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(54) Title: INTERFERON-BETA FOR USE AS MONOTHERAPY OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER CANCER THERAPIES

(57) Abstract: This description relates to the use of a polymer-conjugated interferon-beta as monotherapy or in combination with other cancer therapies.

**INTERFERON-BETA FOR USE AS MONOTHERAPY OR IN COMBINATION
WITH OTHER CANCER THERAPIES**

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims priority to provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 5 61/389,009, filed on October 1, 2010, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] This description relates to the use of a polymer-conjugated interferon-beta as monotherapy or in combination with other therapies to treat cancer.

BACKGROUND

10 [0003] In humans, cancers become established after a primary genetic event by a number of mechanisms that include, but are not limited to, increased cellular metabolism and growth rate, stimulation of angiogenesis thereby increasing blood supply to the tumor, and disregulation of signaling pathways and tumor suppressors. Moreover, tumors may become resistant to anti-cancer drugs by a number of mechanisms that include, but are 15 not limited to, expulsion of the drug from the cell, occurrence of mutations that prevent binding of the drug to its target, and occurrence of additional mutations in genes and their protein products unrelated to the drug target. While cancer therapies typically use a combination of drugs to achieve efficacy, there remains a need to provide better therapies for a number of cancers for which long term prognosis is poor.

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SUMMARY

[0004] In one embodiment, a method of treating melanoma in a subject includes identifying a subject diagnosed with melanoma, administering an inhibitor of a protein kinase in the Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK pathway to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The inhibitor can be an inhibitor of MEK. The inhibitor can be 25 administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat melanoma. The inhibitor can be N-[(2R)-2,3-dihydroxypropoxy]-3,4-difluoro-2-[(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)amino]benzamide. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b.

The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b. The IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat melanoma.

[0005] In another embodiment, a method of treating melanoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with melanoma, administering an alkylating agent to the subject; and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The alkylating agent can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat melanoma. The alkylating agent can be 4-methyl-5-oxo- 2,3,4,6,8-pentazabicyclo [4.3.0] nona-2,7,9-triene-9-carboxamide. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0006] In another embodiment, a method of treating renal cell carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, administering an anti-VEGF antibody to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The anti-VEGF antibody can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat renal cell carcinoma. The anti-VEGF antibody can be a humanized monoclonal anti-VEGF-A antibody. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b. The IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat renal cell carcinoma.

[0007] In another embodiment, a method of treating renal cell carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, administering an inhibitor of mTOR to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The inhibitor of mTOR can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat renal cell carcinoma. The inhibitor of mTOR can be temsirolimus. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

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[0008] In another embodiment, a method of treating renal cell carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, administering an inhibitor of Raf-1 to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The

inhibitor of Raf-1 can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat renal cell carcinoma. The inhibitor of Raf-1 can be 4-[4-[[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]carbamoylamino]phenoxy]-N-methyl-pyridine-2-carboxamide. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0009] In another embodiment, a method of treating colon carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with colon carcinoma, administering an anti-VEGF antibody to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The anti-VEGF antibody can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat colon carcinoma. The anti-VEGF antibody can be a humanized monoclonal anti-VEGF-A antibody. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b. The IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat colon carcinoma.

[0010] In another embodiment, a method of treating breast carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with breast carcinoma, administering a mitotic inhibitor to the subject and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The mitotic inhibitor can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat breast carcinoma. The mitotic inhibitor can be paclitaxel. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b. The IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat breast carcinoma.

[0011] In another embodiment, a method of treating breast carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with breast carcinoma and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0012] In another embodiment, a method of treating melanoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with melanoma and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0013] In another embodiment, a method of treating renal cell carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0014] In another embodiment, a method of treating colon carcinoma in a subject can include identifying a subject diagnosed with colon carcinoma and administering an interferon beta to the subject. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta 1a can be pegylated interferon beta 1a. The interferon beta can be interferon beta 1b. The interferon beta 1b can be pegylated interferon beta 1b.

[0015] Other features will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate by way of example, the features of the various embodiments.

[0015a] A definition of the specific embodiment of the invention claimed herein follows.

[0015b] In a broad format, the invention provides a method of treating melanoma in a subject, the method comprising:

identifying a subject diagnosed with melanoma;
concurrently or sequentially administering an inhibitor of a protein kinase in the Ras-Raf MEK-ERK pathway and an interferon beta to the subject.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] FIG. 1 is a graph that illustrates the effects of control, IFN-beta-1a, and pegylated IFN-beta-1a on the formation of tumor induced blood vessels in nude mice inoculated with 2×10^6

SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells.

[0017] FIG. 2 is a graph that illustrates the effects of different doses of the MEK inhibitor PD 325901 on SK-MEL-1 tumor volume in nude mice inoculated with SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells.

[0018] FIG. 3 is a graph that illustrates the effects of vehicle controls, PD325901, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901 on SK-MEL-1 tumor volume in nude mice inoculated with SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells.

[TEXT CONTINUES ON PAGE 5]

[0019] FIG. 4 is a western blot illustrating the effects of vehicle controls, PD325901, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901 on ERK phosphorylation in SK-MEL-1 tumors.

5 **[0020]** FIG. 5 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human A-375 melanoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, temozolomide alone, and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a in combination with temozolomide.

10 **[0021]** FIG. 6A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. FIG. 6B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated Interferon-beta-1a.

15 **[0022]** FIG. 7A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, bevacizumab alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, and a combination of bevacizumab and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. FIG. 7B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, bevacizumab alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, and a combination of bevacizumab and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a.

20 **[0023]** FIG. 8A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, sorafenib alone, pegylated interferon beta 1a alone, and a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a in a concurrent dosing schedule. FIG. 8B is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, sorafenib alone, pegylated interferon beta 1a alone, and a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a in a sequential dosing schedule.

25 **[0024]** FIG. 9A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, temsirolimus alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, and a combination of temsirolimus and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. FIG 9B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human

SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, temsirolimus alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and a combination of temsirolimus and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a.

[0025] FIG. 10 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human SW-620 colon carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle control, and pegylated IFN-beta-1a at different doses.

[0026] FIG. 11 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human SW-620 colon carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, avastin (bevacizumab) alone, irinotecan alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, a combination of avastin and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a, and a combination of irinotecan and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a.

[0027] FIG. 12 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and paclitaxel.

[0028] FIG. 13A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and pegylated IFN-beta-1a at different doses. FIG. 13B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a at different doses. FIG. 13C is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human MDA-MB-468 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls, IFN-beta-1a, or pegylated IFN-beta-1a.

[0029] FIG. 14A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, paclitaxel alone, and a combination of pegylated IFN-beta-1a and paclitaxel. FIG. 14B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, paclitaxel alone, and a combination pegylated IFN-beta-1a and paclitaxel. The dose of pegylated interferon beta 1a used in FIG. 14A and 14B was 0.8 mg/kg.

[0030] FIG. 15A is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, paclitaxel alone, and a combination of pegylated IFN-beta-1a and paclitaxel. FIG.

15B is a graph that illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, paclitaxel alone, and a combination pegylated IFN-beta-1a and paclitaxel. The concentration of pegylated interferon beta 1a used in FIG. 15A and 15B was 1.6 mg/kg.

5 [0031] FIG. 16 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human WM-266-4 melanoma tumors treated with pegylated IFN-beta-1a at 0.1 mg/kg, 0.2 mg/kg, 0.4 mg/kg, and 0.8 mg/kg.

10 [0032] FIGS. 17A-C are graphs that illustrate tumor volume in nude mice of human WM-266-4 melanoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 0.4mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg, or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated interferon-beta-1a once a week (QW), twice a week (BIW), or three times a week (TIW).

[0033] FIG. 18 is a graph that illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of large human WM-266-4 melanoma tumors treated with pegylated IFN-beta-1a at 0.8 mg/kg and 1.6 mg/kg.

15 [0034] FIG. 19A is a western blot that illustrates the effect on caspase activation and PARP cleavage in WM-266-4 melanoma cells treated with pegylated interferon-beta-1a for 48 hours. FIG. 19B-C are graphs that illustrate fold caspase 3 and PARP induction, respectively, in WM-266-4 melanoma cells treated with pegylated interferon-beta-1a for 48 hours.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0035] Interferon-beta is currently being used for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. For example, interferon-beta-1a is marketed in the United States under the trade names of AVONEXTM (Biogen Idec MA Inc.) and REBIFTM (EMD Serono) and interferon-beta-1b is marketed in the United States as BETASERONTM (Berlex) and EXTAVIATM (Novartis).

[0036] The term “interferon” or “IFN” as used herein means the family of highly homologous species-specific proteins that inhibit viral replication and cellular proliferation and modulate immune responses. Human interferons are grouped into two classes; Type I, including alpha and beta-interferon, and Type II, which is represented by

gamma-interferon only. Recombinant forms of each group have been developed and are commercially available. Subtypes in each group are based on antigenic/structural characteristics. An example of interferon used herein is a human interferon-beta that is glycosylated at residue 80 (Asn 80) and that is derived via recombinant DNA

5 technologies. A further example of interferon used herein is pegylated Interferon beta-1a which is modified at the N-terminal α -amino group with a single, linear 20 kDa mPEG-O-2-methylpropionaldehyde group.

10 [0037] This glycosylated interferon-beta is also known as "interferon-beta-1a" or "IFN-beta-1a" or "interferon beta 1a," all used interchangeably. The term "interferon-beta-1a" is also meant to encompass mutants thereof, provided that such mutants are also glycosylated at residue 80 (Asn 80). Recombinant DNA methods for producing proteins, including interferons are known. See for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,399,216, 5,149,636, 5,179,017 (Axel et al) and U.S. Pat. No. 4,470,461 (Kaufman). Another example of interferon that can be used is interferon beta-1b. Interferon beta-1b can be produced in *E. coli* bacteria using a modified human gene sequence that contains a genetically engineered cysteine-to-serine substitution at amino acid position 17 and can be non-glycosylated.

15 [0038] Mutants of interferon-beta-1a may be used. Mutations are developed using conventional methods of directed mutagenesis, known to those of ordinary skill in the art and can include functionally equivalent interferon-beta-1a polynucleotides that encode for functionally equivalent interferon-beta-1a polypeptides.

20 [0039] The construction of recombinant DNA plasmids containing sequences encoding at least part of human fibroblast interferon and the expression of a polypeptide having immunological or biological activity of human fibroblast interferon is also contemplated. 25 The construction of hybrid beta-interferon genes containing combinations of different subtype sequences can be accomplished by techniques known to those of skill in the art.

30 [0040] The interferon-beta protein may be conjugated to polyalkylene glycol residues of C1-C4 alkyl polyalkylene glycols preferably polyethylene glycol (PEG), or poly(oxy)alkylene glycol residues of such glycols. Thus, the polymer to which the protein is attached can be a homopolymer of polyethylene glycol (PEG) or is a polyoxyethylated polyol, provided in all cases that the polymer is soluble in water at

room temperature. Non-limiting examples of such polymers include polyalkylene oxide homopolymers such as PEG or polypropylene glycols, polyoxyethylenated glycols, copolymers thereof and block copolymers thereof, provided that the water solubility of the block copolymer is maintained. Examples of polyoxyethylated polyols include, for 5 example, polyoxyethylated glycerol, polyoxyethylated sorbitol, polyoxyethylated glucose, or the like. The glycerol backbone of polyoxyethylated glycerol is the same backbone occurring naturally in, for example, animals and humans in mono-, di-, and triglycerides. Therefore, this branching would not necessarily be seen as a foreign agent in the body.

[0041] As an alternative to polyalkylene oxides, dextran, polyvinyl pyrrolidones, 10 polyacrylamides, polyvinyl alcohols, carbohydrate-based polymers and the like may be used. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing list is merely illustrative and that all polymer materials having the qualities described herein are contemplated. The polymer need not have any particular molecular weight, but it is preferred that the molecular weight be between about 300 and 100,000, more preferably 15 between 10,000 and 40,000. In particular, sizes of 20,000 or more are best at preventing protein loss due to filtration in the kidneys.

[0042] Polyalkylene glycol derivatization has a number of advantageous properties in the formulation of polymer-interferon-beta 1a conjugates, as associated with the following properties of polyalkylene glycol derivatives: improvement of aqueous solubility, while at 20 the same time eliciting no antigenic or immunogenic response; high degrees of biocompatibility; absence of in vivo biodegradation of the polyalkylene glycol derivatives; and ease of excretion by living organisms. An example of a pegylated interferon-beta-1a that can be used in the compositions described herein can include interferon-beta-1a modified at the N-terminal α -amino group with a single linear 20 kDa 25 mPEG-O-2-methylpropionaldehyde group (See Baker DP et al 2006, Bioconjugate Chem. 17, 179-188, hereby incorporated by reference). Conjugation of interferon-beta to PEG including mPEG-propionaldehyde is further described in U.S. Patent No. 7,446,173 and U.S. Application Publication No. 20050107277, each of which are herein incorporated by reference.

30 [0043] The compositions described herein can be formulated as aqueous pharmaceutical compositions or in lyophilized form. A stable composition of interferon-beta exhibits

little or no signs of any one or more of aggregation, fragmentation, deamidation, oxidation, or change in biological activity over an extended period of time, e.g., 12 months, 24 months, 36 months or longer. For example, in one embodiment, less than 10% of the composition is aggregated, fragmented, or oxidized. Aggregation, 5 precipitation, and/or denaturation can be assessed by known methods, such as visual examination of color and/or clarity, or by UV light scattering or size exclusion chromatography. The ability of the protein to retain its biological activity can be assessed by detecting and quantifying chemically altered forms of the protein. Size modification (e.g., clipping) can be evaluated using size exclusion chromatography, SDS-PAGE and/or 10 matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization/time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI/TOF MS), or peptide mapping of endoproteinase-treated protein, for example. Other types of chemical alteration include charge alteration (e.g., occurring as a result of deamidation), which can be evaluated by ion-exchange chromatography, for example. A protein retains its biological activity in a pharmaceutical formulation, if the biological 15 activity of the protein at a given time is within about 10% of the biological activity exhibited at the time the pharmaceutical formulation was prepared as determined in an assay.

