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#### (54) RNA-INTERFERENCE BY SINGLE-STRANDED RNA MOLECULES

(75) Inventors: **Thomas TUSCHL**, New York, NY

(US); Javier Martinez, New York,

NY (US); Agnieszka

Patkaniowska, New York, NY (US); Henning Urlaub, Goettingen (DE); Reinhard Lührmann, Marburg-Michelbach (DE)

(73) Assignee: Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Foerderung der Wissenschaften

e.V., Muenchen (DE)

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	C12N 5/02	(2006.01)
	A01K 67/027	(2006.01)
	C12N 5/10	(2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl. ...... 800/13; 435/325; 435/375; 536/24.5

#### (57) ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to sequence and structural features of single-stranded (ss)RNA molecules required to mediate target-specific nucleic acid modifications by RNA-interference (RNAi), such as target mRNA degradation and/or DNA methylation.

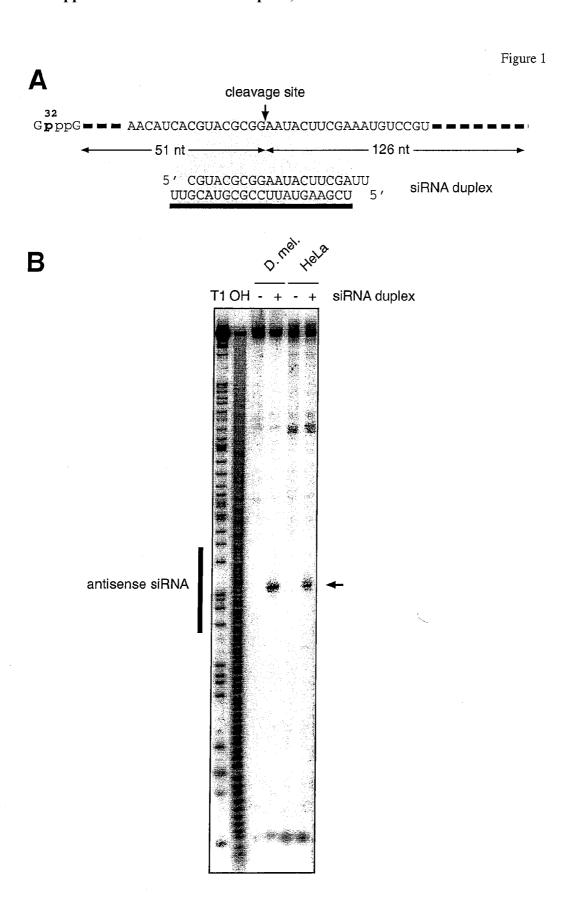
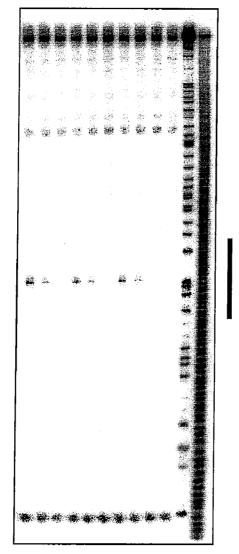


Figure 2

A

В



A

Figure 3

HOCGUACGCGGAAUACUUCGAAAOH 3'Y-CpUGCAUGCGCCUUAUGAAGCU-X 5'

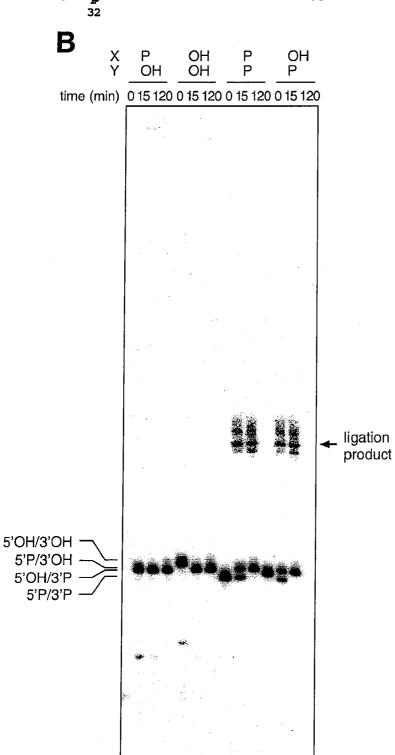
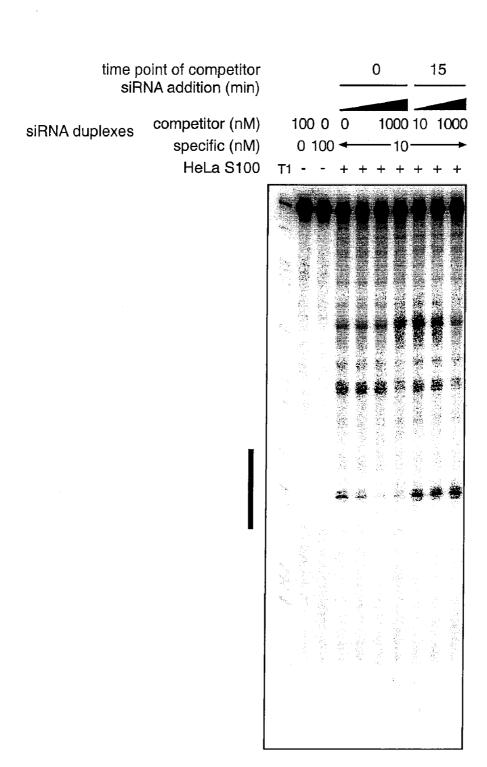


Figure 4



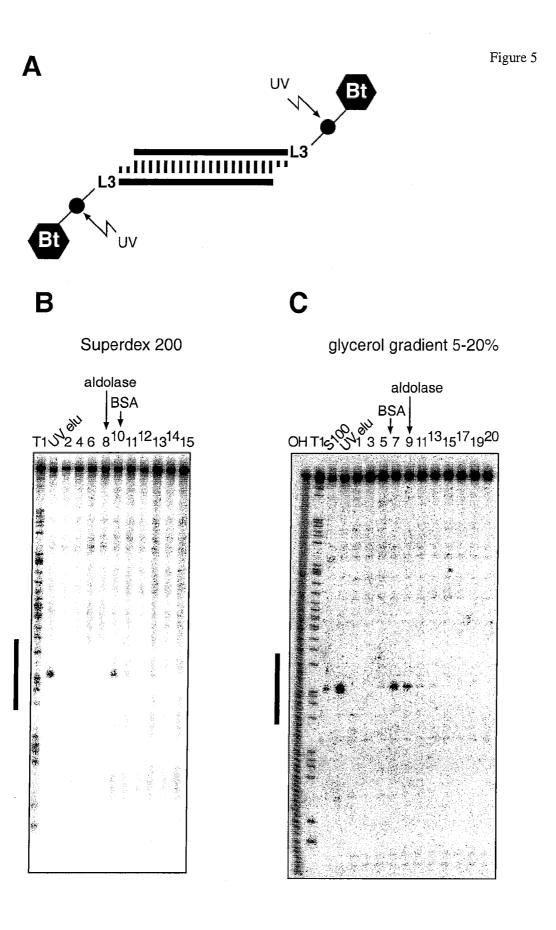


Figure 6

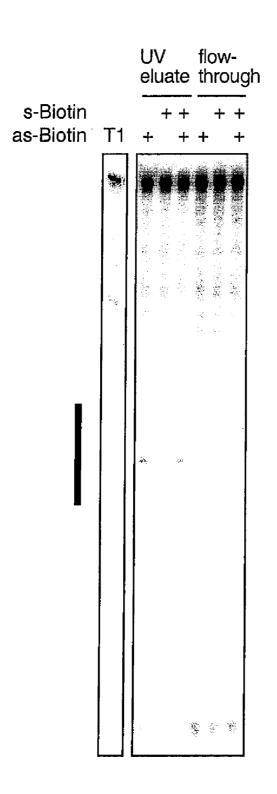


Figure 7

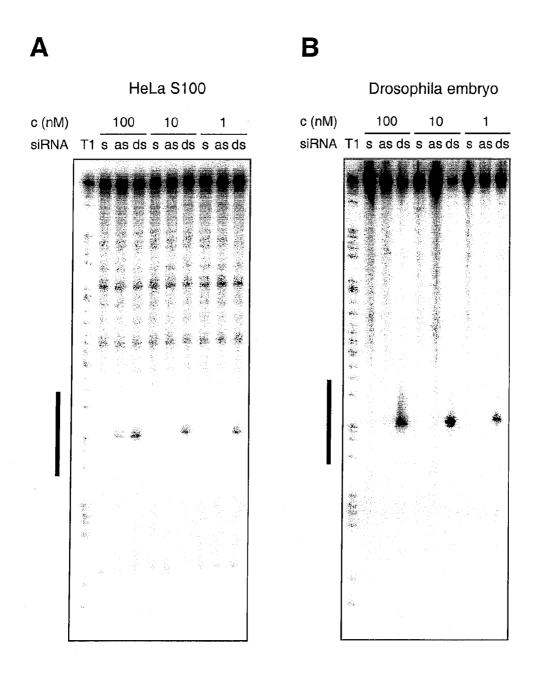
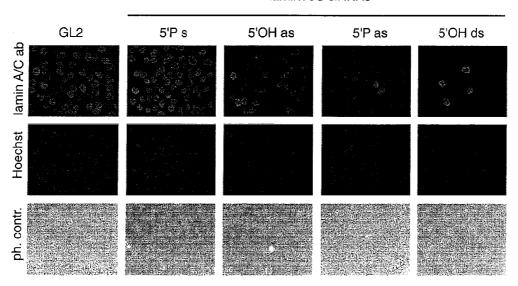


Figure 8



### lamin A/C siRNAs



В

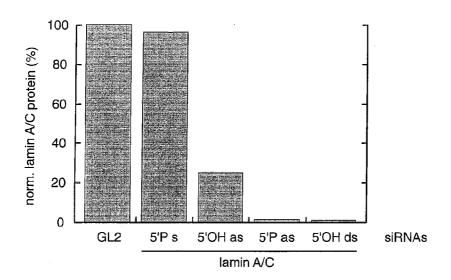


Figure 9

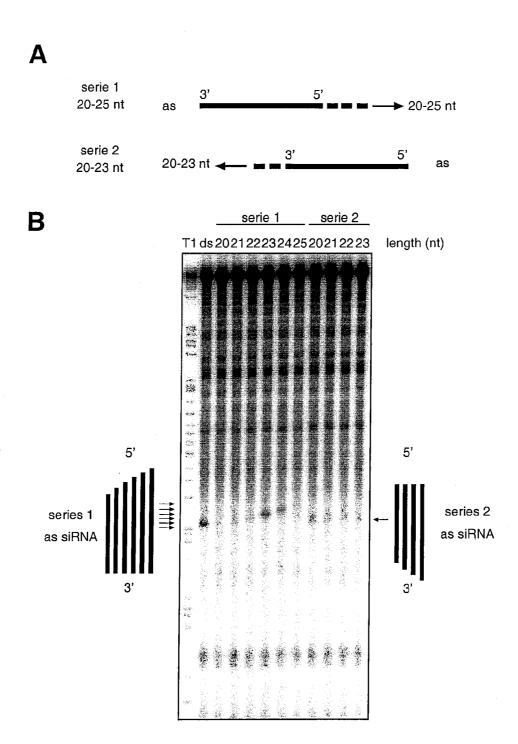


Figure 10

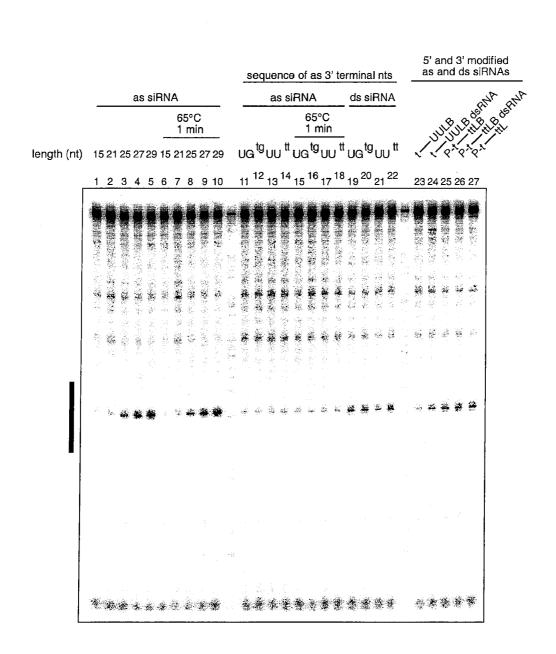


Figure 11

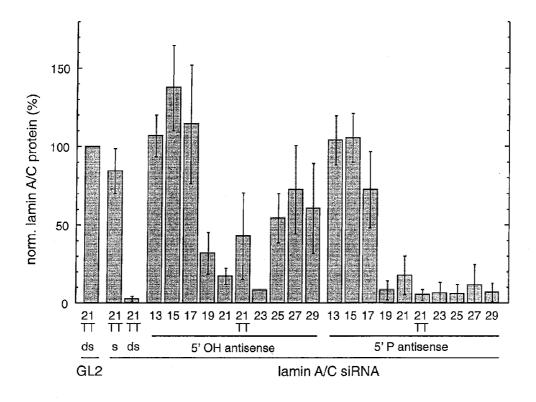


Figure 12

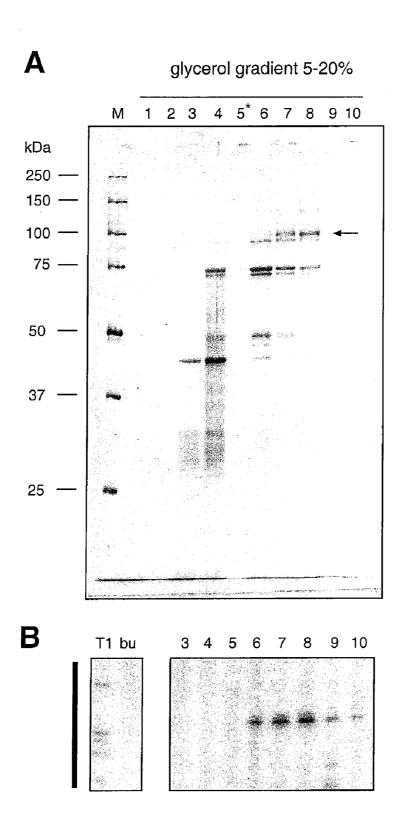
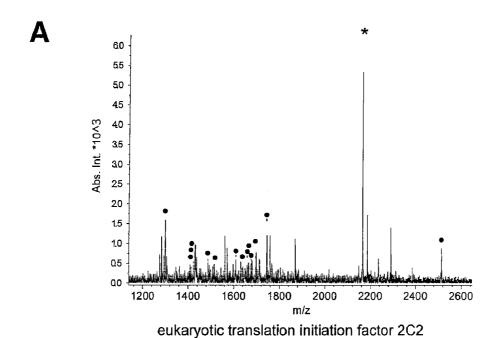
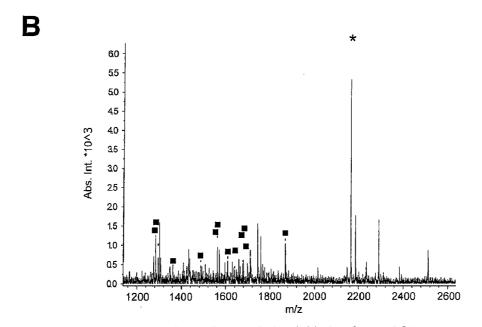


Figure 13 A



Observed Mr (expt) Mr (calc) Delta Position Miss Peptide 1299.67 1298.67 1298.73 -0.07 413 -VLQPPSILYGGR 1402.64 1401.64 1401.74 -0.10 637 -648 QEIIQDLAAMVR Oxidation(M) 1413.62 1412.61 1412.73 -0.12 169 -180 HLPSMRYTPVGR 1 1423.60 1422.59 1422.71 -0.12 356 -367 KLTDNQTSTMIR Oxidation(M) 1485.66 1512.80 1486.56 YAQGADSVEPMFR Oxidation(M) 1485.56 -0.10 495 -507 1513.71 1512.70 -0.10 112 -125 DKVELEVTLPGEGK 1608.67 1607.66 1607.69 -0.03 481 -0 DAGMPIQGQPCFCK 494 85 -1634.85 1635.84 1634.83 -0.02 98 TQIFGDRKPVFDGR 368 --1658.85 1657.85 1657.84 0.01 382 ATARSAPDRQEEISK 698 -1663.85 1662.85 1662.91 -0.06 711 DYOPGITFIVVOKR 372 -323 -1675.79 1674.78 1674.84 -0.06 385 SAPDRQEEISKLMR Oxidation(M) 1696.77 1695.76 1695.84 -0.08 336 YPHLPCLQVGQEQK 181 -816 -1742.74 1742.77 -0.03 1743.75 197 SFFTASEGCSNPLGGGR 2511.07 2510.06 2510.12 -0.05 816 838 YHLVDKEHDSAEGSHTSGQSNGR

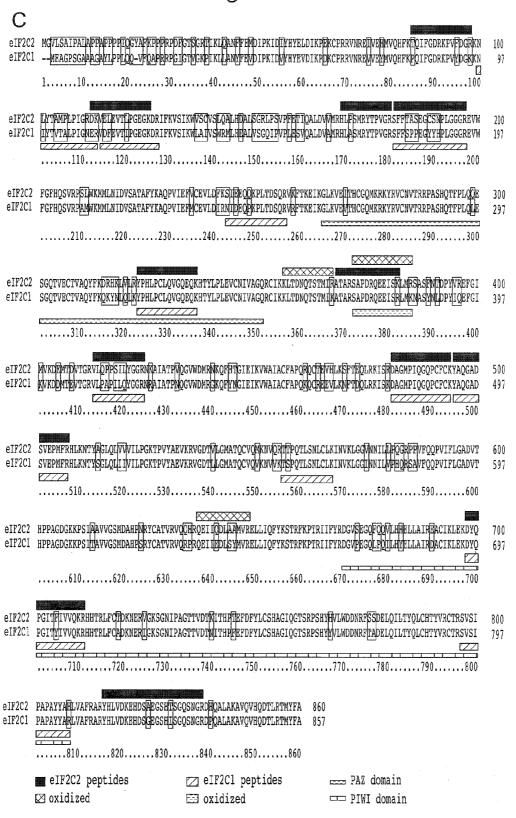
Figure 13 B



eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2C1

Observed	Mr (expt)	Mr (calc)	Delta	Position	Miss	Peptide
1283.66	1282.65	1282.74	-0.09	410 - 4	21 0	VLPAPILOYGGR
1294.65	1293.64	1293.67	-0.03	794 - 8	05 0	SVSIPAPAYYAR
1361.61	1360.60	1360.70	-0.10	553 - 5	64 0	TSPQTLSNLCLK
1486.56	1485.56	1485.66	-0.10	492 - 5	04 0	YAQGADSVEPMFR Oxidation(M)
1560.76	1559.75	1559.83	-0.08	97 - 1	10 0	NIYTVTALPIGNER
1561.76	1560.75	1560.78	-0.02	111 - 1	24 1	VDFEVTIPGEGKDR
1608.67	1607.66	1607,69	-0.03	478 - 4	91. 0	DAGMPIQGQPCFCK
1640.74	1639.73	1639.82	-0.08	240 - 2	53 0	NIDEQPKPLTDSQR
1675.79	1674.78	1674.84	-0.06	369 - 3	82 2	SAPDRQEEISRLMK Oxidation(M)
1679.86	1678.85	1678.90	-0.05	695 - 7	08 1	DYQPGITYIVVQKR
1696.77	1695.76	1695.84	-0.08	320 - 3	33 0	YPHLPCLQVGQEQK
1867.85	1866.85	1866.87	-0.02	178 - 1	94 0	SFFSPPEGYYHPLGGGR

Fig.13C



>eIF2C1, predicted protein sequence
MEAGPSGAAAGAYLPPLQQVFQAPRRPGIGTVGKPIKLLANYFEVDIPKIDVYHYEVDIKPD
KCPRRVNREVVEYMVQHFKPQIFGDRKPVYDGKKNIYTVTALPIGNERVDFEVTIPGEGKDR
IFKVSIKWLAIVSWRMLHEALVSGQIPVPLESVQALDVAMRHLASMRYTPVGRSFFSPPEGY
YHPLGGGREVWFGFHQSVRPAMWKMMLNIDVSATAFYKAQPVIEFMCEVLDIRNIDEQPKPL
TDSQRVRFTKEIKGLKVEVTHCGQMKRKYRVCNVTRRPASHQTFPLQLESGQTVECTVAQYF
KQKYNLQLKYPHLPCLQVGQEQKHTYLPLEVCNIVAGQRCIKKLTDNQTSTMIKATARSAPD
RQEEISRLMKNASYNLDPYIQEFGIKVKDDMTEVTGRVLPAPILQYGGRNRAIATPNQGVWD
MRGKQFYNGIEIKVWAIACFAPQKQCREEVLKNFTDQLRKISKDAGMPIQGQPCFCKYAQGA
DSVEPMFRHLKNTYSGLQLIIVILPGKTPVYAEVKRVGDTLLGMATQCVQVKNVVKTSPQTL
SNLCLKINVKLGGINNILVPHQRSAVFQQPVIFLGADVTHPPAGDGKKPSITAVVGSMDAHP
SRYCATVRVQRPRQEIIEDLSYMVRELLIQFYKSTRFKPTRIIFYRDGVPEGQLPQILHYEL
LAIRDACIKLEKDYQPGITYIVVQKRHHTRLFCADKNERIGKSGNIPAGTTVDTNITHPFEF
DFYLCSHAGIQGTSRPSHYYVLWDDNRFTADELQILTYQLCHTYVRCTRSVSIPAPAYYARL
VAFRARYHLVDKEHDSGEGSHISGQSNGRDPQALAKAVQVHQDTLRTMYFA

