerostin binding agent, (further described below) may be measured in a variety of ways. Sclerostin binding agent-mediated increases in bone mineral content or bone density may be measured using single- and dual-energy X-ray absorptometry, ultrasound, computed tomography, radiography, and magnetic resonance imaging. The amount of bone mass may also be calculated from body weights or by using other methods (see Guinness-Hey, *Metab. Bone Dis. Relat. Res.*, 5:177-181 (1984)). Animals and particular animal models are used in the art for testing the effect of the pharmaceutical compositions and methods on, for example, parameters of bone loss, bone resorption, bone formation, bone strength, or bone mineralization that mimic conditions of human disease such as osteoporosis and osteopenia. Examples of such models include the ovariectomized rat model (Kalu, *Bone and Mineral*, 15:175-192 (1991); Frost and Jee, *Bone and Mineral*, 18:227-236 (1992); and Jee and Yao, *J. Musculoskel. Neuron. Interact.*, 1:193-207 (2001)). The methods for measuring sclerostin binding agent activity described herein also may be used to determine the efficacy of other sclerostin inhibitors.

[0025] In humans, bone mineral density can be determined clinically using dual x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) of, for example, the hip and spine. Other techniques include quantitative computed tomography (QCT), ultrasonography, single-energy x-ray absorptiometry (SXA), and radiographic absorptiometry. Common central skeletal sites for measurement include the spine and hip; peripheral sites include the forearm, finger, wrist and heel. Except for ultrasonography, the American Medical Association notes that BMD techniques typically involve the use of x-rays and are based on the principle that attenuation of the radiation depends on thickness and composition of the tissues in the radiation path. All techniques involve the comparison of results to a normative database.

[0026] Alternatively, a physiological response to one or more sclerostin binding agents can be gauged by monitoring bone marker levels. Bone markers are products created during the bone remodeling process and are released by bone, osteoblasts, and/or osteoclasts. Fluctuations in bone resorption and/or bone formation "marker" levels imply changes in bone remodeling/modeling. The International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) recommends using bone markers to monitor bone density therapies (see, e.g., Delmas et al., *Osteoporos Int.*, Suppl. 6:S2-17 (2000)). Markers indicative of bone resorption (or osteoclast activity) include, for example, C-telopeptide (e.g., C-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX) or serum cross-linked C-telopeptide), N-telopeptide (N-

terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (NTX)), deoxypyridinoline (DPD), pyridinoline, urinary hydroxyproline, galactosyl hydroxylysine, and tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (e.g., serum tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase isoform 5b). Bone formation/mineralization markers include, but are not limited to, bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BSAP), peptides released from N- and C-terminal extension of type I procollagen (P1NP, PICP), and osteocalcin (OstCa). Several kits are commercially-available to detect and quantify markers in clinical samples, such as urine and blood.

[0027] Upon administration, the sclerostin binding agent preferably reduces the level of one or more markers of bone resorption, such as the serum level of C-telopeptide of type I collagen (CTX). Accordingly, the invention further provides a method of monitoring anti-sclerostin therapy, i.e., the physiological response to a sclerostin binding agent or other sclerostin inhibitor. The method comprises administering a sclerostin binding agent, then measuring the level of one or more markers of bone resorption. In addition, the method can comprise measuring the level of one or more markers of bone formation before administration of a sclerostin binding agent. The level of bone resorption marker during and/or after treatment with the sclerostin binding agent may be compared to a pre-treatment level, or alternatively may be compared to a standard range typical of that patient population. One of ordinary skill in the art can readily determine a suitable standard range by testing a representative number of patients of like age, gender, disease level, and/or other characteristics of the patient population. The level of bone resorption marker can be reduced by at least about 5% (e.g., about 10%, about 20%, or about 30%) by a single dose of sclerostin binding agent. In some embodiments, the dose of sclerostin binding agent reduces the level of bone resorption marker at least about 40% (e.g., about 50%, about 60%, or about 70%) compared to the level of the bone resorption marker prior to administering the sclerostin binding agent. In addition, the bone resorption marker level may be reduced for at least about 3 days (e.g., about 7 days, about 2 weeks, about 3 weeks, about 1 month, about 5 weeks, about 6 weeks, about 7 weeks, about 2 months, about 9 weeks, about 10 weeks, about 11 weeks, or about 3 months) after administration of a single dose of the sclerostin binding agent.

[0028] In addition to decreasing the level of bone resorption markers, the amount of sclerostin binding agent administered to a patient also can increase the level of one or more markers of bone formation, such as the serum level of BSAP, the serum level of P1NP, and/or the serum level of OstCa. A single dose of sclerostin binding agent can increase the level of a bone formation marker by, for example, at least about 5% (e.g., about 10%, about

20%, or about 30%). In some embodiments, the dose of sclerostin binding agent elevates the level of a bone formation marker at least about 40% (e.g., about 50%, about 60%, or about 70%). In other embodiments, the dose of sclerostin binding agent increases the level of one or more bone formation markers by at least about 75% (e.g., about 80%, about 90%, about 100%, or about 110%). In yet other embodiments, the dose of sclerostin binding agent increases the level of a bone formation marker by at least about 120% (e.g., about 130%, about 140%, about 150%, about 160% or about 170%). In alternative embodiments, the sclerostin binding agent increases the level of bone formation marker by least about 180% (e.g., about 190% or about 200%). Bone formation marker levels ideally remain elevated (compared to bone formation marker levels pre-treatment or to a standard range typical of that patient population) for at least about 3 days (e.g., about 7 days, about 2 weeks, about 3 weeks, about 1 month, about 5 weeks, about 6 weeks, about 7 weeks, about 2 months, about 9 weeks, about 10 weeks, about 11 weeks, or about 3 months) after administration of a single dose of the sclerostin binding agent.

[0029] The invention also provides a method of increasing bone mineral density (BMD), wherein an amount of sclerostin binding agent that (a) reduces the level of a marker of bone resorption and (b) increases the level of a marker of bone formation is administered to a human. BMD generally correlates with skeletal fragility and osteoporosis. Typically, BMD is can be measured “total body” (e.g., head, trunk, arms, and legs) or at the hip (e.g., total hip and/or femoral neck), spine (e.g., lumbar spine), wrist, finger, shin bone and/or heel. In osteoporosis diagnosis, a patient’s BMD is compared to the peak density of a 30-year old healthy adult (i.e., a “young adult”), creating the so-called “T-score.” A patient’s BMD also may be compared to an “age-matched” bone density (see, e.g., World Health Organization Scientific Group on the Prevention and Management of Osteoporosis, “Prevention and management of osteoporosis: report of a WHO scientific group.” *WHO Technical Report Series*; 921, Geneva, Switzerland (2000)). The difference between a patient’s BMD and that of a healthy, young adult is conventionally referred to in terms of the multiple of a “standard deviation,” which typically equals about 10% to about 12% decrease in bone density. The World Health Organization proposed four diagnostic categories based on BMD T-scores. A BMD value within 1 standard deviation of the young adult reference mean ($T\text{-score} \geq -1$) is “normal.” Low bone mass (osteopenia) is indicated by a BMD value more than 1 standard deviation below the young adult mean, but less than 2 standard deviations ($T\text{-score} < -1$ and > -2.5). A T-score of more than 2.5 standard deviations below the norm supports a diagnosis of

osteoporosis. If a patient additionally suffers from one or more fragility fractures, the patient qualifies as having severe osteoporosis.

[0030] The sclerostin inhibitor, e.g., a sclerostin binding agent, may be administered to a patient to improve bone mineral density regardless of the patient's T-score. The sclerostin binding agent may be administered at a dose and for a time period effective to increase BMD in the patient by at least about 1% (about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, or about 6%). In some embodiments, BMD is increased by at least about 8% (e.g., at least about 10%, about 12%, about 15%, or about 18%). In other embodiments, BMD is increased by the sclerostin binding agent at least about 20% (e.g., at least about 22%, about 25%, or about 28%) at the hip, spine, wrist, finger, shin bone, and/or heel. In yet other embodiments, BMD is increased at least about 30% (e.g., at least about 32%, about 35%, about 38%, or about 40%). In other words, the BMD can be increased to the range of about 1 to about 2.5 standard deviations (preferably a range of about 0 to about 1 standard deviations) below the normal BMD of a healthy young adult.

[0031] Alterations in bone remodeling can lead to fluctuations in mineral concentrations throughout the body. Bone is one of the principal regulators of calcium levels in the bloodstream. Osteoclast-mediated bone resorption releases stored calcium into the systemic circulation, while osteoblast-mediated bone formation removes calcium from circulation to incorporate into bone tissue. In normal bone remodeling, these processes cycle to maintain healthy, strong bone and maintain free calcium levels at about 8.5 mg/dL to about 10.5 mg/dL (e.g., about 2.2 mmol/L to about 2.6 mmol/L). Bone disorders, other illnesses, and even certain therapies can disrupt systemic calcium levels with dire consequences. Hypercalcemia is associated with high levels of calcium in the blood (e.g., greater than 12 mg/dL or 3 mmol/L). Extraordinarily high calcium levels leads to, for example, fatigue, confusion, constipation, decreased appetite, frequent urination, heart problems, and bone pain. Hypocalcemia is an electrolyte imbalance indicated by an abnormally low level of calcium in the blood (e.g., less than about 9 mg/dL or 2.2 mmol/L). Calcium levels of < 7.5 mg/dL (< 1.87 mmol/L) or less are considered severe hypocalcemia and may be accompanied by clinical symptoms.

[0032] Common symptoms of hypocalcemia include nerve and muscle spasms and cramps, numbness, tingling in the extremities, confusion, and heart irregularities. Extreme variations in system calcium can lead to coma and death.

[0033] Several ailments and pharmaceutical therapies alter system calcium levels.

Hypercalcemia and hypocalcemia can result from, for example, chronic kidney disease, renal failure, primary or secondary hyperparathyroidism, pseudohyperparathyroidism, hypoparathyroidism, pseudohypoparathyroidism, magnesium depletion, alcoholism, bisphosphonate therapy, severe hypermagnesemia, vitamin D deficiency, hyperphosphatemia, acute pancreatitis, hungry bone syndrome, chelation, osteoblastic metastases, sepsis, surgery, chemotherapy, neoplasia syndrome, familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia, sarcoidosis, tuberculosis, berylliosis, histoplasmosis, Candidiasis, Coccidioidomycosis, histiocytosis X, Hodgkin's or Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Crohn's disease, Wegener's granulomatosis, leukemia, pneumonia, silicone-induced granulomas, immobilization, or drug therapy, such as administration of thiazide diuretics, lithium, estrogens, fluorides, glucose, and insulin. In addition, serum calcium fluctuations are a side effect of many existing bone-related therapies, such as bisphosphonate and parathyroid hormone therapy. Because of the potentially life-threatening consequences of calcium imbalance, patients susceptible to hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia may need to forego certain therapy options.

[0034] Remarkably, sclerostin inhibitors, e.g., sclerostin binding agents, have been shown to promote bone formation and inhibit (or slow) bone resorption with minimal fluctuations in systemic calcium levels (e.g., calcium levels fluctuate 10% or less from baseline serum calcium levels). Accordingly, the materials and method of the invention are particularly advantageous in treating patients that are susceptible or sensitive to unstable calcium levels. The amount of sclerostin binding agent administered to a human in the context of this aspect of the invention is an amount that does not result in hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia (e.g., clinically-significant hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia). In addition, the invention provides a method of treating a bone-related disorder in a human suffering from or at risk of hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia or a human in which treatment with bisphosphonate, a parathyroid hormone, or parathyroid hormone analog is contraindicated. The method comprises administering to the human an amount of a sclerostin binding agent effective to increase the level of a marker of bone formation, such as serum levels of BSAP, PINP, and/or OstCa and/or reduce the level of a marker of bone resorption, such as CTX.