[0044] Interferon-beta or interferon-beta-1a or pegylated interferon-beta-1a, for example, can be provided in a buffered solution at a concentration of about 0.1 mg/ml to about 5 20 mg/ml, of about 0.1 mg/ml to about 1 mg/ml, of about 0.1 mg/ml to about 0.5 mg/ml, of about 0.1 mg/ml to about 0.3 mg/ml, or of about 0.1 mg/ml to about 0.2 mg/ml. Interferon-beta-1a can be provided in a buffered solution at a concentration of 0.25 25 mg/ml. The composition can be stored at 2-25°C, at 5°C, at 10°C, at 15°C, at 20°C or at 25°C. The composition can be stable at room temperature for 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 days or more. Room temperature can be about 18°C, 19°C, 20°C, 21°C, 22°C, 23°C, 24°C or 25°C. The composition can be stored at a first low temperature, for example, less than 18°C, or from about freezing but at or below 15°C, 10°C or 4°C and can be stored at second higher temperature, for example, without refrigeration or at room temperature, for about 1-5 days.

30 **[0045]** Pharmaceutical compositions are sterile and stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage. A pharmaceutical composition can also be tested to insure it meets regulatory and industry standards for administration.

[0046] Exemplary conditions which can be treated with interferon include, but are not limited to, cell proliferation disorders including cancers, multiple sclerosis, and viral infections. Without limitation, treatment with interferon may be used to treat conditions which would benefit from inhibiting the replication of interferon-sensitive viruses. A

5 cancer can include an adrenocortical carcinoma, anal cancer, bladder cancer, brain tumor, glioma, breast carcinoma, carcinoid tumor, cervical cancer, colon carcinoma, endometrial cancer, esophageal cancer, extrahepatic bile duct cancer, Ewings tumor, extracranial germ cell tumor, eye cancer, gall bladder cancer, gastric cancer, germ cell tumor, gestational trophoblastic tumor, head and neck cancer, hypopharyngeal cancer, islet cell carcinoma, 10 kidney cancer, laryngeal cancer, leukemia, lip and oral cavity cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, lymphoma, melanoma, mesothelioma, merkel cell carcinoma, metastatic squamous head and neck cancer, myeloma, neoplasm, nasopharyngeal cancer, neuroblastoma, oral cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, osteosarcoma, ovarian cancer, 15 pancreatic cancer, sinus and nasal cancer, parathyroid cancer, penile cancer, pheochromocytoma cancer, pituitary cancer, plasma cell neoplasm, prostate cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma, rectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, salivary gland cancer, skin cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, T-cell lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, stomach cancer, testicular cancer, thymoma, thyroid cancer, urethral cancer, uterine cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, or Wilms' tumor.

20 **[0047]** The IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be administered in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat any of the conditions described above. The term “pharmacologically-effective amount” means the amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will elicit the biological or medical response of a tissue, system, animal or human that is being sought by a researcher or clinician. It is an amount that is sufficient 25 to significantly affect a positive clinical response while maintaining diminished levels of side effects. The amount of pegylated IFN-beta for example, which may be administered to a subject in need thereof is in the range of 0.01-1000 µg/kg, or more preferably 0.01-100 µg/kg. Interferon-beta-1a or pegylated interferon-beta-1a can be provided in a buffered solution at a concentration range of 0.1-5 mg/mL, or more preferably 0.25-1 30 mg/mL and can be administered in single or divided doses. The term “subject” refers to any animal, e.g., a mammal, human, or non-human. Exemplary subjects include, but are

not limited to, humans, non-human primates, mice, rats, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, birds, deer, elk, rabbit, reindeer, deer, and horses.

[0048] Administration of the described dosages may be every other day, but preferably occurs once a week or once every other week. Doses can be administered over at least a 5 24 week period by injection. The dosage regimen utilizing the composition described herein is selected in accordance with a variety of factors including type, species, age, weight, sex, and medical condition of the patient; the severity of the condition to be treated; the route of administration; the renal and hepatic function of the patient; and the particular compound or salt thereof employed. The activity of the interferon-beta and 10 sensitivity of the patient to side effects are also considered. An ordinarily skilled physician or veterinarian can readily determine and prescribe the effective amount of the drug required to prevent, counter, or arrest the progress of the condition.

[0049] In yet another embodiment, the composition is suitable for subcutaneous or intramuscular administration. In even another embodiment, the composition is suitable for 15 IV administration. The compositions described herein can be administered by a parenteral mode (e.g., subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, or intramuscular injection). The phrases “parenteral administration” and “administered parenterally” as used herein mean modes of administration other than enteral and topical administration, usually by injection, and include, subcutaneous or intramuscular administration, as well as 20 intravenous, intracapsular, intraorbital, intracardiac, intradermal, intraperitoneal, transtracheal, subcuticular, subcapsular, subarachnoid, intraspinal, epidural, and intrasternal injection and infusion. Administration of the dose can be intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or any other acceptable systemic method. Based on the judgment of the attending clinician, the amount of drug administered and the treatment 25 regimen used will, of course, be dependent on the age, sex, and medical history of the patient being treated, the neutrophil count (e.g., the severity of the neutropenia), the severity of the specific disease condition, and the tolerance of the patient to the treatment as evidenced by local toxicity and by systemic side-effects.

[0050] Parental injectable administration is generally used for subcutaneous, 30 intramuscular, or intravenous injections and infusions. For example, a subcutaneous injection can be used to deliver a range of 0.01-1000 µg/kg, or more preferably 0.01-100

μg/kg. Interferon-beta-1a or pegylated interferon-beta-1a can be provided in a buffered solution at a concentration range of 0.1-5 mg/mL, or more preferably 0.25-1 mg/mL. Additionally, one approach for parenteral administration employs the implantation of a slow-release or sustained-released system, which assures that a constant level of dosage is 5 maintained, according to U.S. Pat. No. 3,710,795, incorporated herein by reference.

[0051] Lyophilized compositions for injections can, for example, be prepared by dissolving, dispersing, etc. The active compound is dissolved in or mixed with a pharmaceutically-pure solvent such as, for example, water, saline, aqueous dextrose, glycerol, ethanol, and the like, to form the injectable solution or suspension.

10 Additionally, solid/lyophilized forms suitable for dissolving in liquid prior to injection can be formulated. Injectable compositions are preferably aqueous isotonic solutions or suspensions. The compositions may be sterilized and/or contain adjuvants, such as preserving, stabilizing, wetting or emulsifying agents, solution promoters, salts for regulating the osmotic pressure and/or buffers. In addition, they may also contain other 15 therapeutically-valuable substances.

[0052] Pharmaceutical compositions can be administered with medical devices. For example, pharmaceutical compositions can be administered with a needleless hypodermic injection device, such as the devices disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,399,163, 5,383,851, 5,312,335, 5,064,413, 4,941,880, 4,790,824, or 4,596,556. Examples of well-known 20 implants and modules include: U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,603, which discloses an implantable micro-infusion pump for dispensing medication at a controlled rate; U.S. Pat. No. 4,486,194, which discloses a therapeutic device for administering medicants through the skin; U.S. Pat. No. 4,447,233, which discloses a medication infusion pump for delivering 25 medication at a precise infusion rate; U.S. Pat. No. 4,447,224, which discloses a variable flow implantable infusion apparatus for continuous drug delivery; U.S. Pat. No. 4,439,196, which discloses an osmotic drug delivery system having multi-chamber compartments; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,475,196, which discloses an osmotic drug delivery 30 system. The therapeutic composition can also be in the form of a biodegradable or nonbiodegradable sustained release formulation for subcutaneous or intramuscular administration. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,773,919 and 4,767,628 and PCT Application No. WO 94/15587. Continuous administration can also be achieved using an implantable or external pump. The administration can also be conducted intermittently, e.g., single

daily injection, or continuously at a low dose, e.g., sustained release formulation. The delivery device can be modified to be optimally suited for administration of interferon-beta. For example, a syringe can be siliconized to an extent that is optimal for storage and delivery of interferon-beta. Of course, many other such implants, delivery systems, and modules are also known.

5 [0053] In another embodiment, the IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta is administered in combination with a second therapeutic agent in a pharmacologically-effective amount to treat any of the conditions described above. A method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer in a subject, can include identifying a subject diagnosed with a cancer.

10 Identifying a subject diagnosed with cancer can include self identification, identification by diagnosis, identification by referral from a physician or identification by referral from an organization. Identification by diagnosis can include biopsies, imaging tests, laboratory tests, genomic tests or palpations. A referring organization can be a clinic, hospital, agency or support group.

15 [0054] Inhibiting cancer proliferation can include slowing down the rate at which the cancer cells undergo mitosis. Treating cancer in a subject can include inhibiting cancer proliferation and improving the overall medical condition of the subject.

20 [0055] The subject can be treated with pegylated interferon-beta-1a alone as a monotherapy or in combination with other suitable drugs as described herein depending on the type of cancer. The drugs can be administered sequentially which can be in a predetermined order or administered concurrently. A method of treating cancer in a subject can include determining a sufficient time after administering pegylated interferon-beta-1a alone or in combination if a sign or symptom of a particular cancer is inhibited to determine if the treatment is effective. A method of inhibiting cancer proliferation in a subject can include determining a sufficient time after administering pegylated interferon-beta-1a alone or in combination if a sign or symptom of a particular cancer is inhibited to determine if the treatment is effective. A sufficient time can be at least 1 day, at least 1 week, at least 2 weeks, at least 3 weeks, at least 1 month, at least 2 months, at least 3 months, at least 6 months, at least 1 year, at least 2 years, at least 5 years or more than 5 years later. Time can be measured from the time when either pegylated interferon-beta-1a alone or in combination with a second drug or a second drug is administered.

[0056] A sign or symptom of cancer can include tumor size. Tumor size can be measured by measuring the minor diameter of the tumor, the major diameter of the tumor, or calculating the volume of the tumor. Tumor size can be determined by palpations, x-rays, computed tomography scans, magnetic resonance imaging, positron emission tomography or bone scans, among others.

[0057] A cellular change can be a sign or symptom of a cancer. Cellular changes can be determined by taking a biopsy of the tumor and using histological techniques to examine it. A cellular change can include an increased rate of cell proliferation, a decreased rate of cell death or a decreased need for adhesion. A sign or symptom can include altered protein expression. This can include misregulation or disregulation of the expression of a protein. The altered protein expression can include underexpression, overexpression, or a change in post-translational modification. The altered protein expression can include a presence of the protein in a region where the protein is not normally present or an absence of the protein in a region where the protein is normally present. The altered protein expression can also include changes in timing related to the protein. For example, the protein is present at a developmental, cell cycle or signal transduction stage in which it is normally not present or is absent when it is normally present. Altered protein expression can result in the activity of a protein being modified. The protein may be more active or less active. An activity may be absent, a new activity may develop or the specificity of an activity can change. The protein may also be activated or inactivated at an incorrect time in a developmental, cell cycle or signal transduction stage.

[0058] A sign or symptom of cancer can include attributes of the skin, including attributes of a mole, blemish, freckle, sore, lump, mark or sore. The attributes can include the shape, color or size of the mole, blemish, freckle, lump, mark or sore. The shape can be asymmetrical, irregular, ragged, notched or blurred. The color can be uneven and include black, brown, red, pink, blue or white. The size can be greater than 4 millimeters, greater than 5 millimeters or greater than 6 millimeters. The number of moles, blemishes, freckles, lumps, marks or sores can also be a sign or symptom of melanoma. The duration the mole, blemish, freckle, lump, mark or sore has been present can be a sign or symptom of melanoma. Another sign or symptom can be a mole, blemish, freckle, lump, mark or sore that does not heal or that increases in size and severity. Changes in skin sensation, for example tenderness, itchiness or pain, can be a sign or symptom of

melanoma. Additionally, changes in the surface of the mole, blemish, freckle, lump, mark or sore can be a sign or symptom. For example, the change can include scaliness, oozing, bleeding or other appearance change.

[0059] Inhibited can mean that the sign or symptom is decreased or the number of signs or symptoms is decreased. A decrease in the number of signs or symptoms can include the total number of occurrences of different signs or symptoms or the total number of occurrences of the same sign or symptom. For example, the tumor volume can decrease or the number of tumors could decrease. Another example can include the sign of an underexpressed protein. A decrease in this sign could be an increase in expression. In a similar manner, a decrease in the sign including loss of protein activity could be an increase in protein activity.

[0060] Melanoma

[0061] A cancer can include melanoma. The melanoma can be a superficial spreading melanoma, a nodular melanoma, a lentigo maligna melanoma or an acral lentiginous melanoma. The melanoma can include a BRAF mutant. The BRAF mutant can be a BRAF V600E mutant.

[0062] A method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer which can include melanoma in a subject, can include administering an inhibitor of a protein kinase in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. The protein kinase can be in the Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK pathway. The inhibitor of a protein kinase in the Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK pathway can be an inhibitor of EGFR, Ras, B-Raf, MEK or ERK. The inhibitor can be cetuximab, erlotinib, trastuzumab, imatinib or oblimersen. The inhibitor can be a farnesyltransferase inhibitor or a farnesylthiosalicylic acid. The inhibitor can also be GW5074 (Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.), BAY 43-9006 (Bayer AG), Ro 09-2210 (Roche Products Limited), L-783277 (Merck), PD 169316 (Calbiochem), SB 203580 (Calbiochem), U 0126 (Calbiochem), PD 98059 (Calbiochem), PD 184352 (United States Biological), PD 0325901 or AZD 8330 (AstraZeneca), FR180204 (Calbiochem) or calpeptin. The inhibitor can be a N-[(2R)-2,3-dihydroxypropoxy]-3,4-difluoro-2-[(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)amino]benzamide (PD 0325901).