>eIF2C2, predicted protein sequence
MGVLSAIPALAPPAPPPPIQGYAFKPPPRPDFGTSGRTIKLQANFFEMDIPKIDIYHYELDI
KPEKCPRRVNREIVEHMVQHFKTQIFGDRKPVFDGRKNLYTAMPLPIGRDKVELEVTLPGEG
KDRIFKVSIKWVSCVSLQALHDALSGRLPSVPFETIQALDVVMRHLPSMRYTPVGRSFFTAS
EGCSNPLGGGREVWFGFHQSVRPSLWKMMLNIDVSATAFYKAQPVIEFVCEVLDFKSIEEQQ
KPLTDSQRVKFTKEIKGLKVEITHCGQMKRKYRVCNVTRRPASHQTFPLQQESGQTVECTVA
QYFKDRHKLVLRYPHLPCLQVGQEQKHTYLPLEVCNIVAGQRCIKKLTDNQTSTMIRATARS
APDRQEEISKLMRSASFNTDPYVREFGIMVKDEMTDVTGRVLQPPSILYGGRNKAIATPVQG
VWDMRNKQFHTGIEIKVWAIACFAPQRQCTEVHLKSFTEQLRKISRDAGMPIQGQPCFCKYA
QGADSVEPMFRHLKNTYAGLQLVVVILPGKTPVYAEVKRVGDTVLGMATQCVQMKNVQRTTP
QTLSNLCLKINVKLGGVNNILLPQGRPPVFQQPVIFLGADVTHPPAGDGKKPSIAAVVGSMD
AHPNRYCATVRVQQHRQEIIQDLAAMVRELLIQFYKSTRFKPTRIIFYRDGVSEGQFQQVLH
HELLAIREACIKLEKDYQPGITFIVVQKRHHTRLFCTDKNERVGKSGNIPAGTTVDTKITHP
TEFDFYLCSHAGIQGTSRPSHYHVLWDDNRFSSDELQILTYQLCHTYVRCTRSVSIPAPAYY
AHLVAFRARYHLVDKEHDSAEGSHTSGQSNGRDHQALAKAVQVHQDTLRTMYFA

SRSRVPVPGPGAAAAPCPAPASPRRHPSANIPEIKRYAAAAAAAAAGPGAGGAGDRGEAAPAA
AMEALGPGPPASLFQPPRRPGLGTVGKPIRLLANHFQVQIPKIDVYHYDVDIKPEKRPRRVN
REVVDTMVRHFKMQIFGDRQPGYDGKRNMYTAHPLPIGRDRVDMEVTLPGEGKDQTFKVSVQ
WVSVVSLQLLLEALAGHLNEVPDDSVQALDVITRHLPSMRYTPVGRSFFSPPEGYYHPLGGG
REVWFGFHQSVRPAMWNMMLNIDVSATAFYRAQPIIEFMCEVLDIQNINEQTKPLTDSQRVK
FTKEIRGLKVEVTHCGQMKRKYRVCNVTRRPASHQTFPLQLENGQAMECTVAQYFKQKYSLQ
LKYPHLPCLQVGQEQKHTYLPLEVCNIVAGQRCIKKLTDNQTSTMIKATARSAPDRQEEISR
LVKSNSMVGGPDPYLKEFGIVVHNEMTELTGRVLPAPMLQYGGRNKTVATPNQGVWDMRGKQ
FYAGIEIKVWAVACFAPQKQCREDLLKSFTDQLRKISKDAGMPIQGQPCFCKYAQGADSVEP
MFKHLKMTYVGLQLIVVILPGKTPVYAEVKRVGDTLLGMATQCVQVKNVVKTSPQTLSNLCL
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TVRVQTSRQEISQELLYSQEVIQDLTNMVRELLIQFYKSTRFKPTRIIYYRGGVSEGQMKQV
AWPELIAIRKACISLEEDYRPGITYIVVQKRHHTRLFCADKTERVGKSGNVPAGTTVDSTIT

 $\verb|HPSEFDFYLCSHAGIQGTSRPSHYQVLWDDNCFTADELQLLTYQLCHTYVRCTRSVSIPAPA|$ 

YYARLVAFRARYHLVDKDHDSAEGSHVSGQSNGRDPQALAKAVQIHHDTQHTMYFA

>eIF2C3, predicted protein sequence

>eIF2C4, predicted protein sequence

AGPAGAQPLLMVPRRPGYGTMGKPIKLLANCFQVEIPKIDVYLYEVDIKPDKCPRRVNREVV DSMVQHFKVTIFGDRRPVYDGKRSLYTANPLPVATTGVDLDVTLPGEGGKDRPFKVSIKFVS RVSWHLLHEVLTGRTLPEPLELDKPISTNPVHAVDVVLRHLPSMKYTPVGRSFFSAPEGYDH PLGGGREVWFGFHQSVRPAMWKMMLNIDVSATAFYKAQPVIQFMCEVLDIHNIDEQPRPLTD SHRVKFTKEIKGLKVEVTHCGTMRRKYRVCNVTRRPASHQTFPLQLENGQTVERTVAQYFRE KYTLQLKYPHLPCLQVGQEQKHTYLPLEVCNIVAGQRCIKKLTDNQTSTMIKATARSAPDRQ EEISRLVRSANYETDPFVQEFQFKVRDEMAHVTGRVLPAPMLQYGGRNRTVATPSHGVWDMR GKQFHTGVEIKMWAIACFATQRQCREEILKGFTDQLRKISKDAGMPIQGQPCFCKYAQGADS VEPMFRHLKNTYSGLQLIIVILPGKTPVYAEVKRVGDTLLGMATQCVQVKNVIKTSPQTLSN LCLKINVKLGGINNILVPHQRPSVFQQPVIFLGADVTHPPAGDGKKPSIAAVVGSMDAHPSR YCATVRVQRPRQEIIQDLASMVRELLIQFYKSTRFKPTRIIFYRDGVSEGQFRQVLYYELLA IREACISLEKDYQPGITYIVVQKRHHTRLFCADRTERVGRSGNIPAGTTVDTDITHPYEFDF YLCSHAGIQGTSRPSHYHVLWDDNCFTADELQLLTYQLCHTYVRCTRSVSIPAPAYYAHLVA FRARYHLVDKEHDSAEGSHVSGOSNGRDPQALAKAVQIHQDTLRTMYFA

#### >HILI, predicted protein sequence

ISSGDAGSTFMERGVKNKQDFMDLSICTREKLAHVRNCKTGSSGIPVKLVTNLFNLDFPQDW
QLYQYHVTYIPDLASRRLRIALLYSHSELSNKAKAFDGAILFLSQKLEEKVTELSSETQRGE
TIKMTITLKRELPSSSPVCIQVFNIIFRKILKKLSMYQIGRNFYNPSEPMEIPQHKLSLWPG
FAISVSYFERKLLFSADVSYKVLRNETVLEFMTALCQRTGLSCFTQTCEKQLIGLIVLTRYN
NRTYSIDDIDWSVKPTHTFQKRDGTEITYVDYYKQQYDITVSDLNQPMLVSLLKKKRNDNSE
AQLAHLIPELCFLTGLTDQATSDFQLMKAVAEKTRLSPSGRQQRLARLVDNIQRNTNARFEL
ETWGLHFGSQISLTGRIVPSEKILMQDHICQPVSAADWSKDIRTCKILNAQSLNTWLILCSD
RTEYVAESFLNCLRRVAGSMGFNVMCILPSNQKTYYDSIKKYLSSDCPVPSQCVLARTLNKQ
GMMMSIATKIAMQMTCKLGGELWAVEIPLKSLMVVGIDVCKDALSKDVMVVGCVASVNPRIT
RWFSRCILQRTMTDVADCLKVFMTGALNKWYKYNHDLPARIIVYRAGVGDGQLKTLIEYEVP
QLLSSVAESSSNTSSRLSVIVVRKKCMPRFFTEMNRTVQNPPLGTVVDSEATRNEWQYDFYL
ISQVACRGTVSPTYYNVIYDDNGLKPDHMQRLTFKLCHLYYNWPGIVSVPAPCQYAHKLTFL
VAOSIHKEPSLELANHLFYL

#### >HIWI, predicted protein sequence

MTGRARARGRARGQETAQLVGSTASQQPGYIQPRPQPPPAEGELFGRGRQRGTAGGTAKS
QGLQISAGFQELSLAERGGRRRDFHDLGVNTRQNLDHVKESKTGSSGIIVRLSTNHFRLTSR
PQWALYQYHIDYNPLMEARRLRSALLFQHEDLIGKCHAFDGTILFLPKRLQQKVTEVFSKTR
NGEDVRITITLTNELPPTSPTCLQFYNIIFRRLLKIMNLQQIGRNYYNPNDPIDIPSHRLVI
WPGFTTSILQYENSIMLCTDVSHKVLRSETVLDFMFNFYHQTEEHKFQEQVSKELIGLVVLT
KYNNKTYRVDDIDWDQNPKSTFKKADGSEVSFLEYYRKQYNQEITDLKQPVLVSQPKRRRGP
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LRAWNSCNEYMPSRIIVYRDGVGDGQLKTLVNYEVPQFLDCLKSIGRGYNPRLTVIVVKKRV
NTRFFAQSGGRLQNPLPGTVIDVEVTRPEWYDFFIVSQAVRSGSVSPTHYNVIYDNSGLKPD
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Fig.15

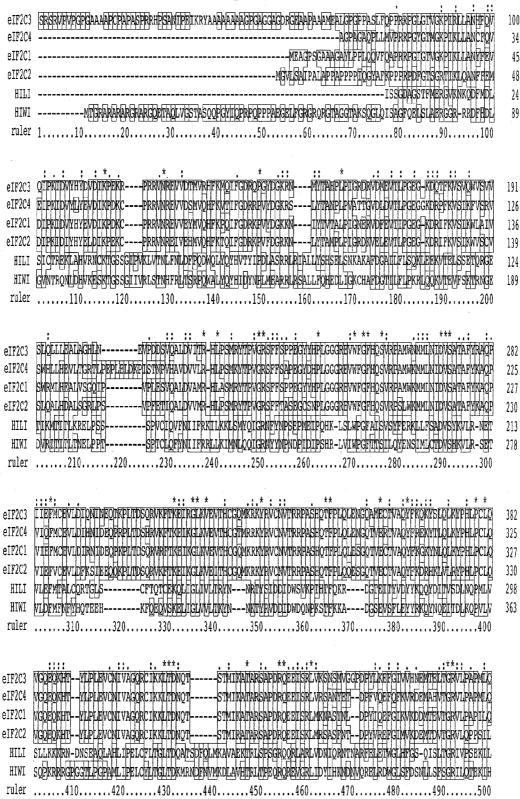
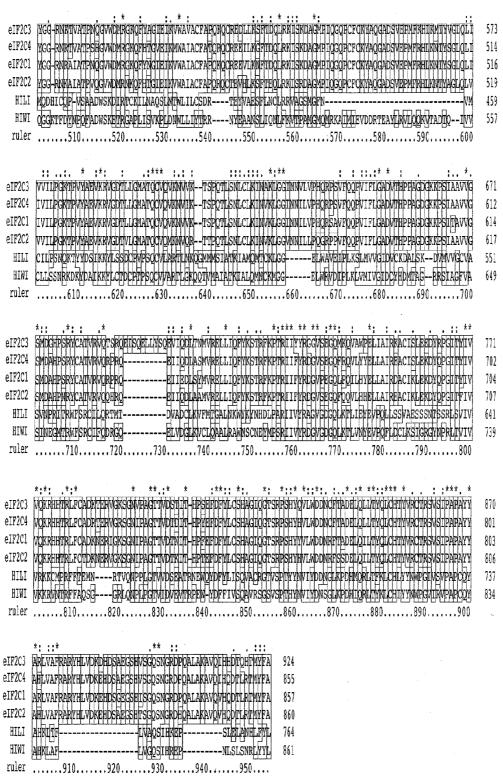


Fig.15 (cont.)



>eIF2C1, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF ATGGAAGCGGGACCCTCGGGAGCAGCTGCGGGCGCTTACCTGCCCCCCTGCAGCAGGTGTT CCAGGCACCTCGCCGGCCTGGCATTGGCACTGTGGGGAAACCAATCAAGCTCCTGGCCAATT ACTTTGAGGTGGACATCCCTAAGATCGACGTGTACCACTACGAGGTGGACATCAAGCCGGAT AAGTGTCCCCGTAGAGTCAACCGGGAAGTGGTGGAATACATGGTCCAGCATTTCAAGCCTCA GATCTTTGGTGATCGCAAGCCTGTGTATGATGGAAAGAAGAACATTTACACTGTCACAGCAC TGCCCATTGGCAACGAACGGGTCGACTTTGAGGTGACAATCCCTGGGGAAGGGAAGGATCGA GGTCAGCGGCCAGATCCCTGTTCCCTTGGAGTCTGTGCAAGCCCTGGATGTGGCCATGAGGC ACCTGGCATCCATGAGGTACACCCCTGTGGGCCGCTCCTTCTTCTCACCGCCTGAGGGCTAC TACCACCGCTGGGGGGGGGCGCGAGGTCTGGTTCGGCTTTCACCAGTCTGTGCGCCCTGC CATGTGGAAGATGATGCTCAACATTGATGTCTCAGCCACTGCCTTTTATAAGGCACAGCCAG TGATTGAGTTCATGTGTGAGGTGCTGGACATCAGGAACATAGATGAGCAGCCCAAGCCCCTC ACGGACTCTCAGCGCGTTCGCTTCACCAAGGAGATCAAGGGCCTGAAGGTGGAAGTCACCCA CTGTGGACAGATGAAGAGGAAGTACCGCGTGTGTAATGTTACCCGTCGCCCTGCTAGCCATC AGACATTCCCCTTACAGCTGGAGAGTGGACAGACTGTGGAGTGCACAGTGTATTTC AAGCAGAAATATAACCTTCAGCTCAAGTATCCCCATCTGCCCTGCCTACAAGTTGGCCAGGA ACAAAAGCATACCTACCTTCCCCTAGAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGCTGGGCAGCGCTGTATTA AAAAGCTGACCGACAACCAGACCTCGACCATGATAAAGGCCACAGCTAGATCCGCTCCAGAC AGACAGGAGGAGATCAGTCGCCTGATGAAGAATGCCAGCTACAACTTAGATCCCTACATCCA GGAATTTGGGATCAAAGTGAAGGATGACATGACGGAGGTGACAGGGCGAGTGCTGCCGGCGC CCATCTTGCAGTACGGCGGCCGGAACCGGGCCATTGCCACACCCAATCAGGGTGTCTGGGAC ATGCGGGGGAAACAGTTCTACAATGGGATTGAGATCAAAGTCTGGGCCATCGCCTGCTTCGC ACCCCAAAAACAGTGTCGAGAAGAGGTGCTCAAGAACTTCACAGACCAGCTGCGGAAGATTT  $\verb|CCAAGGATGCGGGGATGCCTATCCAGGGTCAACCTTGTTTCTGCAAATATGCACAGGGGGCA|\\$ GACAGCGTGGAGCCTATGTTCCGGCATCTCAAGAACACCTACTCAGGGCTGCAGCTCATTAT TGTCATCCTGCCAGGGAAGACGCCGGTGTATGCTGAGGTGAAACGTGTCGGAGATACACTCT TGGGAATGGCTACGCAGTGTGCAGGTGAAGAACGTGGTCAAGACCTCACCTCAGACTCTG TCCAACCTCTGCCTCAAGATCAATGTCAAACTTGGTGGCATTAACAACATCCTAGTCCCACA CCAGCGCTCTGCCGTTTTTCAACAGCCAGTGATATTCCTGGGAGCAGATGTTACACACCCCC CAGCAGGGGATGGGAAAAAACCTTCTATCACAGCAGTGGTAGGCAGTATGGATGCCCACCCC AGCCGATACTGTGCTGCGGGTACAGCGACCACGGCAAGAGATCATTGAAGACTTGTC CTACATGGTGCGTGAGCTCCTCATCCAATTCTACAAGTCCACCCGTTTCAAGCCTACCCGCA TCATCTTCTACCGAGATGGGGTGCCTGAAGGCCAGCTACCCCAGATACTCCACTATGAGCTA CTGGCCATTCGTGATGCCTGCATCAAACTGGAAAAGGACTACCAGCCTGGGATCACTTATAT TGTGGTGCAGAAACGCCATCACACCCGCCTTTTCTGTGCTGACAAGAATGAGCGAATTGGGA GACTTCTATCTGTGCAGCCACGCAGGCATCCAGGGCACCAGCCGACCATTCCATTACTATGT TCTTTGGGATGACAACCGTTTCACAGCAGATGAGCTCCAGATCCTGACGTACCAGCTGTGCC ACACTTACGTACGATGCACACGCTCTGTCTCTATCCCAGCACCTGCCTACTATGCCCGCCTG GTGGCTTTCCGGGCACGATACCACCTGGTGGACAAGGAGCATGACAGTGGAGAGGGGAGCCA CATATCGGGGCAGAGCAATGGGCGGGACCCCCAGGCCCTGGCCAAAGCCGTGCAGGTTCACC AGGATACTCTGCGCACCATGTACTTCGCT

>eIF2C2, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF ATGGGTGTTCTCTGCCATTCCCGCACTTGCACCTCCTGCGCCGCCGCCCCCCATCCAAGG ATATGCCTTCAAGCCTCCACCTAGACCCGACTTTGGGACCTCCGGGAGAACAATCAAATTAC AGGCCAATTTCTTCGAAATGGACATCCCCAAAATTGACATCTATCATTATGAATTGGATATC AAGCCAGAGAAGTGCCCGAGGAGAGTTAACAGGGAAATCGTGGAACACATGGTCCAGCACTT TAAAACACAGATCTTTGGGGATCGGAAGCCCGTGTTTGACGGCAGGAAGAATCTATACACAG  ${\tt CCATGCCCTTCCGATTGGGAGGGACAAGGTGGAGCTGGAGGTCACGCTGCCAGGAGAAGGC}$ AAGGATCGCATCTTCAAGGTGTCCATCAAGTGGGTGTCCTGCGTGAGCTTGCAGGCGTTACA CGATGCACTTTCAGGGCGGCTGCCCAGCGTCCCTTTTGAGACGATCCAGGCCCTGGACGTGG TCATGAGGCACTTGCCATCCATGAGGTACACCCCCGTGGGCCGCTCCTTCTTCACCGCGTCC GAAGGCTGCTCTAACCCTCTTGGCGGGGCCGAGAAGTGTGGTTTTGGCTTCCATCAGTCCGT CCGGCCTTCTCTGGAAAATGATGCTGAATATTGATGTCTCAGCAACAGCGTTTTACAAGG AAACCTCTGACAGATTCCCAAAGGTAAAGTTTACCAAAGAAATTAAAGGTCTAAAGGTGGA GATAACGCACTGTGGGCAGATGAAGAGGAAGTACCGTGTCTGCAATGTGACCCGGCGGCCCG CCAGTCACCAAACATTCCCGCTGCAGCAGGAGGGGGGCAGACGGTGGAGTGCACGGTGGCC CAGTATTTCAAGGACAGGCACAAGTTGGTTCTGCGCTACCCCCACCTCCCATGTTTACAAGT CGGACAGGAGCAGAAACACCTACCTTCCCCTGGAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGCAGGACAAA GATGTATTAAAAAATTAACGGACAATCAGACCTCAACCATGATCAGAGCAACTGCTAGGTCG GCGCCCGATCGGCAAGAGAGAGATTAGCAAATTGATGCGAAGTGCAAGTTTCAACACAGATCC ATACGTCCGTGAATTTGGAATCATGGTCAAAGATGAGATGACAGACGTGACTGGCCGGGTGC TGCAGCCGCCTCCATCCTCTACGGGGGCAGGAATAAAGCTATTGCGACCCCTGTCCAGGGC GTCTGGGACATGCGGAACAAGCAGTTCCACACGGGCATCGAGATCAAGGTGTGGGCCATTGC GTGCTTCGCCCCCAGCGCCAGTGCACGGAAGTCCATCTGAAGTCCTTCACAGAGCAGCTCA GAAAGATCTCGAGAGACGCTGGCATGCCCATCCAGGGCCAGCCGTGCTTCTGCAAATACGCG GCTGGTGGTGGTCATCCTGCCCGGCAAGACGCCCGTGTACGCCGAGGTCAAGCGCGTGGGAG ACACGTGCTGGGGATGCCACGCAGTGCGTGCAGATGAAGAACGTGCAGAGGACCACGCCA  ${\tt CAGACCCTGTCCAACCTTTGCCTGAAGATCAACGTCAAGCTGGGAGGCGTGAACAACATCCT}$ GCTGCCCCAGGGCAGGCCGCTGTTCCAGCAGCCCGTCATCTTTCTGGGAGCAGACGTCA GCCCACCCAATCGCTACTGCGCCACCGTGCGCGTGCAGCAGCACCGGCAGGAGATCATACA AGACCTGGCCGCCATGGTCCGCGAGCTCCTCATCCAGTTCTACAAGTCCACGCGCTTCAAGC CCACCGCATCATCTTCTACCGCGACGGTGTCTCTGAAGGCCAGTTCCAGCAGGTTCTCCAC CACGAGTTGCTGGCCATCCGTGAGGCCTGTATCAAGCTAGAAAAAGACTACCAGCCCGGGAT CACCTTCATCGTGGTGCAGAAGAGGCACCACCCCGGCTCTTCTGCACTGACAAGAACGAGC ACCGAGTTCGACTTCTACCTGTGTAGTCACGCTGGCATCCAGGGGACAAGCAGGCCTTCGCA CTATCACGTCCTCTGGGACGACAATCGTTTCTCCTCTGATGAGCTGCAGATCCTAACCTACC AGCTGTGTCACACCTACGTGCGCTGCACACGCTCCGTGTCCATCCCAGCGCCAGCATACTAC GCTCACCTGGTGGCCTTCCGGGCCAGGTACCACCTGGTGGATAAGGAACATGACAGTGCTGA AGGAAGCCATACCTCTGGGCAGAGTAACGGGCGAGACCACCAAGCACTGGCCAAGGCGGTCC AGGTTCACCAAGACACTCTGCGCACCATGTACTTTGCT