[0035] The inventive method is useful for treating or preventing bone-related disorders, such as bone-related disorders associated with abnormal osteoblast or osteoclast activity. Indeed, the sclerostin inhibitor (e.g., sclerostin binding agent) can be administered to a human suffering from a bone related disorder selected from the group consisting of achondroplasia, cleidocranial dysostosis, enchondromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, Gaucher's Disease,

hypophosphatemic rickets, Marfan's syndrome, multiple hereditary exotoses, neurofibromatosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteopetrosis, osteopoikilosis, sclerotic lesions, pseudoarthrosis, pyogenic osteomyelitis, periodontal disease, anti-epileptic drug induced bone loss, primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism, familial hyperparathyroidism syndromes, weightlessness induced bone loss, osteoporosis in men, postmenopausal bone loss, osteoarthritis, renal osteodystrophy, infiltrative disorders of bone, oral bone loss, osteonecrosis of the jaw, juvenile Paget's disease, melorheostosis, metabolic bone diseases, mastocytosis, sickle cell anemia/disease, organ transplant related bone loss, kidney transplant related bone loss, systemic lupus erythematosus, ankylosing spondylitis, epilepsy, juvenile arthritides, thalassemia, mucopolysaccharidoses, Fabry Disease, Turner Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Klinefelter Syndrome, leprosy, Perthe's Disease, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, infantile onset multi-system inflammatory disease, Winchester Syndrome, Menkes Disease, Wilson's Disease, ischemic bone disease (such as Legg-Calve-Perthes disease and regional migratory osteoporosis), anemic states, conditions caused by steroids, glucocorticoid-induced bone loss, heparin-induced bone loss, bone marrow disorders, scurvy, malnutrition, calcium deficiency, osteoporosis, osteopenia, alcoholism, chronic liver disease, postmenopausal state, chronic inflammatory conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory colitis, Crohn's disease, oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea, pregnancy, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, thyroid disorders, parathyroid disorders, Cushing's disease, acromegaly, hypogonadism, immobilization or disuse, reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, regional osteoporosis, osteomalacia, bone loss associated with joint replacement, HIV associated bone loss, bone loss associated with loss of growth hormone, bone loss associated with cystic fibrosis, chemotherapy-associated bone loss, tumor-induced bone loss, cancer-related bone loss, hormone ablative bone loss, multiple myeloma, drug-induced bone loss, anorexia nervosa, disease-associated facial bone loss, disease-associated cranial bone loss, disease-associated bone loss of the jaw, disease-associated bone loss of the skull, bone loss associated with aging, facial bone loss associated with aging, cranial bone loss associated with aging, jaw bone loss associated with aging, skull bone loss associated with aging, and bone loss associated with space travel.

[0036] The inventive method need not cure the patient of the disorder or completely protect against the onset of a bone-related disorder to achieve a beneficial biological response. The method may be used prophylactically, meaning to protect, in whole or in part, against a bone-related disorder or symptom thereof. The method also may be used therapeutically to ameliorate, in whole or in part, a bone-related disorder or symptom thereof,

or to protect, in whole or in part, against further progression of a bone-related disorder or symptom thereof. Indeed, the materials and methods of the invention are particularly useful for increasing bone mineral density and maintaining the increased BMD over a period of time. In this regard, the invention provides a method of treating a bone-related disorder, which method comprises (a) administering one or more amounts of a sclerostin binding agent effective to increase BMD measured for the total body (e.g., head, trunk, arms, and legs) or at the hip (e.g., total hip and/or femoral neck), spine (e.g., lumbar spine), wrist, finger, shin bone and/or heel by about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 6%, about 8%, about 10%, about 12%, about 15%, about 18%, about 20%, about 25%, or 30% or more. One or more administrations of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the sclerostin binding agent may be carried out over a therapeutic period of, for example, about 1 month to about 12 months (e.g., about 2 months, about 3 months, about 4 months, about 5 months, about 6 months, about 7 months, about 8 months, about 9 months, about 10 months, or about 11 months). The method further includes (b) subsequently administering one or more amounts of a sclerostin binding agent effective to maintain bone mineral density. By “maintain bone mineral density” is meant that the increased BMD resulting from step (a) does not fall more than about 1% to about 5% over the course of step (b) (e.g., about 6 months, about 9 months about 1 year, about 18 months, about 2 years, or over the course of the patient’s life). It will be appreciated that a patient can require alternate treatment phases for increasing bone density and maintaining bone density.

[0037] The sclerostin binding agent is preferably administered to a patient in a physiologically-acceptable (e.g., pharmaceutical) composition, which can include carriers, excipients, or diluents. It will be appreciated that the sclerostin binding agents described herein may be used in the preparation of a medicament for administration using any of the dosage and timing regimens disclosed herein. Pharmaceutical compositions and methods of treatment are disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20050106683.

“Physiologically-acceptable” refers to molecular entities and compositions that do not produce an allergic or similar untoward reaction when administered to a human. In addition, the composition administered to a subject may contain more than one sclerostin inhibitor (e.g., a sclerostin binding agent and a synthetic chemical sclerostin inhibitor) or a sclerostin inhibitor in combination with one or more therapeutics having different mechanisms of action.

[0038] The development of suitable dosing and treatment regimens for using the particular compositions described herein in a variety of treatment regimens, including e.g.,

subcutaneous, oral, parenteral, intravenous, intranasal, and intramuscular administration and formulation, is well known in the art and discussed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747. For example, in certain circumstances, it will be desirable to deliver a pharmaceutical composition comprising a sclerostin binding agent subcutaneously, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, or even intraperitoneally. Such approaches are well known to the skilled artisan, some of which are further described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,543,158; 5,641,515; and 5,399,363. Illustrative pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions (for example, see U.S. Patent No. 5,466,468). In all cases the form must be sterile and must be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists.

[0039] In one embodiment, for parenteral administration in an aqueous solution, the solution should be suitably buffered if necessary and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic with sufficient saline or glucose. These particular aqueous solutions are especially suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intraperitoneal administration. For example, one dose may be dissolved in 1 ml of isotonic NaCl solution and either added to 1000 ml of hypodermoclysis fluid or injected at the proposed site of infusion (see, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 15th ed., Mack Pub. Co., Easton, PA, pp. 1035-1038 and 1570-1580). Some variation in dosage and frequency of administration may occur depending on the condition of the subject being treated; age, height, weight, and overall health of the patient; and the existence of any side effects. In addition, a pharmaceutical composition comprising a sclerostin binding agent may be placed within containers (e.g., vials), along with packaging material that provides instructions regarding the use of such pharmaceutical compositions. Generally, such instructions will include a tangible expression describing the reagent concentration, as well as within certain embodiments, relative amounts of excipient ingredients or diluents (e.g., water, saline or PBS) that may be necessary to reconstitute the pharmaceutical composition.

[0040] The sclerostin binding agent is administered in an amount that reduces the level of a bone resorption marker and/or increases the level of a bone formation marker and/or increases bone density. The dose of sclerostin binding agent administered may range from about 0.5 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg (e.g., 12 mg/kg) of body weight. For example, the dose of sclerostin binding agent may range from about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg (e.g., about 2 mg/kg or about 9 mg/kg), about 1 mg/kg to about 3 mg/kg, or about 3 mg/kg to about 8 mg/kg (e.g., about 4 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, 6 mg/kg, or 7 mg/kg).

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

[0041] In addition, it may be advantageous to administer multiple doses of a sclerostin binding agent or space out the administration of doses, depending on the therapeutic regimen selected for a particular patient. The sclerostin binding agent can be administered periodically over a time period of one year or less (e.g., 9 months or less, 6 months or less, or 3 months or less). In this regard, the sclerostin binding agent can be administered to the human once every about 7 days, or 2 weeks, or 3 weeks, or 1 month, or 5 weeks, or 6 weeks, or 7 weeks, or 2 months, or 9 weeks, or 10 weeks, or 11 weeks, or 3 months, or 13 weeks, or 14 weeks, or 15 weeks, or 4 months, or 17 weeks, or 18 weeks, or 19 weeks, or 5 months, or 21 weeks, or 22 weeks, or 23 weeks, or 6 months, or 12 months.

[0042] The inventive method comprises administering an amount of a “sclerostin inhibitor.” As used herein, the term “sclerostin inhibitor” means any molecule that inhibits the biological activity of sclerostin on bone, as measured by changes to bone mineralization, bone density, effect on osteoblasts and/or osteoclasts, markers of bone formation, markers of bone resorption, markers of osteoblast activity, and/or markers of osteoclast activity. Such inhibitors may act by binding to sclerostin or its receptor or binding partner. Inhibitors in this category include “sclerostin binding agents,” such as, e.g., antibodies or peptide-based molecules. “Sclerostin inhibitors” also refers to small organic chemical compounds, optionally of less than about 1000 Daltons in molecular weight that bind sclerostin and inhibit its activity. Inhibitors may alternatively act by inhibiting expression of sclerostin. Inhibitors in this category include polynucleotides or oligonucleotides that bind to sclerostin DNA or mRNA and inhibit sclerostin expression, including an antisense oligonucleotide, inhibitory RNA, DNA enzyme, ribozyme, an aptamer or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof that inhibit the expression of sclerostin.

[0043] A “sclerostin binding agent” specifically binds to sclerostin or portions thereof to block or impair binding of human sclerostin to one or more ligands. Sclerostin, the product of the SOST gene, is absent in sclerosteosis, a skeletal disease characterized by bone overgrowth and strong dense bones (Brunkow et al., *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 68:577-589 (2001); Balemans et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 10:537-543 (2001)). The amino acid sequence of human sclerostin is reported by Brunkow et al. and is disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747 as SEQ ID NO: 1.

Recombinant human

sclerostin/SOST is commercially available from R&D Systems (Minneapolis, Minn., USA; 2006 Catalog #1406-ST-025). Additionally, recombinant mouse sclerostin/SOST is commercially available from R&D Systems (Minneapolis, Minn., USA; 2006 Catalog #1589-

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

ST-025). Research grade sclerostin-binding monoclonal antibodies are commercially available from R&D Systems (Minneapolis, Minn., USA; mouse monoclonal: 2006 Catalog # MAB1406; rat monoclonal: 2006 Catalog # MAB1589). U.S. Patent Nos. 6,395,511 and 6,803,453, and U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 20040009535 and 20050106683 refer to anti-sclerostin antibodies generally. Examples of sclerostin binding agents suitable for use in the context of the invention also are described in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 20070110747 and 20070072797. Additional information regarding materials and methods for generating sclerostin binding agents can be found in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20040158045.

[0044] The sclerostin binding agent of the invention preferably is an antibody. The term "antibody" refers to an intact antibody, or a binding fragment thereof. An antibody may comprise a complete antibody molecule (including polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, humanized, or human versions having full length heavy and/or light chains), or comprise an antigen binding fragment thereof. Antibody fragments include F(ab')₂, Fab, Fab', Fv, Fc, and Fd fragments, and can be incorporated into single domain antibodies, single-chain antibodies, maxibodies, minibodies, intrabodies, diabodies, triabodies, tetrabodies, v-NAR and bis-scFv (see, e.g., Hollinger and Hudson, *Nature Biotechnology*, 23(9):1126-1136 (2005)). Antibody polypeptides, including fibronectin polypeptide monobodies, also are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,703,199. Other antibody polypeptides are disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20050238646. Anti-sclerostin antibodies may bind to sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a naturally occurring variant thereof, with an affinity of less than or equal to 1×10^{-7} M, less than or equal to 1×10^{-8} M, less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M, less than or equal to 1×10^{-10} M, less than or equal to 1×10^{-11} M, or less than or equal to 1×10^{-12} M. Affinity may be determined by an affinity ELISA assay. In certain embodiments, affinity may be determined by a BIAcore assay. In certain embodiments, affinity may be determined by a kinetic method. In certain embodiments, affinity may be determined by an equilibrium/solution method.

[0045] An antibody fragment may be any synthetic or genetically engineered protein. For example, antibody fragments include isolated fragments consisting of the light chain variable region, "Fv" fragments consisting of the variable regions of the heavy and light chains, recombinant single chain polypeptide molecules in which light and heavy variable regions are connected by a peptide linker (scFv proteins).

[0046] Another form of an antibody fragment is a peptide comprising one or more complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of an antibody. CDRs (also termed "minimal

recognition units" or "hypervariable region") can be obtained by constructing polynucleotides that encode the CDR of interest. Such polynucleotides are prepared, for example, by using the polymerase chain reaction to synthesize the variable region using mRNA of antibody-producing cells as a template (see, for example, Larrick et al., *Methods: A Companion to Methods in Enzymology*, 2:106 (1991); Courtenay-Luck, "Genetic Manipulation of Monoclonal Antibodies," in *Monoclonal Antibodies Production, Engineering and Clinical Application*, Ritter et al. (eds.), page 166, Cambridge University Press (1995); and Ward et al., "Genetic Manipulation and Expression of Antibodies," in *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Applications*, Birch et al., (eds.), page 137, Wiley-Liss, Inc. (1995)).

[0047] In one embodiment of the invention, the sclerostin binding agent cross-blocks the binding of at least one of antibodies Ab-5 and Ab-23 (both of which are described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747) to sclerostin. Alternatively or in addition, the sclerostin binding agent is cross-blocked from binding to sclerostin by at least one of antibodies Ab-5 and Ab-23 (both of which are described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747). The terms "cross-block," "cross-blocked," and "cross-blocking" are used interchangeably herein to mean the ability of an antibody or other binding agent to interfere with the binding of other antibodies or binding agents to sclerostin. The extent to which an antibody or other binding agent is able to interfere with the binding of another to sclerostin, and therefore whether it can be said to cross-block, can be determined using competition binding assays. In some aspects of the invention, a cross-blocking antibody or fragment thereof reduces sclerostin binding of a reference antibody between about 40% and about 100%, such as about 60% and about 100%, specifically between 70% and 100%, and more specifically between 80% and 100%. A particularly suitable quantitative assay for detecting cross-blocking uses a Biacore machine which measures the extent of interactions using surface plasmon resonance technology. Another suitable quantitative cross-blocking assay uses an ELISA-based approach to measure competition between antibodies or other binding agents in terms of their binding to sclerostin.