[0063] The dose of the inhibitor of a protein kinase administered to a subject can be less than 10 μ g, less than 25 μ g, less than 50 μ g, less than 75 μ g, less than 0.10 mg, less than 0.25 mg, less than 0.5 mg, less than 1 mg, less than 2.5 mg, less than 5 mg, less than 10 mg, less than 15 mg, less than 20 mg, less than 50 mg, less than 75 mg, less than 100 mg, 5 less than 200 mg, less than 300 mg, less than 400 mg, less than 500 mg, less than 750 mg, less than 1 g, less than 2 g or less than 5 g.

[0064] In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer which can include melanoma in a subject, can include administering an alkylating or methylating DNA agent in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a 10 subject. An alkylating agent can be an agent that attaches an alkyl group (C_nH_{2n+1}) to DNA. The alkyl group is attached to the guanine base of DNA, at the number 7 nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring. The alkylating agent can include 4-methyl-5-oxo- 2,3,4,6,8-pentazabicyclo [4.3.0] nona-2,7,9-triene- 9-carboxamide (temozolomide, also known as TEMODAR®).

[0065] The dose of an alkylating or methylating DNA agent, for example temozolomide administered to a subject can be between 50 mg/m² to 200 mg/m². Temozolomide can be administered to a subject at a dose of about 50 mg/m², 75 mg/m², 90 mg/m², 100 mg/m², 135 mg/m², 175 mg/m², 200 mg/m² or more over a period of time. Temozolomide can be administered once daily for 5 days, 10 days, 15 days, 20 days, 25 days, 30 days, 35 days, 20 40 days or 50 days or longer. Temozolomide can be administered in tablet form or through injection. Temozolomide can be administered in a 28 day cycle for one cycle, 2 cycles, 3 cycles, 4 cycles, 5 cycles, 6 cycles or more as needed. Temozolomide can be administered intravenously over 60 minutes or less, 90 minutes, 120 minutes, 150 minutes or more. Temozolomide can be administered for an additional maintenance 25 phase following the initial cycle of treatment. Other suitable doses and length of administration of temozolomide for use in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be determined by methods known to a person of skill in the art.

[0066] Renal cell carcinoma

[0067] A cancer can include a renal cell carcinoma. Renal cell carcinoma (also known as 30 renal adenocarcinoma or hypernephromais) is a type of kidney cancer in which the cancerous cells are found in the lining of very small tubes (tubules) in the kidney. Renal

cell carcinoma can include clear cell renal cell carcinoma, papillary renal cell carcinoma, chromophobe renal cell carcinoma, collecting duct renal cell carcinoma, and unclassified renal cell carcinoma.

[0068] In a further embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating 5 cancer such as renal cell carcinoma in a subject, can include administering pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as renal cell carcinoma in a subject, can include administering an anti-VEGF antibody in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. The antibody can be a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody or fragments thereof. The 10 antibody can be a humanized monoclonal antibody such as bevacizumab (AvastinTM, Genentech/Roche).

[0069] The dose of an anti-VEGF antibody administered to a subject can be between 0.5 15 mg/kg to 20 mg/kg. For example, bevacizumab may be administered intravenously at a dose of 1 mg/kg, 2.5 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, 7.5 mg/kg, 10 mg/kg, 12.5 mg/kg or 15 mg/kg for a period of time. The period time can include every week, every two weeks, every three weeks or every month. Other suitable doses and length of administration of bevacizumab 20 for use in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be determined by methods known to a person of skill in the art.

[0070] In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating 20 cancer such as renal cell carcinoma in a subject, can include administering a mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitor in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. mTOR inhibitors can include temsirolimus (ToriselTM, Wyeth).

[0071] The dose of a mTOR inhibitor, for example temsirolimus administered to a 25 subject can be between 10 mg to 60 mg, 15mg to 55 mg, 20 mg to 50 mg, 25 mg to 45 mg. Temsirolimus can be administered to a subject at a dose of 25 mg infused over a period of time. The period of time can be 10-120 minutes or 30-60 minutes once a week or several times a week, once every other week or several times every other week, or once a month or several times in a month. Other suitable doses and lengths of administration 30 of temsirolimus for use in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be determined by methods known to a person of skill in the art.

[0072] In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as renal cell carcinoma in a subject, can include administering a serine/threonine or tyrosine protein kinase inhibitor in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. A serine/threonine or tyrosine protein kinase inhibitor 5 can include inhibitors of the Ras/Raf/Mek/Erk pathway such as an inhibitor of Raf-1. An inhibitor of Raf-1 can include 4-[4-[[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]carbamoylamino] phenoxy]-N-methyl-pyridine-2-carboxamide (sorafenib, also known as NEXAVAR®).

[0073] The dose of a Raf-1 inhibitor, for example sorafenib administered to a subject can 10 be between 200-800 mg. Sorafenib may be taken in tablet form at a dose of 200 mg, 400mg or 800 mg once a day, twice daily, three times daily, or four times daily. Other suitable doses and length of administration of sorafenib for use in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be determined by methods known to a person of skill in the art.

15 [0074] Colon carcinoma

[0075] A cancer can include colon carcinoma which is a cancer of the large intestine. Colon cancer can start out as small, noncancerous (benign) clumps of cells called adenomatous polyps which may develop into colon cancer. Rectal cancer is the cancer of 20 the last several inches of the colon and can often times develop together with colon cancer (also known as colorectal cancer).

[0076] In a further embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as colon carcinoma in a subject, can include administering pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as colon carcinoma in a subject, can include administering anti-25 VEGF antibody in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. The antibody can be a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody or fragments thereof. The antibody can be a humanized monoclonal antibody such as bevacizumab (Avastin™, Genentech/Roche).

[0077] Breast carcinoma

[0078] Breast cancer is a cancer that starts in the tissues of the breast and can include ductal carcinoma and lobular carcinoma. In rare cases, breast cancer can start in other areas of the breast. Breast cancers can be sensitive to estrogen. Breast cancer can be HER2 positive. Current treatments for breast cancer include tamoxifen which blocks the 5 effects of estrogen or targeted therapy which includes herceptin.

[0079] In a further embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as breast carcinoma in a subject, can include administering pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. In another embodiment, a method of inhibiting cancer proliferation, or treating cancer such as breast carcinoma in a subject, can include administering a mitotic 10 inhibitor in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta to a subject. A mitotic inhibitor can include taxol (paclitaxel).

[0080] The doses of paclitaxel administered to a subject can be between 5 mg/m² to 200 mg/m². Paclitaxel can be administered intravenously to a subject at a dose of about 50 mg/m², 90 mg/m², 100 mg/m², 135 mg/m² or 175 mg/m² over a period of time. Paclitaxel 15 can be administered over 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours, 10 hours, 15 hours, 20 hours or 24 hours or more every 1 week, 2, weeks, 3 weeks, month or more. Other suitable doses and length of administration of paclitaxel for use in combination with IFN-beta or pegylated IFN-beta can be determined by methods known to a person of skill in the art.

20 [0081] EXAMPLE 1

[0082] Anti-angiogenic effect of PEGylated Interferon-beta-1a

[0083] Athymic nude mice were inoculated with 2X10⁶ SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells (1 injection per flank, 1 injection per mouse) and tumors (100-200 cubic mm) were established. In a single dose study, groups of 4 mice carrying SK-MEL-1 human 25 melanoma tumors received once on day 1 the following: vehicle control, 5 µg (1 MU) IFN-beta-1a or 10 µg (1 MU) pegylated IFN-beta-1a. The pegylated Interferon beta-1a as used throughout the examples described herein is modified at the N-terminal α -amino group with a single, linear 20 kDa mPEG-O-2-methylpropionaldehyde group. In a multiple dose study, groups of 3 mice carrying SK-MEL-1 human melanoma tumors 30 received the following: vehicle control once on day 1 only, 10 µg (1 MU) pegylated IFN-

beta-1a once on day 1 only, vehicle control on days 1-9 or 5 µg (1 MU) IFN-beta-1a on days 1-9. Mice were then sacrificed on day 10 and the number of vessels entering the periphery of the tumor was counted. The assessor of neovascularisation was blinded as to treatment groups.

5 **[0084] Results:** The half-life of pegylated IFN-beta-1a in nude mice is approximately 10 hours. Figure 1 illustrates the effects of control, IFN-beta-1a, and pegylated IFN-beta-1a on the formation of tumor induced blood vessels in nude mice inoculated with SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells. Pegylated IFN-beta-1a was significantly more effective at reducing formation of tumor induced blood vessels. In addition, pegylated IFN-beta-1a
10 given once on day 1 was more effective than IFN-beta-1a given once on day 1. See Figure 1A. Pegylated IFN-beta-1a given once on day 1 was comparable (slightly superior) to IFN-beta-1a given daily on days 1-9. See Figure 1B. It is unlikely that the human protein acts on murine vessel cells since human IFN-beta-1a is not active on murine (L929) cells at concentrations 10-fold greater than required for full activity of
15 murine IFN-beta (i.e. species specificity is required). Pegylated IFN-beta-1a is more likely to act on the tumor itself by either specifically inhibiting the production of pro-angiogenic factors or inhibiting the growth of the tumor and thereby indirectly inhibiting the production of pro-angiogenic factors.

[0085] Anti-angiogenic effect of the MEK inhibitor PD325901

20 **[0086]** Athymic nude mice were inoculated with 2×10^6 SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells (1 injection per flank; 2 injections per mouse) and 100-200 cubic mm tumors were established. Mice (5 per group) were randomized and treated with 0, 1, 5, 10 and 20 mg/kg PD 325901 in PEG400 PO (orally) once per day (QD) for 14 days. Tumors were measured every 3 days using calipers and volume was calculated for a prolate spheroid, 25 defined as:

$$V = (\pi * L * W^2) / 6$$

where L equals the major diameter and W equals the minor diameter.

30 **[0087] Results:** Figure 2 illustrates the effects of different doses of PD 325901 on SK-MEL-1 tumor volume in nude mice inoculated with SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells. From this experiment, the dose of 15 mg/kg of PD 325901 was chosen as a sub-optimal dose.

[0088] Efficacy of the combination of PEGylated Interferon-beta-1a and MEK kinase inhibitor PD325901 in nude mice carrying human SK-MEL-1 melanoma tumors

[0089] Athymic nude mice were inoculated with 2×10^6 SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells (1 injection in flank; 1 injection per mouse) and 100-200 cubic mm tumors were 5 established. pegylated IFN β -1a was provided in 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl containing 15 mg/mL human serum albumin (HSA). HSA was used as a control and administered at a concentration of 15 mg/mL. Mice (10 per group) were randomized and treated with either:

- i. PEG400 (once a day (QD) for 14 days) and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a (10 μ g 10 once a week (QW) for 3 weeks);
- ii. PD325901 (15 mg/kg once a day (QD) for 14 days) and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a (10 μ g once a week (QW) for 3 weeks);
- iii. PEG400 (once a day (QD) for 14 days) and (HSA) (QW for 3 weeks);
- iv. PD325901 (15 mg/kg once a day (QD) for 14 days) and HSA (QW for 3 weeks).

15 **[0090]** Tumors were measured every 3 days using calipers and volume was calculated for a prolate spheroid. The identity of the vehicle control for pegylated interferon-beta-1a vehicle (HSA) and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a was blinded. Tumors were removed 8 hours post last dose and frozen for ERK phosphorylation analysis.

[0091] Results: Figure 3 illustrates the effects of vehicle controls, PD325901, pegylated 20 Interferon-beta-1a, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901 on SK-MEL-1 tumor volume in nude mice inoculated with SK-MEL-1 human melanoma cells. Figure 3 illustrates a significant difference between all treatment groups and vehicle control group. Figure 3 also shows a significant difference between tumor volume of the mice treated 25 with both pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901, as compared to either single agent. The difference between estimates of least square means between treatment groups and vehicle control group suggests an additive effect of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901: PD325901 (-4.52), pegylated Interferon-beta-1a (-4.77) and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and PD325901 (-8.63). PD325901, and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a

and PD325901 treated groups showed significant inhibition of ERK phosphorylation compared to vehicle and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a treated groups. See Figure 4.

[0092] Efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with Temozolomide in nude mice carrying human A-375 melanoma tumors

5 **[0093]** 8-10 week old nude mice from Charles River Labs were inoculated subcutaneously with 2×10^6 A375 human melanoma cells with 50% matrigel in the flank region. When the average tumor volumes reached approximately 200 mm^3 , the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to treatment groups. PEGylated IFN β -1a was provided in 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl (4.8A buffer).

10 **[0093]** 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl (4.8A buffer) was used as a vehicle control. Temozolomide was provided in 0.2% hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose (HPMC) buffer solution. HPMC buffer was used as a vehicle control.

[0094] Mice (7-9 per group) were randomized and treated as summarized in Table 1.

[0095] Table 1: Study design to investigate the efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with Temozolomide in nude mice carrying human A-375 melanoma tumors.

	Compound	Inoculation conditions	Matrigel (1:1)	Dose (mg/kg)	Rx (route, schedule)	Vehicle/ volume	N
1	Vehicle PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
2	Vehicle TMZ	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	5	P.O, QD × 5 days	0.2% HPMC/0.1 mL	10
3	PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0.1	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
4	PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0.2	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
5	PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0.4	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
6	PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0.8	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
7	PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	1.6	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
8	TMZ	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	++ 5	P.O, QD × 5 days	0.2% HPMC/0.1 mL	10
9	TMZ/ PEG-IFN beta-1a	2 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	5/0.4	P.O, QD × 5 days/ S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.2% HPMC	10

[0096] Results: Figure 5 illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human A-375 melanoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, temozolomide alone, and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a in combination with temozolomide. As observed, mice treated with the combination of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and temozolomide demonstrated a larger inhibition of tumor growth in comparison to mice treated with either agent alone or with vehicle alone.

