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(54) Title: NUTRITIONAL FORMULATION COMPRISING A COW'S MILK PEPTIDE-CONTAINING HYDROLYSATE AND/OR PEPTIDES DERIVED THEREOF FOR TOLERANCE INDUCTION

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate and/or peptide-containing fraction of the hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in cow's milk for use in the induction of tolerance in a human subject, wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and wherein said T cell epitope-containing peptides are capable of driving the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance.

**NUTRITIONAL FORMULATION COMPRISING A COW'S MILK PEPTIDE-
CONTAINING HYDROLYSATE AND/OR PEPTIDES DERIVED THEREOF
FOR TOLERANCE INDUCTION**

5 **TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present invention relates to a nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate and/or peptide-containing fraction of the hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in cow's milk for use in the induction of tolerance in a human subject, wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate
10 comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and wherein said T cell epitope-containing peptides are capable of driving the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance.

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In this specification, a number of documents including patent applications and manufacturer's manuals are cited. The disclosure of these documents, while not considered relevant for the patentability of this invention, is herewith incorporated by reference in its entirety. More specifically, all referenced documents are
20 incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual document was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND ART

Cow's milk allergy is one of the most common food allergies in young children, with
25 approximately 2% to 2.5% of all infants experiencing allergic reactions to milk. The majority of children out-grow their allergy to cow's milk before the age of 3, but 15% of these infants with retain their sensitivity to cow's milk into the second decade of life. Therefore, subjects having a cow's milk allergy are present in all age groups. Allergic diseases like milk allergy are immunological disorders which
30 originate from the activation of a subset of T cells secreting allergic, inflammatory factors including IL-4, IL-5 and/or IL-13 (Schmidt-Weber et al., Allergy 2002, Vol 57, pp 762-768). This subset of T cells controls the isotype switching of antigen-

specific B cells to IgE and therefore plays a key role in the initiation of allergic symptoms, as well as in tolerance induction (Kondo et al., *Pediatr. Allergy Immunol.* 2008, Vol. 19, pp 592-598). Hence, the regulation of allergen-specific T cells is a promising strategy to control allergic diseases.

5

In order to avoid allergic reactions upon exposure to cow's milk in a cow's milk allergic subject, and in particular in infants having a cow's milk allergy, mostly milk substitute formulas are presently used which replace nutrition with cow's milk. These formulas additionally provide the subject with a complete source of
10 nutrition. Milk substitutes include free amino acids (such as Nutramigen™ AA, Neocate), soy based formulas (such as Pregomin), or hypoallergenic formulas based on partially or extensively hydrolyzed protein (such as Nutramigen™, Alimentum, and Pregestemil). If allergic subjects do not respond to protein hydrolysate formulas, non-milk derived amino acid-based formulas are suitable for the
15 treatment of both mild-moderate and severe milk allergy. Soy based formulas have a risk of allergic sensitivity, as some subjects who are allergic to milk may also be allergic to soy. Partial hydrolysate formulas are characterized by a larger proportion of long amino acid chains (peptides) compared to extensive hydrolysates and are considered more palatable. They are usually intended for prophylactic use
20 and are generally not considered suitable for treatment of milk allergy/intolerance. Extensively hydrolysed proteins, on the other hand, comprise predominantly free amino acids and short peptides. Casein and whey are the most commonly used sources of protein for hydrolysates because of their high nutritional quality and their amino acid composition.

25

Hence, most of today's cow's milk substitute formulas on the market are based on cow's milk that has been hydrolyzed to various degrees and/or on amino acid formulations. These cow's milk formulas are used to replace cow milk and thereby reduce allergic reactions in cow's milk allergic subjects. Moreover, cow's milk
30 formulas can potentially prevent the development of cow's milk allergy in a subject being at risk of developing a milk allergy. However, even extensively hydrolyzed products have occasionally been observed to elicit allergic reactions in sensitized

infants (Rosendal et al. Journal of Dairy Science 2000, Vol. 83, No. 10, pp 2200-2210).

The current treatment for milk allergies is therefore the total avoidance of cow's milk and food. Consequently, a substance which could drive the immune reaction upon intake of the substance towards tolerance to cow's milk or food comprising cow's milk would drastically increase the quality of life of a subject having cow's milk allergy or having the risk of developing a cow's milk allergy. This need is addressed by the present invention.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention relates in one embodiment to a nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate and/or peptide-containing fraction of the hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in cow's milk for use in the induction of tolerance in a human subject, wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and wherein said T cell epitope-containing peptides are capable of driving the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance.

The term "nutritional formulation" as used herein describes a solid or liquid formulation which can therefore be eaten or drunk by a human subject for nutrition. The nutritional formulation of the invention preferably has a nutritional value of at least 1, more preferred at least 10 and even more preferred 50 kcal(kilocalorie)/100ml for liquid formulations and preferably at least 1, more preferred at least 10, even more preferred at least 50, such as at least 100, and most preferred at least 300 kcal/100g for dry food formulations. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the nutritional formulation of the invention has a nutritional value of at least 50-200 kcal/100ml for liquid formulations and at least 300-600 kcal/100g for dry food formulations. A nutritional formulation is distinguished from a vaccine. In contrast to a vaccine, a nutritional formulation does not comprise any of adjuvants

(unless as contaminations), activated or inactivated viral compounds (unless as contaminations), activated or inactivated bacterial compounds (unless as contaminations), and pathogenic compounds (unless as contaminations).

- 5 The term “supplement” as used herein relates to a nutritional supplement which is a concentrated source of nutrient or alternatively other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect whose purpose is to supplement the normal diet.

In addition to the above recited ingredients further ingredients may be selected
10 from lipids, minerals, carbohydrates, amino acids, amino acid chelates, anabolic nutrients, vitamins, antioxidants, probiotic bacterial strain and lipotropic agents in order to provide an optimal sustained energy and anabolic nutritional formulation. The nutritional formulation may be a nutritional supplement or may provide complete nutrition. Preferably the nutritional formulation is in the form of a dry
15 food concentrate. The nutritional formulation of the invention provides a human subject with increasing preference with at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75% or at least 90% of the daily calorie requirement of a human subject. The person skilled in the art is well aware that the daily calorie requirement is dependent on the gender, height and age of a human subject. For
20 example, a 30 year old male of 80kg body weight and 180cm height has a daily calorie requirement of around 2900 cal (calories) to maintain his body weight whereas a 30 year old female of 55kg body weight and 165cm height has a daily calorie requirement of around 2100 cal to maintain her body weight. In a preferred embodiment, the nutritional formulation of the present invention is an infant or a
25 nutritional product for infants or juvenile.

The term “peptide” as used herein describes linear molecular chains of amino acids, including single chain molecules or their fragments. A peptide in accordance with the invention contains with increasing preference about 2 to 100 amino acids,
30 about 5 to 50 amino acids, or about 5 to 40 amino acids. Peptides may further form oligomers consisting of at least two identical or different molecules. The corresponding higher order structures of such multimers are, correspondingly,

termed homo- or heterodimers, homo- or heterotrimers etc. Furthermore, peptidomimetics of such peptides where amino acid(s) and/or peptide bond(s) have been replaced by functional analogs are also encompassed by the term "peptide". Such functional analogues include all known amino acids other than the 20 gene-
5 encoded amino acids, such as selenocysteine. The term "peptide" also refers to naturally modified peptides where the modification is effected e.g. by glycosylation, acetylation, phosphorylation and similar modifications which are well known in the art. A peptide has to be distinguished from a protein in the present invention. A protein in accordance with the present invention describes an organic compound
10 made of amino acids arranged in a linear chain and folded into a globular form. Furthermore, a protein in accordance with the present invention describes an amino acids of more than 100 amino acids. Peptides may, e.g., be produced recombinantly, (semi-)synthetically, or obtained from natural sources such as after hydrolysis of proteins, all according to methods known in the art.

15

The term "cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate" as used herein defines a formula which comprises peptides derived from hydrolyzed cow's milk proteins (e.g. bovine casein or bovine whey). In this regard, a hydrolyzed protein is a protein that has been broken down into peptides and/or component amino acids. While there are
20 many means of achieving protein hydrolysis, two of the most common means are prolonged boiling in a strong acid or strong base or using an enzyme such as the pancreatic protease enzyme to stimulate the naturally-occurring hydrolytic process. Hydrolysis of proteins derived from milk is preferably achieved using an enzyme or a mixture of enzyme. A cow milk hydrolysate can comprise peptides derived from
25 milk, wherein the proteins of said milk have been hydrolyzed to various degrees. Accordingly, one can distinguish between a partially hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate and an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate. In this regard, a partially hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate comprises more than 20% of intact cow's milk protein
30 whereas an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate comprises less than 1% of peptides having a size of greater than 1.5kD. Furthermore, an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate

is preferably hypoallergenic.

The term “peptide derived from cow’s milk” as used herein defines a peptide which has an amino acid sequence which is a partial amino acid sequence of a cow’s milk
5 protein. Such peptides may be obtained as outlined above by hydrolysis or may be synthesized in vitro by methods known to the skilled person and described in the examples of the invention.

The term “T cell epitope-containing peptide” in accordance with the invention
10 describes a peptide which comprises an epitope which is capable to bind to a surface receptor which is present on a T-cell. It is preferred that the epitope is capable to bind to a T cell receptor (TCR).

The term “peptide-containing fraction of the hydrolysate” refers to a mixture of
15 peptides comprising at least 2, preferably at least 5, more preferably at least 10 and most preferably at least 20 which have been isolated from the hydrolysate of the invention by filtration techniques which are known to the skilled person. Furthermore, techniques for the isolation of peptides from the hydrolysate of the invention are described herein below.

20

The term “tolerance” according to the invention refers to an immunological tolerance. Immunological tolerance is defined herein as the development of specific non-reactivity or partial non-reactivity of lymphoid tissues to a particular antigen or group of antigens. This particular antigen or group of antigens is capable of
25 inducing an immune reaction in an atopic human subject upon intake of the particular antigen or group of antigens. Accordingly, tolerance to the particular antigen or group of antigens in accordance with the present invention is induced upon intake of one or more T cell epitope-containing peptides of the invention. Without wishing to be bound by theory, tolerance may be induced, for example, by
30 mechanism of anergy and deletion of specific allergen-reactive T cells. Alternatively, tolerance may, for example, be induced by cellular factor (i.e. cytokines) which could drive the T cell development into the direction of the

development of a tolerogenic or suppressive T cell phenotype (regulatory T cells).

In this regard, the term “T cell epitope-containing peptides capable to drive the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance”
5 specifies peptides which contribute to the development of specific non-reactivity of lymphoid tissues to a particular antigen or group of antigens, wherein this activity of the peptide is achieved by binding to a T cell surface receptor. Accordingly, the T cell epitope-containing peptides are present in an amount in the nutritional formation which allows for driving the immune reactions towards tolerance. It is
10 preferred that the immune reaction is reduced by the induction of tolerance by at least 20%, such as at least 50%, such as by at least 75%, preferably by at least 90%, more preferably by at least 95%, and most preferably by 100% as compared to the immune reaction upon contact with the antigen without prior tolerance induction. Methods for measuring tolerance are known in the art and include for example the
15 methods described in the examples of the invention. Accordingly, tolerance may be determined for example by measuring the amount of proinflammatory factors released from T cells (e.g. interleukins or interferones) or the proliferation of T cells. A peptide which is a T cell epitope-containing peptide capable of driving the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance can
20 be indentified by methods known to the skilled person in the art which are, for example, described in the examples of the invention herein below. Accordingly, a peptide which can inhibit the proliferation of T cells, and/or downregulates the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and/or cytokines driving T helper cell 2 (TH2) differentiation released in the supernatant of PBMCs is a T cell epitope-
25 containing peptide capable of driving the immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards tolerance.

In accordance with the present invention, it has surprisingly been found that T cell epitope-containing peptides contained in cow's milk hydrolysate and T cell epitope-
30 containing peptides which are derived from a protein present in cow's milk can be used in the induction of tolerance As is evident from the examples below, the inventors have found that peptides contained in milk hydrolysates and peptides

derived from a protein present in cow's milk can drastically decrease proliferation of T cells when there is a subsequent exposure to milk allergens, presumably via blocking T cell receptors and MHCII binding. Specific peptides contained in milk hydrolysates or synthetic peptides corresponding to a partial sequence of a cow's milk peptide can even block proliferation of T cells when there is a subsequent exposure to milk allergens. Whereas T-cell epitopes in cow's milk proteins have been described in the art (e.g. Kondo et al., *Pediatr. Allergy Immunol.* 2008, Vol. 19, pp 592-598; Elsayed et al., *Mol. Immunol.* 2004, Vol 41(12), pp1225-34 ; Ruiter et al., *Clin. Exp. Allergy* 2006, Vol 36(3), pp 303-10; Ruiter et al., *Int. Arch. Allergy Immunol.* 2007; Vol 143(2), pp119-26; or Nakajima-Adachi et al., *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.* 1998; Vol 101(5), pp 660-71), it has not been described previously that cow's milk derived peptides can induce tolerance. Further, in accordance with the present invention it has also been found that T cell epitope-containing peptides contained in cow's milk hydrolysate and T cell epitope-containing peptides which are derived from a protein present in cow's milk reduce levels of cytokines driving a T-helper cell 2 (TH2) differentiation and levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines as compared to levels of said cytokines induced by milk proteins. As known in the field on immunology, pro-inflammatory cytokines have detrimental effects on the intestinal barrier integrity and therefore are involved in the development of allergic as well as inflammatory disease. Amongst pro-inflammatory cytokines in particular IL-4 and IFN-gamma are known to destruct the coherence between the epithelial cells lining the gut surface thus compromising the intestinal barrier integrity. As a result of this the intestine becomes more permeable with increased exposure of allergens and dietary/microbial antigens to the immune cells in the gut wall.

Thus, without wishing to be bound by theory, tolerance is believed to be induced directly by cow's milk derived peptides. Previously cow's milk hydrolysates and peptides have only been used in order to replace cow's milk. By the replacement of cow's milk an allergic reaction or the development of an allergic reaction has been avoided. The findings provided herein show that that peptides which are T cell epitope-containing peptides contained in cow's milk hydrolysate and T cell epitope-

containing peptides which are derived from a protein present in cow's milk can moreover and unexpectedly be used to induce tolerance in a human subject.