[0048] Suitable sclerostin binding agents include antibodies and portions thereof described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747, such as one or more of CDR-H1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 as specifically disclosed therein. At least one of

the regions of CDR-H1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2, and CDR-L3 may have at least one amino acid substitution, provided that the binding agent retains the binding specificity of the non-substituted CDR. The non-CDR portion of the binding agent may be a non-protein molecule, wherein the binding agent cross-blocks the binding of an antibody disclosed herein to sclerostin and/or neutralizes sclerostin. The non-CDR portion of the binding agent may be a non-protein molecule in which the binding agent exhibits a similar binding pattern to human sclerostin peptides in a human sclerostin peptide epitope competition binding assay as that exhibited by at least one of antibodies Ab-5 and Ab-23 (both of which are described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747), and/or neutralizes sclerostin. The non-CDR portion of the binding agent may be composed of amino acids, wherein the binding agent is a recombinant binding protein or a synthetic peptide, and the recombinant binding protein cross-blocks the binding of an antibody to sclerostin and/or neutralizes sclerostin. The non-CDR portion of the binding agent may be composed of amino acids, wherein the binding agent is a recombinant binding protein, and the recombinant binding protein exhibits a similar binding pattern to human sclerostin peptides in the human sclerostin peptide epitope competition binding assay (described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747) as that exhibited by at least one of the antibodies Ab-5 and Ab-23 (described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747), and/or neutralizes sclerostin. Preferably, the sclerostin binding agent is Ab-5 or Ab-23 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747.

[0049] In addition, the sclerostin binding agent can comprise at least one CDR sequence having at least 75% identity (e.g., 100% identity) to a CDR selected from SEQ ID NOs: 78, 79, 80, 239, 240, 241, 245, 246, 247, 269, 270 and 271 disclosed in

U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747. Preferably, the sclerostin binding agent comprises at least one CDR sequence having at least 75% identity to a CDR selected from SEQ ID NOs:245, 246, 247, 78, 79, 80, 269, 270, 271, 239, 240 and 241, all of which is described in U.S. Patent Publication NO. 20070110747. As described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747, the sclerostin binding agent can comprise CDR sequences of SEQ ID NOs:78, 79 and 80 and CDR sequences of SEQ ID NOs:245, 246 and 247, or CDR sequences of SEQ ID NOs:239, 240 and 241 and CDR sequences of SEQ ID NOs:269, 270 and 271.

[0050] The sclerostin binding agent also can comprise at least one CDR sequence having at least 75% identity to a CDR selected from CDR-H1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2, and CDR-L3 wherein CDR-H1 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 245 or SEQ ID NO: 269, CDR-H2 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 246 or SEQ ID NO: 270, CDR-H3 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 247 or SEQ ID NO: 271, CDR-L1 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 78 or SEQ ID NO: 239, CDR-L2 has the sequence given in SEQ ID

NO: 79 or SEQ ID NO: 240 and CDR-L3 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 80 or SEQ ID NO 241, all of which is described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747.

[0051] Alternatively, the sclerostin binding agent can have a heavy chain comprising CDR's H1, H2, and H3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 137 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 245, 246, and 247, respectively, and a light chain comprising CDR's L1, L2 and L3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 133 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 78, 79, and 80, respectively (as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747).

[0052] The sclerostin binding agent may have a heavy chain comprising CDR's H1, H2, and H3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 145 or 392 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 245, 246, and 247, respectively, and a light chain comprising CDR's L1, L2, and L3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 141 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 78, 79, and 80, respectively (as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747).

[0053] The sclerostin binding agent may have a heavy chain comprising CDR's H1, H2, and H3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 335 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 269, 270, and 271, respectively, and a light chain comprising CDR's L1, L2, and L3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 334 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 239, 240, and 241, respectively (as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747).

[0054] Alternatively, the sclerostin binding agent has a heavy chain comprising CDR's H1, H2, and H3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 331 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 269, 270, and 271, respectively, and a light chain comprising CDR's L1, L2, and L3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 330 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 239, 240, and 241, respectively (as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747).

[0055] The sclerostin binding agent may have a heavy chain comprising CDR's H1, H2, and H3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 345 or 396 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 269,

270, and 271, respectively, and a light chain comprising CDR's L1, L2, and L3 and comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 341 or a variant thereof in which said CDR's are at least 75% identical to SEQ ID NO: 239, 240, and 241, respectively (as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747).

[0056] Alternatively, the sclerostin binding agent has a heavy chain comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:145 or 392, and a light chain comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:141; or a heavy chain comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:345 or 396, and a light chain comprising a polypeptide having the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:341 (as described in U.S. Patent Publication NO. 20070110747).

[0057] Sclerostin binding agents for use in the inventive method preferably modulate sclerostin function in the cell-based assay described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747 and/or the *in vivo* assay described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747 and/or bind to one or more of the epitopes described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747 and/or cross-block the binding of one of the antibodies described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747 and/or are cross-blocked from binding sclerostin by one of the antibodies described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20070110747.

[0058] Alternatively, the inventive method can comprise administering a sclerostin inhibitor other than a sclerostin binding agent described herein. Such agents can act directly or indirectly on SOST or sclerostin. Sclerostin inhibitors contemplated for use in the inventive method include those described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030229041. For example, agents useful for modulating SOST expression and sclerostin activity include, but are not limited to, steroids (such as those corresponding to Formula 1 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030229041), alkaloids, terpenoids, peptoids, and synthetic chemicals. In some embodiments, the SOST antagonist or agonist can bind to a glucocorticoid receptor. For example, dexamethasone tends to abolish the stimulatory effect of BMP-4 and BMP-6 on SOST expression. Other chemical entities

including glucocorticoid analogs, bile salts (such as those corresponding to Formula 3 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030229041), and prostaglandins (such as those corresponding to Formula 2 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030229041) also modulate the effects of bone morphogenetic proteins on SOST expression, and are contemplated for use in the inventive method.

[0059] The sclerostin inhibitor may also be other small molecule therapeutics that act directly or indirectly on SOST or sclerostin to decrease the level of at least one bone resorptive marker and/or increase the level of at least one bone formation marker *in vivo*. The term "small molecule" includes a compound or molecular complex, either synthetic, naturally derived, or partially synthetic, and which preferably has a molecular weight of less than 5,000 Daltons (e.g., between about 100 and 1,500 Daltons). Agents can be obtained using any of the numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art, including spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries, synthetic library methods requiring deconvolution, the "one-bead one-compound" library method, and synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection (see, e.g., Lam, *Anticancer Drug Des.*, 12:145 (1997) and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,738,996; 5,807,683; and 7,261,892). Methods of developing and screening sclerostin inhibitors are further described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030229041.

[0060] Sclerostin expression inhibitors that may be used according to the methods of the invention include inhibitor oligonucleotides or polynucleotides, including pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, e.g., sodium salts. Nonlimiting examples include: antisense oligonucleotides (Eckstein, *Antisense Nucleic Acid Drug Dev.*, 10: 117-121 (2000); Crooke, *Methods Enzymol.*, 313: 3-45 (2000); Guvakova et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 270: 2620-2627 (1995); Manoharan, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 1489: 117-130 (1999); Baker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 272: 11994-12000 (1997); Kurreck, *Eur. J. Biochem.*, 270: 1628-1644 (2003); Sierakowska et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 93: 12840-12844 (1996); Marwick, *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 280: 871 (1998); Tomita and Morishita, *Curr. Pharm. Des.*, 10: 797-803 (2004); Gleave and Monia, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 5: 468-479 (2005) and Patil, *AAPS J.*, 7: E61-E77 (2005)), triplex oligonucleotides (Francois et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 16: 11431-11440 (1988) and Moser and Dervan, *Science*, 238: 645-650 (1987)), ribozymes/deoxyribozymes (DNAzymes) (Kruger et al., *Tetrahymena. Cell*, 31: 147-157 (1982); Uhlenbeck, *Nature*, 328: 596-600 (1987); Sigurdsson and Eckstein, *Trends Biotechnol.*, 13: 286-289 (1995); Kumar et al., *Gene Ther.*, 12: 1486-1493 (2005); Breaker and Joyce, *Chem. Biol.*, 1: 223-229 (1994); Khachigian, *Curr. Pharm. Biotechnol.*, 5: 337-339 (2004); Khachigian, *Biochem.*

Pharmacol., 68: 1023-1025 (2004) and Trulzsch and Wood, *J. Neurochem.*, 88: 257-265 (2004)), small-interfering RNAs/RNAi (Fire et al., *Nature*, 391: 806-811 (1998); Montgomery et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 95: 15502-15507 (1998); Cullen, *Nat. Immunol.*, 3: 597-599 (2002); Hannon, *Nature*, 418: 244-251 (2002); Bernstein et al., *Nature*, 409: 363-366 (2001); Nykanen et al., *Cell*, 107: 309-321 (2001); Gilmore et al., *J. Drug Target.*, 12: 315-340 (2004); Reynolds et al., *Nat. Biotechnol.*, 22: 326-330 (2004); Soutschek et al., *Nature*, 432: 173-178 (2004); Ralph et al., *Nat. Med.*, 11: 429-433 (2005); Xia et al., *Nat. Med.*, 10: 816-820 (2004) and Miller et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 32: 661-668 (2004)), aptamers (Ellington and Szostak, *Nature*, 346: 818-822 (1990); Doudna et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 92: 2355-2359 (1995); Tuerk and Gold, *Science*, 249: 505-510 (1990); White et al., *Mol. Ther.*, 4: 567-573 (2001); Rusconi et al., *Nature*, 419: 90-94 (2002); Nimjee et al., *Mol. Ther.*, 14: 408-415 (2006); Gragoudas et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 351: 3805-3816 (2004); Vinorel, *Curr. Opin. Mol. Ther.*, 5: 673-679 (2003) and Kourlas and Schiller et al., *Clin. Ther.*, 28: 36-44 (2006)) or decoy oligonucleotides (Morishita et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 92: 5855-5859 (1995); Alexander et al., *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 294: 2446-2454 (2005); Mann and Dzau, *J. Clin. Invest.*, 106: 1071-1075 (2000) and Nimjee et al., *Annu. Rev. Med.*, 56: 555-583 (2005)). The foregoing documents are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety herein, with particular emphasis on those sections of the documents relating to methods of designing, making and using inhibitory oligonucleotides. Commercial providers such as Ambion Inc. (Austin, TX), Dharmacon Inc. (Lafayette, CO), InvivoGen (San Diego, CA), and Molecular Research Laboratories, LLC (Herndon, VA) generate custom siRNA molecules. In addition, commercial kits are available to produce custom siRNA molecules, such as SILENCER™ siRNA Construction Kit (Ambion Inc., Austin, TX) or psiRNA System (InvivoGen, San Diego, CA).

[0061] Inhibitory oligonucleotides which are stable, have a high resistance to nucleases, possess suitable pharmacokinetics to allow them to traffic to target tissue site at non-toxic doses, and have the ability to cross through plasma membranes are contemplated for use as a therapeutic. Inhibitory oligonucleotides may be complementary to the coding portion of a target gene, 3' or 5' untranslated regions, or intronic sequences in a gene, or alternatively coding or intron sequences in the target mRNA. Intron sequences are generally less conserved and thus may provide greater specificity. In one embodiment, the inhibitory oligonucleotide inhibits expression of a gene product of one species but not its homologue in another species; in other embodiments, the inhibitory oligonucleotide inhibits expression of a gene in two species, e.g. human and primate, or human and murine.

[0062] The constitutive expression of antisense oligonucleotides in cells has been shown to inhibit gene expression, possibly via the blockage of translation or prevention of splicing. In certain embodiments, the inhibitory oligonucleotide is capable of hybridizing to at least 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 consecutive bases of the sclerostin gene or mRNA (or the reverse strand thereof) under moderate or high stringency conditions. Suitable inhibitory oligonucleotides may be single stranded and contain a segment, e.g. at least 12, 15 or 18 bases in length, that is sufficiently complementary to, and specific for, an mRNA or DNA molecule such that it hybridizes to the mRNA or DNA molecule and inhibits transcription, splicing or translation. Generally complementarity over a length of less than 30 bases is more than sufficient.

[0063] Typically, stringent conditions will be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.5 M Na ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30°C for short nucleic acids (e.g., 10 to 50 nucleotides) and at least about 60°C for longer nucleic acids (e.g., greater than 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. Exemplary low stringency conditions include hybridization with a buffer solution of 30% to 35% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulphate) at 37°C, and a wash in 1X to 2X SSC (20X SSC = 3.0 M NaCl/0.3 M trisodium citrate) at 50°C to 55°C. Exemplary moderate stringency conditions include hybridization in 40% to 45% formamide, 1.0 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 0.5X to 1X SSC at 55°C to 60°C. Exemplary high stringency conditions include hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 0.1X SSC at 60°C to 65°C. Duration of hybridization is generally less than about 24 hours, usually about 4 hours to about 12 hours.