[0097] Tumor growth curves for mice treated with 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 or 1.6 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a revealed that tumor growth inhibition increases in mice as the dosages increase (data not shown). However, tumor growth inhibition is almost similar in mice treated with 0.4 or 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a (data not shown). Additionally, mice treated with 1.6 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a demonstrated an even larger tumor growth inhibition than in mice treated with 0.4 or 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a (data not shown).

[0098] EXAMPLE 2

15 [0099] Efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with Sorafenib, Bevacizumab or Temsirolimus in SCID mice carrying SN12C renal carcinoma tumors.

[00100] 8-10 week old SCID mice from Charles River Labs were inoculated subcutaneously with 2×10^6 SN12C renal carcinoma cells with 50 % matrigel in the flank region. When the average tumor volumes reached approximately 250 mm^3 the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to treatment groups. Pegylated IFN β -1a was provided in 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl (4.8A buffer). Sorafenib was provided in a Cremophor Ethanol Saline mixture (CES buffer). Bevacizumab was provided in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) buffer. Temsirolimus was provided in buffer containing 0.9% NaCl.

25 [00101] Mice (9-10 per group) were randomized and treated as summarized in Table 2.

[00102] Table 2: Study design to investigate the efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with Sorafenib, Bevacizumab, and Temsirolimus in SCID mice carrying SN12C renal carcinoma tumors.

Compound	Inoculation conditions	Dose (mg/kg)	Rx (route, schedule)	Vehicle/volume	N
1 Vehicle for PEG-IFN beta-1a	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0	SC, BIWx7	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)	10
2 Combo Vehicle for Sorafenib and PEG-IFN beta-1a	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0	PO, QDx14/SC, BIWx7	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)/CES (0.1 mL)	10
3 Bevacizumab	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	4	IP, BIWx7	PBS (0.2 mL)	10
4 Sorafenib	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	60	PO, QDx14	CES (0.2 mL)	10
5 Temsirolimus	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	50	IP, Q7Dx2	0.9 % NaCl (0.2 mL)	10
6 Temsirolimus	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	100	IP, Q7Dx2	0.9 % NaCl (0.2 mL)	10
7 PEG-IFN beta-1a	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0.8	SC, BIWx7	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)	10
8 PEG-IFN beta-1a	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	1.6	SC, BIWx7	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)	10
9 PEG-IFN beta-1a/Bevacizumab	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0.8/4	SC, BIWx7/IP, BIWx7	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)/PBS (0.1 mL)	10
10 PEG-IFN beta-1a/Sorafenib	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0.8/60	SC, BIWx7/PO, QDx14	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)/CES (0.1 mL)	10
11 PEG-IFN beta-1a/Sorafenib	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0.8/60	SC, BIWx7/PO, QDx14 First Sorafenib followed by PEG-IFN beta-1a	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)/CES (0.1 mL)	10
12 PEG-IFN beta-1a/Tensirolimus	2x10E6 cells in Matrigel	0.8/50	SC, BIWx7/IP, Q7Dx2	Acetate-arginine (4.8A) buffer (0.1 mL)/0.9 % NaCl (0.2 mL)	10

[00103] Results: Figure 6A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. Figure 6B illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. As observed, the mice treated with pegylated Interferon-beta-1a demonstrated tumor growth inhibition. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of $p < 0.05$ for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a-treated (at 0.8 mg/kg) versus vehicle-treated mice and $p < 0.001$ for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a-treated (at 1.6 mg/kg) versus vehicle-treated mice. Pegylated interferon beta 1a showed statistically significant tumor growth inhibition in a dose dependent manner when dosed at 0.8 mg/kg and 1.6 mg/kg compared to its vehicle.

[00104] Figure 7A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 4 mg/kg bevacizumab alone, 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and a combination of bevacizumab and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. Figure 7B illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, bevacizumab alone at 4 mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and a combination of bevacizumab and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. As observed, mice treated with a combination of 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and 4 mg/kg bevacizumab demonstrated a greater tumor growth inhibition. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of $p < 0.01$ for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and bevacizumab-treated mice versus pegylated interferon beta 1a-treated mice, $p < 0.001$ for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and bevacizumab-treated mice versus bevacizumab-treated mice, and $p < 0.001$ for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and bevacizumab-treated mice versus vehicle control-treated mice. Pegylated interferon beta 1a at 0.8 mg/kg dosed in combination with 4 mg/kg bevacizumab showed statistically significant tumor growth inhibition compared to either agent alone.

[00105] Figure 8A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with control vehicles, sorafenib at 60 mg/kg, pegylated interferon beta 1a at 0.8 mg/kg and a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a in a concurrent dosing schedule. As observed, mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a demonstrated a greater tumor growth inhibition. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of p<0.05 for tumor growth inhibition in mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a versus pegylated interferon beta 1a alone, p<0.01 for tumor growth inhibition in mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a versus sorafenib alone, p<0.001 for tumor growth inhibition in mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a versus vehicle alone. Concurrent dosing of sorafenib with pegylated interferon beta 1a was significantly superior to treatment with the single agents.

[00106] Figure 8B illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with control vehicles, sorafenib alone, pegylated interferon beta 1a alone, and a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a in a sequential dosing schedule. As observed, mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a demonstrated a greater tumor growth inhibition. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of p<0.01 for tumor growth inhibition in mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a versus sorafenib alone, and p<0.001 tumor growth inhibition in mice treated with a combination of sorafenib and pegylated interferon beta 1a versus vehicle alone. Sequential dosing of pegylated interferon beta 1a followed by sorafenib was statistically superior to treatment with sorafenib alone but not different from pegylated interferon beta 1a alone.

[00107] Figure 9A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, 50 mg/kg temsirolimus alone, 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, and a combination of temsirolimus and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. Figure 9B illustrates %T/C in SCID mice of human SN12C renal carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, temsirolimus alone at 50

mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and a combination of temsirolimus and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. As observed, mice treated with a combination of 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and 50 mg/kg temsirolimus demonstrated a greater inhibition of tumor growth. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of p<0.001 for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and temsirolimus-treated mice versus vehicle control-treated mice, p<0.001 for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and temsirolimus-treated mice versus pegylated interferon beta 1a-treated mice, p<0.001 for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and temsirolimus-treated mice versus temsirolimus-treated mice. Mice treated with pegylated interferon beta 1a (0.8 mg/kg) in combination with temsirolimus showed significantly superior tumor growth inhibition when compared to mice treated with the single agents.

[00108] EXAMPLE 3

15 **[00109] Efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with Avastin (Bevacizumab) or Irinotecan in nude mice carrying human SW-620 colon carcinoma tumors.**

20 **[00110] 8-10 week old nude mice from Charles River Labs were inoculated subcutaneously with 1×10^6 SW620 colon carcinoma cells with 50 % matrigel in the flank region. When the average tumor volumes reached approximately 200 mm^3 , the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to treatment groups. PEGylated IFN β -1a was provided in 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl (4.8A buffer). Mice were randomized and treated as summarized in Table 3.**

[00111] Table 3: Study design to investigate the efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with paclitaxel in nude mice carrying human SW620 colon carcinoma tumors.

	Compound	Inoculation conditions	Matrigel (1:1)	Dose (mg/kg)	Rx (route, schedule)	Vehicle / volume	N
1	Vehicle PEG-IFN-beta-1a	1 × 10E6 cells/0.2 mL	+	0	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
2	Vehicle Irinotecan			0	I.P, QD × 10 days	Saline/0.1 mL	10
3	Vehicle Combo			0.0	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks/I.P, QD × 10 days	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL/ Saline/0.1 mL	10
4	Bevacizumab			4	I.P, BIW×4	PBS/0.2 mL	10
5	PEG-IFN-beta-1a			0.4	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
6	PEG-IFN-beta-1a			0.8	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
7	PEG-IFN-beta-1a			1.6	S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
8	Irinotecan			10	I.P, QD × 10 days	Saline/0.1 mL	10
9	Irinotecan/PEG-IFN-beta-1a			10/0.8	I.P, QD × 10 days/S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	Saline 0.1mL/4.8A buffer 0.1mL	10
10	Bevacizumab/PEG-IFN-beta-1a			40/0.8	I.P, BIW×4 S.C, BIW × 4 weeks	PBS 0.1mL/4.8A buffer 0.1mL	10

[00112] Results: Figure 10 illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human SW-620 colon carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle control (4.8A buffer), and pegylated IFN-beta-1a at concentrations of 0.4 mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg and 1.6 mg/kg. Mice 5 were injected subcutaneously twice a week (BIW) for 4 weeks. As observed, the inhibition of tumor growth is dose dependent. Figure 11 illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human SW-620 colon carcinoma tumors after treatment with vehicle controls, avastin (bevacizumab) alone, irinotecan alone, pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone, a combination of avastin and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a, and a combination of irinotecan 10 and pegylated Interferon-beta-1a. As observed, mice treated with a combination of 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and 4 mg/kg Avastin demonstrated a greater inhibition of tumor growth compared to mice treated with either agent alone. In contrast, mice treated with a combination of 0.8 mg/kg of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a and 10mg/kg irinotecan demonstrated the same tumor growth inhibition as mice treated with 15 irinotecan alone.

[00113] **EXAMPLE 4**

[00114] Efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with paclitaxel in SCID mice carrying human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors.

[00115] 8-10 week old SCID mice from Charles River Labs were inoculated 20 subcutaneously with 5×10^6 MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma cells with 50 % matrigel in the flank region. When the average tumor volumes reached approximately 200 mm^3 the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to treatment groups. Pegylated IFN β -1a was provided in 20mM acetic acid/sodium acetate at a pH of 4.8 and 150 mM arginine/HCl (4,8A buffer). Paclitaxel was provided in a Cremophor Ethanol Saline mixture (CES 25 buffer).

[00116] Mice (10 per group) were randomized and treated as summarized in Table 4.

[00117] Table 4: Study design to investigate the efficacy of pegylated Interferon-beta-1a alone and in combination with paclitaxel in SCID mice carrying human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors.

Compound	Inoculation conditions	Matrigel	Dose (mg/kg)	Rx (route, schedule)	Vehicle	N
1 Vehicle for PEG-IFN beta-1a	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0	S.C., BIW	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
2 Vehicle for Paclitaxel	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0	I.P., q4dx3	Cremophor/Ethanol	10
3 Combo Vehicle for PEG-IFN beta-1a and Paclitaxel	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0/0	S.C., BIW/I.P., q4dx3	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL/Cremophor/Ethanol	10
4 Paclitaxel	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	25	I.P., q4dx3	Cremophor/Ethanol	10
5 PEG-IFN beta-1a	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0.4	SC, BIW	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
6 PEG-IFN beta-1a	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0.8	SC, BIW	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
7 PEG-IFN beta-1a	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	1.6	SC, BIW	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL	10
8 BIIB017/Paclitaxel	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	0.8/25	SC, BIW/I.P., q4dx3	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL/Cremophor/Ethanol	10
9 BIIB017/Paclitaxel	5x10 ⁶ /0.2 ml	50%	1.6/25	SC, BIW/I.P., q4dx3	4.8A buffer/0.1 mL/Cremophor/Ethanol	10

[00118] Results: Figure 12 illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and paclitaxel. As observed, mice treated with paclitaxel demonstrated a greater inhibition of tumor growth compared to mice treated with vehicle controls. Figure 13A illustrates tumor volume in 5 SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and pegylated IFN-beta-1a at 0.4 mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg and 1.6 mg/kg doses. Figure 13B summarizes %T/C in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle controls and pegylated IFN-beta-1a at 0.4 mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg and 1.6 mg/kg doses. As observed, mice treated with pegylated interferon beta 1a at doses 10 ranging from 0.4 to 1.6 mg/kg demonstrated a greater inhibition of tumor growth compared to mice treated with either vehicle controls. Figure 13C illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human MDA-MB-468 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, IFN-beta-1a, or pegylated IFN-beta-1a. As observed, mice treated with pegylated IFN-beta-1a demonstrated a greater inhibition of tumor growth compared to 15 mice treated with IFN-beta-1a or vehicle control.

[00119] Figure 14A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 0.8 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, 25 mg/kg paclitaxel alone, and a combination of 0.8 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a and 25 mg/kg paclitaxel. Figure 14B summarizes %T/C in SCID mice of human 20 MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 0.8 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, 25 mg/kg paclitaxel alone and a combination of 0.8 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a and 25 mg/kg paclitaxel. Figure 15A illustrates tumor volume in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 1.6 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, 25 mg/kg paclitaxel alone, and a combination of 1.6 mg/kg 25 pegylated IFN-beta-1a and 25 mg/kg paclitaxel. Figure 15B summarizes %T/C in SCID mice of human MDA-MB-231 breast carcinoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 1.6 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a alone, 25 mg/kg paclitaxel alone and a combination of 1.6 mg/kg pegylated IFN-beta-1a and 25 mg/kg paclitaxel. As observed in Figures 14 and 30 15, the combination of pegylated interferon beta 1a at either 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg with paclitaxel demonstrated statistically superior tumor growth inhibition compared treatment with the single agents. This is confirmed by repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post test (Anova-Dunnett) statistical analysis results showing p-values of

p<0.001 for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and paclitaxel-treated mice versus paclitaxel-treated mice, and p<0.0001 for tumor growth inhibition in pegylated interferon beta 1a- and paclitaxel-treated mice versus pegylated interferon beta 1a-treated mice.