>eIF2C3, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF AGCCGGAGCCGGGTCCCTGTCCCCGGGCCGGGCGCCGCCGCCCCCTGCCCAGCGCCCGC GTCTCCGCGGCGCCACCCCAGCGCCAATATTCCGGAGATCAAGCGTTACGCGGCGGCGGCGG GCCATGGAGGCGCTGGGACCCGGACCTCGGCTAGCCTGTTTCAGCCACCTCGTCGTCCTGG CCTTGGAACTGTTGGAAAACCAATTCGACTGTTAGCCAATCATTTTCAGGTTCAGATTCCTA AAATAGATGTGTATCACTATGATGTGGATATTAAGCCTGAAAAACGGCCTCGTAGAGTCAAC AGGGAGGTAGTAGATACAATGGTGCGGCACTTCAAGATGCAAATATTTGGTGATCGGCAGCC TGGGTATGATGGCAAAAGAACATGTACACAGCACATCCACTACCAATTGGACGGGATAGGG TTGATATGGAGGTGACTCTTCCAGGCGAGGGTAAAGACCAAACATTTAAAGTGTCTGTTCAG CCCAGATGACTCAGTACAAGCACTTGATGTTATCACAAGACACCTTCCCTCCATGAGGTACA AGGGAGGTCTGGTTTTCATCAGTCTGTGAGACCTGCCATGTGGAATATGATGCTCAA CATTGATGTATCTGCAACTGCTTTCTACCGGGCTCAGCCTATCATTGAGTTCATGTGTGAGG TTTTAGACATTCAGAACATCAATGAACAGACCAAACCTCTAACAGACTCCCAGCGTGTCAAA TTTACCAAAGAAATCAGAGGTCTCAAAGTTGAGGTGACCCACTGTGGACAGATGAAACGAAA ATACCGAGTTTGTAATGTGACTAGACGGCCAGCCAGTCATCAAACTTTTCCTTTGCAGCTAG AAAACGGTCAAGCTATGGAATGTACAGTAGCTCAATATTTTAAGCAAAAGTATAGTCTGCAA ACTCGAGGTCTGTAATATAGTGGCAGGACAGCGATGTATCAAGAAGCTCACAGACAATCAGA  $\tt CTGGTGAAGAGCAACAGTATGGTGGGTGGACCTGATCCATACCTTAAAGAATTTGGTATTGT$ TGTCCACAATGAAATGACAGAGCTCACAGGCAGGGTACTTCCAGCACCAATGCTGCAATATG GAGGCCGGAATAAAACAGTAGCCACACCCAACCAGGGTGTCTGGGACATGCGAGGAAAGCAG TTTTATGCTGGCATTGAAATTAAAGTTTGGGCAGTTGCTTTTTTGCACCTCAGAAACAATG TAGGGAAGATTTACTAAAGAGTTTCACTGACCAGCTGCGTAAAATCTCTAAGGATGCAGGAA TGCCCATCCAGGGTCAGCCATGTTTCTGCAAGTATGCACAAGGTGCAGACAGTGTGGAGCCT AAAGACACCAGTATATGCGGAGGTGAAACGTGTTGGAGATACCCTTCTAGGTATGGCCACAC AAGATAAATGCAAAACTTGGAGGAATTAACAATGTGCTTGTGCCTCATCAAAGGCCCTCGGT GTTCCAGCAGCCTGTCATCTTCCTGGGAGCGGATGTCACACCCCCCAGCAGCGGGATGGGA AGAAACCTTCCATTGCTGCTGGTTGGCAGTATGGATGGCCACCCCAGCCGGTACTGTGCC ACCGTTCGGGTGCAGACTTCCCGGCAGGAGATCTCCCAAGAGCTCCTCTACAGTCAAGAGGT  ${\tt CATCCAGGACCTGACTACATGGTTCGAGAGCTGCTGATTCAGTTCTACAAATCCACACGCT}$ TCAAACCCACTCGGATCATCTATTACCGTGGAGGGGTATCTGAGGGACAAATGAAACAGGTA GCTTGGCCAGAACTAATAGCAATTCGAAAGGCATGTATTAGCTTGGAAGAAGATTACCGGCC AGGAATAACTTATATTGTGGTGCAAAAAAGACATCACACACGACTCTTCTGTGCAGATAAAA CAGAAAGGGTAGGGAAAAGTGGCAATGTACCAGCAGGCACTACAGTGGATAGTACCATCACA CATCCATCTGAGTTTGACTTTTACCTCTGTAGTCATGCAGGAATTCAGGGAACCAGCCGTCC CTCACATTACCAGGTCTTGTGGGATGACAACTGCTTCACTGCAGATGAACTCCAGCTACTGA CTTACCAGCTGTGTCACACCTATGTGAGGTGCACTCGCTCAGTCTCTATTCCAGCCCCTGCA TATTATGCCCGGCTTGTAGCATTTAGGGCAAGGTATCATCTGGTGGATAAAGATCATGACAG  $\tt TGCGGAAGGCAGTCATGTGTCAGGACAGAGCAACGGCCGGGATCCTCAGGCCTTGGCTAAGG$ CTGTGCAAATCCACCATGATACCCAGCACACGATGTATTTTGCC

>eIF2C4, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF GCAGGACCCGCTGGGGCCCAGCCCCTACTCATGGTGCCCAGAAGACCTGGCTATGGCACCAT GGGCAAACCCATTAAACTGCTGGCTAACTGTTTTCAAGTTGAAATCCCAAAGATTGATGTCT ACCTCTATGAGGTAGATATTAAACCAGACAAGTGTCCTAGGAGAGTGAACAGGGAGGTGGTT GACTCAATGGTTCAGCATTTTAAAGTAACTATATTTGGAGACCGTAGACCAGTTTATGATGG AAAAAGAAGTCTTTACACCGCCAATCCACTTCCTGTGGCAACTACAGGGGTAGATTTAGACG ATTAGACAAGCCAATCAGCACTAACCCTGTCCATGCCGTTGATGTGGTGCTACGACATCTGC CCTCCATGAAATACACACCTGTGGGGGCGTTCATTTTTCTCCGCTCCAGAAGGATATGACCAC CCTCTGGGAGGGGCAGGAAGTGTGGTTTGGATTCCATCAGTCTGTTCGGCCTGCCATGTG GAAAATGATGCTTAATATCGATGTTTCTGCCACTGCCTTCTACAAAGCACAACCTGTAATTC TCTCATCGGGTAAAATTCACCAAAGAGATAAAAGGTTTGAAGGTTGAAGTGACTCATTGTGG AACAATGAGACGGAAATACCGTGTTTGTAATGTAACAAGGAGGCCTGCCAGTCATCAAACCT TTCCTTTACAGTTAGAAAACGGCCAAACTGTGGAGAGAACAGTAGCGCAGTATTTCAGAGAA AAGTATACTCTTCAGCTGAAGTACCCGCACCTTCCCTGTCTGCAAGTCGGGCAGGAACAGAA ACACACCTACCTGCCACTAGAAGTCTGTAATATTGTGGCAGGGCAACGATGTATCAAGAAGC TAACAGACAATCAGACTTCCACTATGATCAAGGCAACAGCAAGATCTGCACCAGATAGACAA GAGGAAATTAGCAGATTGGTAAGAAGTGCAAATTATGAAACAGATCCATTTGTTCAGGAGTT TCAATTTAAAGTTCGGGATGAAATGGCTCATGTAACTGGACGCGTACTTCCAGCACCTATGC TCCAGTATGGAGGACGGAATCGGACAGTAGCAACACCGAGCCATGGAGTATGGGACATGCGA GGGAAACAATTCCACACAGGAGTTGAAATCAAAATGTGGGCTATCGCTTGTTTTTGCCACACA GAGGCAGTGCAGAGAAAATATTGAAGGGTTTCACAGACCAGCTGCGTAAGATTTCTAAGG ATGCAGGGATGCCCATCCAGGGCCAGCCATGCTTCTGCAAATATGCACAGGGGGCAGACAGC GTAGAGCCCATGTTCCGGCATCTCAAGAACACATATTCTGGCCTACAGCTTATTATCGTCAT CCTGCCGGGGAAGACACCAGTGTATGCGGAAGTGAAACGTGTAGGAGACACACTTTTGGGTA TGGCTACACAATGTGTTCAAGTCAAGAATGTAATAAAAACATCTCCTCAAACTCTGTCAAAC TTGTGCCTAAAGATAAATGTTAAACTCGGAGGGATCAATAATATTCTTGTACCTCATCAAAG ACCTTCTGTGTTCCAGCAACCAGTGATCTTTTTGGGAGCCGATGTCACTCATCCACCTGCTG TACTGTGCCACAGTAAGAGTTCAGAGACCCCGACAGGAGTCATCCAGGACTTGGCCTCCAT GGTCCGGGAACTTCTTATTCAATTTTATAAGTCAACTCGGTTCAAGCCTACTCGTATCATCT TTTATCGGGATGGTGTTTCAGAGGGGCAGTTTAGGCAGGTATTATATTATGAACTACTAGCA ATTCGAGAAGCCTGCATCAGTTTGGAGAAAGACTATCAACCTGGAATAACCTACATTGTAGT TCAGAAGAGACATCACACTCGATTATTTTGTGCTGATAGGACAGAAAGGGTTGGAAGAAGTG GCAATATCCCAGCTGGAACAACAGTTGATACAGACATTACACACCCATATGAGTTCGATTTT TACCTCTGTAGCCATGCTGGAATACAGGGTACCAGTCGTCCTTCACACTATCATGTTTTATG GGATGATAACTGCTTTACTGCAGATGAACTTCAGCTGCTAACTTACCAGCTCTGCCACACTT ACGTACGCTGTACACGATCTGTTTCTATACCTGCACCAGCGTATTATGCTCACCTGGTAGCA AGGACAAAGCAATGGGCGAGATCCACAAGCTCTTGCCAAGGCTGTACAGATTCACCAAGATA CCTTACGCACAATGTACTTCGCTTAA

>HILI, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF TATGGATTTGAGTATCTGTACCAGAGAAAAATTGGCACATGTGAGAAATTGTAAAACAGGTT CCAGTGGAATACCTGTGAAACTGGTTACAAACCTCTTTAACTTAGATTTTCCCCAAGACTGG CAGCTATACCAGTACCATGTGACATATATTCCAGATTTAGCATCTAGAAGGCTGAGAATTGC TTTACTTTATAGTCATAGTGAACTTTCCAACAAAGCAAAAGCATTCGACGGTGCCATCCTTT TTCTGTCACAAAAGCTAGAAGAAAAGGTCACAGAGTTGTCAAGTGAAACTCAAAGAGGTGAG ACTATAAAGATGACTATCACCCTGAAGAGGGGGGCTGCCATCAAGTTCTCCCGTGTGCATCCA GGTCTTCAATATCATCTTCAGAAAGATCCTCAAAAAGTTGTCCATGTACCAAATTGGACGGA ACTTCTATAATCCTTCAGAGCCAATGGAAATTCCCCAGCACAAATTATCCCTTTGGCCTGGG TTTGCCATTTCTGTGTCATATTTTGAAAGGAAGCTCCTGTTTAGTGCTGATGTGAGTTACAA AGTCCTCCGGAATGAGACGGTTCTGGAATTCATGACTGCTCTCTGTCAAAGAACTGGCTTGT CCTGTTTCACCCAGACGTGTGAGAAGCAGCTAATAGGGCTCATTGTCCTTACAAGATACAAT GCGGGATGGCACCGAGATCACCTATGTGGATTACTACAAGCAGCAGTATGATATTACTGTAT CGGACCTGAATCAGCCCATGCTTGTTAGTCTGTTAAAGAAGAAGAAGAAATGACAACAGTGAG ATCTGATTTCCAGCTGATGAAGGCTGTGGCTGAAAAGACACGTCTCAGTCCTTCAGGCCGGC AGCAGCGCCTGGCCAGGCTTGTGGACAACATCCAGAGGAATACCAATGCTCGCTTTGAACTA GAGACCTGGGGACTGCATTTTGGAAGCCAGATATCTCTGACTGGCCGGATTGTGCCTTCAGA AAAAATATTAATGCAAGACCACATATGTCAACCTGTGTCTGCTGCTGACTGGTCCAAGGATA TTCGAACTTGCAAGATTTTAAATGCACAGTCTTTGAATACCTGGTTGATTTTATGTAGCGAC AGAACTGAATATGTTGCCGAGAGCTTTCTGAACTGCTTGAGAAGAGTTGCAGGTTCCATGGG ATTTAATGTAATGTGCATTCTGCCTTCTAATCAGAAGACCTATTATGATTCCATTAAAAAAAT GGCATGATGATGAGTATCGCCACCAAGATCGCTATGCAGATGACTTGCAAGCTCGGAGGCGA ATGCACTCAGCAAGGACGTGATGGTTGTTGGATGCGTGGCCAGTGTTAACCCCAGAATCACC AGGTGGTTTTCCCGCTGTATCCTTCAGAGAACAATGACTGATGTTGCAGATTGCTTGAAAGT TTTCATGACTGGAGCACTCAACAAATGGTACAAGTACAATCATGATTTGCCAGCACGGATAA TTGTGTACCGTGCTGGTGTAGGGGATGGTCAGCTGAAAACACTTATTGAATATGAAGTCCCA CAGCTGCTGAGCAGTGTGGCAGAATCCAGCTCAAATACCAGCTCAAGACTGTCGGTGATTGT GGTCAGGAAGAAGTGCATGCCACGATTCTTTACCGAAATGAACCGCACTGTACAGAACCCCC CACTTGGCACTGTTGTGGATTCAGAAGCAACACGTAACGAATGGCAGTATGACTTTTATCTG CAACGGCTTGAAGCCCGACCATATGCAGAGACTTACATTCAAATTGTGCCACCTGTACTACA ACTGGCCGGGCATAGTCAGTGTCCCAGCACCATGTCAGTATGCTCACAAGCTGACCTTTCTG GTGGCACAAAGCATTCATAAAGAACCCAGTCTGGAATTAGCCAACCATCTCTTCTACCTG

>HIWI, cDNA sequence of predicted ORF ATGACTGGGAGAGCCGGAGCCAGAGCCAGAGGCCCGCGGTCAGGAGACAGCGCAGCT GGTGGGCTCCACTGCCAGTCAGCAACCTGGTTATATTCAGCCTAGGCCTCAGCCGCCACCAG CAGAGGGGGAATTATTTGGCCGTGGACGGCAGAGAGAACAGCAGGAGGAACAGCCAAGTCA TAGAGATTTTCATGATCTTGGTGTGAATACAAGGCAGAACCTAGACCATGTTAAAGAATCAA AAACAGGTTCTTCAGGCATTATAGTAAGGTTAAGCACTAACCATTTCCGGCTGACATCCCGT CCCCAGTGGGCCTTATATCAGTATCACATTGACTATAACCCACTGATGGAAGCCAGAAGACT CCGTTCAGCTCTTCTTTTCAACACGAAGATCTAATTGGAAAGTGCCATGCTTTTGATGGAA CGATATTATTTTACCTAAAAGACTACAGCAAAAGGTTACTGAAGTTTTTAGTAAGACCCGG AATGGAGAGGATGTGAGGATAACGATCACTTTAACAAATGAACTTCCACCTACATCACCAAC  ${\tt TTGTTTGCAGTTCTATAATATTATTTTCAGGAGGCTTTTGAAAATCATGAATTTGCAACAAA}$ TTGGACGAAATTATTATAACCCAAATGACCCAATTGATATTCCAAGTCACAGGTTGGTGATT  $\tt TGGCCTGGCTTCACTTCCATCCTTCAGTATGAAAACAGCATCATGCTCTGCACTGACGT$ TAGCCATAAAGTCCTTCGAAGTGAGACTGTTTTGGATTTCATGTTCAACTTTTATCATCAGA CAGAAGAACATAAATTTCAAGAACAAGTTTCCAAAGAACTAATAGGTTTAGTTGTTCTTACC AAGTATAACAATAAGACATACAGAGTGGATGATATTGACTGGGACCAGAATCCCAAGAGCAC CTTTAAGAAAGCCGACGGCTCTGAAGTCAGCTTCTTAGAATACTACAGGAAGCAATACAACC  $\tt GGGGGGACACTGCCAGGGCCTGCCATGCTCATTCCTGAGCTCTATCTTACAGGTCTAAC$ TGATAAAATGCGTAATGATTTTAACGTGATGAAAGACTTAGCCGTTCATACAAGACTAACTC CAGAGCAAAGGCAGCGTGAAGTGGGACGACTCATTGATTACATTCATAAAAAACGATAATGTT CAAAGGGAGCTTCGAGACTGGGGTTTGAGCTTTGATTCCAACTTACTGTCCTTCTCAGGAAG AATTTTGCAAACAGAAAAGATTCACCAAGGTGGAAAAACATTTGATTACAATCCACAATTTG CAGATTGGTCCAAAGAACAAGAGGTGCACCATTAATTAGTGTTAAGCCACTAGATAACTGG CTGTTGATCTATACGCGAAGAAATTATGAAGCAGCCAATTCATTGATACAAAATCTATTTAA AGTTACACCAGCCATGGGCATGCAAATGAGAAAAGCAATAATGATTGAAGTGGATGACAGAA CTGAAGCCTACTTAAGAGTCTTACAGCAAAAGGTCACAGCAGACACCCAGATAGTTGTCTGT CTGTTGTCAAGTAATCGGAAGGACAAATACGATGCTATTAAAAAATACCTGTGTACAGATTG CCCTACCCCAAGTCAGTGTGTGGGGCCCGAACCTTAGGCAAACAGCAAACTGTCATGGCCA TTGCTACAAAGATTGCCCTACAGATGAACTGCAAGATGGGAGGAGAGCTCTGGAGGGTGGAC ATCCCCCTGAAGCTCGTGATGATCGTTGGCATCGATTGTTACCATGACATGACAGCTGGGCG GAGGTCAATCGCAGGATTTGTTGCCAGCATCAATGAAGGGATGACCCGCTGGTTCTCACGCT CTGAGGGCTTGGAATAGCTGCAATGAGTACATGCCCAGCCGGATCATCGTGTACCGCGATGG CGTAGGAGACGGCCAGCTGAAAACACTGGTGAACTACGAAGTGCCACAGTTTTTGGATTGTC TAAAATCCATTGGTAGAGGTTACAACCCTAGACTAACGGTAATTGTGGTGAAGAAAAGAGTG AACACCAGATTTTTTGCTCAGTCTGGAGGAAGACTTCAGAATCCACTTCCTGGAACAGTTAT TGATGTAGAGGTTACCAGACCAGAATGGTATGACTTTTTTATCGTGAGCCAGGCTGTGAGAA GTGGTAGTGTTTCTCCCACACATTACAATGTCATCTATGACAACAGCGGCCTGAAGCCAGAC CACATACAGCGCTTGACCTACAAGCTGTGCCACATCTATTACAACTGGCCAGGTGTCATTCG TGTTCCTGCTCCTTGCCAGTACGCCCACAAGCTGGCTTTTCTTGTTGGCCAGAGTATTCACA GAGAGCCAAATCTGTCACTGTCAAACCGCCTTTACTACCTC

Figure 17

Gene name	1 <sup>st</sup> primer pair (5'-3')	2 <sup>nd</sup> primer pair (5'-3')	Expected length (bp)
eIF2C1	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC* CGGTAGAAGATGATGCGGGT	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC* AAGTTCTTGAGCACCTCTTCTCGA	287
errzer	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC CGGTAGAAGATGATGCGGGT	CCACACCAGCGCTCTGCC CTCACGCACCATGTAGGA	207
eIF2C2	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC CGGTAGAAGATGATGCGGGT	ATCCTGCTGCCCAAGGG GATCTCCTGCCGGTGCTG	186
GIFZCZ	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC* CGGTAGAAGATGATGCGGGT	GAGGTCTGTAACATTGTGGC* GATCTCCTGCCGGTGCTG	891
eIF2C3	AGAGCAACAGTATGGTGGGTGGAC TGGATGTGTGATGGTACT*	CCTCTACAGTCAAGAGGT TGGATGTGTGATGGTACT*	334
elr2C3	CACTTGAATGAAGTCCCA TCCTGGATGACCTCTTGACTGTAG*	AGAGCAACAGTATGGTGGGTGGAC TCCTGGATGACCTCTTGACTGTAG*	808
eIF2C4	TCCGGCATCTCAAGAACACATATTCT GAACTCATATGGGTGTGTAATGTCTG*	ATCCAGGACTTGGCCTCC GAACTCATATGGGTGTGTAATGTCTG*	324
HILI	CAGCACAAATTATCCCTT* CGGCCTGAAGGACTGAGACGTGT	CAGCACAAATTATCCCTT* GTGTGTGGGCTTCACTGA	264
UTLY	TCTCTGTCAAAGAACTGGCTTGTCCT* CTGTACAGTGCGGTTCAT	TCTCTGTCAAAGAACTGGCTTGTCCT* CGGCCTGAAGGACTGAGACGTGT	393

<sup>\*</sup> primers used in both reactions (semi-nested PCR)

## В

Gene name	eIF2C1		eIF2C2		eIF2C3		eIF2C4	HI	LI
Expected length (bp)	287`	207	186	891	808	334	324	264	393
PCR products			Succession of the control of the con			<b>=</b>			

### RNA-INTERFERENCE BY SINGLE-STRANDED RNA MOLECULES

[0001] This application is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 10/520,470 filed Jan. 7, 2005, which is a 35 U.S.C. 371 National Phase Entry Application from PCT/EP2003/007516, filed Jul. 10, 2003, which claims the benefit of European Patent Application Nos. 02015532.1 filed Jul. 10, 2002 and 02018906.4 filed Aug. 23, 2002, the disclosures of which is incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

#### DESCRIPTION

[0002] The present invention relates to sequence and structural featUres of single-stranded (ss)RNA molecules required to mediate target-specific nucleic acid modifications by RNA-interference (RNAi), such as target mRNA degradation and/or DNA methylation.

[0003] Most eukaryotes possess a cellular defense system protecting their genomes against invading foreign genetic elements. Insertion of foreign elements is believed to be generally accompanied by formation of dsRNA that is interpreted by the cell as a signal for unwanted gene activity (e.g. Ahlquist, Science 296 (2002), 1270-1273; Fire et al., Nature 391 (1998), 806-811). Dicer RNase III rapidly processes dsRNA to small dsRNA fragments of distinct size and structure (e.g. Bernstein et al., Nature 409 (2001), 363-366), the small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) (Elbashir et al., Genes & Dev. 15 (2001 b), 188-200), which direct the sequence-specific deg $radation\ of\ the\ single-stranded\ mRNAs\ of\ the\ invading\ genes.$ siRNA duplexes have 2- to 3-nt 3' overhanging ends and contain 5' phosphate and free 3' hydroxyl termini (WO 02/44321). The process of posttranscriptional dsRNA-dependent gene silencing is commonly referred to as RNA interference (RNAi), and in some instances is also linked to transcriptional silencing.