In a preferred embodiment the invention relates to the nutritional formulation
5 described above, wherein the tolerance is induced to cow's milk, a protein contained in cow's milk or an allergen contained in cow's milk.

Cow's milk, a protein contained in cow's milk or an allergen contained in cow's milk are, for example, comprised in any food comprising cow's milk ingredients. Non-
10 limiting examples are milk, curd, cream, butter, yoghurt and food containing any of these.

Then term "allergen" as used herein describes an antigen capable of stimulating a hypersensitivity reaction in an atopic (allergic) human subject. Furthermore, an
15 allergen is in general a substance that is foreign to the body and can cause an allergic reaction only in atopic human subjects.

The present invention further relates to a nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate and/or peptide-containing
20 fraction of the hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in cow's milk for use in treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease, wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and wherein said T cell epitope-containing
25 peptides are capable of downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional formulation.

The term "inflammatory bowel disease" as used herein defines a group of inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract. The major types of
30 inflammatory bowel disease are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The main difference between Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis is the location and nature of the inflammatory changes. Crohn's disease can affect any part of the

gastrointestinal tract, from mouth to anus (skip lesions), although a majority of the cases start in the terminal ileum. Ulcerative colitis, in contrast, is restricted to the colon and the rectum. In a preferred embodiment the inflammatory bowel disease is present in a human subject having a milk allergy or having the risk of developing a milk allergy. In a further preferred embodiment the inflammatory
5 bowel disease is selected from one or more of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD), gastroenteritis, colitis and/or esophagitis. GERD is a disease produced by the abnormal reflux in the esophagus. In particular, gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD), gastroenteritis, colitis and/or
10 esophagitis are common in human subjects having a cow's milk allergy.

In connection with the present invention, the term "pro-inflammatory cytokines" are cytokines which are released in a human subject by cells of the immune system, preferably by antigen presenting cells or T cells and most preferably by T cells and
15 mediate and/or enhance an inflammatory disease. Non-limiting examples of inflammatory cytokines are IL-12, IL-17, IL-5, IL-4, IFN- γ , IL-8, TNF- α , IL-6 or IL-1. Methods for measuring the level of cytokine released by cells of the immune system are well know to the skilled person and include the methods described in the examples. Accordingly, the methods include, for example, measuring cytokine
20 levels in culture supernatants.

The term "T cell epitope-containing peptides capable of downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional formulation" refers to T cell epitope-containing peptides in the nutritional formulation which can downregulate
25 the levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines which are released form immune cells, preferably T cells or APCs, and more preferably T cells. Furthermore, theses T cell epitope-containing peptides capable are administered to a human subject in amount which is sufficient to downregulate pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional formulation. It is preferred that the level of pro-inflammatory cytokines are downregulated by at least 20%, such as at least 50%,
30 such as by at least 75%, preferably by at least 90%, more preferably by at least 95%, and most preferably by 100% as compared to the level of pro-inflammatory

cytokines in an atopic immune reaction upon contact with the antigen. A peptide which is a T cell epitope-containing peptides capable of downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional formulation can be indentified by methods known to the skilled person in the art which are, for example, described in the examples of the invention herein below. Accordingly, measuring the level of pro-inflammatory cytokines released in the culture supernatant of PBMCs upon exposure to a peptide identifies a T cell epitope-containing peptide capable of downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional formulation.

10

As described herein it has been surprisingly found in accordance with the present invention that T cell epitope-containing peptides of the invention derived from cow's milk are capable of downregulating inflammatory cytokines that are released upon exposure to or stimulation by allergens or dietary/microbial antigens. Therefore, the nutritional formulation of the invention is suitable to treat inflammatory bowel disease.

15

A preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the one or more peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides isolated from the cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate.

20

As detailed above, the cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate comprises peptides derived from hydrolyzed cow's milk proteins. These peptides may be isolated from the milk peptide-containing hydrolysate by standard technique well known to the person skilled in the art. Accordingly, an analytical purification generally utilizes at least one of three properties to separate peptides. First, peptides may be purified according to their isoelectric points by running them through a pH graded gel or an ion exchange column. Second, peptides can be separated according to their size or molecular weight via size exclusion chromatography or by SDS-PAGE (sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) analysis. Third, another peptide purification methodology could involve membrane filtration (e.g. Ultra filtration) which would generate a mixture

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of peptides suitable for the proposed application. Peptides are often purified by using 2D-PAGE and are then analyzed by peptide mass fingerprinting to establish the peptide identity. The isolated and identified peptide obtained from the hydrolysate may then be recombinantly produced by applying standard methods
5 known to the skilled person and either be used alone or in combination with a cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate in accordance with the invention.

Another preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the one or more peptides have the amino acid
10 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and/or 4.

As shown in the examples below, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 (Figure 2, Cas3, alphaS1-peptide 3) and SEQ ID NO: 4 (Figure 2, Cas4, alphaS1-peptide 4) suppress the proliferation of T-cells when re-stimulated with cow's milk protein
15 and thereby induced tolerance to the cow's milk protein (cf. Figure 4).

A further preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the cow's milk peptide containing hydrolysate is an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing
20 hydrolysate.

A more preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate is Nutramigen™, Nutramigen™ base or an
25 extensively hydrolyzed bovine casein hydrolysate.

As is shown in the Examples of the invention below an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate is able to suppress the proliferation of T-cells when these are re-stimulated with cow's milk protein. Tolerance to the cow's
30 milk protein is thereby induced. Accordingly, VTP 3, VTP11 and VTP15 (cf. Figure 1) were most potent to induce tolerance and are, therefore, preferred examples of a nutritional formulation comprising an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-

containing hydrolysate in accordance with the invention, VTP3 is Nutramigen™, VTP11 is Nutramigen™ base and VTP15 is the extensively hydrolyzed bovine casein that is used in Nutramigen™. VTP3, VTP 11 and VTP 15 can be purchased via Mead Johnson Nutrition, 2400 West Lloyd Expressway Evansville, Indiana
5 47721-0001, USA. VTP3, VTP 11 and VTP 15 comprise extensively hydrolyzed bovine casein. A profile of the casein derived peptides comprised in VTP3, VTP 11 and VTP 15 is provided in Figure 8. VTP15 only consist of the peptides listed in Figure 8. Nutramigen™ (VTP3) comprises further to the peptides listed in Figure 8 the following ingredients: Glucose syrup, vegetable oil (palm olein oil, coconut oil,
10 soybean oil, high oleic sunflower oil), modified corn starch, <2 %, calcium phosphate <1%, calcium citrate, potassium citrate, potassium chloride, L-Cystine, choline chloride, L-tyrosine, inositol, magnesium oxide, L-tryptophan, ascorbic acid, ferrous sulfate, taurine, L-carnitine, DL-alpha-tocopheryl acetate, zinc sulfate, nicotinamide, calcium pantothenate, cupric sulfate, retinyl palmitate, manganese
15 sulfate, thiamine hydrochloride, riboflavin, pyridoxine hydrochloride, sodium iodide, folic acid, phytomenadione, sodium molybdate, chromic chloride, cholecalciferol, sodium selenite, biotin, cyanocobalamin.

A further preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional
20 formulation of the invention, wherein the human subject is a child or juvenile.

The term “child” or the term “juvenile” is used herein in accordance with the definitions provided in the art. Thus, the term “child” means a human subject between the stages of birth and the age of about 10 and the term “juvenile” means
25 a human subject between the age of about 10 and puberty (before sexual maturity).

The invention relates in a further preferred embodiment to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the human subject is an adult.

30 The term “adult” is used herein in accordance with the definitions provided in the art. Thus, this term means a human subject after puberty (after sexual maturity).

A further preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the human subject has a cow's milk allergy.

The term "cow's milk allergy" describes a food allergy, i.e. an immune adverse
5 reaction to one or more of the proteins contained in cow's milk in a human subject. The principal symptoms are gastrointestinal, dermatological and respiratory symptoms. These can translate into skin rashes, hives, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and distress. The clinical spectrum extends to diverse disorders: anaphylactic reactions, atopic dermatitis, wheeze, infantile colic, gastro esophageal
10 reflux disease (GERD), esophagitis, colitis gastroenteritis, headache/migraine and constipation.

In another preferred embodiment of the nutritional formulation of the invention, the nutritional formulation additionally comprises one or more of carbohydrates,
15 nucleic acids, lipids, minerals, anabolic nutrients, vitamins, antioxidants, probiotic bacterial strains and lipotropic agents.

These additional compounds of the nutritional formulation of the invention are preferably added in order to provide the nutritional value of the nutritional
20 formulation described herein above. Also they may be preferably added in order provide complete nutrition, an optimal sustained energy and/or an anabolic nutritional formulation. Non-limiting examples of lipids include coconut oil, soy oil, and mono- and diglycerides. Exemplary carbohydrates are for example, glucose, edible lactose and hydrolyzed cornstarch. Non-limiting examples of minerals and
25 vitamins are calcium, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, chloride, magnesium, manganese, iron, copper, zinc, selenium, iodine, and Vitamins A, E, D, C, and the B complex, respectively. Probiotic bacterial strains include, for example, lactic acid bacteria (LAB) and bifidobacteria. Examples of antioxidants include natural antioxidants such as ascorbic acid (AA, E300) and tocopherols (E306), as well as
30 synthetic antioxidants such as propyl gallate (PG, E310), tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA, E320) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT, E321). Non-limiting examples of nucleic acids are

deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA).

A further preferred embodiment of the invention relates to the nutritional formulation of the invention, wherein the tolerance is induced transiently.

5

The term “transient” induction of tolerance in accordance with the invention relates to a immunological tolerance which is induced for a limited period of time upon intake of the nutritional formulation of the invention in a human subject which preferably is a human subject having a cow’s milk allergy or having the risk of developing a cow’s milk allergy. In this regard a transient period of time specifies that the human subject does not gain constant tolerance. Transient tolerance preferably relates to tolerance induced for at least half a day, such as for at least one day, such as for at least two days, preferably for at least one week, more preferably for at least two weeks, even more preferably for at least one month and most preferably for at least 3 months. In accordance with the invention transient tolerance is induced for less than 6 months.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The Figures show:

20

Figure 1:

Overview of the milk test samples named VTP1-VTP16 which were obtained from by different suppliers and contained whole cow’s milk protein formulas, partially hydrolyzed, and extensively hydrolyzed casein and whey proteins as well as amino acids cow’s milk formulas as well as amino acids formulas.

25

Figure 2:

Synthetic peptides and proteins. The name of the peptides or protein, their amino acid sequence, length, pI and molecular weight in kDa are listed.

30

Figure 3:

Demographic, clinical and serological characterization of individuals analyzed in

the proliferation assays.

Figure 4

Proliferation assays were performed with PBMCs to test the T-cell reactivity to the milk samples VTP1-VTP16. PBMCs from 6 non-allergic individuals and from 7
5 cow's milk allergic patients were stimulated with milk samples, with cow's milk allergens (α S1-casein, α S2-casein, α -casein), with α S1-casein-derived peptides (α S1-peptide 1- α S1-peptide 6), with birch pollen allergen rBet v 1a and grass pollen allergen Phl p 5-peptide 1. Stimulation indices are displayed.

10

Figure 5

In order to analyze which cytokines are induced in PBMCs by the different milk samples (VTP1-VTP16), luminex-analyses were performed in the supernatants of PBMCs. Analysis of cytokine levels (y-axis: pg/ml) in supernatants of PBMC
15 cultures from 6 non-allergic individuals (NA) and 5 cow's milk allergic patients (CMA) which had been stimulated with milk samples VTP1-VTP16 (1-16) or medium (17) are displayed.

Figure 6

20 Tolerance experiments with a non-allergic individual (AB) were performed to show that peptides can tolerize T-cells in allergen-specific manner. Experiments in non-allergic persons can also show tolerance because tolerance is measured as reduction of T cell reactivity (Ebner et al., J. Immunol. 1995, Vol 154, pp 1932-1940). As long as a non-allergic person contains allergen-reactive T cells, tolerance to the allergen
25 at the T cell level can be measured.

PBMCs were isolated and T-cell- and antigen-presenting cell (APC)-enriched fractions were obtained by MACS-separation technology. T-cell fractions were preincubated over night with high amounts of peptides (α S1-casein peptide 1, α S1-
30 casein peptide 2, α S1-casein peptide 3 and a control peptide, Phl p 5-peptide 1) or with an extensive whey hydrolysate (VTP8) or partial whey/casein hydrolysate (VTP16). On the next day the T-cells and the APCs were combined and stimulated

with whole cow's milk protein samples (VTP13, VTP14) or with intact α S1-casein.

Two experiments were performed with the same individual. In panels a and c counts per minute (cpm; reflecting the proliferation of T cells) and in panels b and
5 d stimulation indices (SIs) are displayed.

Figure 7

Tolerance experiment with a non-allergic individual (KFI) evaluating milk hydrolysates for their ability to tolerize T cells. T-cell fractions were preincubated
10 over night with high amounts of Nutramigen™ base (VTP11), extensive casein hydrolysate (VTP15), whole cow's milk whey protein (VTP14), Nutramigen™ (VTP3), synthetic peptides (α S1-casein peptide 4 and a control peptide, Phl p 5-Pep 1) or buffer (UCO). On the next day the T-cells and the APCs were combined and stimulated with milk samples (VTP14, VTP1). T cell stimulation is given either in
15 counts per minute (cpm) or as stimulation index (SI). Cpms of individual experiments and the means thereof are displayed. Data obtained by stimulating with 10 μ g VTP14 are highlighted.