[0064] In some cases, depending on the length of the complementary region, one, two or more mismatches may be tolerated without affecting inhibitory function. In certain embodiments, the inhibitory oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide, an inhibitory RNA (including siRNA or RNAi, or shRNA), a DNA enzyme, a ribozyme (optionally a hammerhead ribozyme), an aptamer, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide is complementary to at least 10 bases of the nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO: 1 of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20040158045. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide targets the nucleotides located in the vicinity of the 3' untranslated region of the sclerostin mRNA.

[0065] The specific sequence utilized in design of the oligonucleotides may be any contiguous sequence of nucleotides contained within the expressed gene message of the target. Factors that govern a target site for the inhibitory oligonucleotide sequence include

the length of the oligonucleotide, binding affinity, and accessibility of the target sequence. Sequences may be screened *in vitro* for potency of their inhibitory activity by measuring inhibition of target protein translation and target related phenotype, e.g., inhibition of cell proliferation in cells in culture. In general it is known that most regions of the RNA (5' and 3' untranslated regions, AUG initiation, coding, splice junctions and introns) can be targeted using antisense oligonucleotides. Programs and algorithms, known in the art, may be used to select appropriate target sequences. In addition, optimal sequences may be selected utilizing programs designed to predict the secondary structure of a specified single stranded nucleic acid sequence and allowing selection of those sequences likely to occur in exposed single stranded regions of a folded mRNA. Methods and compositions for designing appropriate oligonucleotides may be found, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 6,251,588.

[0066] Phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides may be used. Modifications of the phosphodiester linkage as well as of the heterocycle or the sugar may provide an increase in efficiency. Phosphorothioate is used to modify the phosphodiester linkage. An N3'-P5' phosphoramidate linkage has been described as stabilizing oligonucleotides to nucleases and increasing the binding to RNA. Peptide nucleic acid (PNA) linkage is a complete replacement of the ribose and phosphodiester backbone and is stable to nucleases, increases the binding affinity to RNA, and does not allow cleavage by RNase H. Its basic structure is also amenable to modifications that may allow its optimization as an antisense component. With respect to modifications of the heterocycle, certain heterocycle modifications have proven to augment antisense effects without interfering with RNase H activity. An example of such modification is C-5 thiazole modification. Finally, modification of the sugar may also be considered. 2'-O-propyl and 2'-methoxyethoxy ribose modifications stabilize oligonucleotides to nucleases in cell culture and *in vivo*.

[0067] Most mRNAs have been shown to contain a number of secondary and tertiary structures. Secondary structural elements in RNA are formed largely by Watson-Crick type interactions between different regions of the same RNA molecule. Important secondary structural elements include intramolecular double stranded regions, hairpin loops, bulges in duplex RNA and internal loops. Tertiary structural elements are formed when secondary structural elements come in contact with each other or with single stranded regions to produce a more complex three dimensional structure. A number of researchers have measured the binding energies of a large number of RNA duplex structures and have derived a set of rules which can be used to predict the secondary structure of RNA (see, e.g., Jaeger et

al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 86:7706 (1989); and Turner et al., *Annu. Rev. Biophys. Chem.* 17:167 (1988)). The rules are useful in identification of RNA structural elements and, in particular, for identifying single stranded RNA regions which may represent segments of the mRNA to target for siRNA, ribozyme, or antisense technologies.

[0068] Short interfering (si) RNA technology (also known as RNAi) generally involves degradation of an mRNA of a particular sequence induced by double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) that is homologous to that sequence, thereby “interfering” with expression of the corresponding gene. Any selected gene may be repressed by introducing a dsRNA which corresponds to all or a substantial part of the mRNA for that gene. It appears that when a long dsRNA is expressed, it is initially processed by a ribonuclease III into shorter dsRNA oligonucleotides of as few as 21 to 22 base pairs in length. Accordingly, siRNA may be affected by introduction or expression of relatively short homologous dsRNAs. Exemplary siRNAs have sense and antisense strands of about 21 nucleotides that form approximately 19 nucleotides of double stranded RNA with overhangs of two nucleotides at each 3' end. Indeed the use of relatively short homologous dsRNAs may have certain advantages.

[0069] Mammalian cells have at least two pathways that are affected by double-stranded RNA (dsRNA). In the sequence-specific siRNA pathway, the initiating dsRNA is first broken into short interfering RNAs, as described above. Short interfering RNAs are thought to provide the sequence information that allows a specific messenger RNA to be targeted for degradation. In contrast, the nonspecific pathway is triggered by dsRNA of any sequence, as long as it is at least about 30 base pairs in length.

[0070] The nonspecific effects occur because dsRNA activates two enzymes: PKR, which in its active form phosphorylates the translation initiation factor eIF2 to shut down all protein synthesis, and 2', 5' oligoadenylate synthetase (2', 5'-AS), which synthesizes a molecule that activates RNase L, a nonspecific enzyme that targets all mRNAs. The nonspecific pathway may represent a host response to stress or viral infection, and, in general, the effects of the nonspecific pathway are preferably minimized. Significantly, longer dsRNAs appear to be required to induce the nonspecific pathway and, accordingly, dsRNAs shorter than about 30 bases pairs are contemplated to effect gene repression by RNAi (see Hunter et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 250: 409-17 (1975); Manche et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 12: 5239-48 (1992); Minks et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 254: 10180-3 (1979); and Elbashir et al., *Nature*, 411: 494-8 (2001)).

[0071] siRNA has proven to be an effective means of decreasing gene expression in a variety of cell types. siRNA typically decreases expression of a gene to lower levels than that

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

achieved using antisense techniques, and frequently eliminates expression entirely (see Bass, *Nature*, 411: 428-9 (2001)). In mammalian cells, siRNAs are effective at concentrations that are several orders of magnitude below the concentrations typically used in antisense experiments (Elbashir et al., *Nature*, 411:494-8 (2001)).

[0072] The double stranded oligonucleotides used to effect RNAi are preferably less than 30 base pairs in length, for example, about 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, or 17 base pairs or less in length, and contain a segment sufficiently complementary to the target mRNA to allow hybridization to the target mRNA. Optionally the dsRNA oligonucleotides may include 3' overhang ends. Exemplary 2-nucleotide 3' overhangs may be composed of ribonucleotide residues of any type and may even be composed of 2'-deoxythymidine residues, which lowers the cost of RNA synthesis and may enhance nuclease resistance of siRNAs in the cell culture medium and within transfected cells (see Elbashi et al., *supra*). Exemplary dsRNAs may be synthesized chemically or produced *in vitro* or *in vivo* using appropriate expression vectors (see, e.g., Elbashir et al., *Genes Dev.*, 15:188-200 (2001)). Longer RNAs may be transcribed from promoters, such as T7 RNA polymerase promoters, known in the art.

[0073] Longer dsRNAs of 50, 75, 100, or even 500 base pairs or more also may be utilized in certain embodiments of the invention. Exemplary concentrations of dsRNAs for effecting RNAi are about 0.05 nM, 0.1 nM, 0.5 nM, 1.0 nM, 1.5 nM, 25 nM, or 100 nM, although other concentrations may be utilized depending upon the nature of the cells treated, the gene target and other factors readily discernable to the skilled artisan.

[0074] Further compositions, methods and applications of siRNA technology are provided in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,278,039; 5,723,750; and 5,244,805.

[0075] Compared to siRNA, shRNA offers advantages in silencing longevity and delivery options. See, e.g., Hannon et al., *Nature*, 431:371-378 (2004) for review. Vectors that produce shRNAs, which are processed intracellularly into short duplex RNAs having siRNA-like properties have been reported (Brummelkamp et al., *Science*, 296: 550-553 (2000); Paddison et al., *Genes Dev.*, 16: 948-958 (2002)). Such vectors provide a renewable source of a gene-silencing reagent that can mediate persistent gene silencing after stable integration of the vector into the host-cell genome. Furthermore, the core silencing 'hairpin' cassette can be readily inserted into retroviral, lentiviral, or adenoviral vectors, facilitating delivery of shRNAs into a broad range of cell types (Brummelkamp et al., *Cancer Cell*, 2:243-247

(2002); Dirac et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 278:11731–11734 (2003); Michiels et al., *Nat. Biotechnol.*, 20:1154–1157 (2002); Stegmeie et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 102:13212–13217 (2005); Khvorova et al., *Cell*, 115:209–216 (2003)) in any of the innumerable ways that have been devised for delivery of DNA constructs that allow ectopic mRNA expression.

[0076] A hairpin can be organized in either a left-handed hairpin (i.e., 5'-antisense-loop-sense-3') or a right-handed hairpin (i.e., 5'-sense-loop-antisense-3'). The siRNA may also contain overhangs at either the 5' or 3' end of either the sense strand or the antisense strand, depending upon the organization of the hairpin. Preferably, if there are any overhangs, they are on the 3' end of the hairpin and comprise between 1 to 6 bases. The overhangs can be unmodified, or can contain one or more specificity or stabilizing modifications, such as a halogen or O-alkyl modification of the 2' position, or internucleotide modifications such as phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, or methylphosphonate modifications. The overhangs can be ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, or a combination of ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid.

[0077] Additionally, a hairpin can further comprise a phosphate group on the 5'-most nucleotide. The phosphorylation of the 5'-most nucleotide refers to the presence of one or more phosphate groups attached to the 5' carbon of the sugar moiety of the 5'-terminal nucleotide. Preferably, there is only one phosphate group on the 5' end of the region that will form the antisense strand following Dicer processing. In one exemplary embodiment, a right-handed hairpin can include a 5' end (i.e., the free 5' end of the sense region) that does not have a 5' phosphate group, or can have the 5' carbon of the free 5'-most nucleotide of the sense region being modified in such a way that prevents phosphorylation. This can be achieved by a variety of methods including, but not limited to, addition of a phosphorylation blocking group (e.g., a 5'-O-alkyl group), or elimination of the 5'-OH functional group (e.g., the 5'-most nucleotide is a 5'-deoxy nucleotide). In cases where the hairpin is a left-handed hairpin, preferably the 5' carbon position of the 5'-most nucleotide is phosphorylated.

[0078] Hairpins that have stem lengths longer than 26 base pairs can be processed by Dicer such that some portions are not part of the resulting siRNA that facilitates mRNA degradation. Accordingly the first region, which may comprise sense nucleotides, and the second region, which may comprise antisense nucleotides, may also contain a stretch of nucleotides that are complementary (or at least substantially complementary to each other), but are or are not the same as or complementary to the target mRNA. While the stem of the shRNA can be composed of complementary or partially complementary antisense and sense strands exclusive of overhangs, the shRNA can also include the following: (1) the portion of

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

the molecule that is distal to the eventual Dicer cut site contains a region that is substantially complementary/homologous to the target mRNA; and (2) the region of the stem that is proximal to the Dicer cut site (i.e., the region adjacent to the loop) is unrelated or only partially related (e.g., complementary/homologous) to the target mRNA. The nucleotide content of this second region can be chosen based on a number of parameters including but not limited to thermodynamic traits or profiles.

[0079] Modified shRNAs can retain the modifications in the post-Dicer processed duplex. In exemplary embodiments, in cases in which the hairpin is a right handed hairpin (e.g., 5'-S-loop-AS-3') containing 2-6 nucleotide overhangs on the 3' end of the molecule, 2'-O-methyl modifications can be added to nucleotides at position 2, positions 1 and 2, or positions 1, 2, and 3 at the 5' end of the hairpin. Also, Dicer processing of hairpins with this configuration can retain the 5' end of the sense strand intact, thus preserving the pattern of chemical modification in the post-Dicer processed duplex. Presence of a 3' overhang in this configuration can be particularly advantageous since blunt ended molecules containing the prescribed modification pattern can be further processed by Dicer in such a way that the nucleotides carrying the 2' modifications are removed. In cases where the 3' overhang is present/retained, the resulting duplex carrying the sense-modified nucleotides can have highly favorable traits with respect to silencing specificity and functionality. Examples of exemplary modification patterns are described in detail in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20050223427 and International Patent Publication Nos. WO 2004/090105 and WO 2005/078094.

[0080] shRNA may comprise sequences that were selected at random, or according to any rational design selection procedure. For example, rational design algorithms are described in International Patent Publication No. WO 2004/045543 and U.S. Patent Publication No. 20050255487. Additionally, it may be desirable to select sequences in whole or in part based on average internal stability profiles ("AISPs") or regional internal stability profiles ("RISPs") that may facilitate access or processing by cellular machinery.