[0004] Experimental introduction of siRNA duplexes into mammalian cells is now widely used to disrupt the activity of cellular genes homologous in sequence to the introduced dsRNA. Used as a reverse genetic approach, siRNA-induced gene silencing accelerates linking of gene sequence to biological function. siRNA duplexes are short enough to bypass general dsRNA-induced unspecific effects in vertebrate animal and mammalian cells. siRNAs may also be expressed intracellularly from introduced expression plasmids or viral vectors providing an alternative to chemical RNA synthesis. Therefore, an understanding of how siRNAs act in mammalian systems is important for refining this gene silencing technology and for producing gene-specific therapeutic agents.

[0005] Biochemical studies have begun to unravel the mechanistic details of RNAi. The first cell-free systems were developed using *D. melanogaster* cell or embryo extracts, and were followed by the development of in vitro systems from *C. elegans* embryo and mouse embryonal carcinoma cells. While the *D. melanogaster* lysates support the steps of dsRNA processing and sequence-specific mRNA targeting, the latter two systems only recapitulate the first step.

[0006] RNAi in *D. melanogaster* extracts is initiated by ATP-dependent processing of long dsRNA to siRNAs by Dicer RNase III (e.g. Bernstein et al., (2001), supra). Thereafter, siRNA duplexes are assembled into a multi-component complex, which guides the sequence-specific recognition of the target mRNA and catalyzes its cleavage (e.g. Elbashir

(2001 b), supra). This complex is referred to as RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) (Hammond et at., Nature 404 (2000), 293-296). siRNAs in *D. melanogaster* are predominantly 21- and 22-nt, and when paired in a manner to contain a 2-nt 3' overhanging structure effectively enter RISC (Elbashir et al., EMBO J. 20 (2001 c), 6877-6888). Mammalian systems have siRNAs of similar size, and siRNAs of 21- and 22-nt also represent the most effective sizes for silencing genes expressed in mammalian cells (e.g. Elbashir et al., Nature 411 (2001 a), 494-498, Elbashir et al., Methods 26 (2002), 199-213).

[0007] RISC assembled on siRNA duplexes in D. melanogaster embryo lysate targets homologous sense as well as antisense single-stranded RNAs for degradation. The cleavage sites for sense and antisense target RNAs are located in the middle of the region spanned by the siRNA duplex. Importantly, the 5'-end, and not the 3' :end, of the guide siRNA sets the ruler for the position of the target RNA cleavage. Furthermore, a 5' phosphate is required at the targetcomplementary strand of a siRNA duplex for RISC activity, and ATP is used to maintain the 5' phosphates of the siRNAs (Nykänen et al., Cell 107 (2001), 309-321). Synthetic siRNA duplexes with free 5' hydroxyls and 2-nt 3' overhangs are so readily phosphorylated in D. melanogaster embryo lysate that the RNAi efficiencies of 5'-phosphorylated and nonphosphorylated siRNAs are not significantly different (Elbashir et al. (2001 c), supra).

[0008] Unwinding of the siRNA duplex must occur prior to target RNA recognition. Analysis of ATP requirements revealed that the formation of RISC on siRNA duplexes required ATP in lysates of *D. melanogaster*. Once formed, RISC cleaves the target RNA in the absence of ATP. The need for ATP probably reflects the unwinding step and/or other conformational rearrangements. However, it is currently unknown if the unwound strands of an siRNA duplex remain associated with RISC or whether RISC only contains a single-stranded siRNA.

[0009] A component associated with RISC was identified as Argonaute2 from D. melanogaster Schneider 2 (S2) cells (Hammond et al., Science 293 (2001 a), 1146-1150), and is a member of a large family of proteins. The family is referred to as Argonaute or PPD family and is characterized by the presence of a PAZ domain and a C-terminal Piwi domain, both of unknown function (Cerutti et al., Trends Biochem. Sci. (2000), 481-482); Schwarz and Zamore, Genes & Dev. 16 (2002), 1025-1031). The PAZ domain is also found in Dicer. Because Dicer and Argonaute2 interact in S2 cells, PAZ may function as a protein-protein interaction motif. Possibly, the interaction between Dicer and Argonaute2 facilitates siRNA incorporation into RISC. In D. melanogaster, the Argonaute family has five members, most of which were shown to be involved in gene silencing and development. The mammalian members of the Argonaute family are poorly characterized, and some of them have been implicated in translational control, microRNA processing and development. The biochemical function of Argonaute proteins remains to be established and the development of more biochemical systems is crucial. [0010] Here we report on the analysis of human RISC in

extracts prepared from HeLa cells. The reconstitution of RISC and the mRNA targeting step revealed that RISC is a ribonucleoprotein complex that is composed of a single-stranded siRNA. Once RISC is formed the incorporated siRNA can no longer exchange with free siRNAs. Surprisingly, RISC can be reconstituted in HeLa S100 extracts pro-

viding single-stranded siRNAs. Introducing 5' phosphorylated single-stranded antisense siRNAs into HeLa cells potently silences an endogenous gene with similar efficiency than duplex siRNA.

[0011] The object underlying the present invention is to provide novel agents capable of mediating target-specific RNAi.

[0012] The solution of this problems is provided by the use of a single-stranded RNA molecule for the manufacture of an agent for inhibiting the expression of said target transcript. Surprisingly, it was found that single-stranded RNA molecules are capable of inhibiting the expression of target transcripts by RNA-interference (RNAi).

[0013] The length of the single-stranded RNA molecules is preferably from 14-50 nt, wherein at least the 14 to 20 5'-most nucleotides are substantially complementary to the target RNA transcript. The RNA oligonucleotides may have a free 5' hydroxyl moiety, or a moiety which is 5' phosphorylated (by means of chemical synthesis or enzymatic reactions) or which is modified by 5'-monophosphate analogues.

[0014] The inhibition of target transcript expression may occur in vitro, e.g. in eucaryotic, particularly mammalian cell cultures or cell extracts. On the other hand, the inhibition may also occur in vivo i.e. in eucaryotic, particularly mammalian organisms including human beings.

[0015] Preferably, the single-stranded RNA molecule has a length from 15-29 nucleotides. The RNA-strand may have a 3' hydroxyl group. In some cases, however, it may be preferable to modify the 3' end to make it resistant against 3' to 5' exonucleases. Tolerated 3'-modifications are for example terminal 2'-deoxy nucleotides, 3' phosphate, 2',3'-cyclic phosphate, C3 (or C6, C7, C12) aminolinker, thiol linkers, carboxyl linkers, non-nucleotidic spacers (C3, C6, C9, C12, abasic, triethylene glycol, hexaethylene glycol), biotin, fluoresceine, etc.

[0016] The 5'-terminus comprises an OH group, a phosphate group or an analogue thereof. Preferred 5' phosphate modifications are 5'-monophosphate ((HO)<sub>2</sub>(O)P—O-5'),  $((HO)_2(O)P - O - P(HO)(O) - O - 5'),$ 5'-diphosphate 5'-triphosphate ((HO)<sub>2</sub>(O) P—O—(HO)(O)P—O—P(HO) (O)—O-5'), 5'-guanosine cap (7-methylated or non-methylated) (7m-G-O-5'-(HO)(O)P—O—(HO)(O)P—O—P(HO) (O)—O-5'), 5'-adenosine cap. (Appp), and any modified or unmodified nucleotide cap structure (N—O-5'-(HO)(O)P— O—(HO)(O)P—O—P(HO)(O)—O-5'), 5'-monothiophosphate (phosphorothioate; (HO)<sub>2</sub>(S)P—O-5'), 5'-monodithiophosphate (phosphorodithioate; (HO)(HS)(S)P—O-5'), 5'-phosphorothiolate ((HO)<sub>2</sub>(O)P—S-5'); any additional combination of oxgen/sulfur replaced monophosphate, diphosphate and triphosphates (e.g. 5'-alpha-thiotriphosphate, 5'-gamma-thiotriphosphate, etc.), 5'-phosphoramidates ((HO)<sub>2</sub>(O)P—NH-5', (HO)(NH<sub>2</sub>)(O)P—O-5'), 5'-alkylphosphonates (R=alkyl=methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, propyl, etc., e.g. RP(OH)(O)—O-5'-, (OH)<sub>2</sub>(O)P-5'-CH<sub>2</sub>—), 5'-alky-(R=alkylether=methoxymethyl letherphosphonates (MeOCH<sub>2</sub>—), ethoxymethyl, etc., e.g. RP(OH)(O)—O-5'-). [0017] The sequence of the RNA molecule of the present invention has to have a sufficient identity to a nucleic acid target molecule in order to mediate target-specific RNAi. Thus the single-stranded RNA molecule of the present invention is substantially complementary to the target transcript.

[0018] The target RNA cleavage reaction guided by the single-stranded RNA molecules of the present invention is highly sequence-specific. However, no all positions of the

RNA molecule contribute equally to target recognition. Mismatches, particularly at the 3'-terminus of the single-stranded RNA molecule, more particularly the residues 3' to the first 20 nt of the single-stranded RNA molecule are tolerated. Especially preferred are single-stranded RNA molecules having at the 5'-terminus at least 15 and preferably at least 20 nucleotides which are completely complementary to a predetermined target transcript or have at only mismatch and optionally up to 35 nucleotides at the 3'-terminus which may contain 1 or several, e.g. 2, 3 or more mismatches.

[0019] In order to enhance the stability of the single-stranded RNA molecules, the 3'-ends may be stabilized against degradation, e.g. they may be selected such that they consist of purine nucleotides, particularly adenosine or guanosine nucleotides. Alternatively or additionally, 3' nucleotides may be substituted by modified nucleotide analogues, including backbone modifications of ribose and/or phosphate residues.

[0020] In an especially preferred embodiment of the present invention the RNA molecule may contain at least one modified nucleotide analogue. The nucleotide analogues may be located at positions where the target-specific activity, e.g. the RNAi mediating activity is not substantially affected, e.g. in a region at the 5'-end and/or the 3'-end of the RNA molecule. Particularly, the 3'-terminus may be stabilized by incorporating modified nucleotide analogues, such as non-nucleotidic chemical derivatives such as C3 (or C6, C7, C12) arninolinker, thiol linkers, carboxyl linkers, non-nucleotidic spacers (C3, C6, C9, C12, abasic, triethylene glycol, hexaethylene glycol), biotin, fluoresceine, etc. A further modification, by which the nuclease resistance of the RNA molecule may be increased, is by covalent coupling of inverted nucleotides, e.g. 2'-deoxyribonucleotides or ribonucleotides to the 3'-end of the RNA molecule. A preferred RNA molecule structure comprises: 5'-single-stranded siRNA-3'-O—P(O) (OH)—O-3'-N, wherein N is a nucleotide, e.g. a 2'-deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide, typically an inverted thymidine residue, or an inverted oligonucleotide structure, e.g. containing up to 5 nucleotides.

[0021] Preferred nucleotide analogues are selected from sugar- or backbone-modified ribonucleotides. It should be noted, however, that also nucleobase-modified ribonucleotides, i.e. ribonucleotides, containing a non-naturally occurring nucleobase instead of a naturally occurring nucleobase such as uridines or cytidines modified at the 5-position, e.g. 5-(2-amino)propyl uridine, 5-bromo uridine; 5-methyl-cytidine; adenosines and guahosines modified at the 8-position, e.g. 8-bromo guanosine; deaza nucleotides, e.g. 7-deaza-adenosine; O- and N-alkylated nucleotides, e.g. N6-methyl adenosine are suitable. In preferred sugar-modified ribonucleotides the 2' OH-group is replaced by a group selected from H, OR, R, halo, SH, SR, NH2, NHR, NR2 or CN, wherein R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or methoxyethoxy, and halo is F, Cl, Br or I. In preferred backbone-modified ribonucleotides the phosphoester group connecting to adjacent ribonucleotides is replaced by a modified group, e.g. a phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, N3'-O5'- and/or N5'-O3' phosphoramidate group. It should be noted that the above modifications may be combined. For example, complementary or non-complementary nucleotides at the 3'-terminus, particularly after at least 15, more particularly after at least 20 5'-terminal nucleotides may be modified without significant loss of activity.

[0022] The single-stranded RNA molecule of the invention may be prepared by chemical synthesis. Methods of synthesizing RNA molecules are known in the art.

[0023] The single-stranded RNAs can also be prepared by enzymatic transcription from synthetic DNA templates or from DNA plasmids isolated from recombinant bacteria and subsequent 5'-terminal modification. Typically, phage RNA polymerases are used such as T7, T3 or SP6 RNA polymerase.

[0024] A further aspect of the present invention relates to a method of mediating RNA interference in a cell or an organism comprising the steps:

[0025] (a) contacting the cell or organism with the single-stranded RNA molecule of the invention under conditions wherein target-specific nucleic acid modifications may occur and

[0026] (b) mediating a target-specific nucleic acid modification effected by the single-stranded RNA towards a target nucleic acid having a sequence portion substantially complementary to the single-stranded RNA.

[0027] Preferably the contacting step (a) comprises introducing the single-stranded RNA molecule into a target cell, e.g. an isolated target cell, e.g. in cell culture, a unicellular microorganism or a target cell or a plurality of target cells within a multicellular organism. More preferably, the introducing step comprises a carrier-mediated delivery, e.g. by liposomal carriers and/or by injection. Further suitable delivery systems include Oligofectamine (Invitrogen) and Transit-TKO siRNA Transfection reagent (Mirus)

[0028] The method of the invention may be used for determining the function of a gene in a cell or an organism or even for modulating the function of a gene in a cell or an organism, being capable of mediating RNA interference.

[0029] The cell is preferably a eukaryotic cell or a cell line, e.g. a plant cell or an animal cell, such as a mammalian cell, e.g. an embryonic cell, a pluripotent stem cell, a tumor cell, e.g. a teratocarcinoma cell or a virus-infected cell. The organism is preferably a eukaryotic organism, e.g. a plant or an animal, such as a mammal, particularly a human.

[0030] The target gene to which the RNA molecule of the invention is directed may be associated with a pathological condition. For example, the gene may be a pathogen-associated gene, e.g. a viral gene, a tumor-associated gene or an autoimmune disease-associated gene. The target gene may also be a heterologous gene expressed in a recombinant cell or a genetically altered organism. By determinating or modulating, particularly, inhibiting the function of such a gene valuable information and therapeutic benefits in the agricultural field or in the medicine or veterinary medicine field may be obtained.

[0031] The ssRNA is usually administered as a pharmaceutical composition. The administration may be carried out by known methods, wherein a nucleic acid is introduced into a desired target cell in vitro or in vivo. Commonly used gene transfer techniques include calcium phosphate, DEAE-dextran, electroporation and microinjection and viral methods (Graham, F. L. and van der Eb, A. J. (1973) Virol. 52, 456; McCutchan, J. H. and Pagano, J. S. (1968), J. Natl. Cancer Inst. 41, 351; Chu, G. et al (1987), Nucl. Acids Res. 15, 1311; Fraley, R. et al. (1980), J. Biol. Chem. 255, 10431; Capecchi, M. R. (1980), Cell 22, 479). A recent addition to this arsenal of techniques for the introduction of nucleic acids into cells is the use of cationic liposomes (Feigner, P. L. et al. (1987), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA 84, 7413). Commercially available

cationic lipid formulations are e.g. Tfx 50 (Promega) or Lipofectamin2000 (Life Technologies). A further preferred method for the introduction of RNA into a target organism, particularly into a mouse, is the high-pressure tail vein injection (Lewis, D. L. et al. (2002), Nat. Genet.29, 29; McCaffrey, A. P. et al. (2002), Nature 418, 38-39).

[0032] Herein, a buffered solution comprising the single-stranded RNA (e.g. about  $2\,\mathrm{ml}$ ) is injected into the tail vein of the mouse within  $10\,\mathrm{s}$ .

[0033] Thus, the invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition containing as an active agent at least one single-stranded RNA molecule as described above and a pharmaceutical carrier. The composition may be used for diagnostic and for therapeutic applications in human medicine or in veterinary medicine.

[0034] For diagnostic or therapeutic applications, the composition may be in form of a solution, e.g. an injectable solution, a cream, ointment, tablet, suspension or the like. The composition may be administered in any suitable way, e.g. by injection, by oral, topical, nasal, rectal application etc. The carrier may be any suitable pharmaceutical carrier. Preferably, a carrier is used, which is capable of increasing the efficacy of the RNA molecules to enter the target-cells. Suitable examples of such carriers are liposomes, particularly cationic liposomes. A further preferred administration method is injection.

[0035] A further preferred application of the RNAi method is a functional analysis of eukaryotic cells, or eukaryotic non-human organisms, preferably mammalian cells or organisms and most preferably human cells, e.g. cell lines such as HeLa or 293 or rodents, e.g. rats and mice. By transfection with suitable single-stranded RNA molecules which are homologous to a predetermined target gene or DNA molecules encoding a suitable single-stranded RNA molecule a specific knockout phenotype can be obtained in a target cell, e.g. in cell culture or in a target organism. The presence of short single-stranded RNA molecules does not result in an interferon response from the host cell or host organism.

[0036] In an especially preferred embodiment, the RNA molecule is administered associated with biodegradable polymers, e.g. polypeptides, poly(d,l-lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA), polylysine or polylysine conjugates, e.g. polylysine-graft-imidazole acetic acid, or poly(beta-amino ester) or microparticles, such as microspheres, nanoparticles or nanospheres. More preferably the RNA molecule is covalently coupled to the polymer or microparticle, wherein the covalent coupling particularly is effected via the 3'-terminus of the RNA molecule.

[0037] Further, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting the expression of a target transcript by RNAi comprising as an active agent a single-stranded RNA molecule having a length from 14-50, preferably 15-29 nucleotides wherein at least the 14-20 5'most nucleotides are substantially complementary to said target transcript.

[0038] Furthermore, the invention relates to a method for the prevention or treatment of a disease associated with over-expression of at least one target gene comprising administering a subject in need thereof a single-stranded RNA molecule having a length from 14-50, preferably 15-29 nucleotides wherein at least the 14-20 5'most nucleotides are substantially complementary to a target transcript in an amount which is therapeutically effective for RNAi.

[0039] Still, a further subject matter of the invention is a eukaryotic cell or a eukaryotic non-human organism exhibit-

ing a target gene-specific knockout phenotype comprising an at least partially deficient expression of at least one endogeneous target gene wherein said cell or organism is transfected with at least one single-stranded RNA molecule capable of inhibiting the expression of at least one endogeneous target gene. It should be noted that the present invention allows the simultaneous delivery of several antisense RNAs of different sequences, which are either cognate to a different or the same target gene.

[0040] Gene-specific knockout phenotypes of cells or non-human organisms, particularly of human cells or non-human mammals may be used in analytic procedures, e.g. in the functional and/or phenotypical analysis of complex physiological processes such as analysis of gene expression profiles and/or proteomes. For example, one may prepare the knock-out phenotypes of human genes in cultured cells which are assumed to be regulators of alternative splicing processes. Among these genes are particularly the members of the SR splicing factor family, e.g. ASF/SF2, SC35, SRp2O, SRp4O or SRp55. Further, the effect of SR proteins on the mRNA profiles of predetermined alternatively spliced genes such as CD44 may be analysed. Preferably the analysis is carried out by high-throughput methods using oligonucleotide based chips.

[0041] Using RNAi based knockout technologies, the expression of an endogeneous target gene may be inhibited in a target cell or a target organism. The endogeneous gene may be complemented by an exogeneous target nucleic acid coding for the target protein or a variant or mutated form of the target protein, e.g. a gene or a cDNA, which may optionally be fused to a further nucleic acid sequence encoding a detectable peptide or polypeptide, e.g. an affinity tag, particularly a multiple affinity tag. Variants or mutated forms of the target gene differ from the endogeneous target gene in that they encode a gene product which differs from the endogeneous gene product on the amino acid level by substitutions, insertions and/or deletions of single or multiple amino acids. The variants or mutated forms may have the same biological activity as the endogeneous target gene. On the other hand, the variant or mutated target gene may also have a biological activity, which differs from the biological activity of the endogeneous target gene, e.g. a partially deleted activity, a completely deleted activity, an enhanced activity etc.

[0042] The complementation may be accomplished by coexpressing the polypeptide encoded by the exogeneous nucleic acid, e.g. a fusion protein comprising the target protein and the affinity tag and the double stranded RNA molecule for knocking out the endogeneous gene in the target cell. This coexpression may be accomplished by using a suitable expression vector expressing both the polypeptide encoded by the exogeneous nucleic acid, e.g. the tag-modified target protein and the single-stranded RNA molecule or alternatively by using a combination of expression vectors. Proteins and protein complexes which are synthesized de novo in the target cell will contain the exogeneous gene product, e.g. the modified fusion protein. In order to avoid suppression of the exogeneous gene product expression by the RNAi molecule, the nucleotide sequence encoding the exogeneous nucleic acid may be altered on the DNA level (with or without causing mutations on the amino acid level) in the part of the sequence which is homologous to the singlestranded RNA molecule. Alternatively, the endogeneous target gene may be complemented by corresponding nucleotide sequences from other species, e.g. from mouse.

[0043] Preferred applications for the cell or organism of the invention is the analysis of gene expression profiles and/or proteomes. In an especially preferred embodiment an analysis of a variant or mutant form of one or several target proteins is carried out, wherein said variant or mutant forms are reintroduced into the cell or organism by an exogeneous target nucleic acid as described above. The combination of knockout of an endogeneous gene and rescue, by using mutated, e.g. partially deleted exogeneous target has advantages compared to the use. of a knockout cell. Further, this method is particularly suitable for identifying functional domains of the target protein. In a further preferred embodiment a comparison, e.g. of gene expression profiles and/or proteomes and/or phenotypic characteristics of at least two cells or organisms is carried out. These organisms are selected from:

[0044] (i) a control cell or control organism without target gene inhibition,

[0045] (ii) a cell or organism with target gene inhibition and

[0046] (iii) a cell or organism with target gene inhibition plus target gene complementation by an exogeneous target nucleic acid.

[0047] The method and cell of the invention may also be used in a procedure for identifying and/or characterizing pharmacological agents, e.g. identifying new pharmacological agents from a collection of test substances and/or characterizing mechanisms of action and/or side effects of known pharmacological agents.