Figure 8

20 Profile of the casein derived peptides comprised in VTP3, VTP 11 and VTP 15 (Figure 1). The Ionscore, the amino acid sequences of the peptides, the hydrophobicity score and the bitterness score are listed.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

25 The Examples illustrate the invention.

Example 1:

Experimental procedures

30 **Biological materials and patients**

Milk samples named VTP1-VTP16 were obtained from different suppliers and contained whole cow's milk protein, partially hydrolyzed, extensively hydrolyzed as

well as amino acids formulations. cDNA coding for α S1-casein (r α S1-cas) was isolated by IgE immunoscreening from a cDNA expression library prepared from bovine mammary glands (Schulmeister et al., J. Immunol. 2009). Recombinant allergens were expressed in *Escherichia coli* strain BL21 Codon Plus (DE3)-RIPL
5 (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) as hexahistidine-tagged proteins and purified by Ni²⁺ affinity chromatography (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). Recombinant Bet v1a was purchased from Biomay (Vienna, Austria).

Pasteurized cow's milk containing 3.5% fat was bought at a local market (NÖM,
10 Austria, batch: 22 550 2:00) and natural cow's milk proteins were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Vienna, Austria).

Rabbit sera were obtained by immunizing rabbits three times with purified r α S1-cas, r α S2-cas, r β -cas, r κ -cas, r α -la, r β -lg, and rlf (Charles, River, Kissleg, Germany).
15

Cow's milk allergic patients were selected according to a positive case history, positive skin-prick reactions or determination of specific IgE to cow's milk extract using the ImmunoCAP System (Phadia, Uppsala, Sweden).

20 Persons without any problems after milk consumption were recruited as controls. They comprised non-allergic as well as patients with IgE-mediated allergy to allergen sources other than milk.

Characterization of the milk samples

25 The composition of the milk samples VTP1-VTP16 was assessed by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie Brilliant Blue staining (Biorad, Hercules, CA).

For immunoblot analysis 1 μ g aliquots of VTP1-VTP16 were dotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane (Schleicher & Schuell, Dassel, Germany). The
30 nitrocellulose strips were blocked with PBST (PBS, 0.5% v/v Tween 20) and exposed to sera from milk allergic patients, healthy individuals or rabbit antisera diluted 1:10, 1:20 or 1:2000 in over night at 4°C. Bound human IgE antibodies were

detected with ^{125}I -labelled anti-human IgE antibodies (IBL, Hamburg, Germany), diluted 1:15 or bound rabbit IgG with ^{125}I -labelled anti-rabbit IgG (Perkin Elmer, USA) diluted 1:2000 in PBST and visualized by autoradiography using Kodak XOMAT films with intensifying screens (Kodak, Austria) at -80°C .

5

Endotoxin levels of the milk samples used in this study were quantified by limulus amoebocyte lysate assay (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) with a sensitivity range of 0.1 EU/ml - 1.0 EU/ml according to the manufacturer's instructions.

10 **Rat Basophil Leukaemia (RBL) assays**

For the quantification of IgE antibody-mediated, immediate-type reactions, huRBL cell mediator release assays were performed as described previously (Schulmeister et al., J Immunol. 2009, Vol 182(11), pp 7019-29). In brief, RBL cells (clone RBL-703/21) transfected with the human Fc ϵ RI receptor were incubated with sera from
15 cow's milk allergic patients overnight. On the next day the cells were washed, 100 μl of milk components (concentration: 0.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) were added and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C , 7% CO_2 , 95% humidity. Aliquots of the supernatants were mixed with assay solution (0.1 M citric acid or sodium citrate, pH 4.5 + 160 μM 4-methylumbelliferyl-N-acetyl- β -D-glucosamide) and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C , 7% CO_2 ,
20 95% humidity. Fluorescence was measured with a fluorescence microplate reader and specific release could be calculated. Values obtained with buffer alone were subtracted and the values exceeded 5% of total release were considered as positive.

Cell preparation and lymphoproliferative assays

25 PBMCs from non-allergic individuals and cow's milk allergic patients were separated from heparinized blood by Ficoll density-gradient centrifugation (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). PBMCs (2×10^5 cells per well) were cultured in triplicates in 96-well plates (Nunclone; Nalgen Nunc International, Roskilde, Denmark) in 200 μl serum-free Ultra Culture medium (UltraCulture, Lonza, Verviers, Belgium) supplemented with 2mM L-glutamine (GIBCO, Auckland, NZ),
30 50 μM b-mercaptoethanol (GIBCO), and 0.1 mg/ml gentamicin (GIBCO). The cells were incubated at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2 for 7 days with or

without different concentrations of various hydrolyzed samples. Cells were stimulated with different concentrations, 4U IL-2 per well (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) served as a positive control and medium alone served as a negative control. After 6 days of incubation, 0.5mCi ³H-thymidine (GE Healthcare) was added to each well for 16 h then the incorporated radioactivity was measured by liquid scintillation counting. Proliferation was expressed as counts per minute (c.p.m.; means of triplicates) using a microbeta scintillation counter (Wallac ADL, Freiburg, Germany). The stimulation index (SI) was calculated as quotient of c.p.m. with antigen and the medium control.

10

Analysis of cytokine levels in supernatants

Cytokine levels (IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IFN- γ , TNF- α , GM-CSF, TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2, and TGF- β 3) were measured in supernatants collected from PBMC cultures at day 6 of culture using xMAP Luminex fluorescent bead-based technology (Luminex Corp., Austin, TX). The assays were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions (R&D Systems, Wiesbaden, Germany), and fluorescent signals were read on a Luminex 100 system (Luminex Corp.). The limits of detection were 3.2 pg/ml for IL-2, 3.5 pg/ml for IL-4, 1.9 pg/ml for IL-5, 5.5 pg/ml for IL-6, 3.1 pg/ml for IL-10, 57 pg/ml for IL-12, 47 pg/ml for IL-13, 2.9 pg/ml for IFN- γ , 5.3 pg/ml for TNF- α , 3.3 pg/ml for GM-CSF, 21 pg/ml for TGF- β 1, 178 pg/ml for TGF- β 2, and 5 pg/ml for TGF- β 3.

15
20

Tolerance induction experiments

For the tolerance induction experiment, PBMCs from healthy donors were isolated by Ficoll-density gradient, and the cells were further separated into two fractions. T-cells were enriched with a human Pan-T-cell isolation Kit (Miltenyi, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany), whereas antigen-presenting cells were enriched with human CD3 MicroBeads (Miltenyi, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany) by magnetic cell sorting. The purity of the cell fractions was confirmed by FACS analysis.

25
30

The cell fractions containing the T-cells were incubated overnight with different peptides or medium alone at 37°C with 5% CO₂ and 95% humidity, the antigen-

presenting-cell fractions were kept overnight at the same conditions without any antigens. On the next day, the T-cell fractions were washed with DPBS (GIBCO) three times and the T-cell and antigen-presenting-cell fractions were combined. The cells (2×10^5 cells per well) were cultured in triplicates in 96-well plates as described above. Cells were stimulated with different concentrations of milk samples, 4U IL-2 per well, or medium alone. The analysis was done as described for the lymphoproliferative assays.

Example 2:

10 Results

Healthy non-allergic individuals exhibit a normal IgG but no IgE response to cow's milk allergens. In the experiments both quantitative (proliferation) and qualitative (i.e., cytokines) responses in cow's milk allergic individuals as well as healthy non-allergic individuals were compared.

The experiments identified small peptides in the hydrolysates which can block the T cell receptors and MHCII so that there is limited or no proliferation when there is a subsequent exposure to milk allergens. Thus, the experiments identified a fraction so that a tolerance to cow's milk allergens can be induced.

Another approach was to mix in the T cells that have been pre-exposed to peptides/hydrolysates in a culture of T-APC that have been preincubated and restimulated with whole protein preparations. This should demonstrate the capacity of peptides to inhibit/dampen the response to a whole milk protein challenge.

Up to now 6 non-allergic and 7 cow's milk allergic persons were tested regarding lymphoproliferative responses with the 16 cow's milk samples as well as with α S1casein-derived peptides and control antigens. Non-allergic individuals and cow's milk allergic patients induced comparable stimulation indices. The Nutramigen™ samples induced weaker T-cell proliferations compared to the other

milk samples. Amino acid formulations induced the weakest responses. VTP13 and 14, identified by SDS-PAGE and mass spectrometry analysis as sources of intact cow's milk proteins, served as controls for tolerance experiments, because they induced strong lymphoproliferative responses. The culture supernatants from 11 of the tested individuals regarding the secretion of 13 cytokines were analyzed by luminex analysis. These results are extremely interesting and surprising for two reasons: First, the analysis of the cytokine levels showed that cytokines driving a Th2 differentiation (GM-CSF, IL-5 and IL-13) and pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-6, TNF-alpha and IFN-gamma) are induced in low amounts by the Nutramigen™ samples (VTP3, 4, 11, 12, 15). By contrast, a strong induction of pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g., IFN-gamma, TNF-alpha, IL-6) in the samples VTP2, VTP5 and VTP14 which are only partly hydrolysed or contain intact proteins has been found. In particular, the induction of IFN-gamma seems problematic because evidence exists that IFN-gamma can damage epithelial cells. Amounts of secreted cytokines were in the same range in experiments done with non-allergic and with allergic individuals, except of IFN-gamma, which was stronger upregulated in non-allergic individuals.

Certain cow's milk derived peptides (e.g. alpha S1casein) induce T cell proliferations in PBMC. Since any T cell-reactive peptide can also induce T cell tolerance under certain conditions (e.g., binding to the T cell receptor without appropriate co-stimulation, presence of large amounts of T cell-reactive peptides early in life-infancy) it is assumed that alphaS1casein-derived T cell-reactive peptides can be used for the induction of tolerance to identify additional T cell-reactive peptides. In this respect, tolerogenic activity of the alpha S1casein-derived peptides that will be generated synthetically was demonstrated. PBMC from reactive persons were splitted into T cell fraction and a T cell-depleted fraction (anti-CD3-coupled beads) containing the APCs. The T cell fraction were pre-incubated with the casein-derived peptides and control peptides (grass pollen allergen Bet v1, Phl p 5-derived peptides), washed and then exposed to the APC fraction with the peptides. Using this assay it was possible to demonstrate the milk-specific tolerogenic activity of these casein-derived peptides.

In an effort to search for tolerogenic peptides the culture conditions were successfully established. In a next step one α S1casein-derived candidate peptide which showed in two independent experiments a suppression of T cell responses was identified. The alphaS1-casein-derived peptide 3, when added to an isolated T-cell fraction suppressed the proliferation in the combined T-cell-APC fraction when re-stimulated with whey protein concentrate VTP14 or α S1-casein. A similar result was obtained for peptide 4. Further, the potential suppressive effects of casein hydrolysates VTP3 (Nutramigen™), VTP11, VTP14 and VTP15 on whole cow's milk protein induced proliferation were studied and it was found that in particular preincubation with Nutramigen™ (VTP3) was able to induce tolerance.

CLAIMS

1. A nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-
containing hydrolysate and/or a peptide-containing fraction of the
5 hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in
cow's milk for use in the induction of tolerance in a human subject,
wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate
comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more
peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and
10 wherein said T cell epitope-containing peptides are capable of driving the
immune reaction upon intake of the nutritional formulation towards
tolerance.
2. The nutritional formulation of claim 1, wherein the tolerance is induced to
15 cow's milk, a protein contained in cow's milk or an allergen contained in
cow's milk.
3. A nutritional formulation or supplement comprising a cow's milk peptide-
containing hydrolysate and/or a peptide-containing fraction of the
20 hydrolysate and/or one or more peptides derived from a protein present in
cow's milk for use in treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease,
wherein said peptides contained in the hydrolysate or fraction of hydrolysate
comprise T cell epitope-containing peptides or wherein said one or more
peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides, and
25 wherein said T cell epitope-containing peptides are capable of
downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines upon intake of the nutritional
formulation.
4. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the one or more
30 peptides are T cell epitope-containing peptides isolated from the cow's milk
peptide-containing hydrolysate.

5. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the one or more peptides have the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 and/or 4.
6. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate is an extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate.
7. The nutritional formulation of claim 6, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed cow's milk peptide-containing hydrolysate is Nutramigen™, Nutramigen™ base or an extensively hydrolyzed bovine casein-containing hydrolysate.
8. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the human subject is a child or juvenile.
9. The nutritional formulation of claims 1 to 7, wherein the human subject is an adult.
10. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the human subject has a cow's milk allergy.
11. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the nutritional formulation additionally comprises one or more of carbohydrates, nucleic acids, lipids, minerals, anabolic nutrients, vitamins, antioxidants, probiotic bacterial strains and lipotropic agents.
12. The nutritional formulation of any of claims 1 to 2 and 4 to 11, wherein the tolerance is induced transiently.