[0081] Ribozymes are enzymatic RNA molecules capable of catalyzing specific cleavage of mRNA, thus preventing translation. (For a review, see Rossi, *Current Biology*, 4:469-471 (1994)). The mechanism of ribozyme action involves sequence specific hybridization of the ribozyme molecule to complementary target RNA, followed by an endonucleolytic cleavage event. The ribozyme molecules preferably include (1) one or more sequences

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

complementary to a target mRNA, and (2) the well known catalytic sequence responsible for mRNA cleavage or a functionally equivalent sequence (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,093,246.

[0082] While ribozymes that cleave mRNA at site-specific recognition sequences can be used to destroy target mRNAs, hammerhead ribozymes may alternatively be used. Hammerhead ribozymes cleave mRNAs at locations dictated by flanking regions that form complementary base pairs with the target mRNA. Preferably, the target mRNA has the following sequence of two bases: 5'-UG-3'. The construction and production of hammerhead ribozymes is well known in the art and is described more fully in Haseloff and Gerlach, *Nature*, 334:585-591 (1988); and International Patent Publication. No. WO 89/05852.

[0083] Gene targeting ribozymes may contain a hybridizing region complementary to two regions of a target mRNA, each of which is at least 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 contiguous nucleotides (but which need not both be the same length).

[0084] Hammerhead ribozyme sequences can be embedded in a stable RNA such as a transfer RNA (tRNA) to increase cleavage efficiency *in vivo* (Perriman et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 92:6175-79 (1995); de Feyter and Gaudron, *Methods in Molecular Biology*, Vol. 74, Chapter 43, "Expressing Ribozymes in Plants," Turner, P. C. (ed.), Humana Press Inc., Totowa, N.J.). In particular, RNA polymerase III-mediated expression of tRNA fusion ribozymes are well known in the art (see Kawasaki et al., *Nature*, 393:284-9 (1998); Kuwabara et al., *Nature Biotechnol.*, 16:961-5 (1998); and Kuwabara et al., *Mol. Cell*, 2:617-27 (1998); Koseki et al., *J. Virol.*, 73:1868-77 (1999); Kuwabara et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 96:1886-91 (1999); Tanabe et al., *Nature*, 406:473-4 (2000)). There are typically a number of potential hammerhead ribozyme cleavage sites within a given target cDNA sequence. Preferably the ribozyme is engineered so that the cleavage recognition site is located near the 5' end of the target mRNA- to increase efficiency and minimize the intracellular accumulation of non-functional mRNA transcripts. Furthermore, the use of any cleavage recognition site located in the target sequence encoding different portions of the target mRNA would allow the selective targeting of one or the other target genes.

[0085] Ribozymes for use in the inventive method also include RNA endoribonucleases ("Cech-type ribozymes") such as the one which occurs naturally in *Tetrahymena thermophila* (known as the IVS, or L-19 IVS RNA) and which has been extensively described in Zaug et al., *Science*, 224:574-578 (1984); Zaug, et al., *Science*, 231:470-475 (1986); Zaug et al.,

Nature, 324:429-433 (1986); International Patent Publication No. WO 88/04300; and Been et al., *Cell*, 47:207-216 (1986)). The Cech-type ribozymes have an eight base pair active site which hybridizes to a target RNA sequence whereafter cleavage of the target RNA takes place. In one embodiment, the inventive method employs those Cech-type ribozymes which target eight base-pair active site sequences that are present in a target gene or nucleic acid sequence.

[0086] Ribozymes can be composed of modified oligonucleotides (e.g., for improved stability, targeting, etc.) and can be chemically synthesized or produced through an expression vector. Because ribozymes, unlike antisense molecules, are catalytic, a lower intracellular concentration is required for efficiency. Additionally, in certain embodiments, a ribozyme may be designed by first identifying a sequence portion sufficient to cause effective knockdown by RNAi. Portions of the same sequence may then be incorporated into a ribozyme.

[0087] Alternatively, target gene expression can be reduced by targeting deoxyribonucleotide sequences complementary to the regulatory region of the gene (i.e., the promoter and/or enhancers) to form triple helical structures that prevent transcription of the gene in target cells in the body. (See generally Helene, C., *Anticancer Drug Des.*, 6:569-84 (1991); Helene et al., *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.*, 660:27-36 (1992); and Maher, L. J., *Bioassays*, 14:807-15 (1992)).

[0088] Nucleic acid molecules to be used in triple helix formation for the inhibition of transcription are preferably single stranded and composed of deoxyribonucleotides. The base composition of these oligonucleotides should promote triple helix formation via Hoogsteen base pairing rules, which generally require sizable stretches of either purines or pyrimidines to be present on one strand of a duplex. Nucleotide sequences may be pyrimidine-based, which will result in TAT and CGC triplets across the three associated strands of the resulting triple helix. The pyrimidine-rich molecules provide base complementarity to a purine-rich region of a single strand of the duplex in a parallel orientation to that strand. In addition, nucleic acid molecules may be chosen that are purine-rich, for example, containing a stretch of G residues. These molecules will form a triple helix with a DNA duplex that is rich in GC pairs, in which the majority of the purine residues are located on a single strand of the targeted duplex, resulting in CGC triplets across the three strands in the triplex.

[0089] Alternatively, the target sequences that can be targeted for triple helix formation may be increased by creating a so-called “switchback” nucleic acid molecule. Switchback

molecules are synthesized in an alternating 5'-3', 3'-5' manner, such that they base pair with first one strand of a duplex and then the other, eliminating the necessity for a sizable stretch of either purines or pyrimidines to be present on one strand of a duplex.

[0090] Alternatively, DNA enzymes may be used to inhibit expression of target gene, such as the sclerostin gene. DNA enzymes incorporate some of the mechanistic features of both antisense and ribozyme technologies. DNA enzymes are designed so that they recognize a particular target nucleic acid sequence, much like an antisense oligonucleotide. They are, however, also catalytic and specifically cleave the target nucleic acid.

[0091] DNA enzymes include two basic types identified by Santoro and Joyce (see, for example, U.S. Patent No. 6,110,462). The 10-23 DNA enzyme comprises a loop structure which connect two arms. The two arms provide specificity by recognizing the particular target nucleic acid sequence while the loop structure provides catalytic function under physiological conditions.

[0092] Preferably, the unique or substantially unique sequence is a G/C rich segment of approximately 18 to 22 nucleotides. High G/C content helps insure a stronger interaction between the DNA enzyme and the target sequence. The specific antisense recognition sequence that will target the enzyme to the message may be divided between the two arms of the DNA enzyme.

[0093] Methods of making and administering DNA enzymes can be found, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 6,110,462. Additionally, one of skill in the art will recognize that, like antisense oligonucleotide, DNA enzymes can be optionally modified to improve stability and improve resistance to degradation.

[0094] Inhibitory oligonucleotides can be administered directly or delivered to cells by transformation or transfection via a vector, including viral vectors or plasmids, into which has been placed DNA encoding the inhibitory oligonucleotide with the appropriate regulatory sequences, including a promoter, to result in expression of the inhibitory oligonucleotide in the desired cell. Known methods include standard transient transfection, stable transfection and delivery using viruses ranging from retroviruses to adenoviruses. Delivery of nucleic acid inhibitors by replicating or replication-deficient vectors is contemplated. Expression can also be driven by either constitutive or inducible promoter systems (Paddison et al., *Methods Mol. Biol.*, 265:85-100 (2004)). In other embodiments, expression may be under the control of tissue or development-specific promoters.

[0095] For example, vectors may be introduced by transfection using carrier compositions such as Lipofectamine 2000 (Life Technologies) or Oligofectamine (Life Technologies). Transfection efficiency may be checked using fluorescence microscopy for mammalian cell lines after co-transfection of hGFP-encoding pAD3 (Kehlenback et al., *J. Cell Biol.*, 141:863-74 (1998)).

[0096] The delivery route will be the one that provides the best inhibitory effect as measured according to the criteria described above. Delivery mediated by cationic liposomes, delivery by retroviral vectors and direct delivery are efficient.

[0097] The effectiveness of the inhibitory oligonucleotide may be assessed by any of a number of assays, including reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction or Northern blot analysis to determine the level of existing human sclerostin mRNA, or Western blot analysis using antibodies which recognize the human sclerostin protein, after sufficient time for turnover of the endogenous pool after new protein synthesis is repressed.

[0098] The invention is further described in the following example. The example serves only to illustrate the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way.

EXAMPLE

[0099] This example describes *in vivo* studies wherein a sclerostin binding agent reduced the level of a marker of bone resorption and increased the level of one or more markers of bone formation.

[0100] A single-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, ascending single-dose study in healthy men and postmenopausal women was conducted. Approximately 72 subjects enrolled in one of six dose cohorts. For cohorts 1, 2, 3a, 4, 5 and 6a, eight healthy postmenopausal women were randomized to receive a sclerostin binding agent or placebo via subcutaneous injection in a 3:1 ratio at dose levels of 0.1 mg/kg, 0.3 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, or 10 mg/kg, respectively. In cohorts 3b and 6b, 8 healthy males received the sclerostin binding agent or a placebo intravenously and subcutaneously in a 3:3:1:1 ratio (sclerostin binding agent intravenously: sclerostin binding agent subcutaneously: placebo intravenously: placebo subcutaneously) at a dose level of 1 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg (reduced to 5 mg/kg), respectively. For cohorts 3c and 6c, four healthy postmenopausal women were randomized to receive the sclerostin binding agent or placebo intravenously in a 3:1 ratio at a dose level of 1 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg (reduced to 5 mg/kg), respectively.

[0101] The anti-sclerostin therapy was monitored by measuring the levels of bone resorption markers and bone formation markers prior to administration, then at least every week for 12 weeks post-administration. P1NP and BSAP levels were monitored following a single-dose subcutaneous administration of sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women (see Figures 1 and 2). Subjects dosed at 0.1 mg/kg and 0.3 mg/kg enjoyed the least elevation of P1NP or BSAP levels (e.g., levels increased less than 20%).

[0102] P1NP levels in subjects given 1 mg/kg increased approximately 20% by Day 10 and gradually tapered off to baseline around Day 56, while BSAP levels peaked at Day 14 at about 30% above baseline. P1NP and BSAP levels in subjects given 3 mg/kg peaked at Day 21 at approximately 100% (P1NP) and 60% (BSAP) increase from baseline, and returned to baseline about Day 56. In subjects administered 5 mg/kg, the level of P1NP rose to about 140% above baseline at Day 14 post-administration, and remained elevated at Day 77. In other words, the level of P1NP increased about 140% by two weeks post-treatment. BSAP rose to about 115% above baseline and remained elevated at Day 84. Similarly, administration of 10 mg/kg triggered a 180% increase in P1NP levels at about Day 28. P1NP levels remained elevated throughout the monitoring period. Subjects administered 10 mg/kg demonstrated a peak increase of BSAP levels at Day 21 (125% baseline for 3 weeks post-administration), which also remained elevated at Day 84. The results of the study are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

[0103] Osteocalcin also was monitored following a single-dose, subcutaneous administration of sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women (see Figure 3). Subjects given less than 1 mg/kg experienced little elevation of Osteocalcin. Osteocalcin levels fluctuated in patients administered 1 mg/kg, peaking at about 30% above baseline at Days 21 and 35. Osteocalcin levels peaked at about 100% above baseline at Day 21 in subjects administered 3 mg/kg, and levels remained elevated until about Day 56. Likewise, administration of 5 mg/kg sclerostin binding agent resulted in a 140% increase in osteocalcin levels at day 28, which levels remained at Day 84. Subjects dosed at 10 mg/kg demonstrated a peak osteocalcin level of about 180% above baseline at Day 35. Osteocalcin levels remained elevated above baseline until at least about Day 77.

[0104] Levels of the bone resorptive marker sCTX also were monitored (see Figure 4). Subjects administered placebo and 0.1 mg/kg demonstrated modest decreases in sCTX levels (e.g., less than 20%). Administration of 0.3 mg/kg of sclerostin binding agent reduced sCTX levels by about 20% by Day 21 (i.e., sCTX levels were reduced about 20% by two weeks after treatment). Levels fluctuated in subjects dosed at 1 mg/kg but reached about 30% below

WO 2009/039175

PCT/US2008/076679

baseline at Days 10, 28, and 49. Levels in subjects administered 3 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, and 10 mg/kg fell lowest at Day 14 to about 35%, 55%, and 55% below baseline, respectively, and levels remained below baseline when monitored thereafter. A comparison of the levels of all monitored biomarkers is provided in Figure 5.

[0105] Serum ionized calcium levels were monitored following a single, subcutaneous dose of sclerostin binding agent in healthy, postmenopausal women (see Figure 6). Remarkably, ionized calcium levels did not fluctuate dramatically at any dosage. Indeed, all subjects (including those receiving placebo) experienced a modest transient decrease in serum ionized calcium of approximately 5% during the monitoring period.