[0048] Thus, the present invention also relates to a system for identifying and/or characterizing pharmacological agents acting on at least one target protein comprising:

[0049] (a) a eukaryotic cell or a eukaryotic non-human organism capable of expressing at least one endogeneous target gene coding for said target protein,

[0050] (b) at least one single-stranded RNA molecule capable of inhibiting the expression of said at least one endogeneous target gene by RNAi and

[0051] (c) a test substance or a collection of test substances wherein pharmacological properties of said test substance or said collection are to be identified and/or characterized.

[0052] Further, the system as described above preferably comprises:

[0053] (d) at least one exogeneous target nucleic acid coding for the target protein or a variant or mutated form of the target protein wherein said exogeneous target nucleic acid differs from the endogeneous target gene on the nucleic acid level such that the expression of the exogeneous target nucleic acid is substantially less inhibited by the single-stranded RNA molecule than the expression of the endogeneous target gene.

[0054] Furthermore, the RNA knockout complementation method may be used for preparative purposes, e.g. for the affinity purification of proteins or protein complexes from eukaryotic cells, particularly mammalian cells and more particularly human cells. In this embodiment of the invention, the exogeneous target nucleic acid preferably codes for a target protein which is fused to an affinity tag.

[0055] The preparative method may be employed for the purification of high molecular weight protein complexes which preferably have a mass of ≥150 kD and more preferably of >500 kD and which optionally may contain nucleic acids such as RNA. Specific examples are the heterotrimeric protein complex consisting of the 20 kD, 60 kD and 90 kD

proteins of the U4/U6 snRNP particle, the splicing factor SF3b from the 17S U2 snRNP consisting of 5 proteins having molecular weights of 14, 49, 120, 145 and 155 kD and the 25S U4/U6/U5 tri-snRNP particle containing the U4, U5 and U6 snRNA molecules and about 30 proteins, which has a molecular weight of about 1.7 MD.

[0056] This method is suitable for functional proteome analysis in mammalian cells, particularly human cells.

[0057] Finally, the invention relates to a purified and isolated mammalian, partiCularly human RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) having an apparent molecular weight of less than about 150-160 kDa, e.g. about 120 to 150-160 kDa. The RISC comprises polypeptide and optionally nucleic acid components, particularly single-stranded RNA molecules as described above. The RISC may be used as a target for diagnosis and/or therapy, as a diagnostic and/or therapeutic agent itself, as a molecular-biological reagent or as component in a screening procedure for the identification and/or characterization of pharmaceutical agents.

[0058] Polypeptide components of RISC preferably comprise members of the Argonaute family of proteins, and contain eIF2C1 and/or eIF2C2, and possibly at least one other expressed eIF2C family member, particularly selected from eIF2C3, eIF2C4, HILI and HIWI.

[0059] Expression or overexpression of one or several proteins present in RISC in suitable host cells, e.g. eukaryotic cells, particularly mammalian cells, is useful to assist an RNAi response. These proteins may also be expressed or overexpressed in transgenic animals, e.g. vertebrates, particularly mammals, to produce animals particularly sensitive to injected single-stranded or double-stranded siRNAs. Further, the genes encoding the proteins may be administered for therapeutic purposes, e.g. by viral or non-viral gene delivery vectors

[0060] It is also conceivable to administer a siRNA/eIF2C1 or 2 complex directly by the assistance of protein transfection reagents (e.g. Amphoteric Protein Transfection Reagents, ProVectin protein (Imgenex), or similar products) rather than RNA/DNA transfection. This may have technical advantages over siRNA transfection that are limited to nucleic acid transfection.

[0061] Alternatively to the application of siRNAs as synthetic double-stranded or single-stranded siRNAs, it is conceivable to also administer an antisense siRNA precursor molecule in the form of a hairpin stem-loop structure comprising 19 to 29 base pairs in the stem with or without 5' or 3' overhanging ends on one side of the duplex and a nucleotide or non-nucleotide loop on the other end. Preferably, the hairpin structure has a 3' overhang of from 1-5 nucleotides. Further, the precursor may contain modified nucleotides as described above, particularly in the loop and/or in the 3' portion, particularly in the overhang. The siRNA or precursors of siRNAs may also be introduced by viral vectors or RNA expression systems into a RISC compound, e.g. eIF2C1 and/or 2 overexpressing organism or cell line. The siRNA precursors may also be generated by direct expression within an organism or cell line. This may be achieved by transformation with a suitable expression vector carrying a nucleic acid template operatively linked to an expression control sequence to express the siRNA precursor.

**[0062]** Further, the present invention is explained in more detail in the following figures and examples.

#### FIGURE LEGENDS

[0063] FIG. 1. HeLa cytoplasmic S100 extracts show siRNA-dependent target RNA cleavage.

[0064] (A) Representation of the 177-nt <sup>32</sup>P-cap-labeled target RNA with the targeting siRNA duplex. Target RNA cleavage site and the length of the expected cleavage products is also shown. The fat black line positioned under the antisense siRNA is used in the following figures as symbol to indicate the region of the target RNA, which is complementary to the antisense siRNA sequence. (B) Comparison of the siRNA mediated target RNA cleavage using the previously established D. melanogaster embryo in vitro system and HeLa cell S100 cytoplasmic extract. 10 nM cap-labeled target RNA was incubated with 100 nM siRNA as described in materials. Reaction products were resolved on a 6% sequencing gel. Position markers were generated by partial RNase T1 digestion (T1) and partial alkaline hydrolysis (OH) of the cap-labeled target RNA. The arrow indicates the 5' cleavage product, the fragment is unlabeled and therefore invisible.

[0065] FIG. 2. Chemical modification of the 5' end of the antisense but not the sense siRNAs prevents sense target RNA cleavage in HeLa S100 extracts. (A) Illustration of the possible 5' and 3' aminolinker modifications of the sense and antisense strands of a siRNA duplex. L5 represents a 6-carbon chain aminolinker connected via a 5'-phosphodiester linkage, L3 represents a 7-carbon aminolinker connected via a phosphodiester bond to the terminal 3' phosphate. s, sense; as, antisense. (B) Target RNA cleavage testing various combinations of 5' and 3' aminolinker-modified siRNA duplexes. NC (negative control) shows an incubation reaction of the target RNA in the absence of siRNA duplex. T1, RNase T1 ladder; OH, partial alkaline hydrolysis ladder.

[0066] FIG. 3. siRNA containing 3'-terminal phosphates are subjected to ligation as well as dephosphorylation reactions.

[0067] (A) Sequence of the radiolabeled siRNA duplex. The labeled nucleotide was joined to synthetic 20-nt antisense siRNA by T4 RNA ligation of <sup>32</sup>pCp. The various combinations of 5' and 3' hydroxyl/phosphate were prepared as described in materials. X and Y indicate 5' and 3' modifications of the antisense siRNA. (B) Fate of the antisense siRNA during incubation of the modified siRNA duplexes in HeLa S100 extract in the presence of non-radiolabeled target RNA. The different phosphorylated forms of the antisense siRNA were distinguished based on their gel mobility. Identical results were obtained when using 5' phosphorylated sense siRNA or when leaving out the target RNA during incubation. Ligation products are only observed when 3' phosphates were present on the labeled antisense siRNA.

[0068] FIG. 4: RISC is a stable complex that does not rapidly exchange bound siRNA.

[0069] Increasing concentrations of non-specific siRNA compete with target-specific RISC formation when added simultaneously to HeLa S100 extracts (lanes 4 to 7). However, when the unspecific siRNA duplex is added 15 min after pre-incubation with the specific siRNA duplex, no more competition was observed (3 lanes to the right). T1, RNase T1 ladder.

[0070] FIG. 5. Partial purification of human RISC.

[0071] (A) Graphical representation of the structure of the biotinylated siRNA duplex used for affinity purification of siRNA-associated factors. L3 indicates a C7-aminolinker that was conjugated to a photo-cleavable biotin N-hydrox-ysuccinimidyl ester; UV indicates photocleavage of the UV-sensitive linkage to release affinity selected complexes under native conditions. (B) Superdex-200 gel filtration analysis of siRNA-protein complexes (siRNPs) recovered

by UV treatment/elution (UV elu) from the streptavidin affinity column. Fractions were assayed for their ability to sequence-specifically cleave the cap-labeled target RNA. The number of the 10 collected fractions and the relative positions of the aldolase (158 kDa) and BSA (66 kDa) size markers are indicated. (C) Glycerol gradient (5%-20%) sedimentation of siRNPs recovered by UV treatment/elution from the streptavidin affinity column. For legend, see (B). When monitoring the precise size of target RNA cleavage fragments using internally <sup>32</sup>P-UTP-labeled, capped mRNA, the sum is equal to the full-length transcript, thus indicating that target RNA is indeed only cleaved once in the middle of the region spanned by the siRNA.

[0072] FIG. 6. RISC contains a single-stranded siRNA.

[0073] siRNPs were subjected to affinity selection after incubation using siRNA duplexes with one or both strands biotinylated. The eluate recovered after UV treatment or the unbound fraction after streptavidin affinity selection (flow-through) was assayed for target RNA degradation. If the antisense strand was biotinylated, all sense target RNA-cleaving RISC was bound to the streptavidin beads, while sense siRNA biotinylation resulted in RISC activity of the flow-through. The cleavage reaction in the flow-through fraction was less efficient than in the UV eluate, because affinity-selected RISC was more concentrated.

[0074] FIG. 7. Single-stranded antisense siRNAs reconstitute RISC in HeLa S100 extracts.

[0075] Analysis of RISC reconstitution using single-stranded or duplex siRNAs comparing HeLa S100 extracts (A) and the previously described *D. melanogaster* embryo lysate (B). Different concentrations of single-stranded siR-NAs (s, sense; as, antisense) and duplex siRNA (ds) were tested for specific targeting of cap-labeled substrate RNA. 100 nM concentrations of the antisense siRNA reconstituted RISC in HeLa S100 extract, although at reduced levels in comparison to the duplex siRNA. Reconstitution with single-stranded siRNAs was almost undetectable in *D. melanogaster* lysate, presumably because of the higher nuclease activity in this lysate causing rapid degradation of uncapped single-stranded RNAs.

 $\cite{Monotonian} \cite{Monotonian}$  FIG. 8. Single-stranded antisense siRNAs mediate gene silencing in HeLa cells.

[0077] (A) Silencing of nuclear envelope protein lamin A/C. Fluorescence staining of cells transfected with lamin A/C-specific siRNAs and GL2 luciferase (control) siR-NAs. Top row, staining with lamin A/C specific antibody; middle row, Hoechst staining of nuclear chromatin; bottom row, phase contrast images of fixed cells. (B) Quantification of lamin A/C knockdown after Western blot analysis. The blot was stripped after lamin A/C probing and reprobed with vimentin antibody. Quantification was performed using a Lumi-Imager (Roche) and LumiAnalyst software to quantitate the ECL signals (Amersham Biosciences), differences in gel loading were corrected relative to non-targeted vimentin protein levels. The levels of lamin A/C protein were normalized to the non-specific GL2 siRNA duplex.

 $\cite{Model}$  FIG. 9. Antisense siRNAs of different length direct target RNA cleavage in HeLa S100 extracts.

[0079] (A) Graphical representation of the experiment. Antisense siRNAs were extended towards the 5' side (series 1, 20 to 25-nt) or the 3' side (series 2, 20 to 23-nt).

[0080] (B) Target RNA cleavage using the antisense siR-NAs described in (A). HeLa S100 extract was incubated

with 10 nM cap-labeled target RNA and 100 nM antisense siRNAs at 30° C. for 2.5 h. Reaction products were resolved on a 6% sequencing gel. Position markers were generated by partial RNase T1 digestion (T1) and partial alkaline hydrolysis (OH) of the cap-labeled target RNA. Arrows indicate the position of the 5' cleavage products generated by the different antisense siRNAs. The fat black lines on the left (series 1) and the right (series 2) indicate the region of the target RNA, which is complementary to the antisense siRNA sequences.

[0081] FIG. 10. Length dependence of antisense siRNAs and effect of terminal modifications for targeting RNA cleavage in HeLa S100 extracts.

[0082] HeLa S100 extract was incubated with 10 nM caplabeled target RNA and 100 nM antisense siRNAs at 30° C. for 2.5h. Reaction products were resolved on a 6% sequencing get. Position markers were generated by partial RNase T1 digestion (T1) of the cap-labeled target RNA. The fat black line on the left indicates the region of the target RNA, which is complementary to the 21-nt antisense siRNA sequence. The siRNA sequences used in each experiment are listed below (sense and antisense siRNAs are listed together, they were pre-annealed to form duplex siRNAs). p, phosphate; t, 2'-deoxythymidine, c, 2'-deoxycytidine, g, 2'-deoxycytidine, g, 2'-deoxyguanosine; L, aminolinker, B, photocleavable biotin; A,C,G,U, ribonucleotides.

Lane	Sense	siRNA	(5'-3')	Antisense siRNA (5'-3')
1				pucgaaguauuccg cg
2				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUG
3				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGU
4				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGUUC
5				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGUUC AC
6				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CG
7				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUG
8				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGU
9				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGUUC
10				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUGAUGUUC AC
11				pucgaaguauuccg cguacgug
12				pucgaaguauuccg cguacgtg
13				pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUU

#### -continued

Lane	Sense siRNA (5'-3')	Antisense siRNA (5'-3')
14		pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGtt
15		pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUG
16		pucgaaguauuccg cguacgtg
17		pucgaaguauuccg cguacguu
18		pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGtt
19	CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AAA	pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUG
20	CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AAA	pucgaaguauuccg cguacgtg
21	CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AAA	pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGUU
22	CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AAA	pUCGAAGUAUUCCG CGUACGtt
23		tCGAAGUAUUCCGC GUACGUULB
24	cGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AUULB	tCGAAGUAUUCCGC GUACGUULB
25		ptCGAAGUAUUCCGC GUACGttLB
26	cGUACGCGGAAUACUUCG AttLB	ptCGAAGUAUUCCGC GUACGttLB
27		ptCGAAGUAUUCCGC GUACGttL

[0083] FIG. 11: Single-stranded antisense siRNAs mediate gene silencing in HeLa cells.

[0084] Quantification of lamin A/C knockdown after Western blot analysis. The blot was stripped after lamin A/C probing and reprobed with vimentin antibody. Quantification was performed using a Lumi-Imager (Roche) and LumiAnalyst software to quantitate the ECL signals (Amersham Biosciences), differences in gel loading were corrected relative to non-targeted vimentin protein levels. The levels of lamin A/C protein were normalized to the non-specific GL2 s1RNA duplex.

[0085] FIG. 12. Protein composition of affinity purified RISC.

[0086] (A) Silver-stained SDS-PAGE gel of affinity-selected ribonucleoprotein complexes after glycerol gradient (5%-20%) sedimentation. The arrow indicates the band containing eIF2C1 and eIF2C2. Molecular size markers are indicated on the left. The asterisk indicates a fraction for which the protein pellet was lost after precipitation. (B) Target RNA cleavage assay of the collected fractions. RISC activity peaked in fraction 7 and 8; bu, buffer.

[0087] FIG. 13. Mass spectrometric characterization of eIF2C1 and eIF2C2.

[0088] The 100 kDa band was analysed by mass spectrometry. Mass spectrum indicating the peptide peaks corresponding to eIF2C2 (A) and eIF2C1 (B).

[0089] (C) Alignment of eIF2C2 and eIF2C1 amino-acid sequences indicating the position of the identified peptides. Sequence differences are indicated by yellow boxes.

[0090] FIG. 14. Predicted amino-acid sequences of the six human Argonaute protein family members.

[0091] FIG. 15. Alignment of the sequences of the six human Argonaute protein family members.

[0092] Predicted sequences of human eIF2C1-4, HILI and HIWI have been aligned using ClustaIX program.

[0093] FIG. 16. Predicted cDNA sequences of the six human Argonaute protein family members.

[0094] FIG. 17. AU members of the Argonaute family but HIWI are expressed in HeLa cells.

[0095] RT-PCR analysis on polyA RNA from HeLa cells. (A) Primers (forward and reverse) used for nested and seminested PCR amplification of the different Argonautes and expected length of the PCR products. (B) Agarose gel electrophoresis of the obtained PCR products, confirming the expected length. Left lanes, 100 by DNA ladder.

#### **EXAMPLE**

#### 1. Material and Methods

[0096] 1.1 siRNA Synthesis and Biotin Conjugation [0097] siRNAs were chemically synthesized using RNA phosphoramidites (Proligo, Hamburg, Germany) and deprotected and gel-purified as described previously. 5' aminolinkers were introduced by coupling MMT-C6-aminolinker phosphoramidite (Proligo, Hamburg), 3' C7-aminolinkers were introduced by assembling the oligoribonucleotide chain on 3'-aminomodifier (TFA) C7 Icaa control pore glass support (Cherngenes, Mass., USA). The sequences for GL2 luciferase siRNAs were as described (Elbashir et al., 2001a, supra). If 5'-phosphates were to be introduced, 50 to 100 nmoles of synthetic siRNAs were treated with T4 polynucleotide kinase (300 p1 reaction, 2.5 mM ATP, 70 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM DTT, 30 U T4 PNK, New England Biolabs, 45 min, 37° C.) followed by ethanol precipitation.

[0098] 3' Terminal  $^{32}$ pCp labeling (FIG. 3) was performed in a 30 μl reaction (17 μM siRNA, 0.5 μM  $^{32}$ pCp (110 TBq/mmol), 15% DMSO, 20 U T4 RNA ligase, NEB, and 1× NEB-supplied reaction buffer) for 1.5 h at 37° C., and gelpurified. One half of the pCp-labeled RNA was dephosphorylated (25 μl reaction, 500 U alkaline phosphatase, Roche, and Roche-supplied buffer, 30 min, 50° C.), followed by phenol/chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation. Half of this reaction was 5' phosphorylated (20 μl reaction, 2 units T4 polynucleotide kinase, NEB, 10 mM ATP, NEB-supplied buffer, 60 min, 37° C.). A quarter of the initial pCp-labeled siRNA was also 5' phosphorylated (10 μl reaction, 10 units 3' phosphatase-free T4 polynucleotide kinase, Roche, 10 mM ATP, Roche-supplied buffer, 3 min, 37° C.).

[0099] For conjugation to biotin, 20 to 65 nmoles of fully deprotected aminolinker-modified siRNA were dissolved in 100  $\mu$ l of 100 mM sodium borate buffer (pH 8.5) and mixed with a solution of 1 mg of EZ-Link NHS-PC-LC-Biotin (Pierce, Ill., USA) in 100  $\mu$ l of anhydrous dimethylformamide. The solution was incubated for 17 h at 25° C. in the dark. Subsequently, siRNAs were precipitated by the addition of 60  $\mu$ l 2 M sodium acetate (pH 6.0) and 1 ml ethanol. The RNA pellet was collected by centrifugation and biotin-conjugated siRNA was separated from non-reacted siRNA on a preparative denaturing 18% acrylamide gel (40 cm length) in

the dark. The RNA bands were visualized by 254 nm UV shadowing and minimized exposure time. The bands were excised, and the RNA was eluted overnight in 0.3 M NaCl at 4° C. and recovered by ethanol precipitation. siRNA duplexes were formed as previously described (Elbashir et al., Methods 26 (2002), 199-213).

#### 1.2 Preparation of S100 Extracts from HeLa Cells

[0100] Cytoplasm from HeLa cells adapted to grow at high density was prepared following the Dignam protocol for isolation of HeLa cell nuclei (Dignam et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 11 (1983), 1475-1489). The cytoplasmic fraction was supplemented with KCl, MgCl<sub>2</sub> and glycerol to final concentrations of 100 mM, 2 mM and 10%, respectively. At this stage, the extracts can be stored frozen at  $-70^{\circ}$  C. after quick-freezing in liquid nitrogen without loss of activity. S100 extracts were prepared by ultracentrifugation at 31.500 rpm for 60 minutes at  $4^{\circ}$  C. using a Sorvall T-865 rotor. The protein concentration of HeLa S100 extract varied between 4 to 5 mg/ml as determined by Bradford assay.

1.3 Affinity Purification of RISC with 3' Biotinylated siRNA Duplexes

[0101] For affinity purification of siRNA-associated protein complexes from HeLa S100 extracts, 10 nM of a 3' double-biotinylated siRNA duplex were incubated in 0.2 mM ATP, 0.04 mM GTP, 10 U/ml RNasin, 6 µg/ml creatine kinase, and 5 mM creatine phosphate in 60% \$100 extract at 30° C. for 30 to 60 min and gentle rotation. Thereafter, 1 ml slurry of Immobilized Neutravidin Biotin Binding Protein (Pierce, IL, USA) was added per 50 ml of reaction solution and the incubation was continued for another 60 to 120 min at 30° C. with gentle rotation. The Neutravidin beads were then collected at 2000 rpm for 2 minutes at 4° C. in a Heraeus Megafuge 1.0 R centrifuge using a swinging bucket rotor type 2704. Effective capturing of RISC components after affinity selection was confirmed by assaying the supernatant for residual RISC activity with and without supplementing fresh siRNA duplexes. The collected Neutravidin beads were washed with 10 volumes of buffer A relative to the bead volume (30 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 mM DTT, 10% glycerol) followed by washing with 5 volumes of buffer B (same as buffer A with only 3% glycerol content). The beads were transferred to a 0.8×4 cm Poly-Prep chromatography column (BioRad; CA, USA) by resuspending in 3 volumes of buffer B at 4° C., followed by 10 volumes of washing with buffer B. Washing of the beads was continued by 10 volumes of buffer B increased to 300 mM KCl. The column was then reequilibrated with regular buffer B. To recover native siRNA-associated complexes, the column was irradiated in the cold room by placing it at a 2 cm distance surrounded by four 312 nm UV lamps (UV-B tube, 8 W, Herotab, Germany) for 30 minutes. To recover the photocleaved siRNP solution, the column was placed into a 50 ml Falcon tube and centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 1 minute at 4° C. using again the 2704 rotor. For full recovery of siRNPs, the beads were once again resuspended in buffer B followed by a second round of UV treatment for 15 minutes. Both eluates were pooled and assayed for target RNA degradation.