Figure 1:

Sample ID	Sample
VTP1	Routine whole milk formula
VTP2	Partial casein/whey hydrolysate product
VTP3	Extensive caseine hydrolysate product (Nutramigen™)
VTP4	Amino acid formula
VTP5	partial whey hydrolysate product
VTP6	extensive casein hydrolysate product
VTP7	extensive casein hydrolysate product
VTP8	extensive whey hydrolysate product
VTP9	whole milk base
VTP10	partial casein/whey hydrolysate base
VTP11	extensive casein hydrolysate base
VTP12	amino acid base
VTP13	whole milk protein control
VTP14	whey protein concentrate 35%
VTP15	extensive casein hydrolysate only
VTP16	partial casein/whey hydrolysate only

Figure 2:

Peptide /Protein	Sequence	Length (aa)	pI	MW (kDa)	SEQ ID
Cas1	RPKHPIKHQGLPQEVLENLLRFFVAPFPEVC	32	8.22	3.75	NO: 1
Cas2	FGKEKVNELSKDIGSESTEDQAMEDIKQMEAES	33	4.18	3.70	NO: 2
Cas3	ISSSEEIVPNSVEQKHIQKEDVPSERYLGYEQLLRC	36	4.80	4.21	NO: 3
Cas4	CLKKYKVPQLEIVPNSAEERLHSMKEGIHAQQKE	34	8.14	3.96	NO: 4
Cas5	CPMIGVNQELAYFYPELFRQFYQLDAYPSGAWYYYV	35	4.14	4.24	NO: 5
Cas6	PLGTQYTDAPSFSDIPNPIGSENSEKTTMPLWCC	33	3.92	3.60	NO: 6
raS1 casein	RPKHPIKHQGLPQEVLENLLRFFVAPFPEVFGKEKVNELSKDIGSESTEDQAMEDIKQMEAESISSSEEIVPNSVEQKHIQKEDVPSERYLGYLEQLLRLKKYKVPQLEIVPNSAEERLHSMKEGIHAQQKEPMIGVNQELAYFYPELFRQFYQLDAYPSGAWYYYVPLGTQYTDAPSFSDIPNPIGSENSEKTTMPLWHHHHH	205	5.35	23.80	NO: 7
raS2 casein	KNTMEHVSSSEESIISQETYKQEKMAINPSKENLCSTFCKEVVRNANEEEEYSIGSSSEESAEVATEEVKITVDDKHYQKALNEINQFYQKFPQYLQYLYQGPIVLNPWDQVKRN AVPITPTLNREQLSTSEENSKKTVDMESTEVFTKTKLTEEEKNRLNFLKKISQRYQK FALPQYLKTVYQHQAAMKQPWIPKTKVIPYVRYLHHHHHH	213	8.35	25.17	NO: 8
rBetv 1a	GVFNYETETTSVIPAARLFKAFILDGDNLF PKVAPQAISSEVENIEGNGGPGTIKKISFPEGFPFYVKDRVDEVDHTNFKYNYSVIEG GPIGDTLEKISNEIKIVATPDGGSILKISNK YHTKGDHEVKAEQVKASKEMGETLLRAV	159	5.4	17.4	NO: 9

Peptide /Protein	Sequence	Length (aa)	pl	MW (kDa)	SEQ ID
	ESYLLAHSDAYN				
PhI p5-peptide 1	CGAASNKAF AEGLSGEPKGAAESSSKAA LTSK	32	8.16	3.03	NO: 10
na casein	RPKHPIKHQQLPQEVLNENLLRFFVAPFP EVFGKEKVNELSKDIGSESTEDQAMEDIK QMEAESISSSEEIVPNSVEQKHIQKEDVP SERYLGYLEQLLRLKKYKVPQLEIVPNSA EERLHSMKEGIHAQQKEPMIGVNLQELAY FYPELFRQFYQLDAYPSGAWYYVPLGTQ YTDAPSFSDIPNPIGSENSEKTTMPLW and KNTMEHVSSSEESIISQETYKQEKMAIN PSKENLCSTFCKEVVRNANEEEEYSIGSSS EESAEVATEEVKITVDDKHYQKALNEINQ FYQKFPQYLQYLYQGPIVLNPWDQVKRN AVPITPTLNREQLSTSEENSKKTVDMEST EVFTKTKLTEEEKNRLNFLKKISQRYQK FALPQYLKTVYQHQAAMKPWIQPKTKVIP YVRYL	199 and 207	7-91 and 8.34	22.97 and 24.35	NOs: 11 and 12

Figure 3:

	Patient	Age	Sex	Country	Milk-related symptoms	Other allergies	Total IgE (kU/l)	CM (kUA/l) or SPT
non-allergic	MC	51y	f	A	no	no	6.16	<0.35
	AG	28y	f	A	no	no	91.9	<0.35
	AB	21y	m	A	no	no	8.89	<0.35
	FK	42y	m	A	no	no	27	<0.35
	VC	33y	f	A	no	no	nd	nd
	KFI	24y	f	A	no	no	29.3	nd
CMA	ES	22y	f	A	Sys	PO, cat, dog, hen's egg, mite, hazelnut	3350	285.5
	VW	24y	f	A	GI	PO	456	6.28
	RD	49y	m	A	AD, asthma	mite	146	2.86
	KK	9y	f	A	AD, Sys	PO, hen's egg, soy, mite, moulds, nuts	2528	62.5
	GE	31y	m	A	AD, Sys	moulds, dog	113	<0.35, SPT
	GM	3y	m	A	na	na	nd	0.76
	NL	4y	f	A	na	na	nd	nd

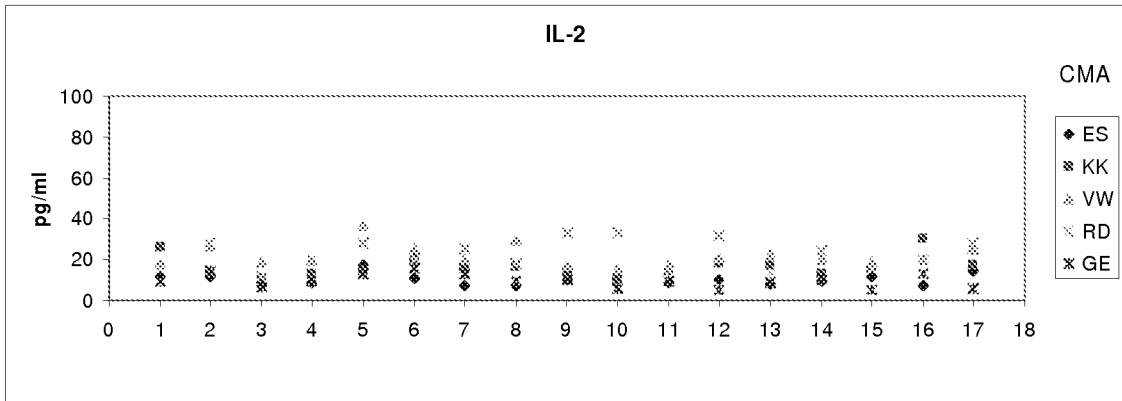
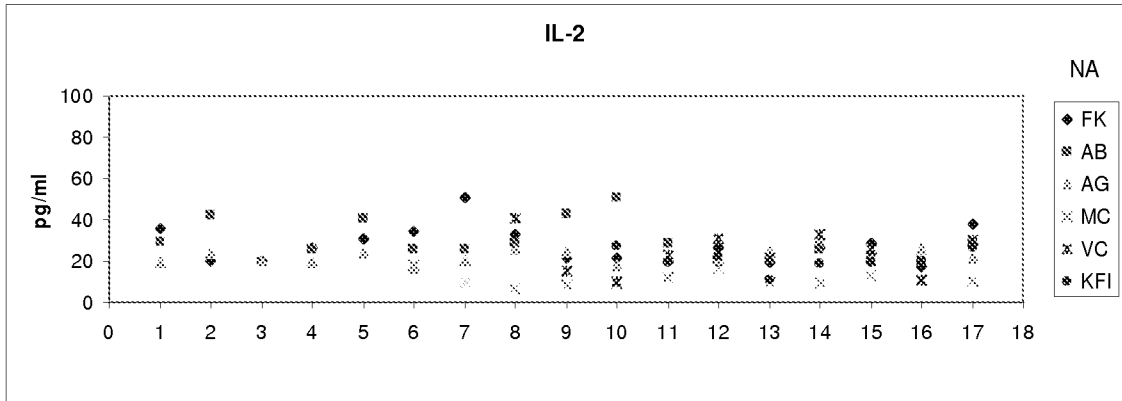
^aAbbreviations used in the figure: y, years; f, female; m, male; A, Austria; Symptoms: Sys, systemic reactions; GI, Gastrointestinal symptoms; AD, atopic dermatitis; Allergen (source): PO, pollen; kU/l, total IgE in kilo units/liter; kUA/L, allergen-specific IgE in kilo units antigen/liter; CM, cow's milk; SPT, skin-prick test; na, not applicable; nd, not done.

Figure 4:

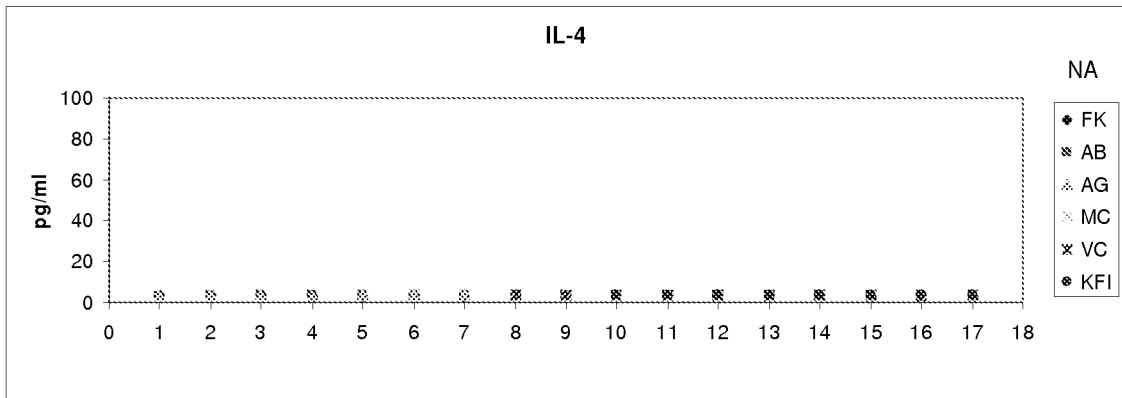
Milk samples	Non-allergic individuals						Cow's milk allergic patients						
	MC	AG	AB	FK	VC	KFI	ES	VW	RD	KK	GE	GM	NL
	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w	µg/w
VTP1	nd	3.6	5.3	6.7	nd	nd	2.2	4.3	2.6	2.2	19.5	5.6	5.9
VTP2	nd	2.0	4.5	4.7	nd	nd	1.1	4.5	2.6	1.8	27.6	5.7	3.9
VTP3	nd	2.5	1.1	1.4	nd	nd	0.5	1.4	1.5	0.6	6.2	1.9	1.8
VTP4	nd	0.7	1.5	1.3	nd	nd	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7	5.6	1.1	1.7
VTP5	nd	2.9	3.9	4.2	nd	nd	2.0	2.7	1.7	1.3	6.0	7.1	3.7
VTP6	2.6	3.7	2.8	4.3	nd	nd	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.6	3.5	3.0	2.2
VTP7	1.5	3.4	3.9	2.4	nd	nd	1.5	1.3	2.2	0.8	2.8	3.5	2.6
VTP8	0.7	2.7	2.3	1.1	0.8	nd	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	2.6	1.6	1.0
VTP9	7.0	4.1	4.3	2.7	2.0	nd	1.1	3.4	4.0	1.8	10.9	2.7	3.3
VTP10	6.8	4.0	3.9	2.2	3.9	7.1	1.6	3.1	3.1	1.2	16.3	5.2	3.2
VTP11	0.5	2.3	1.9	1.3	2.1	2.4	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.5	2.7	1.7	1.5
VTP12	0.5	1.4	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.9
VTP13	4.3	1.6	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.8	0.6	1.7	2.4	0.5	4.6	1.8	2.0
VTP14	4.2	3.1	3.5	5.0	4.3	6.6	1.4	1.0	5.9	2.2	11.3	6.8	5.2
VTP15	0.8	1.5	2.3	0.7	0.7	1.9	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.3
VTP16	7.1	3.9	4.1	2.2	1.9	3.9	1.4	0.8	3.7	1.1	7.6	1.6	2.3
max SI (IL-2)	11.3	3.3	6.3	8.0	5.9	13.0	6.4	5.3	9.4	5.4	26.8	18.2	7.6
ras1 casein	1.1	1.8	2.0	0.2	4.0	4.0	0.2	0.7	0.8	2.1	3.9	3.4	1.6
ras2 casein	2.7	3.0	4.3	1.2	5.9	7.2	0.7	2.4	4.4	2.1	9.4	3.8	3.1
α casein	6.3	1.1	1.6	0.6	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.1	0.8	1.3	0.8
rBet v 1a	4.1	2.9	3.0	2.4	1.5	3.7	1.8	1.6	5.9	0.6	7.4	nd	3.5
αs1-peptide 1	0.6	1.0	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	nd	0.6	1.4	0.3	nd	nd	nd
αs1-peptide 2	nd	nd	1.8	0.9	1.9	1.1	nd	0.9	1.6	0.9	nd	nd	3.3
αs1-peptide 3	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.3	1.2	0.8	nd	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.6	nd	1.0
αs1-peptide 4	nd	nd	nd	1.1	1.6	1.5	nd	0.3	1.2	0.6	2.0	nd	nd
αs1-peptide 5	0.5	1.3	nd	0.7	1.2	1.1	nd	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.3	nd	nd
αs1-peptide 6	0.4	0.8	nd	0.7	1.9	0.8	nd	0.5	0.6	0.5	nd	nd	nd
αs1-peptide-mix	0.5	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.9	1.6	0.8	0.4	1.3	nd	nd	nd	2.0
Phi p 5-peptide1	0.8	1.2	2.1	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.9	nd	0.8

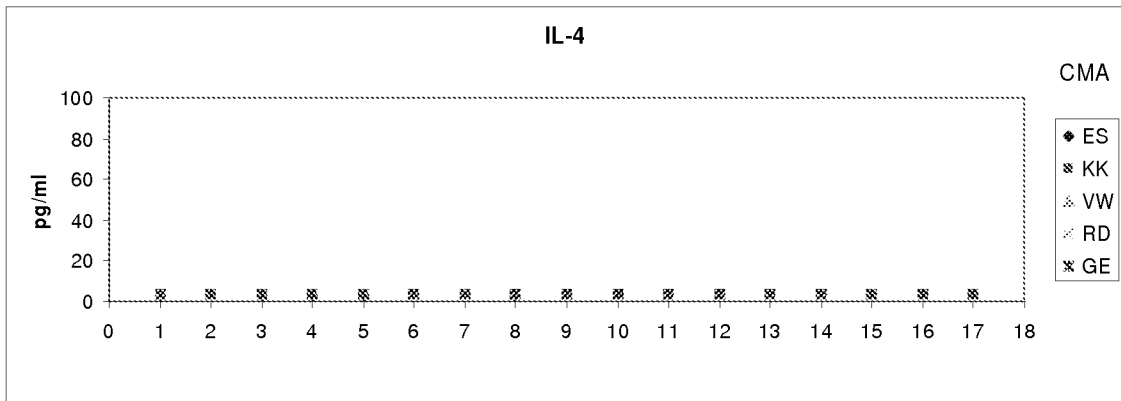
Concentrations used for stimulation: milk samples: 10µg/well; proteins: 5µg/well; peptides: 1.6µg/well and peptide-mix: 0.26µg per peptide/well. nd, not done; max SI, maximal stimulation index with IL-2. Highlighted in grey are all stimulation indices ≥2.