[0106] Finally, bone mineral density was measured in the spine and hip of healthy, postmenopausal women receiving 1 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, or 10 mg/kg sclerostin binding agent (see Figure 7). Significant increases in BMD were observed in the spine, for example, at Days 28, 56, and 84, particularly in patients receiving 5 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg. BMD in the hip increased less than that of the spine, but BMD was elevated at Day 56 in patients administered 3 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, and 10 mg/kg. BMD was further elevated at Day 84 in patients dosed at 5 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg.

[0107] This example illustrates the ability of the inventive method to reduce levels of a marker of bone resorption, elevate levels of markers of bone formation, and increase bone mineral density without dramatic alterations in serum calcium. The therapeutic effect of a single dose of sclerostin binding agent is long-lived, with increased bone formation marker levels and decreased bone resorptive marker levels continuing to be observed at 84 days (12 weeks) post treatment. Furthermore, data described herein suggests that the therapeutic efficacy of the invention have significant advantages compared to other treatments by “uncoupling” bone formation and bone resorption to maximize bone formation and mineralization *in vivo*.

[0108] While this invention has been described with an emphasis upon preferred embodiments, it will be obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that variations of the preferred compounds and methods may be used and that it is intended that the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein. Accordingly, the scope of the claims should not be limited to the illustrative embodiments, but should be given the broadest interpretation consistent with the description as a whole.

CLAIMS

1. Use of an anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 in preparation of a medicament for inhibiting bone resorption and increasing bone mineral density in a human subject in an amount from 70 mg to 450 mg, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof comprises CDRH-1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 wherein (a) CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:245, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:246, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:247, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:78, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:79 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:80; or (b) CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:269, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:270, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:271, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:239, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:240 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:241.
2. The use of claim 1, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 70 mg.
3. The use of claim 1, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 140 mg.
4. The use of claim 1, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 210 mg.
5. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the human is suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder mediated by sclerostin or associated with an increased level of sclerostin.
6. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the subject is suffering from a bone-related disorder selected from the group consisting of achondroplasia, cleidocranial dysostosis, enchondromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, Gaucher' s Disease, hypophosphatemic rickets, Marfan 's syndrome, multiple hereditary exostoses, neurofibromatosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteopetrosis, osteopoikilosis, sclerotic lesions, pseudoarthrosis, pyogenic osteomyelitis, periodontal disease, anti-epileptic drug induced bone loss, primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism, familial hyperparathyroidism syndromes, weightlessness induced bone

loss, osteoporosis in men, postmenopausal bone loss, osteoarthritis, renal osteodystrophy, infiltrative disorders of bone, oral bone loss, osteonecrosis of the jaw, juvenile Paget's disease, melorheostosis, metabolic bone diseases, mastocytosis, sickle cell anemia/disease, organ transplant related bone loss, kidney transplant related bone loss, systemic lupus erythematosus, ankylosing spondylitis, epilepsy, juvenile arthritides, thalassemia, mucopolysaccharidoses, Fabry disease, Turner Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Klinefelter Syndrome, leprosy, Perthes' Disease, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, infantile onset multi-system inflammatory disease, Winchester Syndrome, Menkes Disease, Wilson's Disease, ischemic bone disease, Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, regional migratory osteoporosis, anemic states, conditions caused by steroids, glucocorticoid-induced bone loss, heparin-induced bone loss, bone marrow disorders, scurvy, malnutrition, calcium deficiency, osteoporosis, osteopenia, alcoholism, chronic liver disease, postmenopausal state, chronic inflammatory conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory colitis, Crohn's disease, oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea, pregnancy, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, thyroid disorders, parathyroid disorders, Cushing's disease, acromegaly, hypogonadism, immobilization or disuse, reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, regional osteoporosis, osteomalacia, bone loss associated with joint replacement, HIV associated bone loss, bone loss associated with loss of growth hormone, bone loss associated with cystic fibrosis, chemotherapy associated bone loss, tumor induced bone loss, cancer-related bone loss, hormone ablative bone loss, multiple myeloma, drug-induced bone loss, anorexia nervosa, disease associated facial bone loss, disease associated cranial bone loss, disease associated bone loss of the jaw, disease associated bone loss of the skull, bone loss associated with aging, facial bone loss associated with aging, cranial bone loss associated with aging, jaw bone loss associated with aging, skull bone loss associated with aging, and bone loss associated with space travel.

7. The use of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once every two weeks to the subject.

8. The use of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once a month to the subject.

9. The use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the antibody comprises heavy chains and light chains.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

11. Use of an antibody that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 and comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79 and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80 in preparation of a medicament for inhibiting bone resorption and increasing bone mineral density in a human subject suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder mediated by sclerostin or associated with an increased level of sclerostin in an amount of 210 mg.

12. The use of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the human is a post-menopausal woman.

13. The use of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the human is suffering from osteoporosis.

14. The use of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, or a chimeric antibody.

15. The use of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-7} M.

16. Use of an anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 for inhibiting bone resorption and increasing bone mineral density in a human subject in a fixed dose amount of 70 mg, 140 mg, 210 mg or 450 mg, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof comprises CDRH-1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 wherein (a)

CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:245, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:246, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:247, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:78, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:79 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:80; or (b) CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:269, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:270, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:271, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:239, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:240 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:241.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 70 mg.

18. The use of claim 16, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 140 mg.

19. The use of claim 16, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 210 mg.

20. The use of any one of claims 16-19, wherein the human subject is suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder mediated by sclerostin or associated with an increased level of sclerostin.

21. The use of any one of claims 16-19, wherein the human subject is suffering from a bone-related disorder selected from the group consisting of achondroplasia, cleidocranial dysostosis, enchondromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, Gaucher's Disease, hypophosphatemic rickets, Marfan's syndrome, multiple hereditary exostoses, neurofibromatosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteopetrosis, osteopoikilosis, sclerotic lesions, pseudoarthrosis, pyogenic osteomyelitis, periodontal disease, anti-epileptic drug induced bone loss, primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism, familial hyperparathyroidism syndromes, weightlessness induced bone loss, osteoporosis in men, postmenopausal bone loss, osteoarthritis, renal osteodystrophy, infiltrative disorders of bone, oral bone loss, osteonecrosis of the jaw, juvenile Paget's disease, melorheostosis, metabolic bone diseases, mastocytosis, sickle cell anemia/disease, organ transplant related bone loss, kidney transplant related bone loss, systemic lupus erythematosus, ankylosing spondylitis, epilepsy, juvenile arthritides, thalassemia, mucopolysaccharidoses, Fabry

disease, Turner Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Klinefelter Syndrome, leprosy, Perthes' Disease, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, infantile onset multi-system inflammatory disease, Winchester Syndrome, Menkes Disease, Wilson's Disease, ischemic bone disease, Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, regional migratory osteoporosis, anemic states, conditions caused by steroids, glucocorticoid-induced bone loss, heparin-induced bone loss, bone marrow disorders, scurvy, malnutrition, calcium deficiency, osteoporosis, osteopenia, alcoholism, chronic liver disease, postmenopausal state, chronic inflammatory conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory colitis, Crohn's disease, oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea, pregnancy, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, thyroid disorders, parathyroid disorders, Cushing's disease, acromegaly, hypogonadism, immobilization or disuse, reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, regional osteoporosis, osteomalacia, bone loss associated with joint replacement, HIV associated bone loss, bone loss associated with loss of growth hormone, bone loss associated with cystic fibrosis, chemotherapy associated bone loss, tumor induced bone loss, cancer-related bone loss, hormone ablative bone loss, multiple myeloma, drug-induced bone loss, anorexia nervosa, disease associated facial bone loss, disease associated cranial bone loss, disease associated bone loss of the jaw, disease associated bone loss of the skull, bone loss associated with aging, facial bone loss associated with aging, cranial bone loss associated with aging, jaw bone loss associated with aging, skull bone loss associated with aging, and bone loss associated with space travel.

22. The use of any one of claims 16-21, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once every two weeks to the subject.

23. The use of any one of claims 16-21, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once a month to the subject.

24. The use of any one of claims 16-23, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M.

25. The use of any one of claims 16-24, wherein the antibody comprises heavy chains and light chains.

26. The use of any one of claims 16-24, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

27. Use of an antibody that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 and comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79 and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80, for inhibiting bone resorption and increasing bone mineral density in a human subject suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder mediated by sclerostin or associated with an increased level of sclerostin in an amount of 210 mg.

28. The use of any one of claims 16-27, wherein the human is a post-menopausal woman.

29. The use of any one of claims 16-28, wherein the human is suffering from osteoporosis.

30. The use of any one of claims 16-29, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, or a chimeric antibody.

31. An anti-sclerostin antibody or fragment thereof that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 for use in inhibiting bone resorption and increasing bone mineral density in a human subject in a fixed dose amount of 70 mg, 140 mg, 210 mg or 450 mg, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof comprises CDRH-1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 wherein (a) CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:245, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:246, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:247, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:78, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:79 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:80; or (b) CDR-H1 is SEQ ID NO:269, CDR-H2 is SEQ ID NO:270, CDR-H3 is SEQ ID NO:271, CDR-L1 is SEQ ID NO:239, CDR-L2 is SEQ ID NO:240 and CDR-L3 is SEQ ID NO:241.

32. The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 31, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 70 mg.

33. The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 31, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 140 mg.

34. The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 31, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is 210 mg.

35. The use of any one of claims 31-34, wherein the human is suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder mediated by sclerostin or associated with an increased level of sclerostin.

36. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-34, wherein the subject is suffering from a bone-related disorder selected from the group consisting of achondroplasia, cleidocranial dysostosis, enchondromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, Gaucher' s Disease, hypophosphatemic rickets, Marfan 's syndrome, multiple hereditary exotoses, neurofibromatosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteopetrosis, osteopoikilosis, sclerotic lesions, pseudoarthrosis, pyogenic osteomyelitis, periodontal disease, anti-epileptic drug induced bone loss, primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism, familial hyperparathyroidism syndromes, weightlessness induced bone loss, osteoporosis in men, postmenopausal bone loss, osteoarthritis, renal osteodystrophy, infiltrative disorders of bone, oral bone loss, osteonecrosis of the jaw, juvenile Paget's disease, melorheostosis, metabolic bone diseases, mastocytosis, sickle cell anemia/disease, organ transplant related bone loss, kidney transplant related bone loss, systemic lupus erythematosus, ankylosing spondylitis, epilepsy, juvenile arthritides, thalassemia, mucopolysaccharidoses, Fabry disease, Turner Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Klinefelter Syndrome, leprosy, Perthes' Disease, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, infantile onset multi-system inflammatory disease, Winchester Syndrome, Menkes Disease, Wilson's Disease, ischemic bone disease, Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, regional migratory osteoporosis, anemic states, conditions caused by steroids, glucocorticoid-induced bone loss, heparin-induced bone loss, bone marrow

disorders, scurvy, malnutrition, calcium deficiency, osteoporosis, osteopenia, alcoholism, chronic liver disease, postmenopausal state, chronic inflammatory conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory colitis, Crohn's disease, oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea, pregnancy, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, thyroid disorders, parathyroid disorders, Cushing's disease, acromegaly, hypogonadism, immobilization or disuse, reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, regional osteoporosis, osteomalacia, bone loss associated with joint replacement, HIV associated bone loss, bone loss associated with loss of growth hormone, bone loss associated with cystic fibrosis, chemotherapy associated bone loss, tumor induced bone loss, cancer-related bone loss, hormone ablative bone loss, multiple myeloma, drug-induced bone loss, anorexia nervosa, disease associated facial bone loss, disease associated cranial bone loss, disease associated bone loss of the jaw, disease associated bone loss of the skull, bone loss associated with aging, facial bone loss associated with aging, cranial bone loss associated with aging, jaw bone loss associated with aging, skull bone loss associated with aging, and bone loss associated with space travel.

37. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-36, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once every two weeks to the subject.

38. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-36, wherein the amount of antibody or fragment thereof is for administration once a month to the subject.

39. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-38 wherein the antibody or fragment thereof demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M.

40. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-39, wherein the antibody comprises heavy chains and light chains.

41. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-39, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

42. An antibody that binds sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 and comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79 and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80 for administration to inhibit bone resorption and increase bone mineral density in a human suffering from or at risk of suffering from a bone-related disorder in an amount of 210 mg.

43. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-42, wherein the human is a post-menopausal woman.

44. The antibody or fragment thereof of claim 31-43, wherein the human is suffering from osteoporosis.

45. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-44, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, or a chimeric antibody.

46. The antibody or fragment thereof of any one of claims 31-45, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-7} M.