#### 1.4 Target RNA Cleavage Assays

[0102] Cap-labeled target RNA of 177 nt was generated as described (Elbashir et al., EMBO J. 20 (2001 c), 6877-6888) except that his-tagged guanylyl transferase was expressed in *E. coli* from a plasmid generously provided by J. Wilusz and purified to homogeneity. If not otherwise indicated, 5' phos-

phorylated siRNA or siRNA duplex was pre-incubated in supplemented HeLa S100 extract at 30° C. for 15 min prior to addition of cap-labeled target RNA. After addition of all components, final concentrations were 100 nM siRNA, 10 nM target RNA, 1 mM ATP, 0.2 mM GTP, 10 U/ml RNasin, 30 µg/ml creatine kinase, 25 mM creatine phosphate, 50% S100 extract. Incubation was continued for 2.5 h. siRNAmediated target RNA cleavage in D. melanogaster embryo lysate was performed as described (Zamore et al., Cell 101 (2000), 25-33). Affinity-purified RISC in buffer B was assayed for target RNA cleavage without preincubation nor addition of extra siRNA (10 nM target RNA, 1 mM ATP, 0.2 mM GTP, 10 U/ml RNasin, 30 µg/ml creatine kinase, 25 mM creatine phosphate, 50% RISC in buffer B). Cleavage reactions were stopped by the addition of 8 vols of proteinase K buffer (200 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 25 mM EDTA, 300 mM NaCl, 2% w/v SDS). Proteinase K, dissolved in 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 50% glycerol, was added to a final concentration of 0.6 mg/ml and processed as described (Zamore et al. (2000), supra). Samples were s separated on 6% sequencing gels.

#### 1.5 Analytical Gel Filtration

[0103] UV-eluates in buffer B were fractionated by gel filtration using a Superdex 200 PC 3.2/30 column (Amersham Biosciences) equilibrated with buffer A on a SMART system (Amersham Biosciences). Fractionation was performed by using a flow rate of 40  $\mu$ l/minute and collecting 100  $\mu$ l fractions. Fractions were assayed for specific target RNA cleavage. Size calibration was performed using molecular size markers thyroglobulin (669 kDa), ferritin (440 kDa), catalase (232 kDa), aldolase (158 kDa) and BSA (66 kDa) (Amersham Biosciences).

#### 1.6 Glycerol Gradient Sedimentation

[0104] UV-eluates were layered on top of 4 ml linear 5% to 20% (w/w) glycerol gradient adjusted to 30 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl $_2$ , 0.5 mM DTT. Centrifugation was performed at 35000 rpm for 14.5 h at 4° C. using a Sorvall SW 60 rotor. Twenty fractions of 0.2 ml volume were removed sequentially from the top and 15  $\mu$ l aliquots were used to assay for target RNA cleavage.

#### 2. Results

[0105] 2.1 A Human Biochemical System for siRNA Functional Analysis

[0106] We were interested in assaying siRNA-mediated target RNA degradation in human cell extracts, because siR-NAs are powerful reagents to knockdown gene expression in human cells but the action of siRNAs in human cells was uncertain. To investigate whether siRNAs guide target RNA degradation in human cells with a similar mechanism to the one observed in *D. melanogaster* (e.g. Elbashir et al. (2001 b), supra), we prepared substrates for targeted mRNA degradation as described previously (Elbashir et al. (2001 c), supra). A 5—-3<sup>2</sup>P-cap-labeled, 177-nt RNA transcript, derived from a segment of the firefly luciferase gene, was incubated in HeLa cell S100 or *D. melanogaster* embryo extracts with a 21-nt siRNA duplex in the presence of an ATP regeneration system (FIG. 1A, B). siRNA cleavage assays were performed at 25° C. in *D. melanogaster* lysate and at 30° C. in HeLa

S100 extracts for 2.5 h. After deproteinization using proteinase K, the reaction products were separated on a 6% sequencing gel.

[0107] Similar to the previous observation in *D. melanogaster* lysate, we observed the appearance of a cleavage product in HeLa S100 extract at exactly the same position, thus indicating that the siRNA duplex guides target RNA cleavage in the human system with the same specificity and mechanism. The cleavage reaction appeared less efficient when compared to the *D. melanogaster* system, but this could be explained by the 5-fold lower total protein concentration of HeLa S100 extracts (25 mg/ml vs. 5 mg/ml). Similar to *D. melanogaster* lysates, siRNA duplexes without 5' phosphate were rapidly 5' phosphorylated in HeLa S100 extracts (see below) and the ability to cleave the target RNA was independent of the presence of a 5' phosphate on the synthetic siRNA duplexes.

[0108] Comparative analysis of the efficiency of siRNA duplexes of different length in D. melanogaster lysate and in transfected mammalian cells indicated that the differences in silencing efficiencies between 20- to 25-nt siRNA duplexes were less pronounced in mammalian cells than in D. melanogaster (Elbashir et al. (2002), supra). Duplexes of 24- and 25-nt siRNAs were inactive in D. melanogaster lysate, whereas the same duplexes were quite effective for silencing when introduced by transfection into HeLa cells. We therefore asked whether siRNA duplexes of 20- to 25-nt are able to reconstitute RISC also with approximately equal efficiency. Indeed, we observed no large differences in our biochemical assay, and the position of target RNA cleavage was as predicted according to the cleavage guiding rules established in D. melanogaster lysate (data not shown). Our biochemical results therefore support the in vivo observations.

2.2 5' Modification of the Guide siRNA Inhibits RISC Activity

[0109] Modification of siRNAs at their termini is important for developing siRNA-based affinity purification schemes or for Conjugating reporter tags for biophysical measurements. The most common method for introducing reactive side chains into nucleic acids is by chemical synthesis using aminolinker derivatives (Eckstein (1991), Oligonucleotides and analogues, 2nd Ed., Oxford UK, Oxford University Press). After complete deprotection of the oligonucleotide, the primary amine is typically reacted with the N-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester of the desired compound. We have introduced 5' and 3' aminolinkers with six and seven methylene groups as spacers, respectively. The linker-modified siRNA duplexes were tested for mediating target RNA degradation in HeLa S100 extract (FIG. 2A, B). Modification of the 5'-end of the antisense guide siRNA abolished target RNA cleavage, while modification of neither the sense 5'-end nor of both 3'-ends showed any inhibitory effect. In an identical experiment using D. melanogaster embryo lysate, we observed a similar pattern of RISC activity although the duplex carrying the 5' aminolinker-modified antisense siRNA showed some residual activity (data not shown). Presumably, introduction of additional atoms or the change in terminal phosphate electric charge at the 5'-end of the antisense siRNA interfered with its ability to function as guide RNA. The critical function of the guide siRNAs 5' end was previously documented (Elbashir et al. (2001 c), supra).

[0110] The ability to modify siRNAs at their 3'-end suggests that siRNAs do not play a major role for priming dsRNA synthesis and do not act as primers for degenerative PCR. The

fate of a siRNA in HeLa S100 extracts was followed directly by incubation of an internally 32pCp-radiolabeled siRNA duplexes. The radiolabeled antisense siRNA strand was also prepared with different 5' and 3' phosphate modifications (FIG. 3A). All described combinations of siRNA duplexes were fully competent for RISC-dependent target RNA degradation (data not shown). As previously observed for D. melanogaster lysates (Nykänen et al. (2001), supra), rapid 5' phosphorylation of siRNA duplexes with free 5' hydroxyl termini was apparent. To our surprise, we noted that a small fraction of the 3' phosphorylated antisense siRNA could be ligated to the opposing 5' hydroxyl of the sense siRNA producing a lower mobility band. The inter-strand ligation was confirmed by changing the length of the unlabeled sense siRNA, which resulted in the expected mobility changes of the ligation product (data not shown). RNA ligase activity was previously observed in HeLa S100 extracts and it is mediated by two enzymatic activities (e.g. Vicente and Filipowicz, Eur. J. Biochem., 176 (1988), 431-439). The 3' terminal phosphate is first converted to a 2',3'-cyclic phosphate requiring ATP and 3' terminal phosphate cyclase. Thereafter, the opposing 5' hydroxyl is ligated to the cyclic phosphate end by an as yet uncharacterized RNA ligase. We chemically synthesized the predicted 5' phosphorylated, 42-nt ligation product and found that it is unable to mediate target RNA cleavage, presumably because it can not form activated RISC. The majority of the 3' phosphorylated duplexes siRNA was gradually dephosphorylated at its 3' end and emerged chemically similar to naturally generated siRNA. Together, these observations indicate that the cell has a mechanism to preserve the integrity of siRNAs. We were unable to detect a proposed siRNA-primed polymerization product (FIG. 3B), suggesting that siRNAs do not function as primers for template-dependent dsRNA synthesis in our system. However, we acknowledge that a proposed RNA-dependent polymerase activity may have been inactivated during preparation of our extracts.

2.3 siRNAs Incorporated into RISC do not Compete with a Pool of Free siRNAs

[0111] In order to analyze RISC assembly and stability, we tested whether target-unspecific siRNA duplexes were able to compete with target-specific siRNA duplexes. When specific and non-specific siRNA duplexes were co-incubated in HeLa S100 extracts, increasing concentrations of unspecific siRNA duplex competed with the formation of target-specific RISC (FIG. 4, left lanes). However, when target-specific siRNAs were pre-incubated in HeLa S100 extract for 15 min in the absence of competitor siRNA duplex, the assembled siRNA in the target-unspecific RISC could no longer be competed with the target-unspecific siRNA duplex (FIG. 4, right lanes). This result suggests that RISC is formed during the first 15 minutes of incubation and that siRNAs were irreversibly associated with the protein components of RISC during the 2.5 h time window of the experiment.

#### 2.4 Purification of Human RISC

[0112] After having the 3' termini of siRNAs defined as the most suitable position for chemical modification, a photocleavable biotin derivative was conjugated to the 3' aminolinker-modified siRNAs. A photo-cleavable biotin derivative was selected because of the advantage of recovering RISC under non-denaturing conditions after capturing complexes on streptavidin-coated affinity supports. 3' Conjugation of biotin to the sense, antisense or to both of the strands did not

affect target RNA cleavage when compared to non-biotinylated siRNAs (data not shown). siRNA duplexes with biotin residues on both 3' ends were therefore used for affinity purification (FIG. 5A). The double biotinylated siRNA duplex was incubated in HeLa S100 extracts in the presence of ATP, GTP, creatine phosphate, and creatine kinase for ATP regeneration. Thereafter, streptavidin-conjugated agarose beads were added to capture the biotinylated siRNA ribonucleoprotein complexes (siRNPs) including RISC. After extensive washing of the collected beads, the siRNPs were released by UV irradiation at 312 nm. The eluate cleaved target RNA sequence-specifically, thus indicating that RISC was recovered in its native state from the resin. (FIG. 5B, C, lane UV elu). The flow-through from the affinity selection showed no detectable RISC activity indicating complete binding of RISC by the beads (FIG. 6). The affinity eluate was further analyzed by applying it onto a Superdex 200 gel filtration column (FIG. 5B) as well as a 5%-20% glycerol gradient ultra-centrifugation (FIG. 5C). Individual fractions were collected and assayed for target RNA cleavage without the addition of any further siRNA. RISC activity appeared between the molecular size markers aldolase (158 kDa) and BSA (66 kDa) after gel filtration or glycerol gradient centrifugation (FIG. 5B, C). The molecular size of human RISC is therefore estimated to be between 90 and 160 kDa, significantly smaller than the complex previously analyzed in D. melanogaster lysates (Hammond et al. (2000), supra; Nykänen et al. (2001), supra). The small size of RISC suggests that Dicer (210 kDa) is not contained in RISC and that the formation of RISC from synthetic siRNAs may occur independently of Dicer. While these results do not rule out a role for Dicer during assembly of RISC, they emphasize the absence of Dicer in RISC.

2.5 RISC Contains a Single siRNA Strand and can be Reconstituted Using Single-Stranded siRNAs

[0113] Two models are currently discussed concerning the siRNA strand composition of RISC. The first model suggests that both strands of the initially added siRNA duplex are physically present in RISC, but in an unwound conformation. The second model proposes that RISC carries only a single siRNA strand, implying loss of one of the siRNA strands during assembly. The latter model has been favored based on the analogy to miRNA precursor processing, where only one 21-nt strand accumulated from a dsRNA hairpin precursor. The molecular basis for the asymmetry of the miRNA precursor processing reaction is not yet understood. Because siRNAs have symmetric 2-nt 3'-overhangs it is assumed that siRNA duplexes enter RISC with equal probability for both orientations, thus giving rise to distinct sense and antisense targeting RISCs.

[0114] To address the constitution of siRNAs in RISC, we affinity selected the assembled complexes with siRNA duplexes that were biotinylated at only one of the two constituting strands or both (FIG. 6). If both strands were present together in RISC, the cleavage activity should be affinity selected on Neutravidin independently of the position of the biotin residue. In contrast, we observed target RNA cleavage from UV eluates after streptavidin selection only for siRNA duplexes with biotin conjugated to the antisense strand, but not the sense strand (FIG. 6). RISC activity, assembled on siRNA duplexes with only the sense siRNA biotinylated, remained in the flow-through. These data suggest that RISC contains only a single-stranded RNA molecule.

[0115] To assess whether single-stranded siRNAs may be able to reconstitute RISC, single-stranded 5' phosphorylated siRNAs as well as the siRNA duplex were incubated at concentrations between 1 to 100 nM with cap-labeled target RNA in HeLa S100 extract (FIG. 7A). At 100 nM single-stranded antisense siRNA, we detected RISC-specific target RNA cleavage, thus confirming that single-stranded siRNAs are present in RISC. At lower concentrations of single-stranded siRNAs, RISC formation remained undetectable while duplex siRNAs were effectively forming RISC even at 1 nM concentration. Therefore, a specific pathway exists which converts double-stranded siRNA into single-stranded siRNA containing RISC. Using D. melanogaster embryo lysate, we were unable to detect RISC activity from antisense siRNA (FIG. 78), presumably because of the high load of singlestrand specific ribonucleases (Elbashir et al. (2001 b), supra). Furthermore, 5' phosphorylated 20- to 25-nt antisense siR-NAs were able to mediate RISC-specific target RNA degradation in HeLa S100 extract producing the same target RNA cleavage sites as duplex siRNAs of this length (data not

[0116] Finally, we tested single-stranded and duplex siR-NAs for targeting of an endogenous gene in HeLa cells following our standard protocol previously established for silencing of lamin A/C. 200 nM concentrations of singlestranded siRNAs with and without 5' phosphate and 100 nM concentrations of duplex siRNAs were transfected into HeLa cells. Lamin A/C levels were monitored 48 h later using immunofluorescence (FIG. 8A) and quantitative luminescence-based Western blot analysis (FIG. 8B). non-phosphorylated antisense siRNA caused a substantial knockdown of lamin A/C to about 25% of its normal level while 5' phosphoryled siRNAs reduced the lamin A/C content to less than 5%, similar to the reduction observed with the lamin A/C 5' phosphorylated (data not shown) or non-phosphorylated duplex siRNA (FIG. 8). Sense siRNA and GL2 unspecific siRNA did not affect lamin A/C levels. The levels of non-targeted vimentin protein were monitored and used for normalizing of the loading of the lanes of the lamin A/C Western blots.

[0117] Gene silencing was also observed with phosphorylated as well as non-phosphorylated antisense siRNAs ranging in size between 19 to 29 nt. The phosphorylated antisense siRNAs were consistently better performing than the non-phosphorylated antisense, and their silencing efficiencies were comparable to that of the conventional duplex siRNA (FIG. 11).

### 2.6 Protein Composition of RISC

[0118] In order to identify the protein components of the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) in HeLa S100 extract, the specific affinity selection previously outlined was used. UV eluates were fractionated on a 5-20% glycerol gradient, fractions were recovered from the gradient and analysed for protein composition and target RNA endonucleolytic activity. Two proteins of approximately 100 kDa were identified by mass spectrometry in the peak fraction of the endonucleolytic activity (FIG. 12, fractions 7 and 8), corresponding to eIF2C1 and eIF2C2/GERp95 (FIGS. 13A and B). These proteins are 82% similar and are both members of the Argonaute family (FIG. 13C). The first evidence that Argonaute proteins are part of RISC was provided by classical biochemical fractionation studies using dsRNA-transfected D. melanogaster S2 cells (Hammond et al., 2001, supra). The closest relative to D. melanogaster Argonaute2,

D. melanogaster Argonaute1, was recently shown to be required for RNAI (Williams and Rubin, PNAS USA 99 (2002), 6889-6894).

[0119] Mass spectrometry analysis also revealed the presence of three peptides belonging exclusively to the HILI member of the Argonaute family of proteins. The sequences of those peptides are: NKQDFMDLSICTR, is corresponding to positions 17-29 of the protein; TEYVAESFLNCLRR, corresponding to positions 436-449 of the protein, and; YNHDL-PARIIVYR, corresponding to positions 591-603 of the protein. This finding suggests that the protein HILI may also be part of RISC.

**[0120]** In human, the Argonaute family is composed of 6 members, eIF2C1, eIF2C2, eIF2C3, eIF2C4, HILI and HMI (FIG. **14**). The alignment of the six predicted amino-acid sequences show a high conservation, in particular between the eIF2C members, and HILI and HIWI (FIG. **15**). Predicted cDNA sequences encoding the Argonaute proteins are also shown (FIG. **16**).

[0121] The expression of the human Argonaute proteins was also investigated in HeLa cells by RT-PCR analysis using total and poly (A) selected RNA. All members of the family but HIWI were detected (FIG. 17).

### 3. Discussion

[0122] The development of a human biochemical system for analysis of the mechanism of RNAi is important given the recent success of siRNA duplexes for silencing genes expressed in human cultured cells and the potential for becoming a sequence-specific therapeutic agent. Biochemical systems are useful for defining the individual steps of the RNAi process and for evaluating the constitution and molecular requirements of the participating macromolecular complexes. For the analysis of RNAi, several systems were developed, with the D. melanogaster systems being the most comprehensive as they enable to reconstitute dsRNA processing as well as the mRNA targeting. For mammalian systems, reconstitution of the mRNA targeting reaction has not yet been accomplished. Here, we describe the development and application of a biochemical system prepared from the cytoplasmic fraction of human HeLa cells, which is able to reconstitute the human mRNA-targeting RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC). Formation of RISC was accomplished using either 5' phosphorylated or non-phosphorylated siRNA duplexes; as well as single-stranded antisense siRNAs; nonphosphorylated siRNA duplexes and presumably also singlestranded antisense siRNAs are rapidly 5' phosphorylated in HeLa cell extracts (FIG. 3).

Biochemical Characterization of siRNA Function

[0123] Reconstitution of RISC activity was only observed using cytoplasmic HeLa extracts. HeLa nuclear extracts assayed under the same conditions did not support siRNA-specific target RNA cleavage, thus suggesting that RISC components are located predominantly in the cytoplasm (data not shown).

[0124] Modifications of the 5' and 3' termini of siRNAs were tested in order to assess the importance of the siRNA termini for the targeting step. It was found that the 5' end modification of the guide siRNA was more inhibitory for target RNA cleavage than 3' end modification. Introduction of the 3' biotin affinity tag into the target-complementary guide siRNA enabled us to affinity select sense-RNA-targeting RISC, whereas 3' biotinylation of the sense siRNA strand resulted in RISC activity in the flowthrough. Furthermore, the

single RNA strand composition of RISC was confirmed by reconstituting the sequence-specific endonuclease complex using 5'-phosphorylated single-stranded guide siRNA. The reconstitution of RISC from single-stranded siRNA was however less effective and required 10- to 100-fold higher concentrations compared to duplex siRNA. Reconstitution of RISC from single-stranded siRNA was undetectable using D. melanogaster embryo lysate, which is most likely explained by the high content of 5' to 3' exonucleases in embryo lysate. [0125] The size of RISC in HeLa lysate was determined by gel filtration as well as glycerol gradient ultracentrifugation after streptavidin affinity purification with 3' biotinylated siRNA duplexes. Sizes for RISC in D. melanogaster systems have been reported within a range of less than 230 to 500 kDa, however size determinations were conducted without having affinity purified RISC. Our affinity-purified RISC sediments in a narrow range between the size makers of 66 and 158 kDa. The differences to the reported sizes for RISC are not speciesspecific as we observed a similar size for RISC in D. melanogaster S2 cell cytoplasmic extracts after affinity purification (data not shown).

[0126] It has previously been proposed that siRNAs act as primers for target RNA-templated dsRNA synthesis (Lipardi et al., Cell 107 (2001), 297-307) although homologs for such RNA-dependent RNA polymerases known to participate in gene silencing in other systems are not identified in *D. melanogaster* or mammalian genomes. Analysis of the fate of siRNA duplexes in the HeLa cell system did not provide evidence for such a siRNA-primed activity (FIG. 3), but indicates that the predominant pathway for siRNA-mediated gene silencing is sequence-specific endonucleolytic target RNA degradation.

Single-Stranded 5' Phosphorylated Antisense siRNAs as Triggers of Mammalian Gene Silencing

[0127] It was previously noted that introduction of sense and antisense RNAs of several hundred nucleotides in length into *C. elegans* was able to sequence-specifically silence homologous genes (Guo and Kemphues, Cell 81 (1995), 611-620). Later, it was suggested that the sense and antisense RNA preparation were contaminated with a small amount of dsRNA, which was responsible for the silencing effect and is a much more potent inducer of gene silencing (Fire et al. (1998), supra). It is however conceivable that antisense RNA directly contributed to initiation of silencing. Indeed, most recently it was shown that antisense RNAs between 22 and 40 nt, but not sense RNAs were able to activate gene silencing in *C. elegans* (Tijsterman et al., Science 295 (2002), 694-697). The authors, however, favored the hypothesis of siRNA-primed dsRNA synthesis.

[0128] We have shown that modification of the 3' ends of antisense siRNA did not interfere with reconstitution of RISC in the human system. Together, these observations suggest that the driving forces for gene silencing in *C. elegans* may be predominantly dsRNA synthesis followed by Dicer cleavage, while in human and possibly also in *D. melanogaster* RISC-specific target mRNA degradation predominates.

[0129] Targeting of endogenously expressed lamin A/C by transfection of duplex siRNA into HeLa cells was the first reported example of siRNA-induced gene silencing. Lamin A/C protein was drastically reduced by a lamin A/C-specific siRNA duplex within two days post transfection, while unspecific siRNA duplexes showed no effect. At the time, transfection of non-phosphorylated sense or antisense siRNA did not reveal a substantial effect on lamin A/C levels,

although more recently a minor reduction upon antisense siRNA transfection was noticed when similar concentrations of antisense siRNA were delivered as described in this study. However, the effect was not interpreted as RISC-specific effect. Assaying 5'-phosphorylated antisense siRNAs revealed a substantial increase in lamin A/C silencing. Probably, 5' phosphorylated siRNAs are more stable or enter RISC more rapidly. Alternatively, the 5' end of transfected single-stranded s1RNA may be less rapidly phosphorylated in the cell in comparison to duplex siRNAs.