Figure 5:

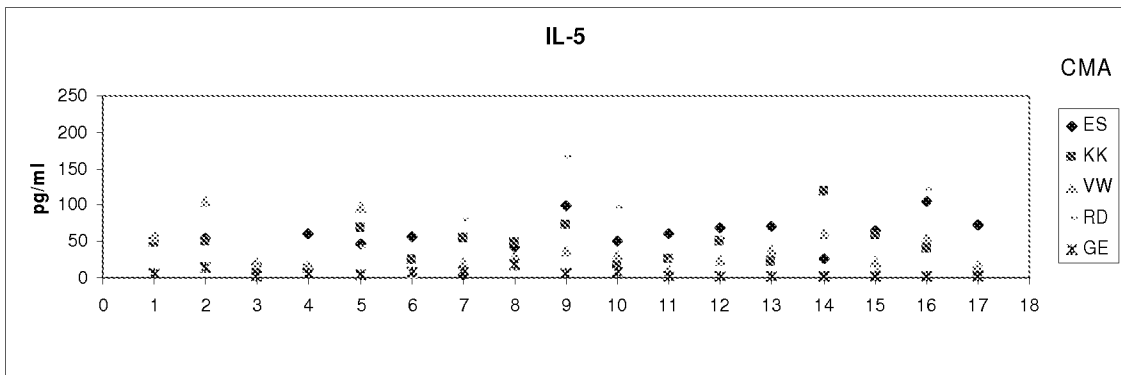
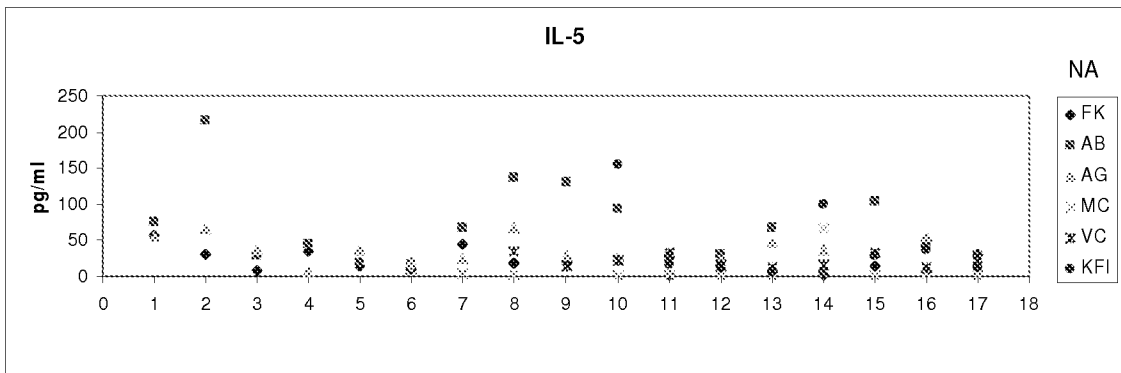


range of detection: 3.2-2350 pg/ml

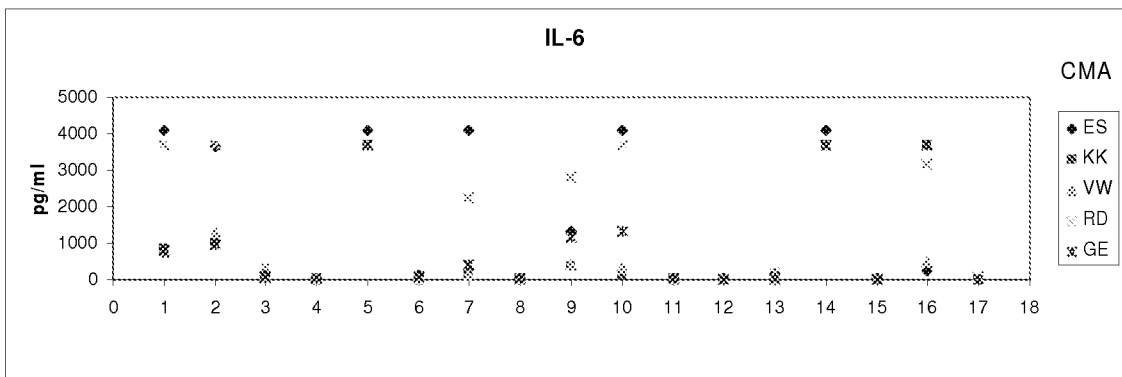
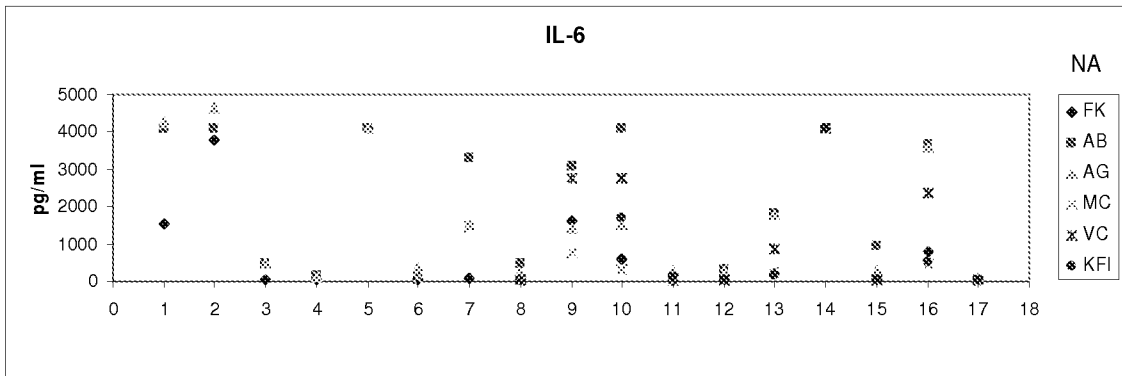




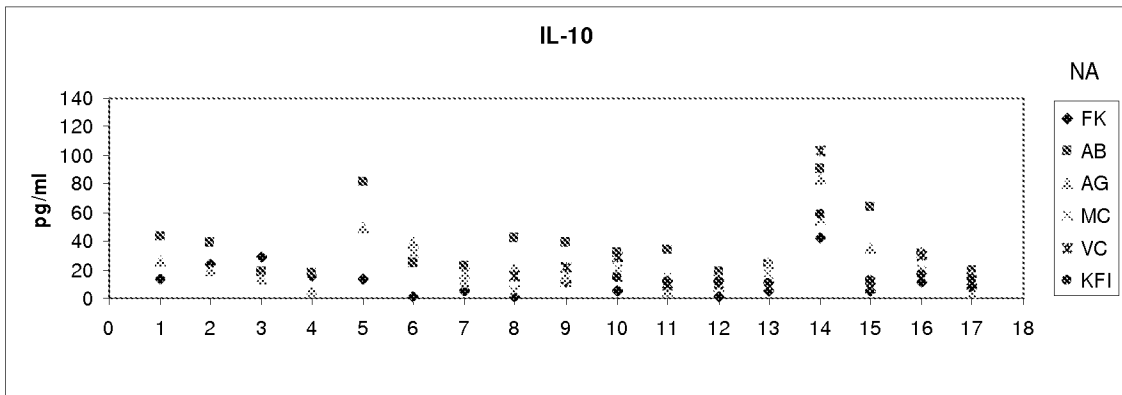
range of detection: 3.5-2575 pg/ml

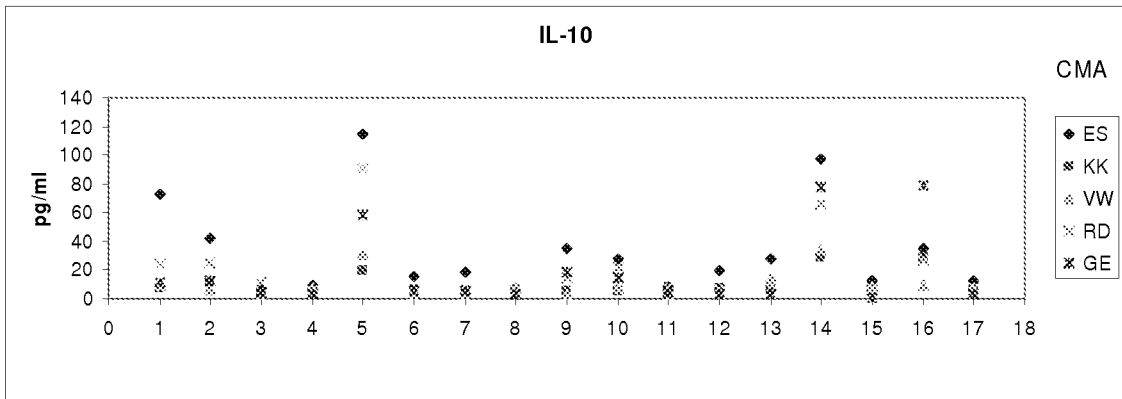


range of detection: 1.9-1400 pg/ml

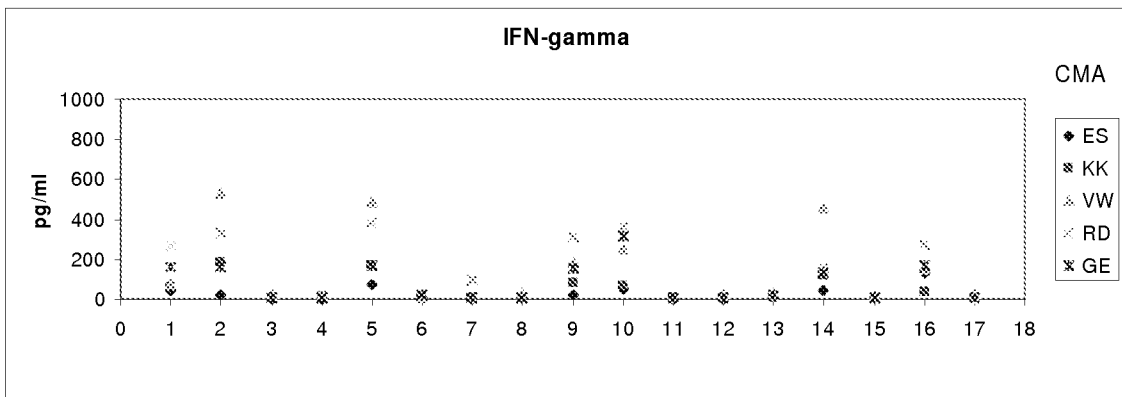
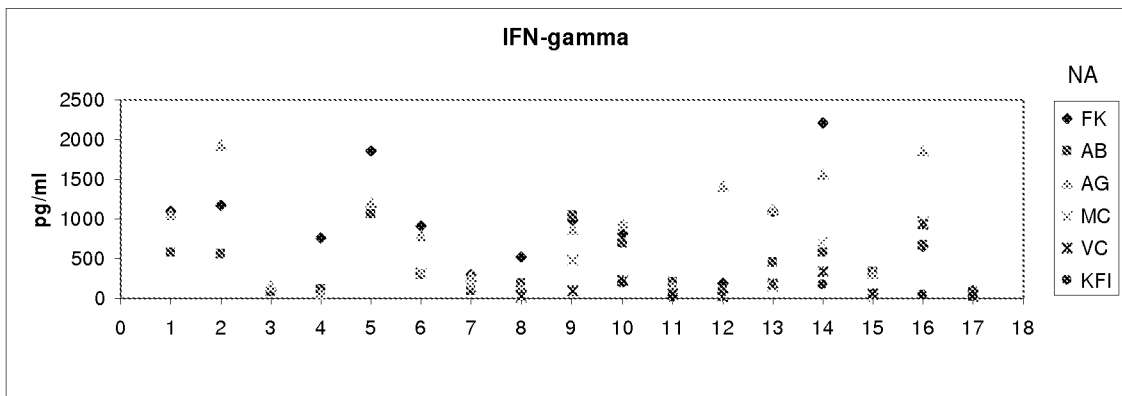


range of detection: 5.5-4000 pg/ml

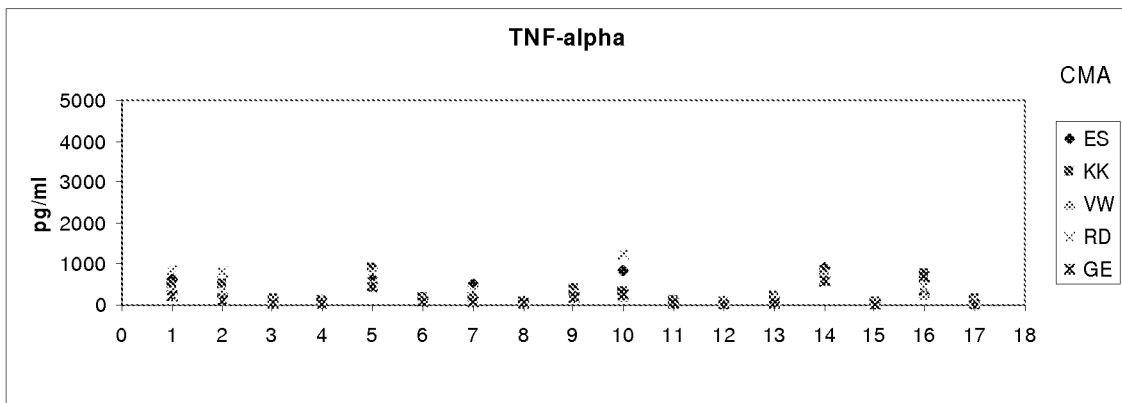
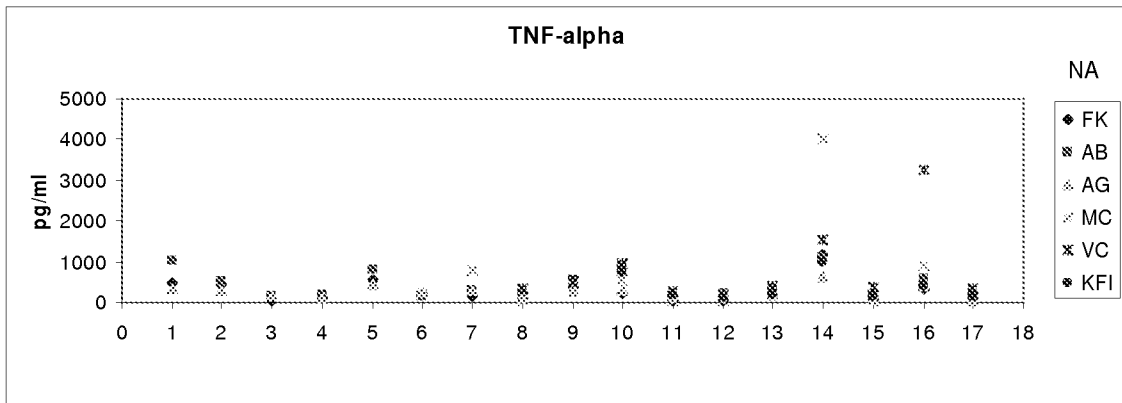