5 [00120] EXAMPLE 5

[00121] Efficacy of pegylated IFN-beta-1a in nude mice carrying human WM-266-4 melanoma

[00122] 8-10 week old nude mice from Charles River Labs were inoculated subcutaneously with 2×10^6 WM-266-4 melanoma cells with 50 % matrigel in the flank region. When the average tumor volumes reached approximately 400 mm^3 the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to treatment groups. Nude mice with WM-266-4 tumors (400 cubic mm) were dosed with vehicle control, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, or 0.8 mg/kg PEG IFN beta-1a SC BIW for 4 weeks with post dose follow up. The mice were examined for dose-dependent tumor inhibition/regression and tumor regrowth during follow up. In another experiment, nude mice with WM-266-4 tumors (200 mm^3) were dosed with vehicle control, 0.4, 0.8, or 1.6 mg/kg PEG IFN beta-1a SC once a week (QW), twice a week (BIW), or three times a week (TIW) for 4 weeks with post-dose follow up. In the same study vehicle-treated control tumors were allowed to grow to an average of 2000 mm^3 . Mice were then treated with 0.8, or 1.6 mg/kg PEG IFN beta-1a on day 46 twice a week for 4 weeks (BIWX4).

[00123] Results: Figure 16 illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human WM-266-4 melanoma tumors treated with vehicle control, and pegylated interferon-beta-1a at 0.1 mg/kg, 0.2 mg/kg, 0.4 mg/kg and 0.8 mg/kg. As observed, there is significant difference (p<0.001) in tumor inhibition between vehicle control-treated mice and mice treated with 0.2-0.8 mg/kg doses. The mice also exhibited a dose-dependent tumor inhibition/regression on drug and upon tumor regrowth.

[00124] Figures 17A-C illustrates tumor volume in nude mice of human WM-266-4 melanoma tumors treated with vehicle control, 0.4mg/kg, 0.8 mg/kg or 1.6 mg/kg pegylated interferon-beta-1a once a week (QW), twice a week (BIW), or three times a week (TIW). The mice exhibited a dose-dependent tumor inhibition/regression on drug

and upon tumor regrowth. Tumor regression of large tumors (2000-2400 cubic mm) was also observed in these experiments. See Figure 18. Figures 19 A-C illustrates the effect on caspase activation and PARP cleavage in WM-266-4 melanoma cells treated with pegylated interferon-beta-1a for 48 hours.

5 [00125] The term “comprise” and variants of the term such as “comprises” or “comprising” are used herein to denote the inclusion of a stated integer or stated integers but not to exclude any other integer or any other integers, unless in the context or usage an exclusive interpretation of the term is required.

10 [00126] Any reference to publications cited in this specification is not an admission that the disclosures constitute common general knowledge in Australia.

15 [00127] The various embodiments described above are provided by way of illustration only and should not be construed to limit the claimed invention. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize various modifications and changes that may be made to the claimed invention without following the example embodiments and applications illustrated and described herein, and without departing from the true spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of treating melanoma in a subject, the method comprising:
identifying a subject diagnosed with melanoma;
concurrently or sequentially administering an inhibitor of a protein kinase in the Ras-Raf MEK-ERK pathway and an interferon beta to the subject.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor of MEK.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is N-[(2R)-2,3-dihydroxypropoxy]-3,4-difluoro-2-[(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)amino]benzamide.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the interferon beta is an interferon beta 1a.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the interferon beta 1a is a pegylated interferon beta 1a.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the interferon beta is an interferon beta 1b.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the interferon beta 1b is a pegylated interferon beta 1b.