Dose Related Increase Observed in PINP Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

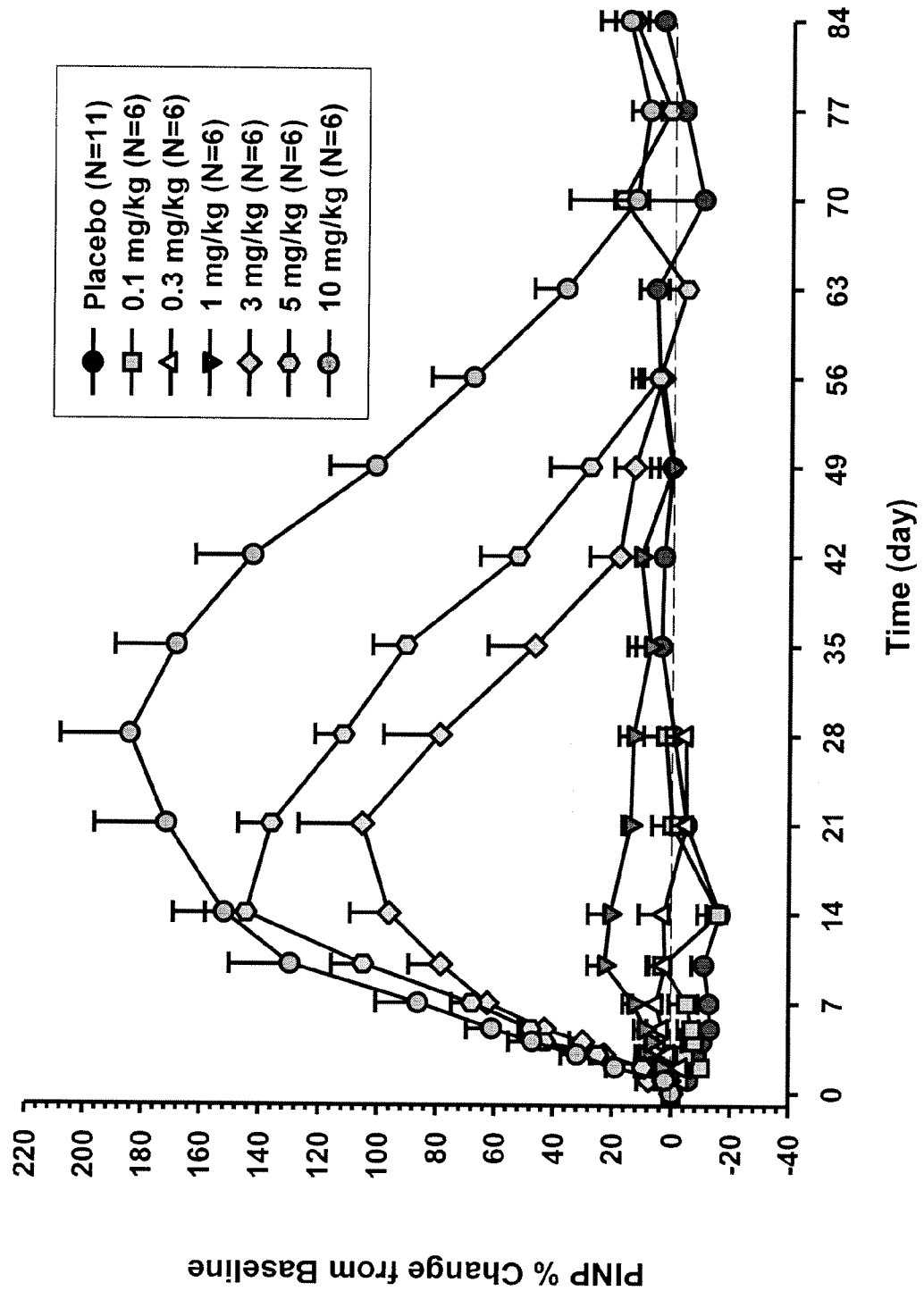
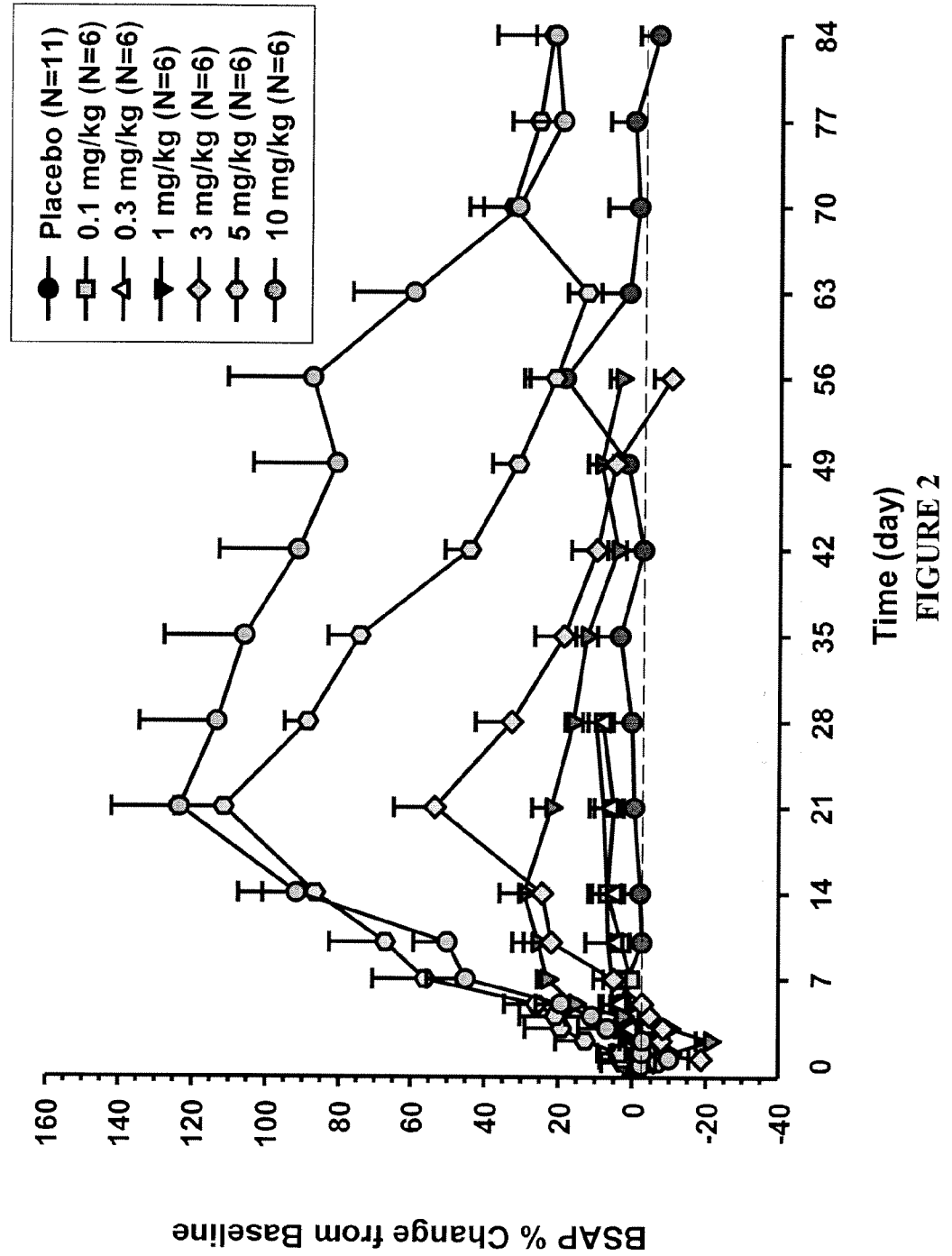


FIGURE 1

Dose Related Increase Observed in BSAP Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women



Dose Related Increase Observed in Osteocalcin Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

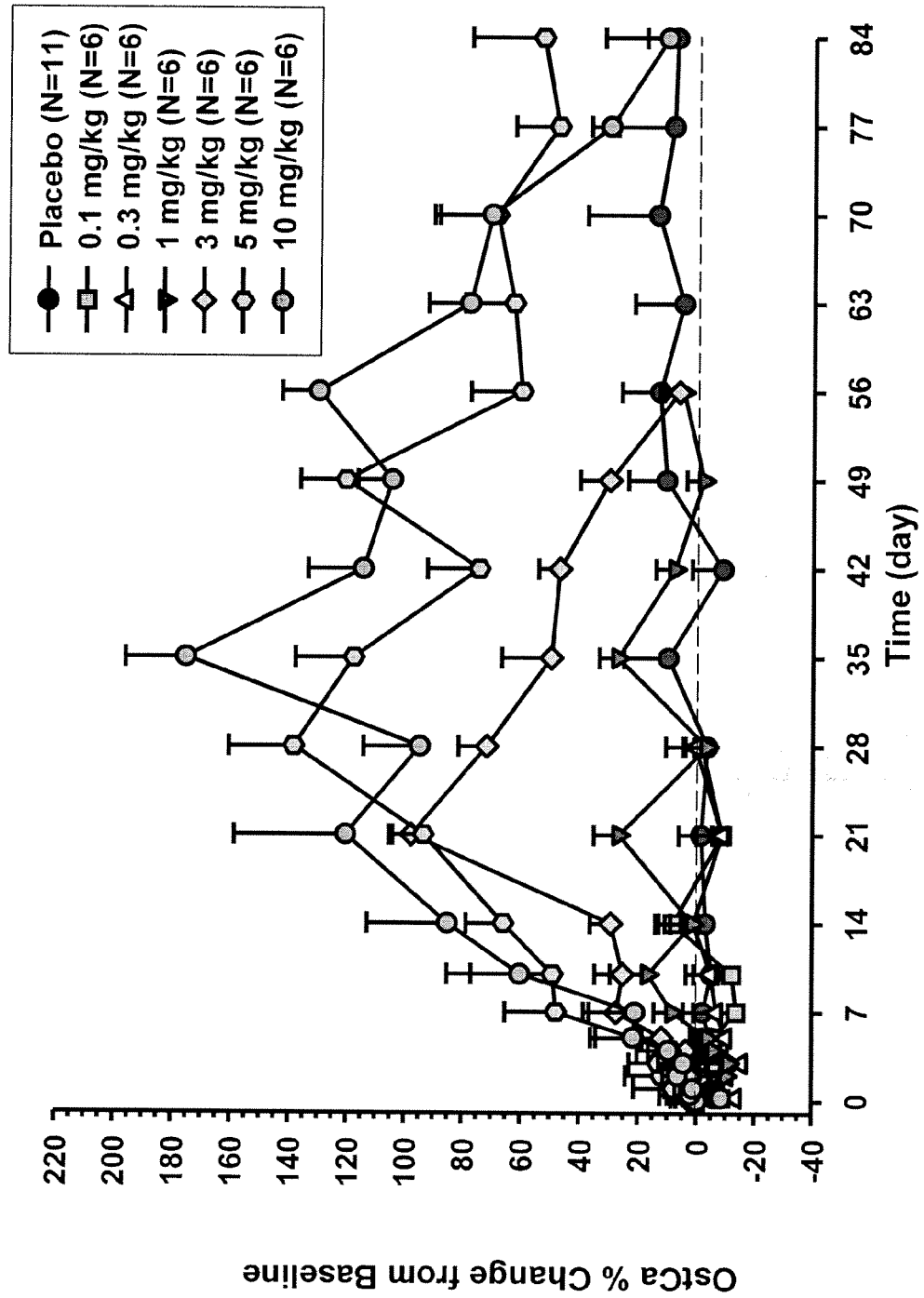
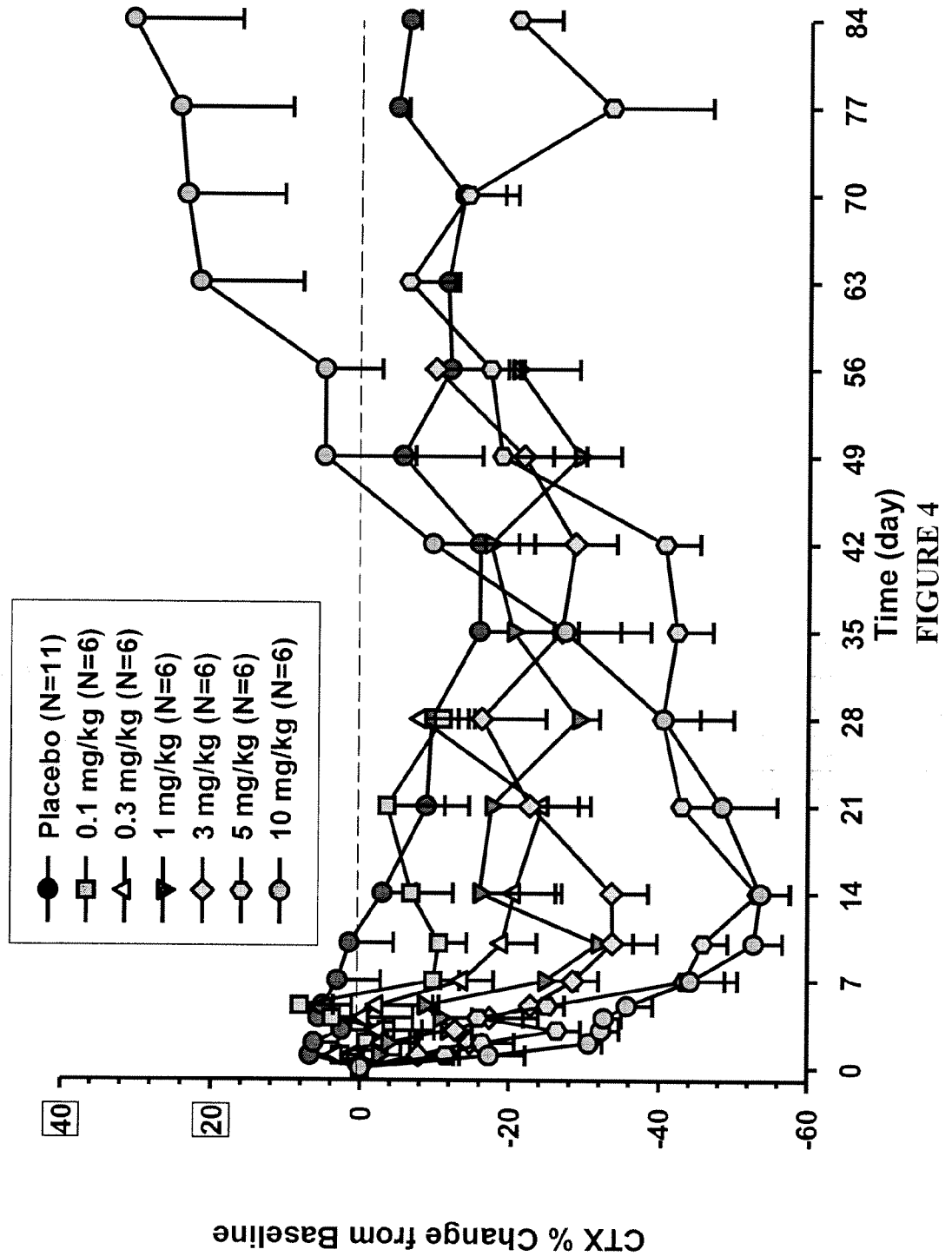