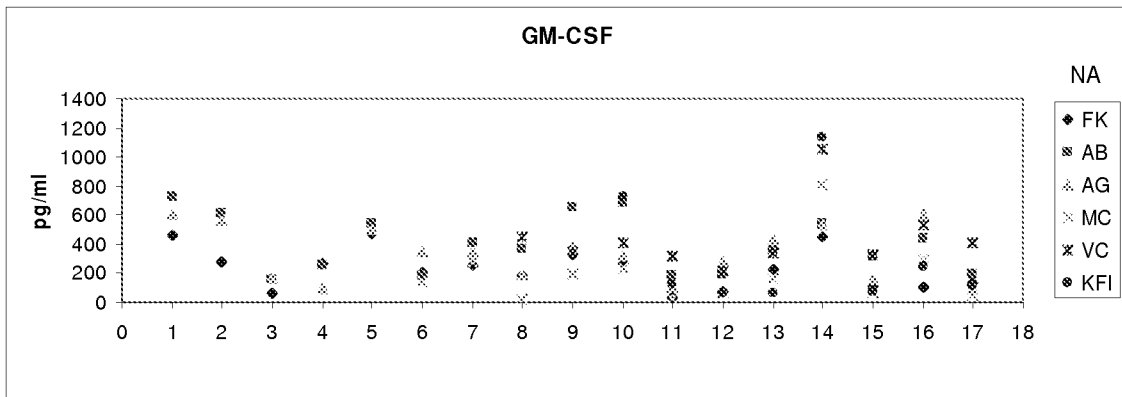
range of detection: 3.1-2250 pg/ml

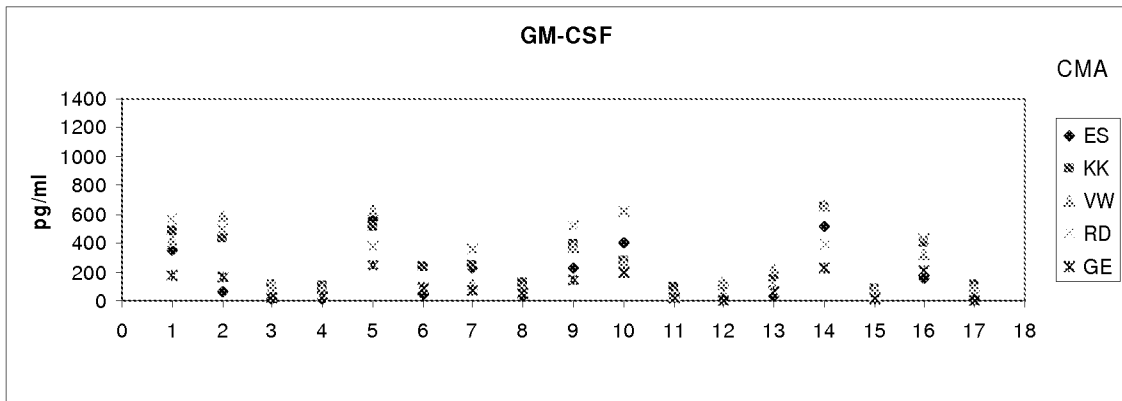


range of detection: 2.9-2100 pg/ml

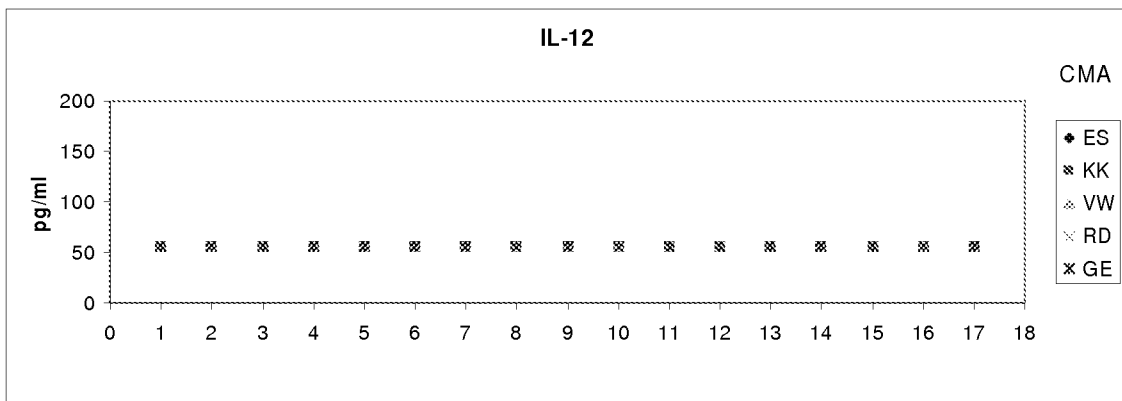
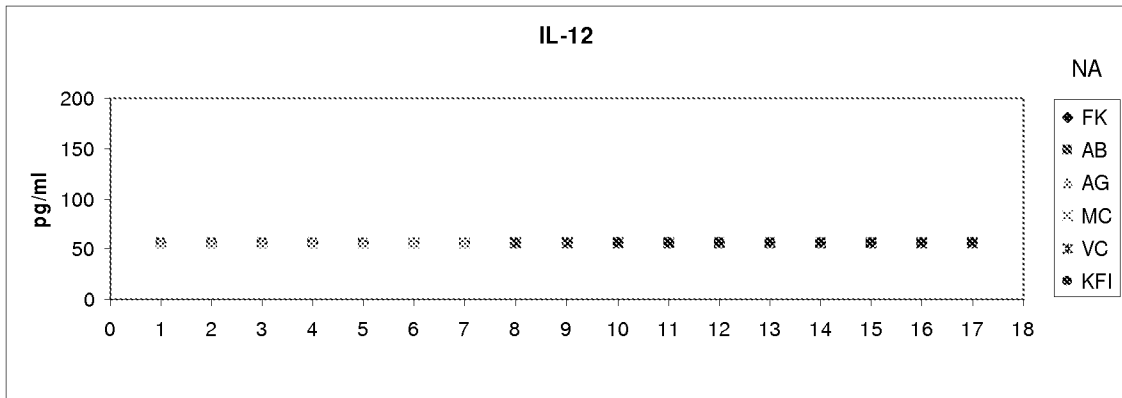


range of detection: 5.3-3900 pg/ml

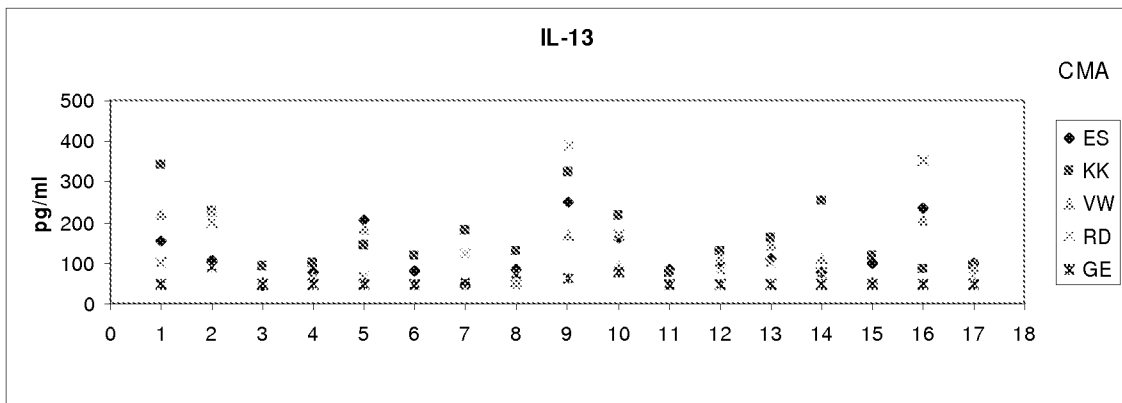
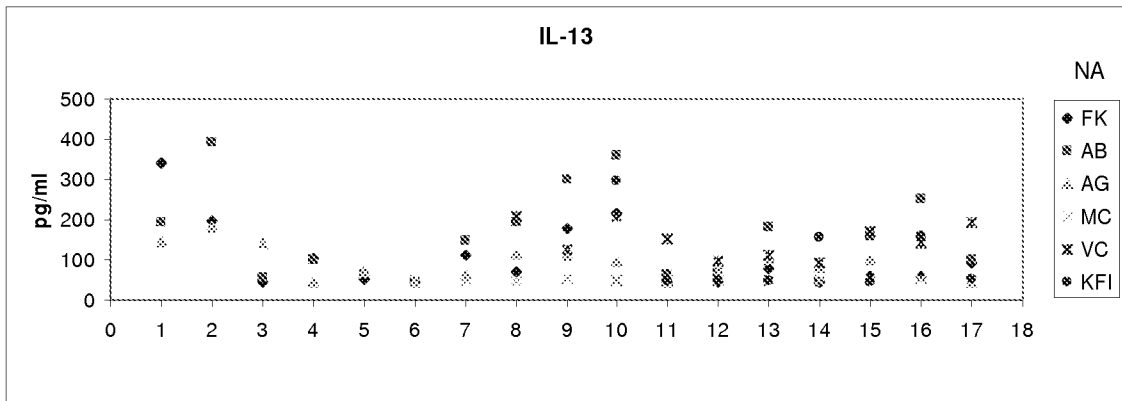




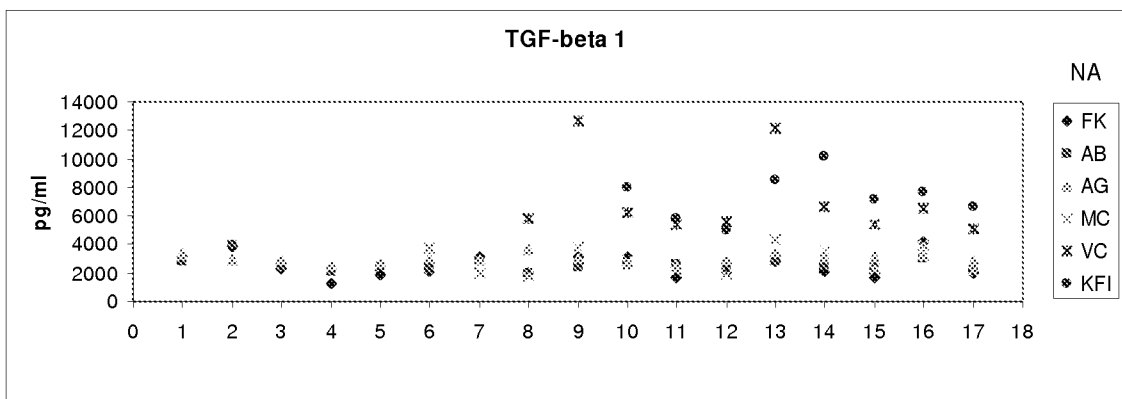
range of detection: 3.3-2400 pg/ml

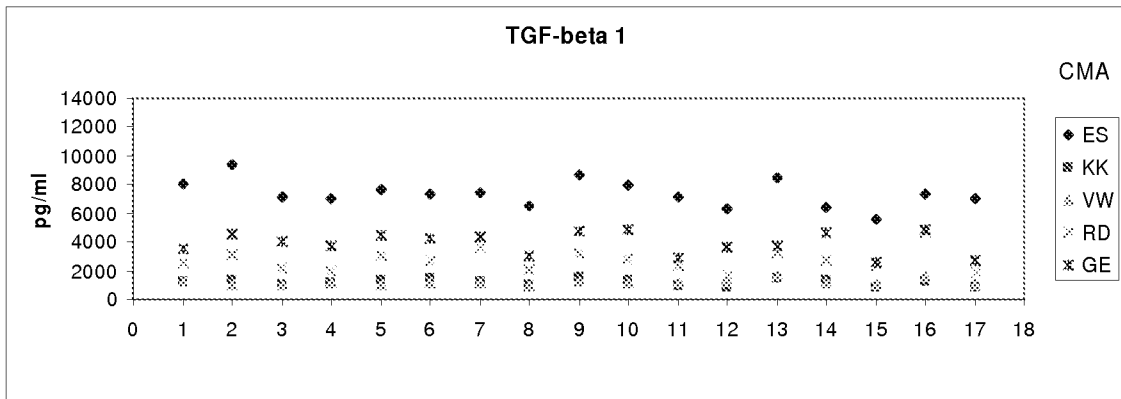


range of detection: 57-41500 pg/ml

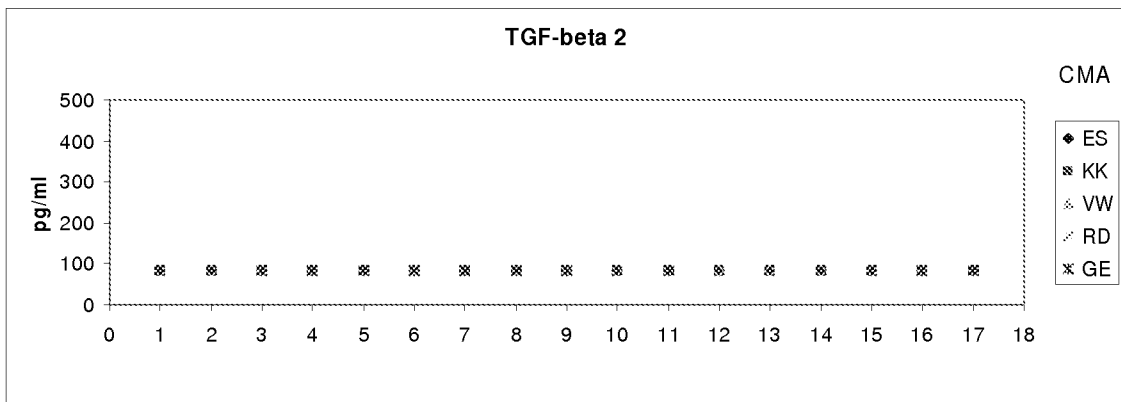
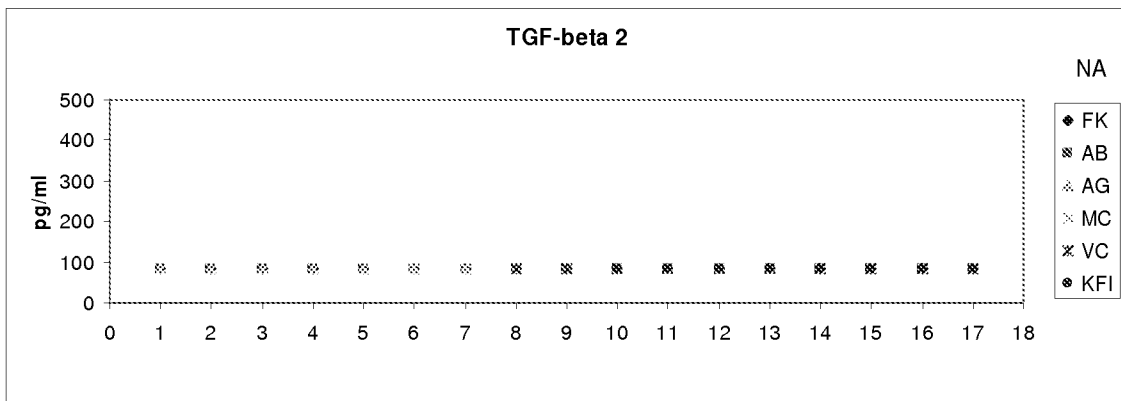