[0130] Finally, it should be noted that HeLa cells are generally poor in nucleases and represent one of the preferred mammalian systems for studying RNA-processing or transcription reactions in vivo and in vitro. However, it can be expected that 5' phosphorylated single-stranded antisense siRNAs are suitable to knockdown gene expression in other cell types or tissues with a different content of nucleases, since chemical strategies to improve nuclease resistance of single stranded RNA are available. The general silencing ability of various cell types may also depend on the relative levels of siRNA/miRNA-free eIF2C1 and eIF2C2 proteins capable of associating with exogenously delivered siRNAs.

[0131] In summary, single-stranded 5'-phosphorylated antisense siRNAs of 19- to 29-nt in size broaden the use of RNA molecules for gene silencing because they can enter the mammalian RNAi pathway in vitro as well as in vivo through reconstitution of RISC. Human eIF2C1 and/or eIF2C2 seem to play a critical. role in this process. Considering the feasibility of modulating the stability and uptake properties of single-stranded RNAs, 5'-phosphorylated single-stranded antisense siRNAs may further expand the utility of RNAi-based gene silencing technology as tool for functional genomics as well as therapeutic applications.

[0132] Argonaute proteins are a distinct class of proteins, containing a PAZ and Piwi domain (Cerutti et al., 2000, supra) and have been implicated in many processes previously linked to post-transcriptional silencing, however only limited biochemical information is available.

[0133] Human eIF2C2 is the ortholog of rat GERp95, which was identified as a component of the Golgi complex or the endoplasmic reticulum and copurified with intracellular membranes (Cikaluk et al., Mol. Biol. Cell 10 (1999), 3357-3722). More recently, HeLa cell eIF2C2 was shown to be associated with microRNAs and components of the SMN

complex, a regulator of ribonucleoprotein assembly, suggesting that eIF2C2 plays a role in miRNA precursor processing or miRNA function (Mourelatos et al., Genes & Dev. 16 (2002), 720-728). A more provocative hypothesis is that miRNAs are also in a RISC-like complex, which could potentially mediate target RNA degradation, if only perfectly matched miRNA target mRNAs existed. Sequence analysis using cloned human and mouse, however, did not reveal the presence of such perfectly complementary sequences in the genomes (Lagos-Quintana et al., Science 294 (2001), 853-858). Therefore, miRNPs may only function as translational regulators of partially mismatched target mRNAs, probably by recruiting additional factors that prevent dissociation from mismatched target mRNAs.

[0134] Human eIF2C1 has not been linked to gene silencing previously, but it is more than 80% similar in sequence to eIF2C2 (Koesters et al., Genomics 61 (1999), 210-218). This similarity may indicate functional redundancy, but it is also conceivable that functional RISC may contain eIF2C1 and eIF2C2 heterodimers. The predicted molecular weight of this heterodimeric complex would be slightly larger than the observed size of 90-160 kDa, but because size fractionation is based on globular shape, we can not disregard this possibility at this time.

[0135] Due to the high conservation between the members of the Argonaute family, it is possible that peptides that derive from regions 100% conserved in the 6 predicted proteins, may belong to members others than eIF2C1 and eIF2C2. In this respect, three peptides were identified with masses corresponding to HILI, meaning that this protein might be also a component of RISC.

[0136] To precisely assess the protein composition of RISC, reconstitution of the siRNA-mediated target RNA cleavage must be achieved by using recombinant proteins which may be obtained by cloning and expression in suitable bacterial or eukaryotic systems.

[0137] We expect that the biochemical characterization or the siRNA-mediated target RNA degradation process will have immediate applications, such as the development of cell lines or transgenic animals overexpressing RISC components. The efficiency in targeting endogenous genes in those lines or organisms will be enhanced. Furthermore, a reconstituted in vitro system for RNAi will allow the design of more potent and specific siRNA to achieve gene silencing.

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Gln Glu Ile Ile Gln Asp Leu Ala Ala Met Val Arg
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His Leu Pro Ser Met Arg Tyr Thr Pro Val Gly Arg
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Lys Leu Thr Asp Asn Gln Thr Ser Thr Met Ile Arg
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Asp Lys Val Glu Leu Glu Val Thr Leu Pro Gly Glu Gly Lys
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Asp Tyr Gln Pro Gly Ile Thr Phe Ile Val Val Gln Lys Arg
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<213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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Arg
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Ser Gly Gln Ser Asn Gly Arg
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: peptide fragment of eIF2C1, obtained by mass
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<210> SEQ ID NO 60
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: peptide fragment of eIF2C1, obtained by mass
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1 5
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: HeLa S100 cells
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: eIF2C1, predicted protein sequence
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Gly Lys Pro Ile Lys Leu Leu Ala Asn Tyr Phe Glu Val Asp Ile Pro
Lys Ile Asp Val Tyr His Tyr Glu Val Asp Ile Lys Pro Asp Lys Cys
       55
Pro Arg Arg Val Asn Arg Glu Val Val Glu Tyr Met Val Gln His Phe
               70
Lys Pro Gln Ile Phe Gly Asp Arg Lys Pro Val Tyr Asp Gly Lys Lys
Asn Ile Tyr Thr Val Thr Ala Leu Pro Ile Gly Asn Glu Arg Val Asp
                    105
Phe Glu Val Thr Ile Pro Gly Glu Gly Lys Asp Arg Ile Phe Lys Val
                        120
Ser Ile Lys Trp Leu Ala Ile Val Ser Trp Arg Met Leu His Glu Ala
                      135
Leu Val Ser Gly Gln Ile Pro Val Pro Leu Glu Ser Val Gln Ala Leu
                  150
Asp Val Ala Met Arg His Leu Ala Ser Met Arg Tyr Thr Pro Val Gly
                       170
Arg Ser Phe Phe Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Tyr Tyr His Pro Leu Gly Gly
         180 185
Gly Arg Glu Val Trp Phe Gly Phe His Gln Ser Val Arg Pro Ala Met
                         200
Trp Lys Met Met Leu Asn Ile Asp Val Ser Ala Thr Ala Phe Tyr Lys
Ala Gln Pro Val Ile Glu Phe Met Cys Glu Val Leu Asp Ile Arg Asn
                           235
          230
Ile Asp Glu Gln Pro Lys Pro Leu Thr Asp Ser Gln Arg Val Arg Phe
Thr Lys Glu Ile Lys Gly Leu Lys Val Glu Val Thr His Cys Gly Gln \,
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His	Gln 290	Thr	Phe	Pro	Leu	Gln 295	Leu	Glu	Ser	Gly	Gln 300	Thr	Val	Glu	Cys
Thr 305	Val	Ala	Gln	Tyr	Phe 310	Lys	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Asn 315	Leu	Gln	Leu	Lys	Tyr 320
Pro	His	Leu	Pro	Cys 325	Leu	Gln	Val	Gly	Gln 330	Glu	Gln	ГÀа	His	Thr 335	Tyr
Leu	Pro	Leu	Glu 340	Val	CÀa	Asn	Ile	Val 345	Ala	Gly	Gln	Arg	Сув 350	Ile	Lys
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Ser	Ala 370	Pro	Asp	Arg	Gln	Glu 375	Glu	Ile	Ser	Arg	Leu 380	Met	Lys	Asn	Ala
Ser 385	Tyr	Asn	Leu	Asp	Pro 390	Tyr	Ile	Gln	Glu	Phe 395	Gly	Ile	Lys	Val	Lys 400
Asp	Asp	Met	Thr	Glu 405	Val	Thr	Gly	Arg	Val 410	Leu	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ile 415	Leu
Gln	Tyr	Gly	Gly 420	Arg	Asn	Arg	Ala	Ile 425	Ala	Thr	Pro	Asn	Gln 430	Gly	Val
Trp	Asp	Met 435	Arg	Gly	ГЛа	Gln	Phe 440	Tyr	Asn	Gly	Ile	Glu 445	Ile	Lys	Val
Trp	Ala 450	Ile	Ala	CÀa	Phe	Ala 455	Pro	Gln	ГÀа	Gln	Cys 460	Arg	Glu	Glu	Val
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Met	Pro	Ile	Gln	Gly 485	Gln	Pro	Cys	Phe	Cys 490	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Gln	Gly 495	Ala
Asp	Ser	Val	Glu 500	Pro	Met	Phe	Arg	His 505	Leu	Lys	Asn	Thr	Tyr 510	Ser	Gly
Leu	Gln	Leu 515	Ile	Ile	Val	Ile	Leu 520	Pro	Gly	ГÀа	Thr	Pro 525	Val	Tyr	Ala
Glu	Val 530	Lys	Arg	Val	Gly	Asp 535	Thr	Leu	Leu	Gly	Met 540	Ala	Thr	Gln	Cys
Val 545	Gln	Val	Lys	Asn	Val 550	Val	ГÀа	Thr	Ser	Pro 555	Gln	Thr	Leu	Ser	Asn 560
Leu	Cys	Leu		Ile 565		Val	ГÀа		Gly 570	_	Ile	Asn		Ile 575	
Val	Pro	His	Gln 580	Arg	Ser	Ala	Val	Phe 585	Gln	Gln	Pro	Val	Ile 590	Phe	Leu
Gly	Ala	Asp 595	Val	Thr	His	Pro	Pro 600	Ala	Gly	Asp	Gly	Lys 605	ГÀз	Pro	Ser
Ile	Thr 610	Ala	Val	Val	Gly	Ser 615	Met	Asp	Ala	His	Pro 620	Ser	Arg	Tyr	Cha
Ala 625	Thr	Val	Arg	Val	Gln 630	Arg	Pro	Arg	Gln	Glu 635	Ile	Ile	Glu	Asp	Leu 640
Ser	Tyr	Met	Val	Arg 645	Glu	Leu	Leu	Ile	Gln 650	Phe	Tyr	Lys	Ser	Thr 655	Arg
Phe	Lys	Pro	Thr 660	Arg	Ile	Ile	Phe	Tyr 665	Arg	Asp	Gly	Val	Pro 670	Glu	Gly
Gln	Leu	Pro	Gln	Ile	Leu	His	Tyr	Glu	Leu	Leu	Ala	Ile	Arg	Asp	Ala

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Cys	Ile 690	Lys	Leu	Glu	Lys	Asp 695	Tyr	Gln	Pro	Gly	Ile 700	Thr	Tyr	Ile	Val
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Arg	Ile	Gly	Lys	Ser 725	Gly	Asn	Ile	Pro	Ala 730	Gly	Thr	Thr	Val	Asp 735	Thr
Asn	Ile	Thr	His 740	Pro	Phe	Glu	Phe	Asp 745	Phe	Tyr	Leu	CÀa	Ser 750	His	Ala
Gly	Ile	Gln 755	Gly	Thr	Ser	Arg	Pro 760	Ser	His	Tyr	Tyr	Val 765	Leu	Trp	Asp
Asp	Asn 770	Arg	Phe	Thr	Ala	Asp 775	Glu	Leu	Gln	Ile	Leu 780	Thr	Tyr	Gln	Leu
Сув 785	His	Thr	Tyr	Val	Arg 790	CÀa	Thr	Arg	Ser	Val 795	Ser	Ile	Pro	Ala	Pro 800
Ala	Tyr	Tyr	Ala	Arg 805	Leu	Val	Ala	Phe	Arg 810	Ala	Arg	Tyr	His	Leu 815	Val
Asp	Lys	Glu	His 820	Asp	Ser	Gly	Glu	Gly 825	Ser	His	Ile	Ser	Gly 830	Gln	Ser
Asn	Gly	Arg 835	Asp	Pro	Gln	Ala	Leu 840	Ala	ГЛа	Ala	Val	Gln 845	Val	His	Gln
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Pro	Val	Gly	Arg 180	Ser	Phe	Phe	Thr	Ala 185	Ser	Glu	Gly	Cys	Ser 190	Asn	Pro
Leu	Gly	Gly 195	Gly	Arg	Glu	Val	Trp 200	Phe	Gly	Phe	His	Gln 205	Ser	Val	Arg
Pro	Ser 210	Leu	Trp	Lys	Met	Met 215	Leu	Asn	Ile	Asp	Val 220	Ser	Ala	Thr	Ala
Phe 225	Tyr	Lys	Ala	Gln	Pro 230	Val	Ile	Glu	Phe	Val 235	CAa	Glu	Val	Leu	Asp 240
Phe	ГЛа	Ser	Ile	Glu 245	Glu	Gln	Gln	ГÀв	Pro 250	Leu	Thr	Asp	Ser	Gln 255	Arg
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Pro	Ala 290	Ser	His	Gln	Thr	Phe 295	Pro	Leu	Gln	Gln	Glu 300	Ser	Gly	Gln	Thr
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His	Thr	Tyr	Leu 340	Pro	Leu	Glu	Val	Сув 345	Asn	Ile	Val	Ala	Gly 350	Gln	Arg
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Thr	Ala 370	Arg	Ser	Ala	Pro	Asp 375	Arg	Gln	Glu	Glu	Ile 380	Ser	Lys	Leu	Met
Arg 385	Ser	Ala	Ser	Phe	Asn 390	Thr	Asp	Pro	Tyr	Val 395	Arg	Glu	Phe	Gly	Ile 400
Met	Val	Lys	Asp	Glu 405	Met	Thr	Asp	Val	Thr 410	Gly	Arg	Val	Leu	Gln 415	Pro
Pro	Ser	Ile	Leu 420	Tyr	Gly	Gly	Arg	Asn 425	Lys	Ala	Ile	Ala	Thr 430	Pro	Val
Gln	Gly	Val 435	Trp	Asp	Met	Arg	Asn 440	ГÀв	Gln	Phe	His	Thr 445	Gly	Ile	Glu
Ile	Lys 450	Val	Trp	Ala	Ile	Ala 455	Cys	Phe	Ala	Pro	Gln 460	Arg	Gln	Cha	Thr
Glu 465	Val	His	Leu	Lys	Ser 470	Phe	Thr	Glu	Gln	Leu 475	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ser	Arg 480
Asp	Ala	Gly	Met	Pro 485	Ile	Gln	Gly	Gln	Pro 490	Cys	Phe	Cys	Lys	Tyr 495	Ala
Gln	Gly	Ala	Asp 500	Ser	Val	Glu	Pro	Met 505	Phe	Arg	His	Leu	Lys 510	Asn	Thr
Tyr	Ala	Gly 515	Leu	Gln	Leu	Val	Val 520	Val	Ile	Leu	Pro	Gly 525	Lys	Thr	Pro
Val	Tyr 530	Ala	Glu	Val	Lys	Arg 535	Val	Gly	Asp	Thr	Val 540	Leu	Gly	Met	Ala
Thr 545	Gln	CÀa	Val	Gln	Met 550	Lys	Asn	Val	Gln	Arg 555	Thr	Thr	Pro	Gln	Thr 560
Leu	Ser	Asn	Leu	Cys	Leu	Lys	Ile	Asn	Val	ГЛа	Leu	Gly	Gly	Val	Asn

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Asn	Ile	Leu	Leu 580	Pro	Gln	Gly	Arg	Pro 585	Pro	Val	Phe	Gln	Gln 590	Pro	Val
Ile	Phe	Leu 595	Gly	Ala	Asp	Val	Thr 600	His	Pro	Pro	Ala	Gly 605	Asp	Gly	Lys
ГÀа	Pro 610	Ser	Ile	Ala	Ala	Val 615	Val	Gly	Ser	Met	Asp 620	Ala	His	Pro	Asn
Arg 625	Tyr	Cys	Ala	Thr	Val 630	Arg	Val	Gln	Gln	His 635	Arg	Gln	Glu	Ile	Ile 640
Gln	Asp	Leu	Ala	Ala 645	Met	Val	Arg	Glu	Leu 650	Leu	Ile	Gln	Phe	Tyr 655	Lys
Ser	Thr	Arg	Phe 660	Lys	Pro	Thr	Arg	Ile 665	Ile	Phe	Tyr	Arg	Asp 670	Gly	Val
Ser	Glu	Gly 675	Gln	Phe	Gln	Gln	Val 680	Leu	His	His	Glu	Leu 685	Leu	Ala	Ile
Arg	Glu 690	Ala	CÀa	Ile	Lys	Leu 695	Glu	Lys	Asp	Tyr	Gln 700	Pro	Gly	Ile	Thr
Phe 705	Ile	Val	Val	Gln	Lys 710	Arg	His	His	Thr	Arg 715	Leu	Phe	Cha	Thr	Asp 720
ràa	Asn	Glu	Arg	Val 725	Gly	Lys	Ser	Gly	Asn 730	Ile	Pro	Ala	Gly	Thr 735	Thr
Val	Asp	Thr	Lys 740	Ile	Thr	His	Pro	Thr 745	Glu	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr 750	Leu	Cya
Ser	His	Ala 755	Gly	Ile	Gln	Gly	Thr 760	Ser	Arg	Pro	Ser	His 765	Tyr	His	Val
Leu	Trp 770	Asp	Asp	Asn	Arg	Phe 775	Ser	Ser	Asp	Glu	Leu 780	Gln	Ile	Leu	Thr
Tyr 785	Gln	Leu	Cys	His	Thr 790	Tyr	Val	Arg	Cys	Thr 795	Arg	Ser	Val	Ser	Ile 800
Pro	Ala	Pro	Ala	Tyr 805	Tyr	Ala	His	Leu	Val 810	Ala	Phe	Arg	Ala	Arg 815	Tyr
His	Leu	Val	Asp 820	Lys	Glu	His	Asp	Ser 825	Ala	Glu	Gly	Ser	His 830	Thr	Ser
Gly	Gln	Ser 835	Asn	Gly	Arg	Asp	His 840	Gln	Ala	Leu	Ala	Lys 845	Ala	Val	Gln
Val	His 850	Gln	Asp	Thr	Leu	Arg 855	Thr	Met	Tyr	Phe	Ala 860				
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	)> SI				D-	77. 7	D-	a.	D-	a.	3.7	7.7	3.7	3.7	Des
Ser 1	Arg	Ser	Arg	Val 5	Pro	Val	Pro	Gly	Pro 10	Gly	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 15	Pro
Cys	Pro	Ala	Pro 20	Ala	Ser	Pro	Arg	Arg 25	His	Pro	Ser	Ala	Asn 30	Ile	Pro
Glu	Ile	Lys 35	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Ala 40	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 45	Gly	Pro	Gly

Ala	Gly 50	Gly	Ala	Gly	Asp	Arg 55	Gly	Glu	Ala	Ala	Pro 60	Ala	Ala	Ala	Met
Glu 65	Ala	Leu	Gly	Pro	Gly 70	Pro	Pro	Ala	Ser	Leu 75	Phe	Gln	Pro	Pro	Arg 80
Arg	Pro	Gly	Leu	Gly 85	Thr	Val	Gly	ГÀв	Pro 90	Ile	Arg	Leu	Leu	Ala 95	Asn
His	Phe	Gln	Val 100	Gln	Ile	Pro	Lys	Ile 105	Asp	Val	Tyr	His	Tyr 110	Asp	Val
Asp	Ile	Lys 115	Pro	Glu	Lys	Arg	Pro 120	Arg	Arg	Val	Asn	Arg 125	Glu	Val	Val
Asp	Thr 130	Met	Val	Arg	His	Phe 135	Lys	Met	Gln	Ile	Phe 140	Gly	Asp	Arg	Gln
Pro 145	Gly	Tyr	Asp	Gly	Lys 150	Arg	Asn	Met	Tyr	Thr 155	Ala	His	Pro	Leu	Pro 160
Ile	Gly	Arg	Asp	Arg 165	Val	Asp	Met	Glu	Val 170	Thr	Leu	Pro	Gly	Glu 175	Gly
ГÀа	Asp	Gln	Thr 180	Phe	Lys	Val	Ser	Val 185	Gln	Trp	Val	Ser	Val 190	Val	Ser
Leu	Gln	Leu 195	Leu	Leu	Glu	Ala	Leu 200	Ala	Gly	His	Leu	Asn 205	Glu	Val	Pro
Asp	Asp 210	Ser	Val	Gln	Ala	Leu 215	Asp	Val	Ile	Thr	Arg 220	His	Leu	Pro	Ser
Met 225	Arg	Tyr	Thr	Pro	Val 230	Gly	Arg	Ser	Phe	Phe 235	Ser	Pro	Pro	Glu	Gly 240
Tyr	Tyr	His	Pro	Leu 245	Gly	Gly	Gly	Arg	Glu 250	Val	Trp	Phe	Gly	Phe 255	His
Gln	Ser	Val	Arg 260	Pro	Ala	Met	Trp	Asn 265	Met	Met	Leu	Asn	Ile 270	Asp	Val
Ser	Ala	Thr 275	Ala	Phe	Tyr	Arg	Ala 280	Gln	Pro	Ile	Ile	Glu 285	Phe	Met	Cys
Glu	Val 290	Leu	Asp	Ile	Gln	Asn 295	Ile	Asn	Glu	Gln	Thr 300	Lys	Pro	Leu	Thr
Asp 305	Ser	Gln	Arg	Val	110 310	Phe	Thr	Lys	Glu	Ile 315	Arg	Gly	Leu	Lys	Val 320
Glu	Val	Thr	His	Сув 325	Gly	Gln	Met	Lys	Arg 330	Lys	Tyr	Arg	Val	335	Asn
Val	Thr	Arg	Arg 340	Pro	Ala	Ser	His	Gln 345	Thr	Phe	Pro	Leu	Gln 350	Leu	Glu
Asn	Gly	Gln 355	Ala	Met	Glu	CAa	Thr 360	Val	Ala	Gln	Tyr	Phe 365	Lys	Gln	Lys
Tyr	Ser 370	Leu	Gln	Leu	ГÀЗ	Tyr 375	Pro	His	Leu	Pro	380 CAa	Leu	Gln	Val	Gly
Gln 385	Glu	Gln	Lys	His	Thr 390	Tyr	Leu	Pro	Leu	Glu 395	Val	CAa	Asn	Ile	Val 400
Ala	Gly	Gln	Arg	Cys 405	Ile	Lys	Lys	Leu	Thr 410	Asp	Asn	Gln	Thr	Ser 415	Thr
Met	Ile	ГЛа	Ala 420	Thr	Ala	Arg	Ser	Ala 425	Pro	Asp	Arg	Gln	Glu 430	Glu	Ile
Ser	Arg	Leu 435	Val	ГЛа	Ser	Asn	Ser 440	Met	Val	Gly	Gly	Pro 445	Asp	Pro	Tyr
Leu	Lys	Glu	Phe	Gly	Ile	Val	Val	His	Asn	Glu	Met	Thr	Glu	Leu	Thr