FIGURE 3

Dose Related Decrease in sCTX Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women



Large Anabolic Window Following Single SC Doses of 5 & 10 mg/kg Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

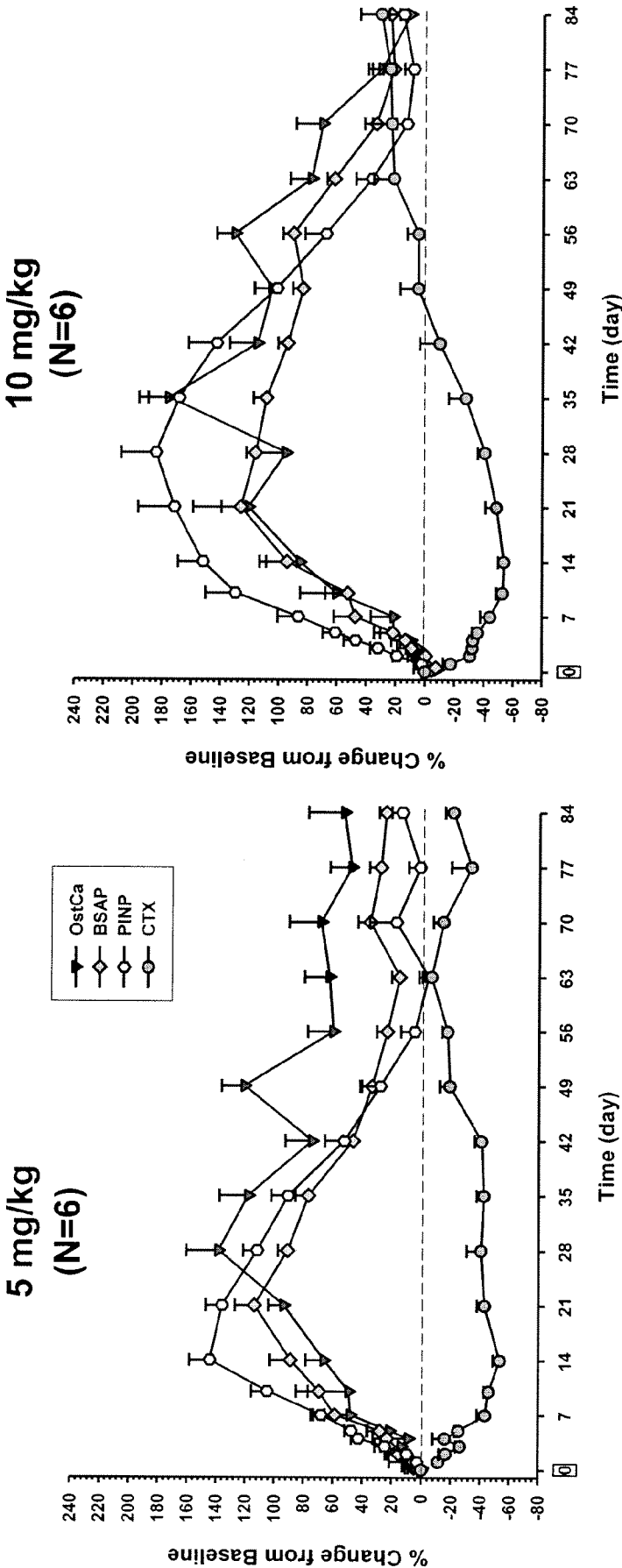


FIGURE 5

No Clinically Significant Changes in Serum Calcium Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

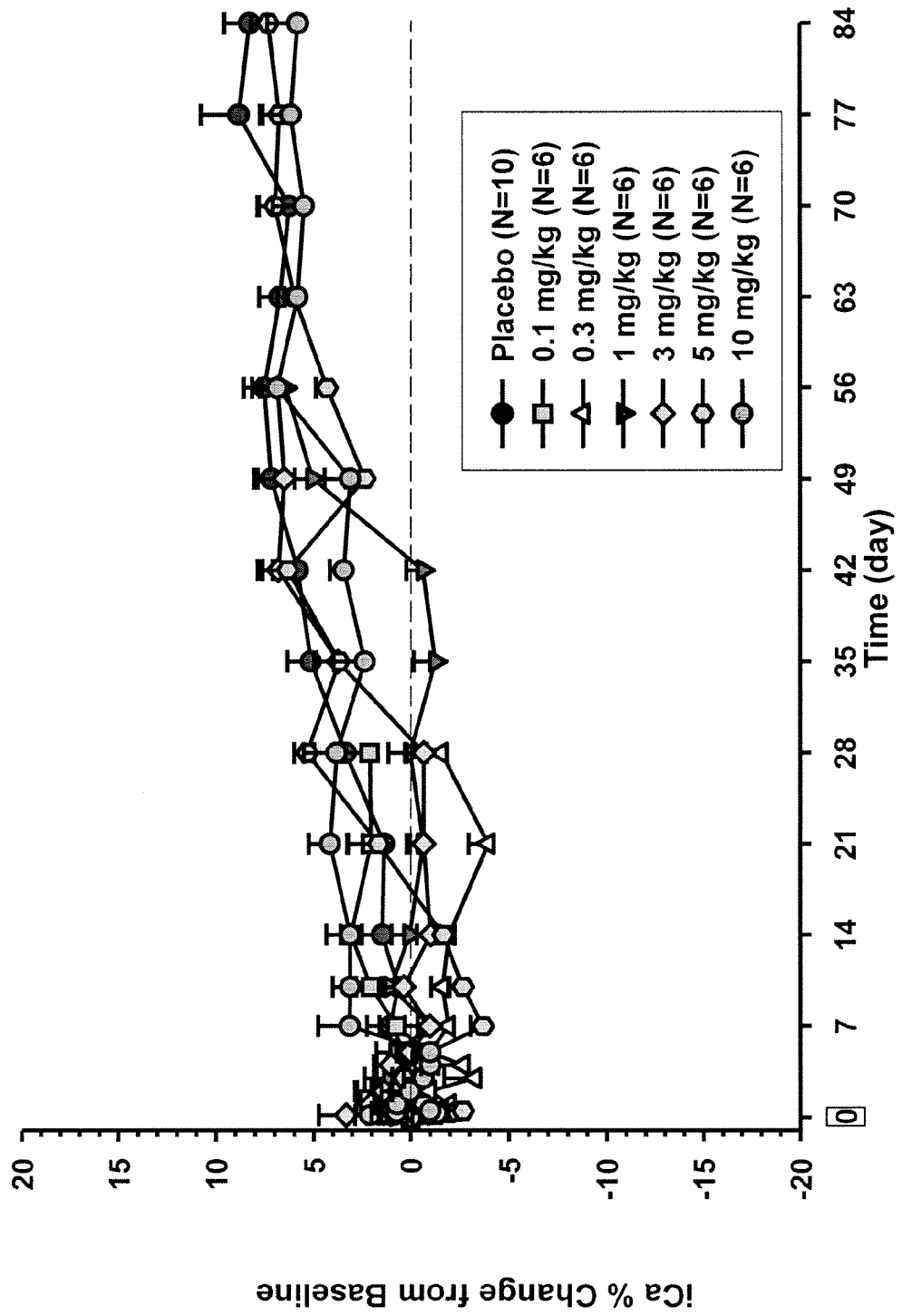
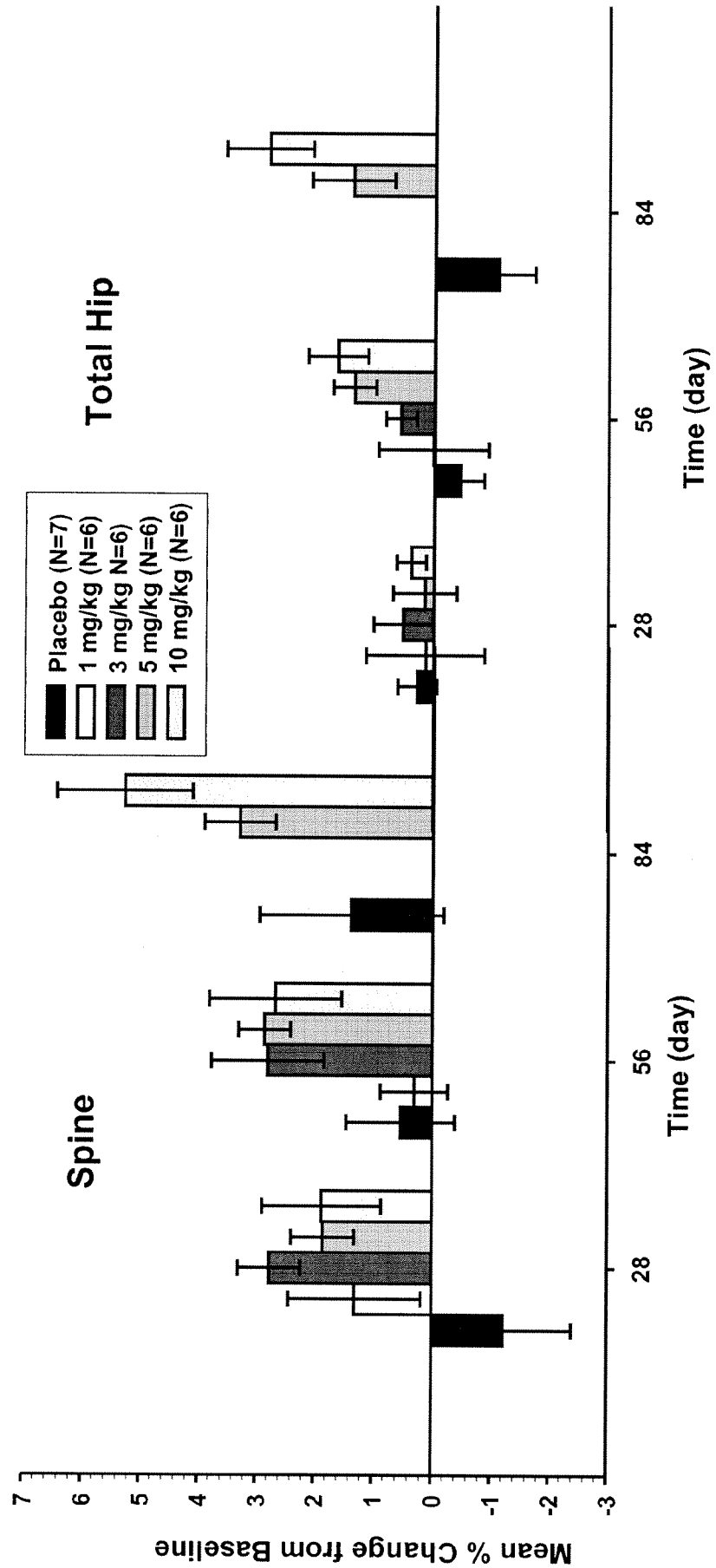


FIGURE 6

Single Doses of Scl-Mab Resulted in an Increase in BMD in Healthy Postmenopausal Women



7/7

FIGURE 7

Dose Related Increase Observed in PINP Following Single-dose SC Administration of Scl-Mab to Healthy Postmenopausal Women