range of detection: 47-34500 pg/ml

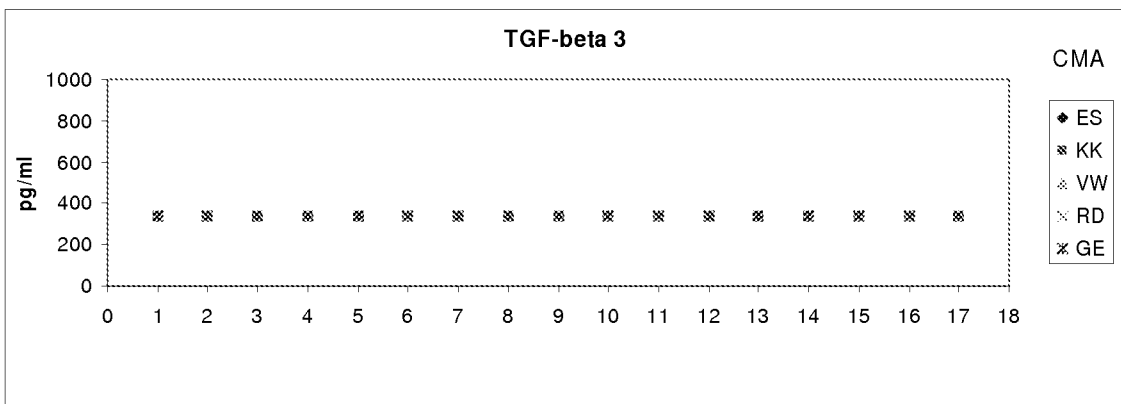
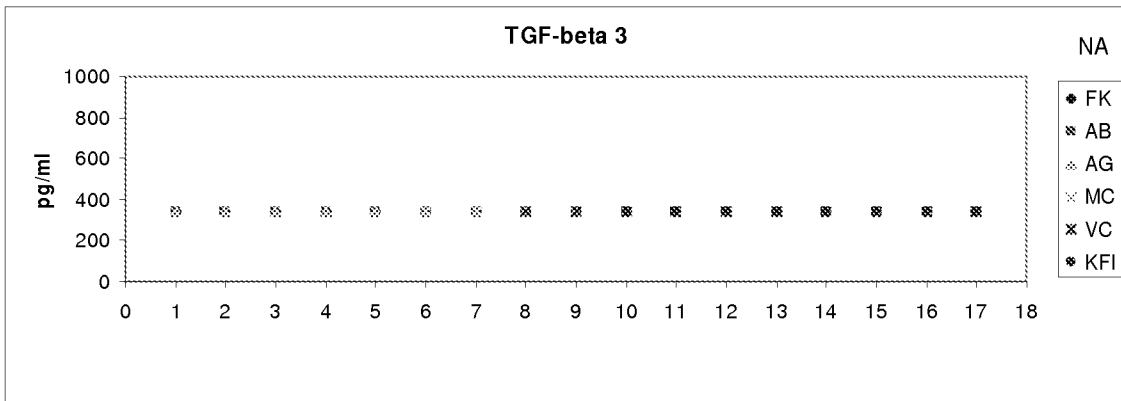




range of detection: 33.3-24300 pg/ml



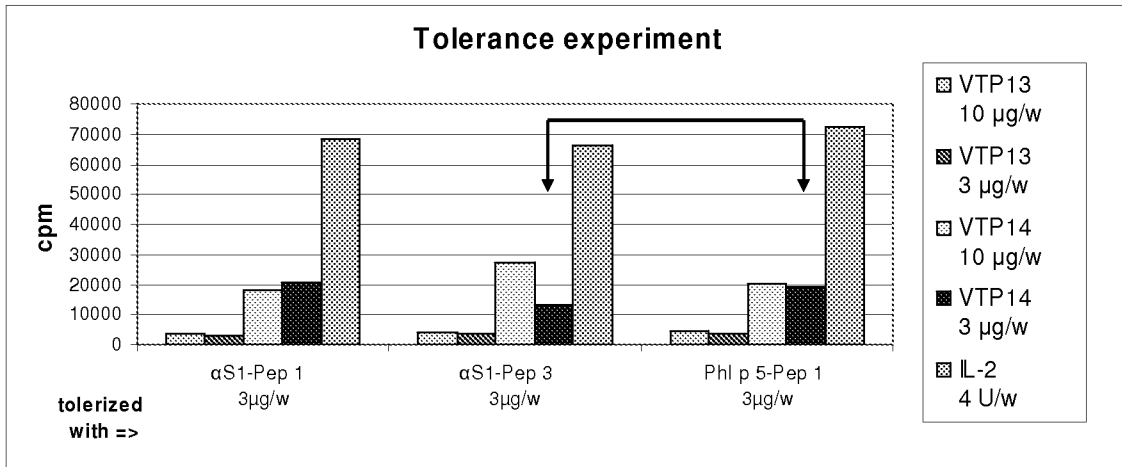
range of detection: 17.1-12500 pg/ml



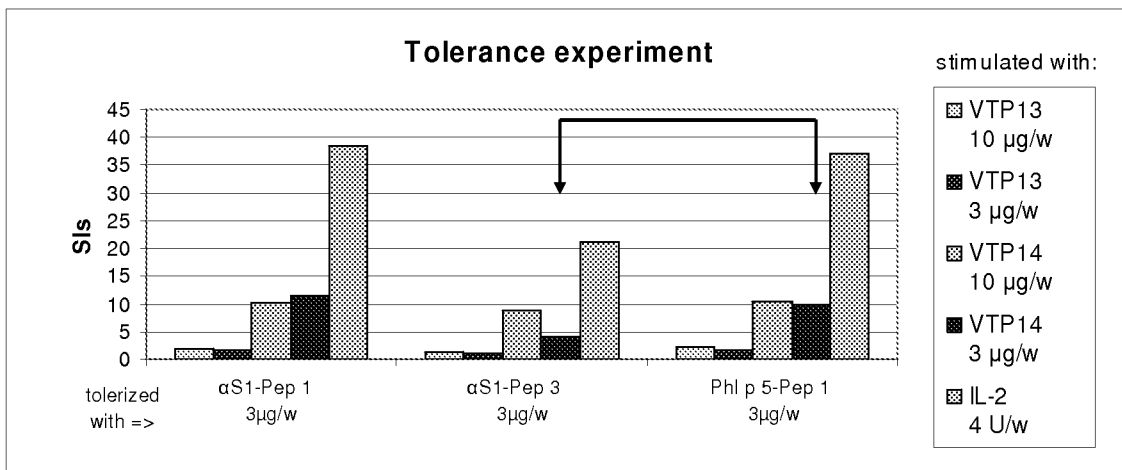
range of detection: 68.3-49850 pg/ml

Figure 6:

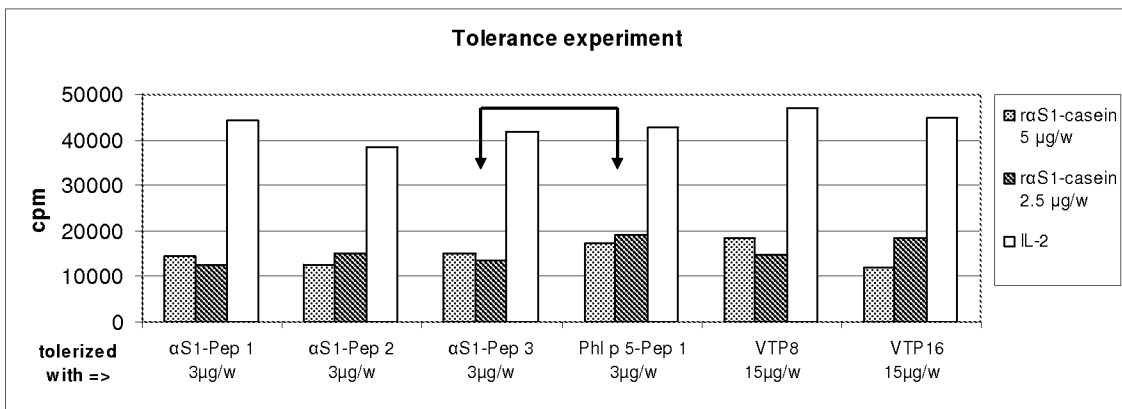
a



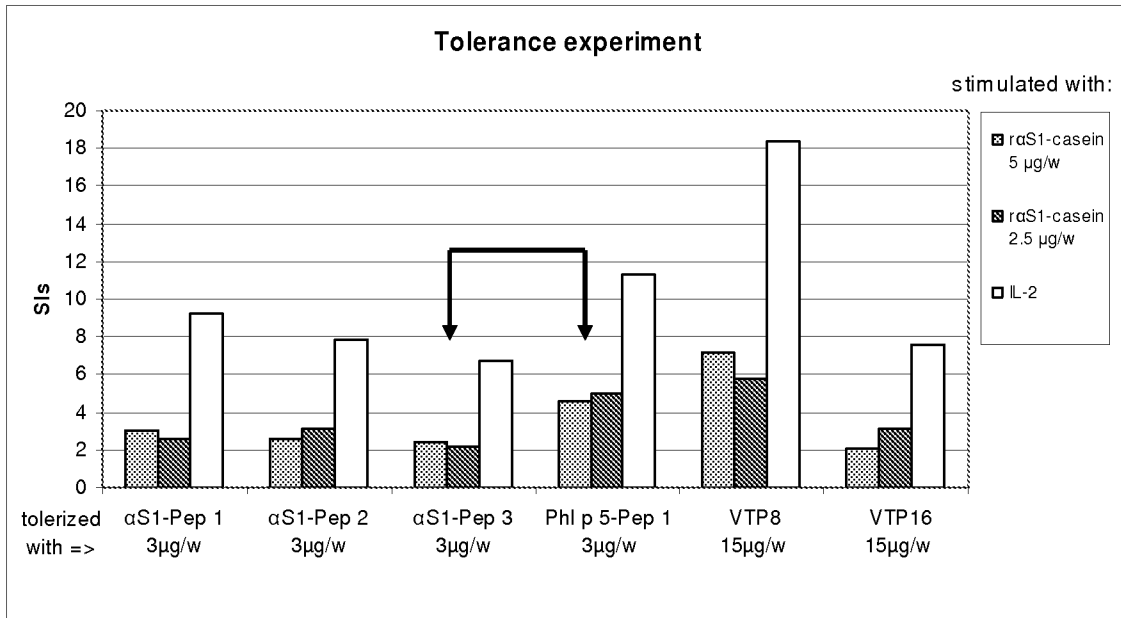
b



c



d



<= tolerized with

Figure 7:

stimulated with:	UCO			Phi p 5-Pep 1, 3µg/w			gS1-Pep 4, 3µg/w			VTP 11, 15µg/w			SI				
	cpm	cpm	mean	SI	cpm	cpm	mean	SI	cpm	cpm	mean	SI					
UCO	15631	12705	16242		11263	13457	12846	12522		17694	14608	16151		6020	7007	6514	
VTP14	29468	43062	37055	2.3	38430	45751	41730	41970	3.4	16162	25426	20794	1.3	23156	26251	21646	3.6
VTP14		3896	7349	0.3	3282	2244	1482	2336	0.2	2790	4703	3747	0.2	3881	2563	3222	0.5
VTP1	11394	10441	8886	0.5	4708	3278	4898	4295	0.3	6381	6304	6304	0.4	459	428	387	0.1
VTP1	4201	5674	5679	0.3	6315	6342	6409	6355	0.5	8231	8478	6621	0.4	315	258	256	0.0
IL-2	16371	12600	14486	0.9	14153	17806	12214	14724	1.2	12704	19463	14533	0.9	8606	6118	7362	1.1

stimulated with:	VTP 15, 15µg/w			VTP 14, 15µg/w			VTP 3, 15µg/w			SI				
	cpm	cpm	mean	SI	cpm	cpm	mean	SI	cpm		cpm	mean		
UCO	10989	10701	10850		16997	12220	14609		13059	22208	17634			
VTP14	48454	36437	46038	4.2	40639	38430	39191	2.7	11472	26636	21940	20016	1.1	
VTP14	4039	2676	4685	0.4	6380	2904	4642	0.3	1578	3939	2759	2759	0.2	
VTP1	1283	2082	1683	0.2	243	176	185	0.0	338	396	390	375	0.0	
VTP1	719	487	7467	0.3	143	187	3080	1137	0.1	227	400	2750	1126	0.1
IL-2	14646	11771	14296	1.3	14336	10984	15100	13473	0.9	12402	15314	20180	15965	0.9