	450					455					460				
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Thr	Val	Ala	Thr	Pro 485	Asn	Gln	Gly	Val	Trp 490	Asp	Met	Arg	Gly	Lys 495	Gln
Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly 500	Ile	Glu	Ile	Lys	Val 505	Trp	Ala	Val	Ala	Сув 510	Phe	Ala
Pro	Gln	Lys 515	Gln	CAa	Arg	Glu	Asp 520	Leu	Leu	ГÀа	Ser	Phe 525	Thr	Asp	Gln
Leu	Arg 530	Lys	Ile	Ser	Lys	Asp 535	Ala	Gly	Met	Pro	Ile 540	Gln	Gly	Gln	Pro
Cys 545	Phe	Сув	Lys	Tyr	Ala 550	Gln	Gly	Ala	Asp	Ser 555	Val	Glu	Pro	Met	Phe 560
Lys	His	Leu	ГÀз	Met 565	Thr	Tyr	Val	Gly	Leu 570	Gln	Leu	Ile	Val	Val 575	Ile
Leu	Pro	Gly	580	Thr	Pro	Val	Tyr	Ala 585	Glu	Val	Lys	Arg	Val 590	Gly	Asp
Thr	Leu	Leu 595	Gly	Met	Ala	Thr	Gln 600	Сув	Val	Gln	Val	Lys 605	Asn	Val	Val
Lys	Thr 610	Ser	Pro	Gln	Thr	Leu 615	Ser	Asn	Leu	CAa	Leu 620	Lys	Ile	Asn	Ala
Lys 625	Leu	Gly	Gly	Ile	Asn 630	Asn	Val	Leu	Val	Pro 635	His	Gln	Arg	Pro	Ser 640
Val	Phe	Gln	Gln	Pro 645	Val	Ile	Phe	Leu	Gly 650	Ala	Asp	Val	Thr	His 655	Pro
Pro	Ala	Gly	Asp 660	Gly	Lys	Lys	Pro	Ser 665	Ile	Ala	Ala	Val	Val 670	Gly	Ser
Met	Asp	Gly 675	His	Pro	Ser	Arg	Tyr 680	Cys	Ala	Thr	Val	Arg 685	Val	Gln	Thr
Ser	Arg 690	Gln	Glu	Ile	Ser	Gln 695	Glu	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Ser 700	Gln	Glu	Val	Ile
Gln 705	Asp	Leu	Thr	Asn	Met 710	Val	Arg	Glu	Leu	Leu 715	Ile	Gln	Phe	Tyr	Lys 720
Ser	Thr	Arg	Phe	Lys 725	Pro	Thr	Arg	Ile	Ile 730	Tyr	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Gly 735	Val
Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln 740	Met	ГÀз	Gln	Val	Ala 745	Trp	Pro	Glu	Leu	Ile 750	Ala	Ile
Arg	ГÀз	Ala 755	CÀa	Ile	Ser	Leu	Glu 760	Glu	Asp	Tyr	Arg	Pro 765	Gly	Ile	Thr
Tyr	Ile 770	Val	Val	Gln	ГÀз	Arg 775	His	His	Thr	Arg	Leu 780	Phe	Cys	Ala	Asp
Lys 785	Thr	Glu	Arg	Val	Gly 790	Lys	Ser	Gly	Asn	Val 795	Pro	Ala	Gly	Thr	Thr 800
Val	Asp	Ser	Thr	Ile 805	Thr	His	Pro	Ser	Glu 810	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Leu 815	Сув
Ser	His	Ala	Gly 820	Ile	Gln	Gly	Thr	Ser 825	Arg	Pro	Ser	His	Tyr 830	Gln	Val
Leu	Trp	Asp 835	Asp	Asn	Cys	Phe	Thr 840	Ala	Asp	Glu	Leu	Gln 845	Leu	Leu	Thr
Tyr	Gln 850	Leu	CÀa	His	Thr	Tyr 855	Val	Arg	Cys	Thr	Arg 860	Ser	Val	Ser	Ile

Pro Ala Pro Ala Tyr Tyr Ala Arg Leu Val Ala Phe Arg Ala Arg Tyr His Leu Val Asp Lys Asp His Asp Ser Ala Glu Gly Ser His Val Ser 890 Gly Gln Ser Asn Gly Arg Asp Pro Gln Ala Leu Ala Lys Ala Val Gln 905 Ile His His Asp Thr Gln His Thr Met Tyr Phe Ala 915 920 <210> SEQ ID NO 71 <211> LENGTH: 855 <212> TYPE: PRT <213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: MISC\_FEATURE <223> OTHER INFORMATION: eIF2C4, predicted protein sequence <400> SEQUENCE: 71 Ala Gly Pro Ala Gly Ala Gln Pro Leu Leu Met Val Pro Arg Arg Pro Gly Tyr Gly Thr Met Gly Lys Pro Ile Lys Leu Leu Ala Asn Cys Phe Gln Val Glu Ile Pro Lys Ile Asp Val Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Val Asp Ile Lys Pro Asp Lys Cys Pro Arg Arg Val Asn Arg Glu Val Val Asp Ser Met Val Gln His Phe Lys Val Thr Ile Phe Gly Asp Arg Arg Pro Val 65 70 75 80 Tyr Asp Gly Lys Arg Ser Leu Tyr Thr Ala Asn Pro Leu Pro Val Ala Thr Thr Gly Val Asp Leu Asp Val Thr Leu Pro Gly Glu Gly Gly Lys 105 Asp Arg Pro Phe Lys Val Ser Ile Lys Phe Val Ser Arg Val Ser Trp 120 His Leu Leu His Glu Val Leu Thr Gly Arg Thr Leu Pro Glu Pro Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys Pro Ile Ser Thr Asn Pro Val His Ala Val Asp Val 150 155 Val Leu Arg His Leu Pro Ser Met Lys Tyr Thr Pro Val Gly Arg Ser 170 Phe Phe Ser Ala Pro Glu Gly Tyr Asp His Pro Leu Gly Gly Gly Arg 185 Glu Val Trp Phe Gly Phe His Gln Ser Val Arg Pro Ala Met Trp Lys Met Met Leu Asn Ile Asp Val Ser Ala Thr Ala Phe Tyr Lys Ala Gln 215 Pro Val Ile Gln Phe Met Cys Glu Val Leu Asp Ile His Asn Ile Asp Glu Gln Pro Arg Pro Leu Thr Asp Ser His Arg Val Lys Phe Thr Lys Glu Ile Lys Gly Leu Lys Val Glu Val Thr His Cys Gly Thr Met Arg Arg Lys Tyr Arg Val Cys Asn Val Thr Arg Arg Pro Ala Ser His Gln

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Ala 305	Gln	Tyr	Phe	Arg	Glu 310	Lys	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Gln 315	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Pro	His 320
Leu	Pro	Cha	Leu	Gln 325	Val	Gly	Gln	Glu	Gln 330	ГЛа	His	Thr	Tyr	Leu 335	Pro
Leu	Glu	Val	Cys 340	Asn	Ile	Val	Ala	Gly 345	Gln	Arg	Cys	Ile	Lys 350	Lys	Leu
Thr	Asp	Asn 355	Gln	Thr	Ser	Thr	Met 360	Ile	Lys	Ala	Thr	Ala 365	Arg	Ser	Ala
Pro	Asp 370	Arg	Gln	Glu	Glu	Ile 375	Ser	Arg	Leu	Val	Arg 380	Ser	Ala	Asn	Tyr
Glu 385	Thr	Asp	Pro	Phe	Val 390	Gln	Glu	Phe	Gln	Phe 395	Lys	Val	Arg	Asp	Glu 400
Met	Ala	His	Val	Thr 405	Gly	Arg	Val	Leu	Pro 410	Ala	Pro	Met	Leu	Gln 415	Tyr
Gly	Gly	Arg	Asn 420	Arg	Thr	Val	Ala	Thr 425	Pro	Ser	His	Gly	Val 430	Trp	Asp
Met	Arg	Gly 435	Lys	Gln	Phe	His	Thr 440	Gly	Val	Glu	Ile	Lys 445	Met	Trp	Ala
Ile	Ala 450	СЛа	Phe	Ala	Thr	Gln 455	Arg	Gln	СЛа	Arg	Glu 460	Glu	Ile	Leu	Lys
Gly 465	Phe	Thr	Asp	Gln	Leu 470	Arg	ГÀа	Ile	Ser	Lys 475	Asp	Ala	Gly	Met	Pro 480
Ile	Gln	Gly	Gln	Pro 485	CÀa	Phe	CAa	ГЛа	Tyr 490	Ala	Gln	Gly	Ala	Asp 495	Ser
			500					505			-		510	Leu	
		515					520	_				525		Glu	
_	530			_		535					540		-	Val	
545	-				550					555				Leu	560
	-			565	-		_	-	570					Val 575	
		_	580					585					590	Gly	
-		595					600	-	•	•	•	605		Ile	
	610		_			615					620	-	-	Ala	
625	_			_	630	_				635		_		Ala	640
				645					650					Phe 655	
			660					665					670	Gln	
Ψīά	GIII	675	шец	TÅT	тАт	GIU	680	пеп	MId	тте	чтд	685	Ald	Cys	TTE

695 Lys Arg His His Thr Arg Leu Phe Cys Ala Asp Arg Thr Glu Arg Val 710 Gly Arg Ser Gly Asn Ile Pro Ala Gly Thr Thr Val Asp Thr Asp Ile Thr His Pro Tyr Glu Phe Asp Phe Tyr Leu Cys Ser His Ala Gly Ile Gln Gly Thr Ser Arg Pro Ser His Tyr His Val Leu Trp Asp Asp Asn 760 Cys Phe Thr Ala Asp Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Thr Tyr Gln Leu Cys His Thr Tyr Val Arg Cys Thr Arg Ser Val Ser Ile Pro Ala Pro Ala Tyr Tyr Ala His Leu Val Ala Phe Arg Ala Arg Tyr His Leu Val Asp Lys 810 Glu His Asp Ser Ala Glu Gly Ser His Val Ser Gly Gln Ser Asn Gly Arg Asp Pro Gln Ala Leu Ala Lys Ala Val Gln Ile His Gln Asp Thr Leu Arg Thr Met Tyr Phe Ala <210> SEQ ID NO 72 <211> LENGTH: 764 <212> TYPE: PRT <213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: MISC\_FEATURE <223> OTHER INFORMATION: HILI, predicted protein sequence <400> SEOUENCE: 72 Ile Ser Ser Gly Asp Ala Gly Ser Thr Phe Met Glu Arg Gly Val Lys 10 Asn Lys Gln Asp Phe Met Asp Leu Ser Ile Cys Thr Arg Glu Lys Leu Ala His Val Arg Asn Cys Lys Thr Gly Ser Ser Gly Ile Pro Val Lys 40 Leu Val Thr Asn Leu Phe Asn Leu Asp Phe Pro Gln Asp Trp Gln Leu 55 Tyr Gln Tyr His Val Thr Tyr Ile Pro Asp Leu Ala Ser Arg Arg Leu Arg Ile Ala Leu Leu Tyr Ser His Ser Glu Leu Ser Asn Lys Ala Lys Ala Phe Asp Gly Ala Ile Leu Phe Leu Ser Gln Lys Leu Glu Glu Lys 105 Val Thr Glu Leu Ser Ser Glu Thr Gln Arg Gly Glu Thr Ile Lys Met Thr Ile Thr Leu Lys Arg Glu Leu Pro Ser Ser Ser Pro Val Cys Ile Gln Val Phe Asn Ile Ile Phe Arg Lys Ile Leu Lys Lys Leu Ser Met 155 Tyr Gln Ile Gly Arg Asn Phe Tyr Asn Pro Ser Glu Pro Met Glu Ile

Ser Leu Glu Lys Asp Tyr Gln Pro Gly Ile Thr Tyr Ile Val Val Gln

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Leu	Arg 210	Asn	Glu	Thr	Val	Leu 215	Glu	Phe	Met	Thr	Ala 220	Leu	Cys	Gln	Arg
Thr 225	Gly	Leu	Ser	CAa	Phe 230	Thr	Gln	Thr	Cys	Glu 235	Lys	Gln	Leu	Ile	Gly 240
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Ile	Asp	Trp	Ser 260	Val	ГÀз	Pro	Thr	His 265	Thr	Phe	Gln	ГÀа	Arg 270	Asp	Gly
Thr	Glu	Ile 275	Thr	Tyr	Val	Asp	Tyr 280	Tyr	Lys	Gln	Gln	Tyr 285	Asp	Ile	Thr
Val	Ser 290	Asp	Leu	Asn	Gln	Pro 295	Met	Leu	Val	Ser	Leu 300	Leu	Lys	Lys	Lys
Arg 305	Asn	Asp	Asn	Ser	Glu 310	Ala	Gln	Leu	Ala	His 315	Leu	Ile	Pro	Glu	Leu 320
CÀa	Phe	Leu	Thr	Gly 325	Leu	Thr	Asp	Gln	Ala 330	Thr	Ser	Asp	Phe	Gln 335	Leu
Met	Lys	Ala	Val 340	Ala	Glu	Lys	Thr	Arg 345	Leu	Ser	Pro	Ser	Gly 350	Arg	Gln
Gln	Arg	Leu 355	Ala	Arg	Leu	Val	360	Asn	Ile	Gln	Arg	Asn 365	Thr	Asn	Ala
Arg	Phe 370	Glu	Leu	Glu	Thr	Trp 375	Gly	Leu	His	Phe	Gly 380	Ser	Gln	Ile	Ser
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				405					410		-			Arg 415	
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	_	435			-		440					445	-	Leu	
	450		_			455					460			Pro	
465		_		-	470	_			-	475	-			Ser	480
_				485		-			490	_				Lys 495	
			500					505					510	Thr	-
_		515	_			_	520					525	-	Ser	
Met	Val 530	Val	Gly	Ile	Asp	Val 535	Cya	Lys	Asp	Ala	Leu 540	Ser	Lys	Asp	Val
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Phe	Ser	Arg	Cys	Ile 565	Leu	Gln	Arg	Thr	Met 570	Thr	Asp	Val	Ala	Asp 575	СЛа

His Asp Leu Pro Ala Arg Ile Ile Val Tyr Arg Ala Gly Val Gly Asp 600 Gly Gln Leu Lys Thr Leu Ile Glu Tyr Glu Val Pro Gln Leu Leu Ser Ser Val Ala Glu Ser Ser Ser Asn Thr Ser Ser Arg Leu Ser Val Ile 630 635 Val Val Arg Lys Lys Cys Met Pro Arg Phe Phe Thr Glu Met Asn Arg 650 Thr Val Gln Asn Pro Pro Leu Gly Thr Val Val Asp Ser Glu Ala Thr 665 Arg Asn Glu Trp Gln Tyr Asp Phe Tyr Leu Ile Ser Gln Val Ala Cys Arg Gly Thr Val Ser Pro Thr Tyr Tyr Asn Val Ile Tyr Asp Asp Asn 695 Gly Leu Lys Pro Asp His Met Gln Arg Leu Thr Phe Lys Leu Cys His Leu Tyr Tyr Asn Trp Pro Gly Ile Val Ser Val Pro Ala Pro Cys Gln Tyr Ala His Lys Leu Thr Phe Leu Val Ala Gln Ser Ile His Lys Glu Pro Ser Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn His Leu Phe Tyr Leu <210> SEQ ID NO 73 <211> LENGTH: 861 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: MISC FEATURE <223> OTHER INFORMATION: HIWI, predicted protein sequence <400> SEOUENCE: 73 Met Thr Gly Arg Ala Arg Ala Arg Gly Arg Ala Arg Gly Gln Glu Thr Ala Gln Leu Val Gly Ser Thr Ala Ser Gln Gln Pro Gly Tyr 25 Ile Gln Pro Arg Pro Gln Pro Pro Pro Ala Glu Gly Glu Leu Phe Gly 40 Arg Gly Arg Gln Arg Gly Thr Ala Gly Gly Thr Ala Lys Ser Gln Gly 55 Leu Gln Ile Ser Ala Gly Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Leu Ala Glu Arg Gly Gly Arg Arg Arg Asp Phe His Asp Leu Gly Val Asn Thr Arg Gln Asn Leu Asp His Val Lys Glu Ser Lys Thr Gly Ser Ser Gly Ile Ile Val Arg Leu Ser Thr Asn His Phe Arg Leu Thr Ser Arg Pro Gln Trp Ala Leu Tyr Gln Tyr His Ile Asp Tyr Asn Pro Leu Met Glu Ala Arg Arg 135 Leu Arg Ser Ala Leu Leu Phe Gln His Glu Asp Leu Ile Gly Lys Cys

Leu Lys Val Phe Met Thr Gly Ala Leu Asn Lys Trp Tyr Lys Tyr Asn 580 585 590

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Leu	Gln 210	Phe	Tyr	Asn	Ile	Ile 215	Phe	Arg	Arg	Leu	Leu 220	Lys	Ile	Met	Asn
Leu 225	Gln	Gln	Ile	Gly	Arg 230	Asn	Tyr	Tyr	Asn	Pro 235	Asn	Asp	Pro	Ile	Asp 240
Ile	Pro	Ser	His	Arg 245	Leu	Val	Ile	Trp	Pro 250	Gly	Phe	Thr	Thr	Ser 255	Ile
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Val	Leu	Arg 275	Ser	Glu	Thr	Val	Leu 280	Asp	Phe	Met	Phe	Asn 285	Phe	Tyr	His
Gln	Thr 290	Glu	Glu	His	ГÀа	Phe 295	Gln	Glu	Gln	Val	Ser 300	ГÀа	Glu	Leu	Ile
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Asp	Ile	Asp	Trp	Asp 325	Gln	Asn	Pro	ГЛа	Ser 330	Thr	Phe	ГÀа	Lys	Ala 335	Asp
Gly	Ser	Glu	Val 340	Ser	Phe	Leu	Glu	Tyr 345	Tyr	Arg	ГЛа	Gln	Tyr 350	Asn	Gln
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Asn	Val	Met	Lys	Asp 405	Leu	Ala	Val	His	Thr 410	Arg	Leu	Thr	Pro	Glu 415	Gln
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Gln	Asn	Leu 515	Phe	Lys	Val	Thr	Pro 520	Ala	Met	Gly	Met	Gln 525	Met	Arg	Lys
Ala	Ile 530	Met	Ile	Glu	Val	Asp 535	Asp	Arg	Thr	Glu	Ala 540	Tyr	Leu	Arg	Val
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<400> SEOUENCE: 115

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23

- 1. Purified human RISC having a molecular weight of from up to about  $150\text{-}160~\mathrm{kDa}$ .
- 2. The RISC of claim 1 comprising at least one member of the Argonaute family of proteins.
- 3. The RISC of claim 1 containing eIF2C1 and/or eIFC2 and optionally at least one of eIFC3, eIFC4, HILI and HIWI.
- **4**. The RISC of claim **1**, further containing an RNA component, particularly a single-stranded RNA molecule.
- 5. The RISC of claim 4, wherein the single-stranded RNA molecule has a length from 14-50 nucleotides wherein at least the 14-20 5' most nucleotides are substantially complementary to a target transcript.
- **6**. The RISC of claim **4**, wherein said RNA molecule has a length from 15-29 nucleotides.
- 7. The RISC of claim 4, wherein said RNA molecule has a free 5' hydroxyl moiety or a moiety selected from phosphate groups or analogues thereof.
- 8. The RISC of claim 7, wherein said RNA molecule has a 5'-moiety selected from 5'-monophosphate ((HO)2(O)P—O-5'), 5'-diphosphate ((HO)2(O)P—O—P(HO)(O)—O-5'), 5'-triphosphate ((HO)2(O)P—O—(HO)(O) P—O—P(HO) (O)—O-5'), 5'-guanosine cap (7-methylated or non-methylated) (7m-G-0-5'-(HO)(O)P—O—(HO)(O)P—O—P(HO) (O)—O-5'), 5'-adenosine cap (Appp), and any modified or unmodified nucleotide cap structure (N—O-5'-(HO)(O)P—O—(HO)(O)P—O—(HO)(O)P—O—P(HO)(O)—O-5'), 5'-monothiophosphate (phosphorothioate; (HO)2(S)P—O-5'), 5'-monodithiophosphate (phosphorodithioate; (HO)(HS)(S)P—O-5'), 5'-phosphorothiolate ((HO)2(O)P—S-5'); any additional combination of oxygen/sulfur replaced monophosphate, diphosphate and triphosphates (e.g. 5'-alpha-thiotriphos-

- phate, 5'-gamma-thiotriphosphate, etc.), 5'-phosphoramidates ((HO)2(O)P—NH-5', (HO)(NH2)(O)P—O-5'), 5'-alkylphosphonates (R=alkyl=methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, propyl, etc., e.g. RP(OH)(O)—O-5'-, (OH)2(O)P-5'-CH2-), 5'-alkyletherphosphonates (R=alkylether=methoxymethyl (MeOCH2-), ethoxymethyl, etc., e.g. RP(OH)(O)—O-5'-).
- **9**. The RISC of claim **1**, wherein said RNA molecule is completely complementary to said target transcript, optionally with the exception of nucleotides that extend beyond position 20 (counted from the 5' terminus).
- 10. The RISC of claim 1, wherein said RNA molecule comprises at least one modified nucleotide analogue, which is preferably selected from sugar-backbone- and nucleobase-modified ribonucleotides and combinations thereof.
- 11. The RISC of claim 1, wherein said RNA molecule is associated with biodegradable polymers or microparticles, preferably wherein said association comprises a covalent coupling, in particular a covalent coupling via the 3'-terminus of the RNA molecule.
- 12. A host cell or non-human host organism capable of overexpressing RISC according to claim 1.
- 13. A method of enhancing RNAi in a cell or an organism comprising causing said cell or organism to overexpress at least one component of RISC according to claim 1.
- 14. The RISC molecule according to claim 1 for use as a target for diagnosis and/or therapy.
- 15. The RISC according to claim 1 for use as a diagnostic and/or therapeutic agent itself, as a molecular-biological reagent or as component in a screening procedure for identification and/or characterization of pharmaceutical agents.

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