Date: 19 May 2016

FIGURE 1

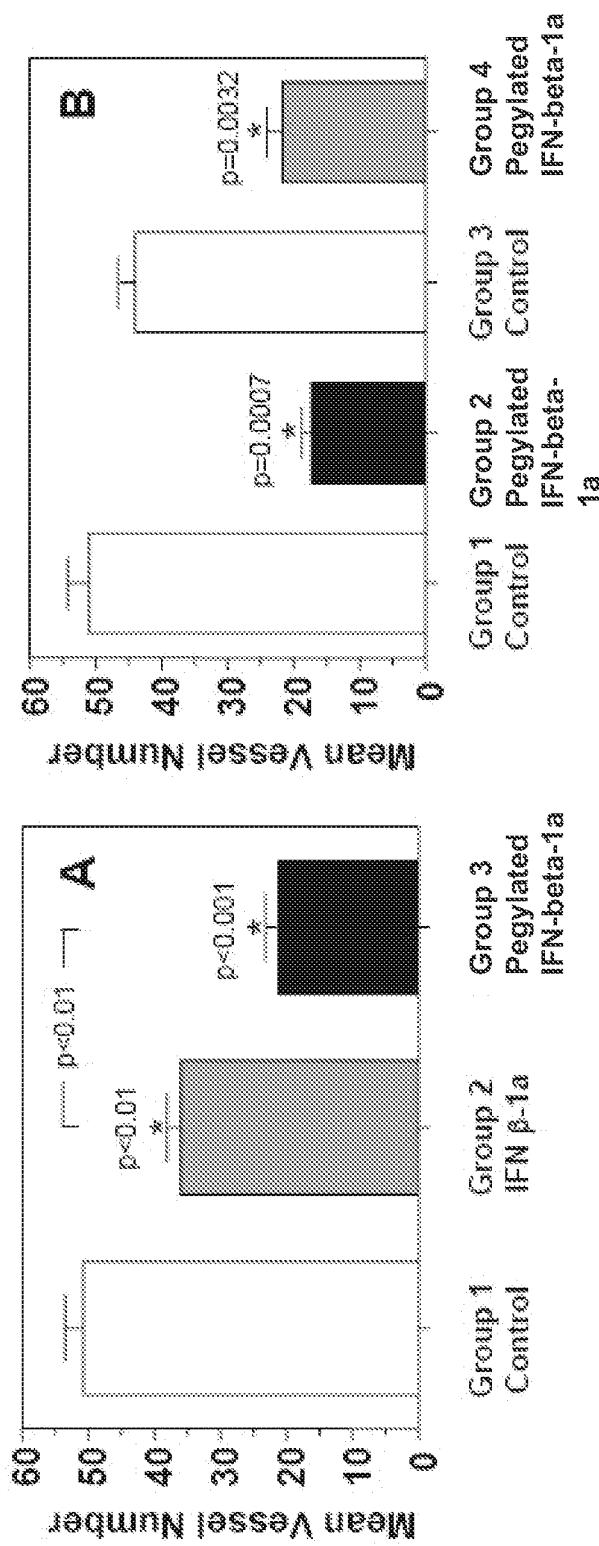


FIGURE 2

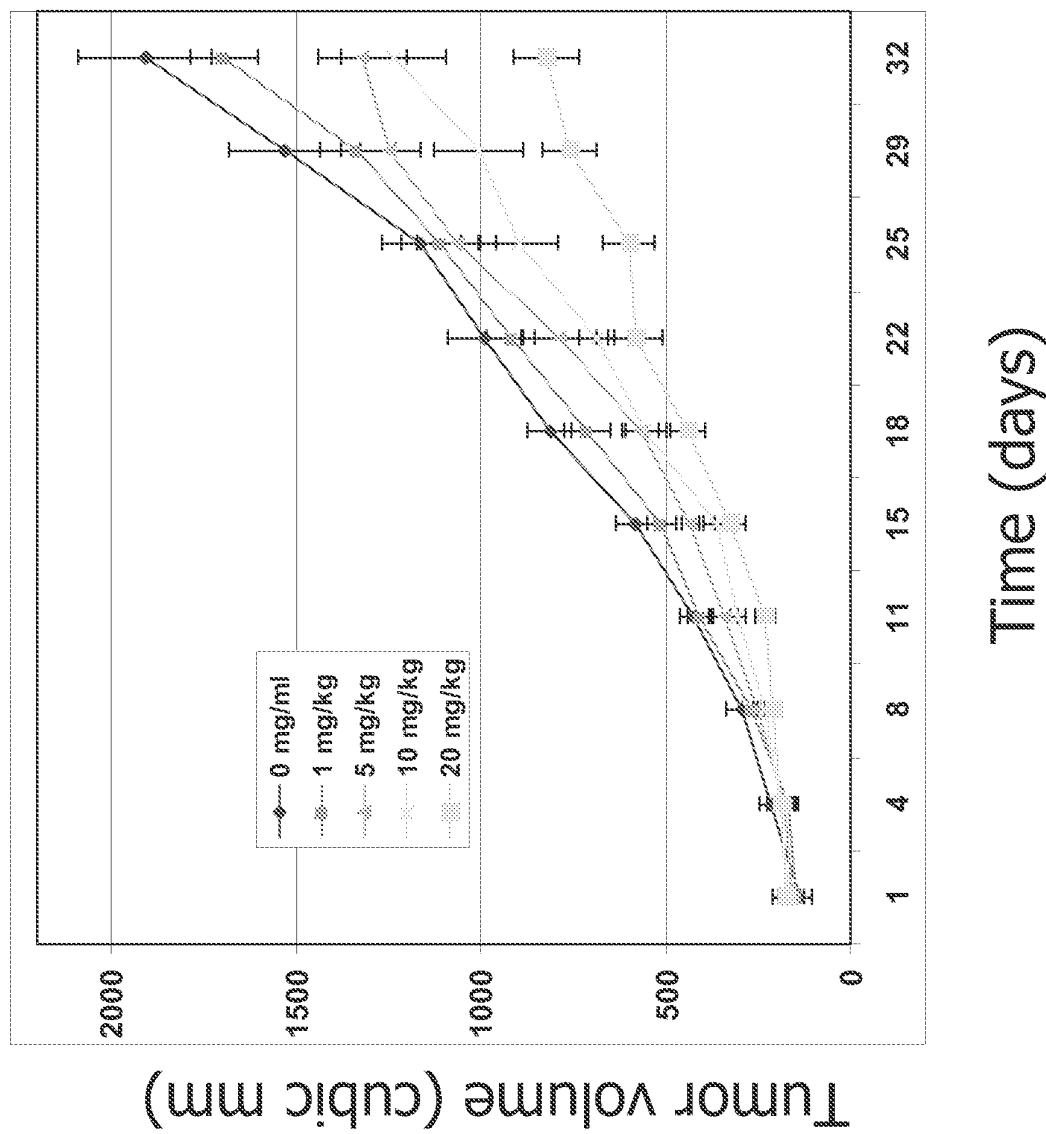


FIGURE 3

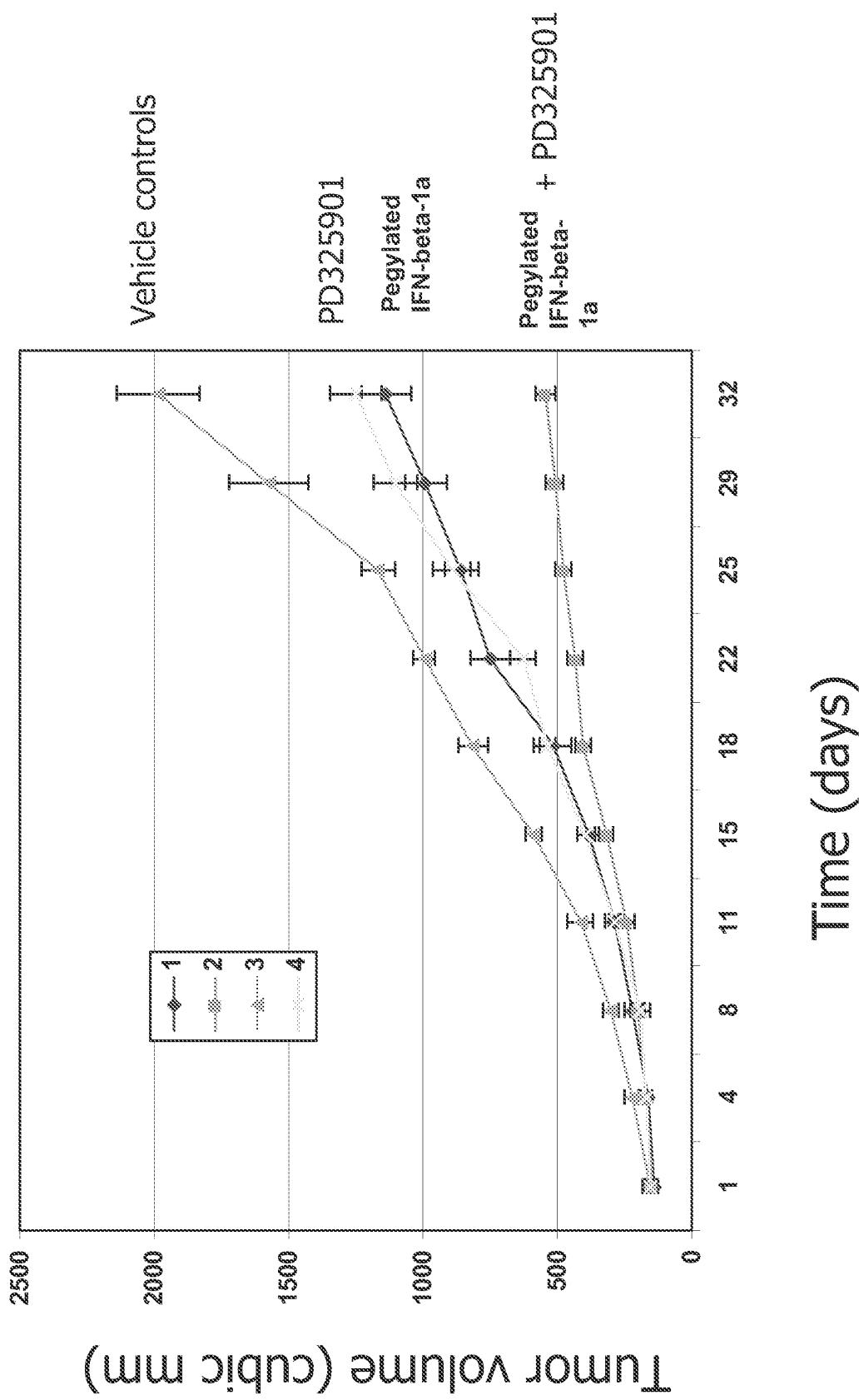


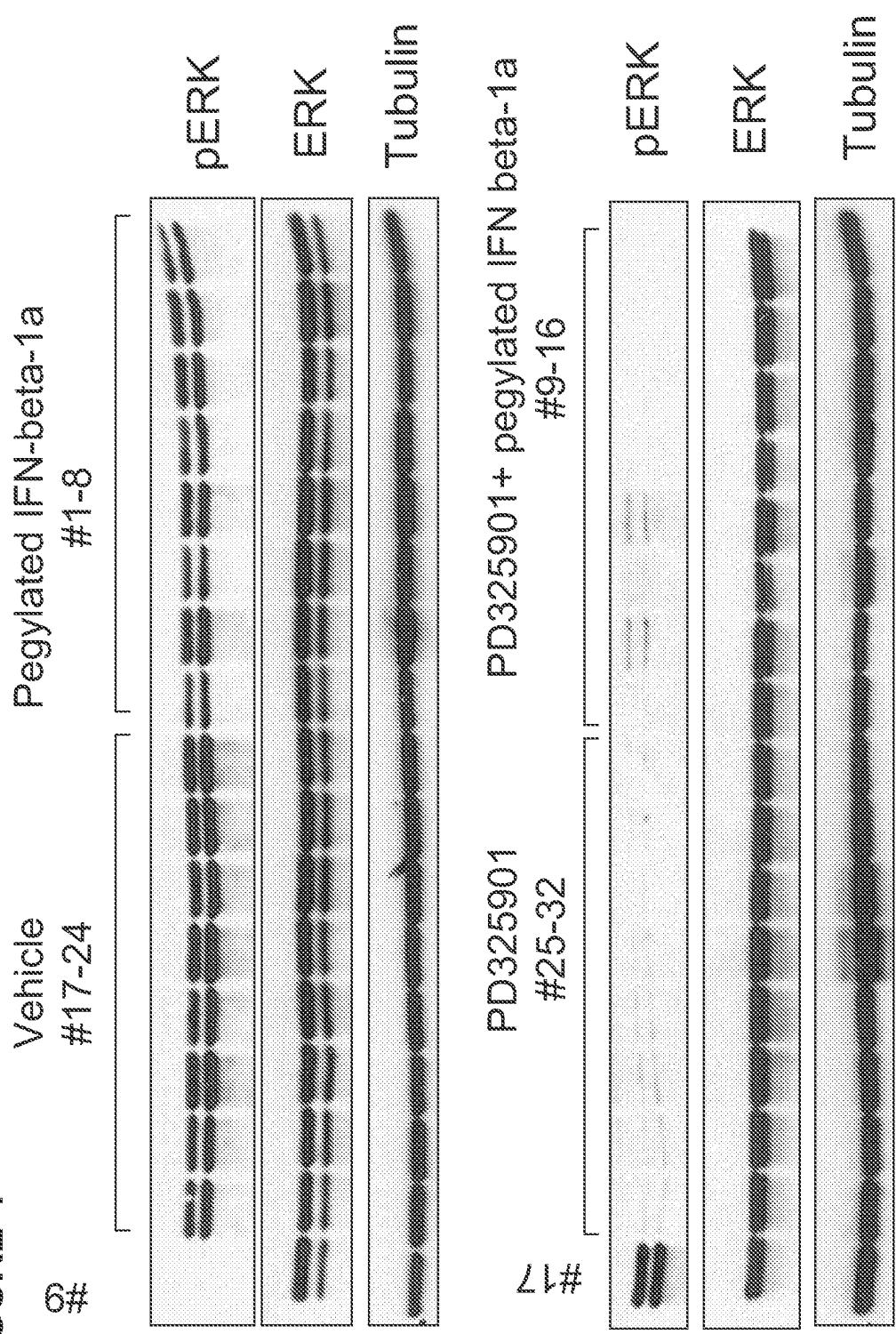
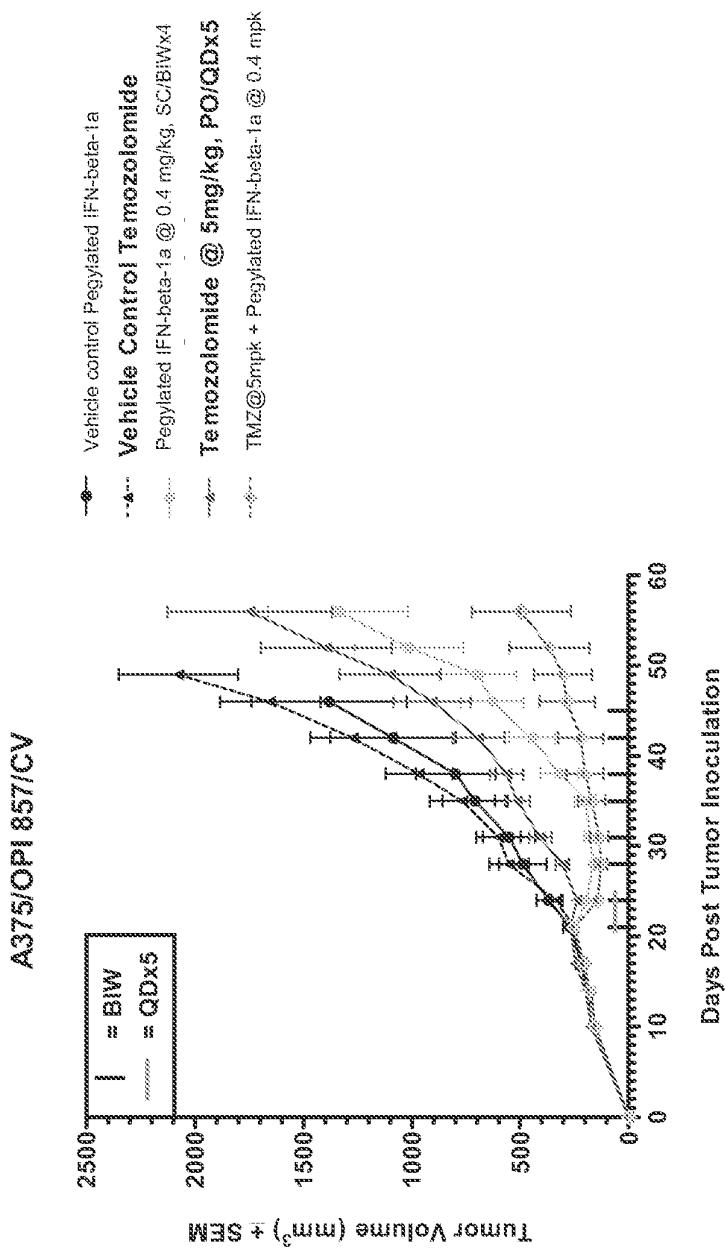
FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5



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FIGURE 6A

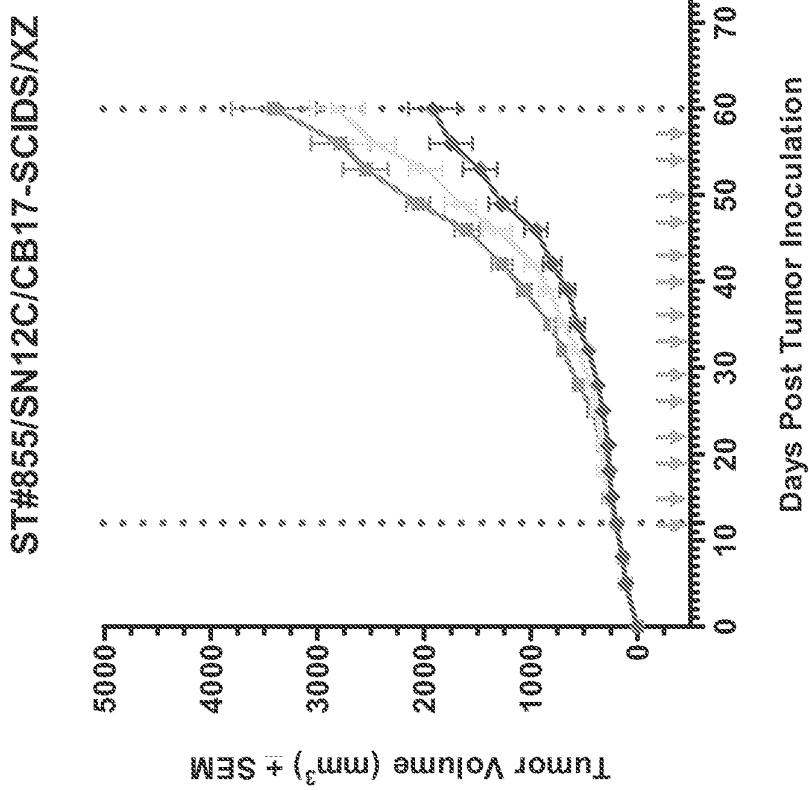
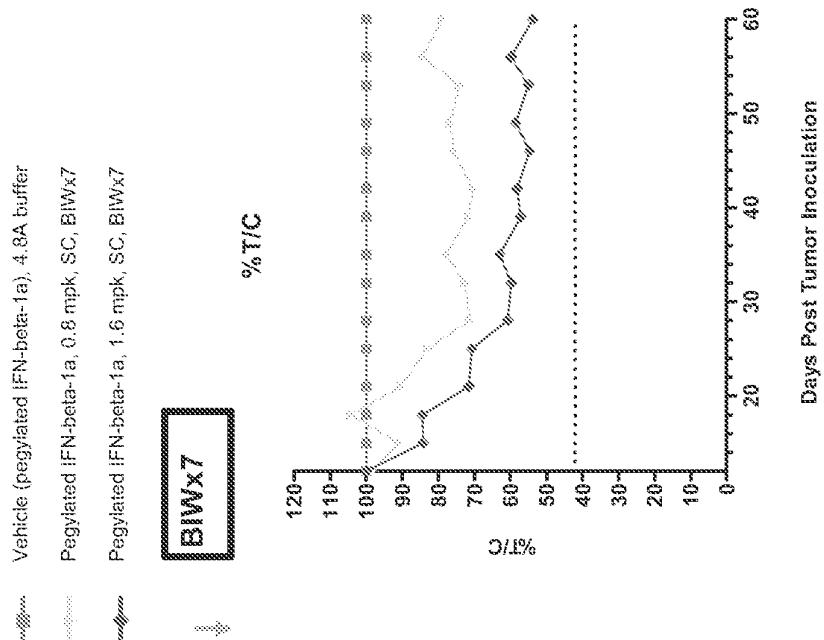