<= tolerized with

Figure 8:

Ionscore	Peptides identified within Hydrolysate Z0002	hydrophobicity score	bitterness score
65	HQPHQPLPPT	-1,67	1414
63	HQPHQPLFP	-1,78	1522
61	YFPFGPIP	-0,48	2107
56	PFPGFIP	0,07	2300
53	YFPFGPIF	-0,10	2371
50	PFPFGIPN	-0,38	2011
46	PFPFGPIH	-0,16	1997
46	PFPFGPIFNSLPQ + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,43	1758
45	YFPFGPI	0,11	2336
43	PFGPIP	-0,20	1924
40	MHQPHQPLPPT + Oxidation (M)	-1,35	1404
39	PFPFGPIFNSLP + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,15	1925
39	SWMHQPHQPLPPT + Oxidation (M); Oxidation (HW)	-1,27	1422
35	HRGHPIG + Oxidation (HW)	-1,26	1046
32	NILNSE + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,50	993
31	HKPFHCQPL + Carbamidomethyl (C)	-0,88	1412
30	CKQGHPIGPNPFGHNGLP + Deamidation (NQ); Oxidation (HW)	-1,02	1014
29	NLRVPKP + Deamidation (NQ)	-1,01	1653
29	PLTGWRVF + Oxidation (HW); Phospho (STY)	0,34	1694
29	PSTQERSGAP	-1,12	770
28	HTDGTP	-1,68	757
27	PGEVEP	-1,07	1338
27	MHQPHQPLPPT + Oxidation (HW)	-1,35	1404
26	QRNGQP + Deamidation (NQ)	-2,83	523
26	PMGPAGLP	0,24	1539
26	LMPGPLR	0,20	1730
26	PAEDDNNNVATAPSTE + Deamidation (NQ); Phospho (STY)	-1,27	762
25	ETTPFLT	-0,09	1366
24	NQATRP + Deamidation (NQ)	-2,00	735
24	FVEPFISG	0,14	1898
24	PSQTLSLTCSVS	0,38	841
24	ALEWLGSIDTGGNT + Oxidation (HW); Phospho (STY)	-0,06	967
23	PLFCSAP	0,36	1579
23	PSGFQCL	-0,23	1085
23	FHQPLPPT	-1,25	1718
23	HKAADKUSA	-0,63	884

23	PGPKLVKFSQ + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,93	1491
23	LPLLF	1,64	2500
23	LPLIP	1,78	2610
22	MSINT + Oxidation (M)	0,28	948
22	FSLNT	0,32	1108
22	SLCPQ + Phospho (STY)	0,08	996
22	LMBLPE	0,15	1643
22	LLGRRAGPP	0,02	1469
21	EMPVPL + Oxidation (M)	0,53	1867
21	RRTTPF	-2,27	1263
21	PRDGAES	-1,79	744
21	PRDYT + Phospho (STY)	-2,32	1440
21	FSQTLSELTCTVSN + Deamidation (NQ)	0,09	806
21	QSWMHQPHQPLPPT + Deamidation (NQ)	-1,43	1313
21	PPGPI	0,74	2172
21	MPGPL + Oxidation (M)	0,42	1792
20	NIPMT + Deamidation (NQ)	0,12	1464
20	PPGSSA + Phospho (STY)	0,17	1013
20	PSSNILF + Deamidation (NQ)	0,63	1533
20	TGLWPINT + Oxidation (HW); Phospho (STY)	0,06	1485
20	QWGNHSGLSET + Deamidation (NQ)	-1,26	625
20	PPVPGAMLLLLLGLL + Oxidation (M)	1,93	1901
19	DEENP + Deamidation (NQ)	-3,12	850
19	HFIQML + Oxidation (M)	1,05	1623
19	DEDDLPP	-1,20	1531
19	HPNHIVEPSGPA	-0,38	1238
19	LLDKMQGYVKEA	-0,38	1285
19	YVSWFQQIFGSA + Deamidation (NQ); Oxidation (HW); Phospho (STY)	0,04	1368
19	PPPGPI	0,35	2247
18	FQPDPAS	-1,54	1296
18	YPEPIF + Phospho (STY)	0,93	2730
18	PQKGFVPGA	-0,84	1212
18	SQLANLTQ + Phospho (STY)	-0,33	730
18	FSRFSASRSG	-0,96	762
18	FSRFSGSKDA	-1,17	389
18	SVEPYRHGVSVV + Phospho (STY)	0,22	1348
18	FAQRFRGLYQAD + Deamidation (NQ)	-1,58	1053
18	ICRKKCAHP	-0,74	1317
17	LGPQNA + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,57	943

17	KCQPPK + Deamidation (NQ)	-2,00	1357
17	RIFSGCF	-0,27	1283
17	ENMGGRP + Oxidation (M)	-1,71	741
17	DRVKNE	-1,40	1183
17	PNLWSAP	-0,40	1631
17	AGEBPAGK	-1,29	739
17	PNGVLEY	-0,33	1449
17	TRKLACL + Phospho (STY)	0,40	1177
17	QGKCGPFPTI	-0,67	1267
17	FRHLHALVGF	-0,09	1423
17	KTGRAWYNPALK + Deamidation (NQ); Phospho (STY)	-1,11	1378
17	EAQTLACPKEPCRECQ	-0,93	828
17	LMPGPL	0,98	1897
17	SDIPNPI	-0,29	1679
16	ASAPK + Sulfation (S)	-0,54	1124
16	LITGLP	1,57	1812
16	LLASLP	1,80	1775
16	LRDLP	-0,40	1746
16	SSNNI + Deamidation (NQ); Sulfation (S)	-0,82	606
16	PGLQES	-1,00	922
16	PNEDRT	-2,88	812
16	SATVGFGS + Phospho (STY)	0,71	699
16	DHKNVRQ	-2,56	693
16	DHQQKKL	-2,53	894
16	PGEALTDPLF	-0,35	1496
16	TARGFCQIQV + Phospho (STY)	0,32	901
16	FRGAPGALSFSYDGLHG	-0,59	1132
15	PSDPHT	-1,90	1127
15	PGQSGKP	-1,74	954
15	FTGVNAN	-0,53	780
15	VLNMPF + Oxidation (M)	0,53	1773
15	NNPSPSA	-1,43	861
15	PVTAGASV	1,06	993
15	PVQCDFP + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,56	1053
15	KPSQFLS	-1,07	994
15	HLARVPA	0,33	1346
15	FEIAGEW	-0,51	1489
15	ELALFTPQE	-0,56	1361
15	PLTGLWFIN + Deamidation (NQ); Oxidation (HW)	0,38	1831
15	EVLNNNPHI	-0,70	1191

15	DHKKFFQM + Deamidation (NQ)	-1,31	1318
15	QLLSNQILLP	0,68	1510
15	NGVATGTKIVTKGACI	0,56	943
15	EIAAEPTSSQHQDKV + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,25	1134
15	LSLTCTVSGFSLSNYGV	0,88	1011
15	GGIPKTK	-0,91	1290
15	IEDFKA	-0,30	1490
14	PKPRL	-1,56	1978
14	PSSNM + Phospho (STY)	-0,96	798
14	QD-PYR	-2,88	1332
14	QHHCVP	-0,80	868
14	HFSWE + Oxidation (HW)	-1,12	1348
14	HEDDTS	-1,48	785
14	PFSTVVP	0,93	1679
14	WLPQGH + Oxidation (HW)	-0,97	1407
14	RDPLPR	-1,98	1610
14	PASIRCL	0,81	1359
14	PKGESKD	-2,51	964
14	PPVPLTAP	0,34	1970
14	IPGMFGLP + Oxidation (M)	0,58	1819
14	WVGRPIP	-0,04	1947
14	SPLFLGK + Phospho (STY)	0,53	1664
14	NPHHSQW + Deamidation (NQ); Oxidation (HW)	-2,39	936
14	PPAPAEPRSA + Phospho (STY)	-0,98	1399
14	RSTGVFSRES + Phospho (STY)	-0,71	898
14	IPGSEKAALGY + Phospho (STY)	0,00	1312
14	RINVAVTRAR + Phospho (STY)	-0,12	1043
14	QIRTCRSTGSWS + Deamidation (NQ); Phospho (STY)	-0,88	694
14	DMILDL + Oxidation (M)	1,17	1698
13	PPCGT + Phospho (STY)	-0,36	1136
13	PGGSTP + Phospho (STY)	-0,92	953
13	PHDQF	-1,80	1242
13	VNISGGSF	0,70	923
13	PQRSLVSV	0,13	1141
13	HSSLPSST + Phospho (STY)	-0,61	768
13	SKALHFE + Phospho (STY)	-0,43	1199
13	FLQLQVEAP + Deamidation (NQ)	-0,01	1428
13	PDRFSGSRCG	-1,12	735
13	HMFMYFLR + Oxidation (M)	0,53	1802

13	HDGEWTSAPFI	-0,20	1498
13	ACHFHPHLSF + Carbamidomethyl (C)	-0,27	1258
13	FGIFP	-0,14	2166
13	IPNFI	0,46	2234
13	IEVEL	1,10	1636
13	NQFMLP + Oxidation (M)	-0,75	1475
13	LEMPLP + Oxidation (M)	0,47	1988
13	VEMPPE + Oxidation (M)	-0,68	1555
13	RRQDVR	-2,72	720
12	FQNAA	-1,00	794
12	FQCAE	-0,86	760
12	FLQSE	-1,12	1106
12	QPGSQQ	-2,22	393
12	PNDTPT	-1,93	1108
12	SEMLAP	0,27	1277
12	TDGTSLP	-0,56	929
12	TECQLP	-0,50	986
12	FQRFAR	-2,32	1222
12	VGGYQMS	-0,04	829
12	PVAKFSF	0,13	1693
12	KFFPSDT	-1,33	1487
12	KRPEHE	-3,37	1075
12	IQKYKSLPKMS + Oxidation (M)	-0,86	1515
12	PHGALQSE	-0,93	845
12	LLEMQQT	-0,24	990
11	DQGAHV + Deamidation (NQ); Oxidation (HW)	-0,77	560
11	GSGAGQFV	-0,14	623
11	SSDRFS	-1,27	673
11	IIPMGL	2,46	2179
11	TPGGPGGPE	-1,18	983
11	VSVGLQTS	0,75	778
11	PLNMVPK	-0,10	1734
11	HFSWEV	-0,23	1405
11	NPHHLRA + Oxidation (HW)	-1,49	1070
11	SGVPRHFS	-0,54	1034
11	PVWSSAYLPQC + Carbamidomethyl (C)	0,16	1448
11	VVGGLLI	2,81	1599
11	VAAALLL	3,00	1591
11	QCKFLP	0,02	1515

11	EVANPLL	0,71	1489
11	DALSSVQES	-0,34	661
11	DIMITGLSK	0,60	1353
11	DTVPLDGSSTLTFPSIQMA + Oxidation (M)	0,28	1211
10	SNSVD + Phospho (STY)	-0,88	460
10	PFPGEG	-1,30	1890
10	LPNPED	-1,65	1457
10	GPIYGMT	0,29	1457
10	QPGQFTL	-0,44	1133
10	PGRKAVHV	-0,43	1183
10	PSLLTPQGF	-0,29	1453
10	GPPAQAQETHN	-1,63	725
10	SQRCINTHGSYKCL	-0,66	814
10	QDVVQ	0,12	1062
9	SKSTAA	-0,43	580
9	QDPDE	-3,12	830
9	AGEEPAG	-0,83	740
9	VNHANT	-0,82	557
9	HRTFCA	-0,95	837
9	VSWVRQ + Oxidation (HW)	-0,22	1175
9	EEFFLGP	-0,57	1630
8	GNNDPAG	-1,59	553
8	PVDGHAL	0,16	1214
8	WGQGLR	-0,98	1068
8	PQKAVPY	-0,84	1764
8	PQALASLC	0,98	1168
8	YPRKEI	-1,72	1873
8	TVMPPFQ	0,21	1603
8	VLGSLPGEF	0,73	1478
8	KIAQMLFGVG	0,64	1313
8	PIQYVLSRY	-0,06	1790
8	LPLP	1,10	2520
8	IPIP	1,45	2795
8	IPLP	1,275	2658
8	LPIP	1,28	2658
8	DFLP	0,38	2058
8	DFIP	0,55	2195
8	DAFFR	-1,00	1454
8	WGPTPLP	-0,43	1960

7	LLVI	4,02	2384
7	PQGKSD	-2,28	767
7	PRPPSPIST	-0,97	1633
7	QREHAASVP	-1,03	832
7	PDRFSGTKS	-1,49	951
7	HLAPAP	0,17	1603
7	DFPEAR	-1,42	1303
6	NGCVTGH	-0,21	374
6	PGTLAHSVVYR	-0,28	1095
6	LDFP	0,38	2058
6	VSMRL	0,92	1236
6	QANLWCLSRCA	0,27	905
5	PGSPGLV	0,46	1341
5	LPPT	-0,03	2025
5	MKTP + Oxidation (M)	-1,08	1465
5	DFILLN	1,32	1832
5	FDLPGVS	0,64	1423
5	PSNVLSPTP	-0,29	1387
4	HLPLP	0,24	2116
4	GRKDT	-2,60	642
4	TQPINQATGGPK	-1,13	926
3	CMKVSISLTVG	1,32	1099
3	YAVGWVRQAPG	-0,05	1269
3	QTAVL	1,12	1036
3	EIPLP	0,32	2236
3	LEPLP	0,18	2126
3	IQSLPGIP	0,61	1693
3	QQKYPEKQDT	-2,89	972
2	MGSVTFEDT	-0,57	847
2	HQPLPFTVM + Oxidation (M)	-0,26	1558
2	DGAHRNDDDET	-2,45	456
2	DILTVT	1,27	1417
1	LRLFPQIKG	0,11	1690
1	HRGMYRCQV + Carbamidomethyl (C)	-0,98	858
1	TNTRQGLQIEVTV	-0,36	829
1	DSELPT	-1,05	1102
1	LPPLTIQ	0,67	1913
<1	DLEQGFAP	-1,06	1173