FIGURE 6B



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FIGURE 7A

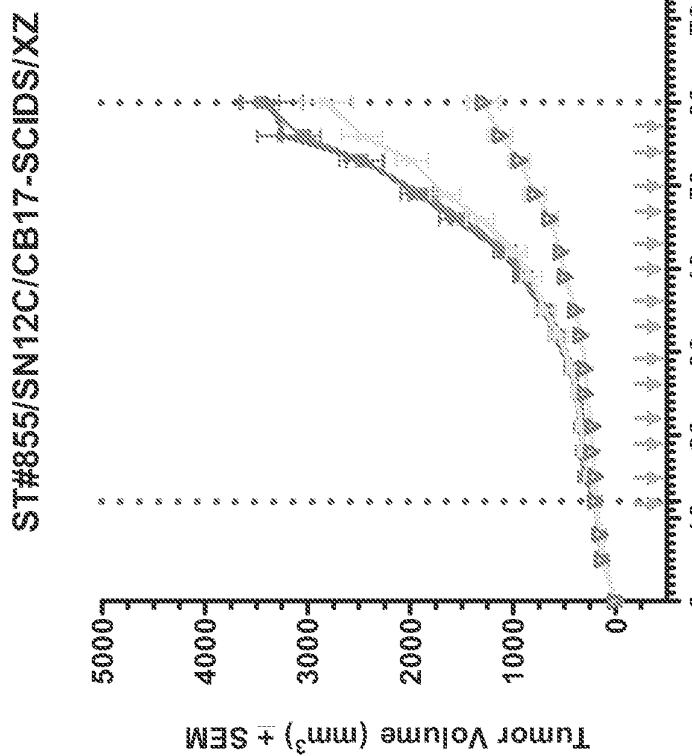


FIGURE 7B

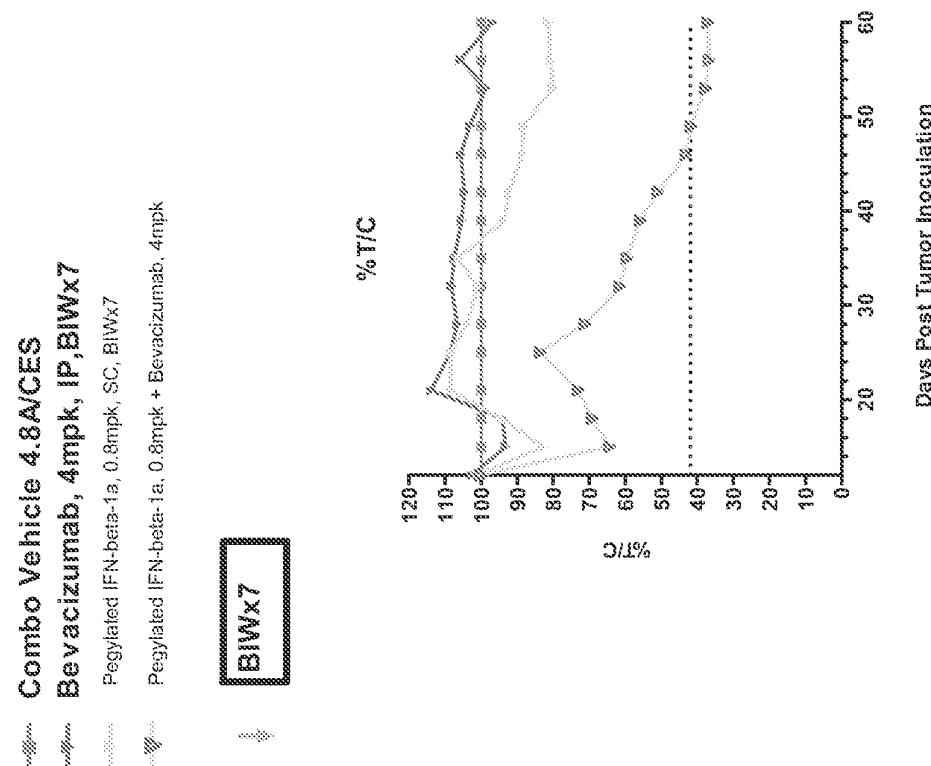


FIGURE 8A

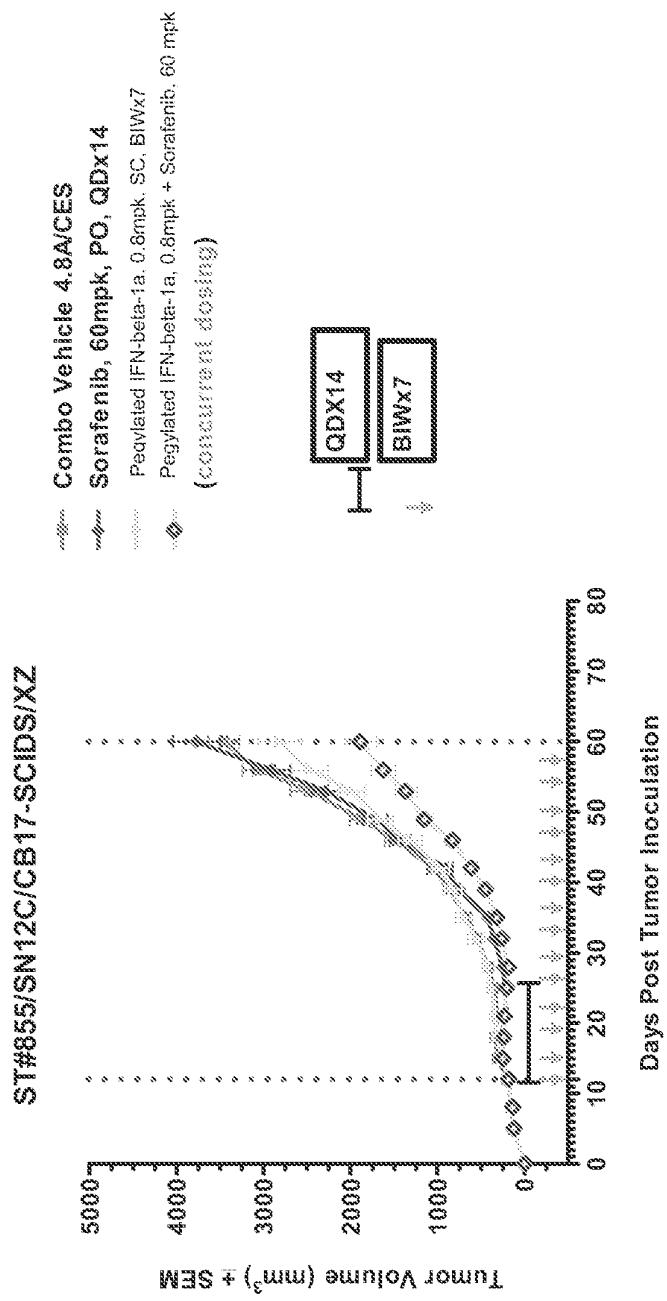
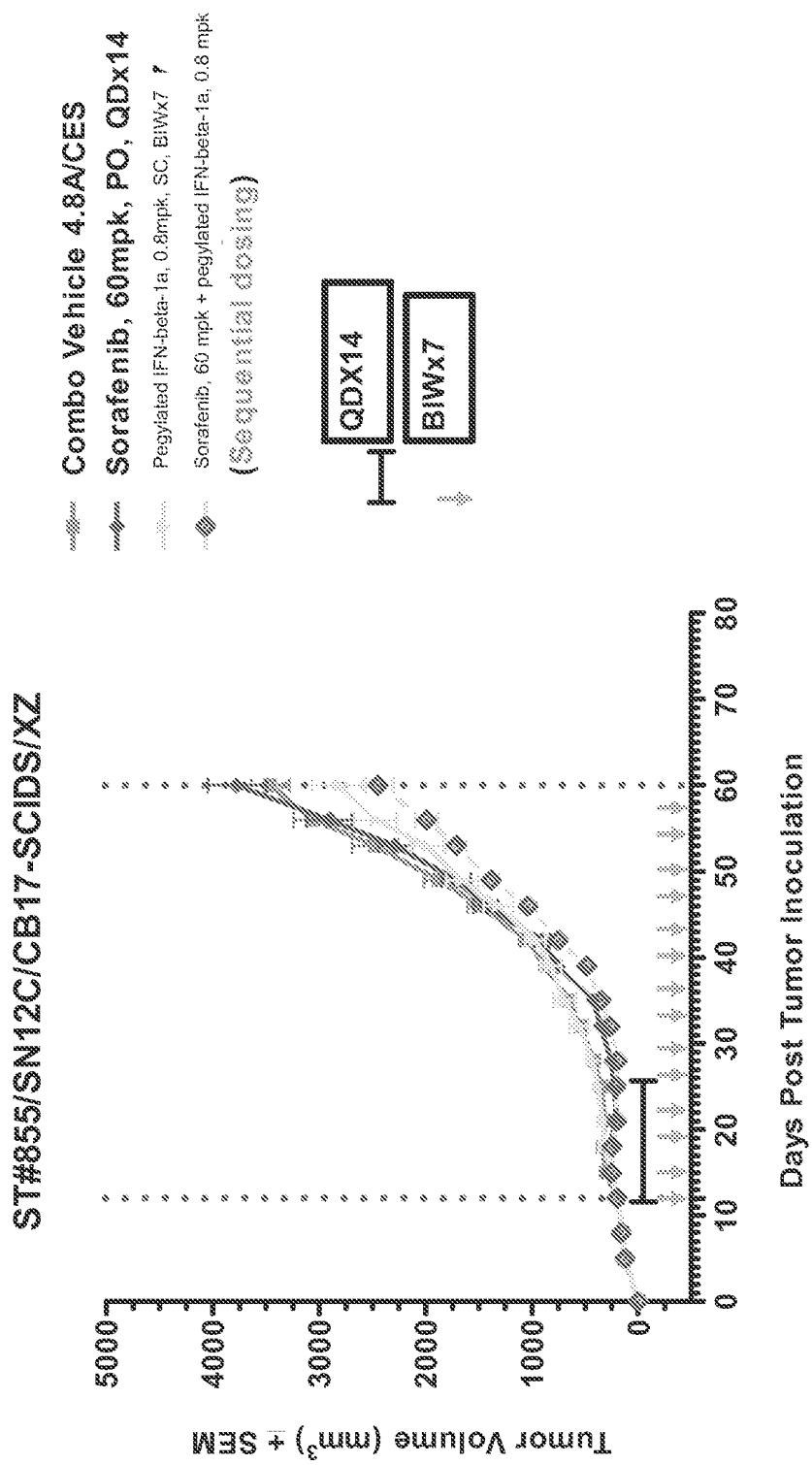


FIGURE 8B



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FIGURE 9A

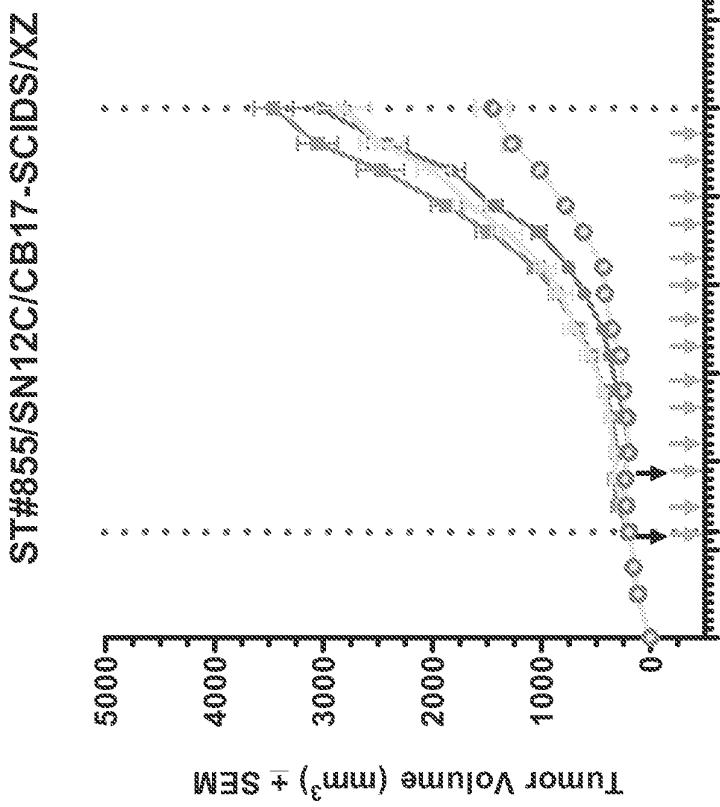
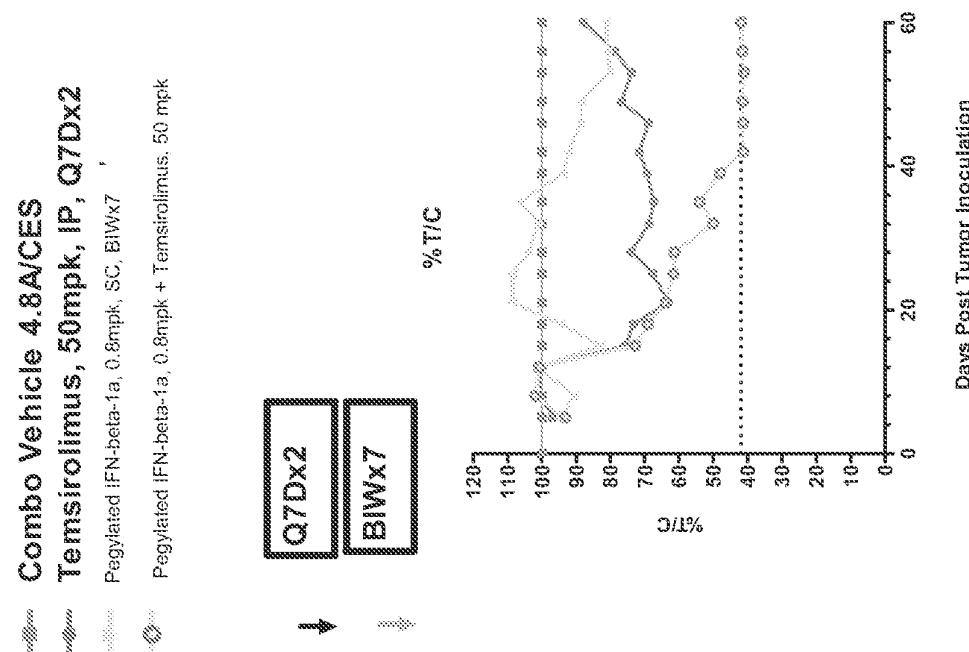


FIGURE 9B



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FIGURE 10

SW620/KLP/847/((nu/nu))

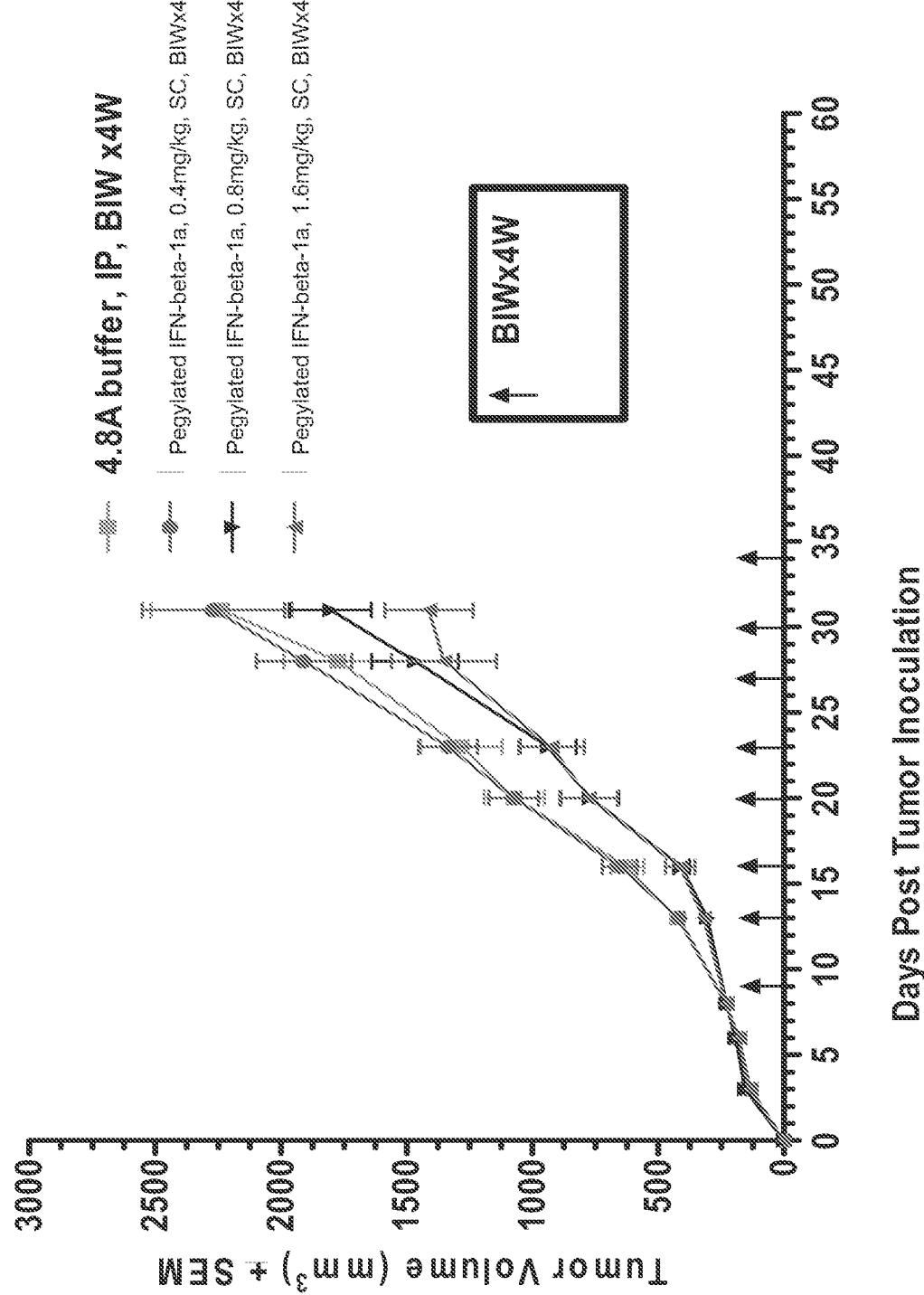


FIGURE 11

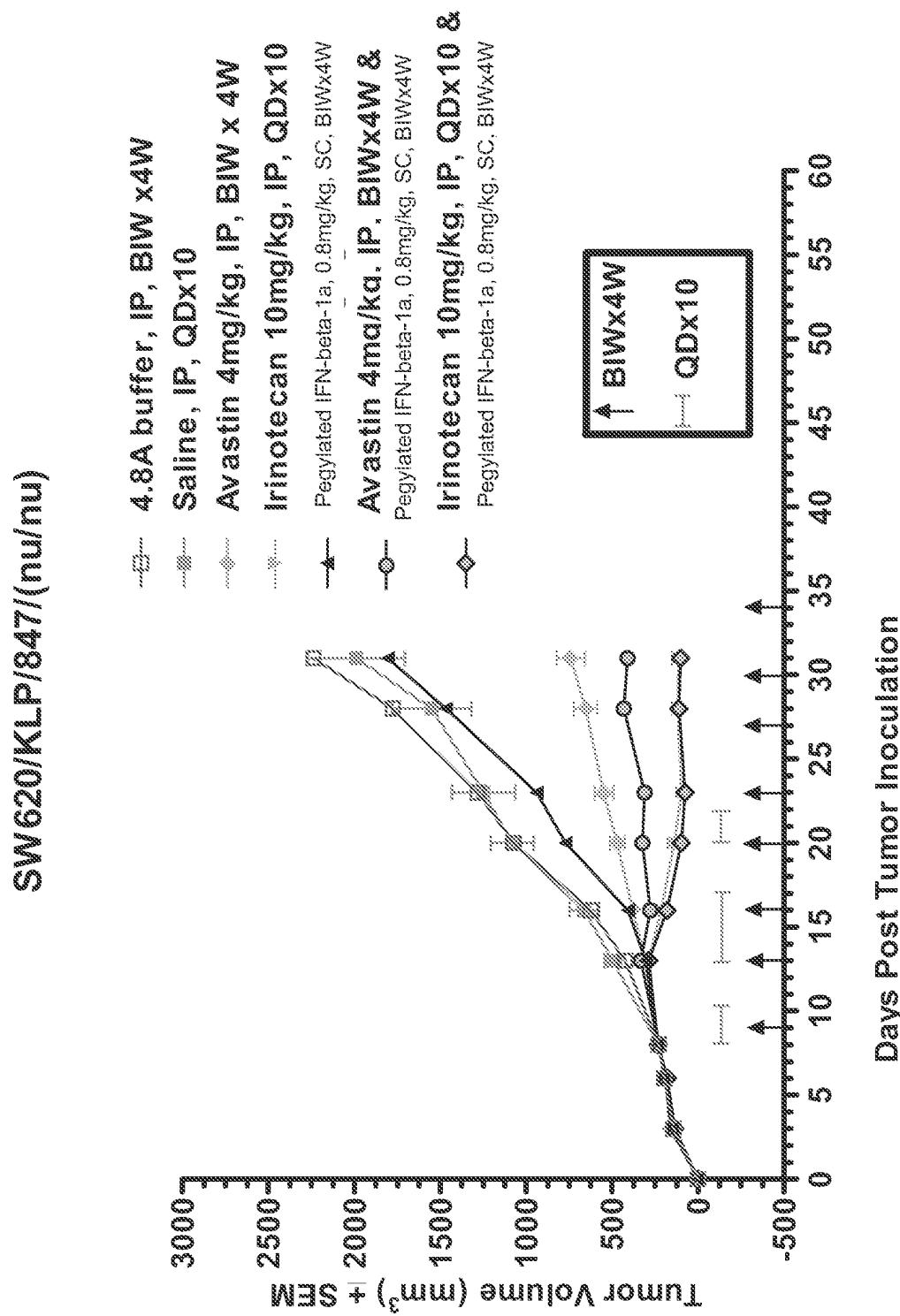


FIGURE 12

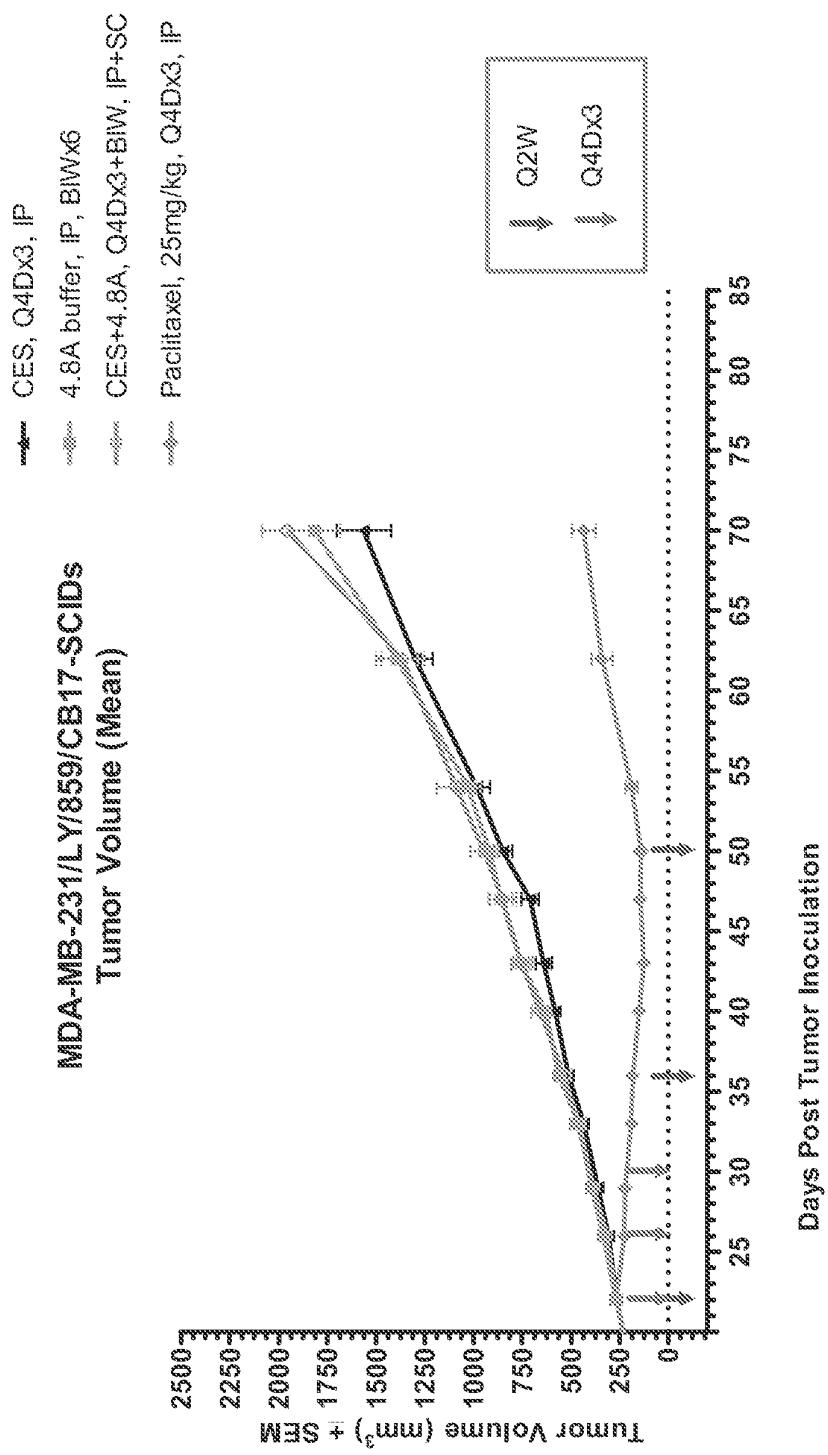


FIGURE 13A

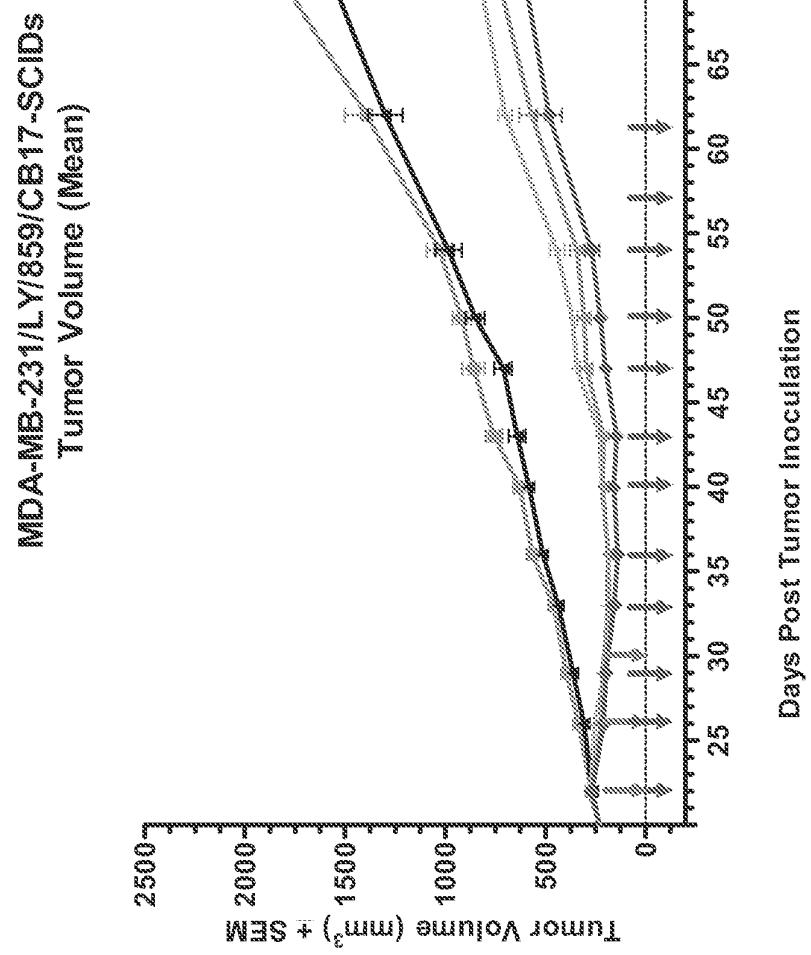


FIGURE 13B

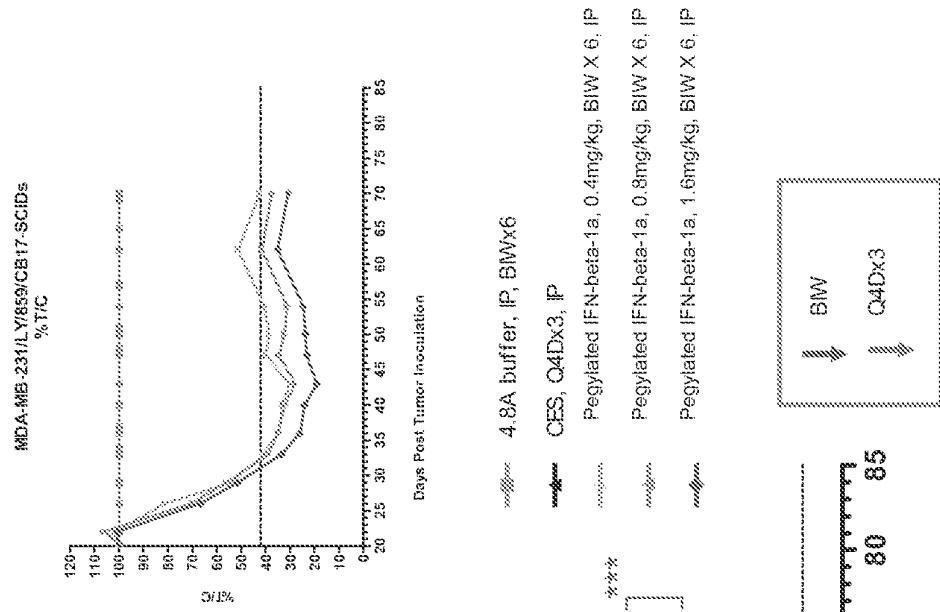


FIGURE 13C

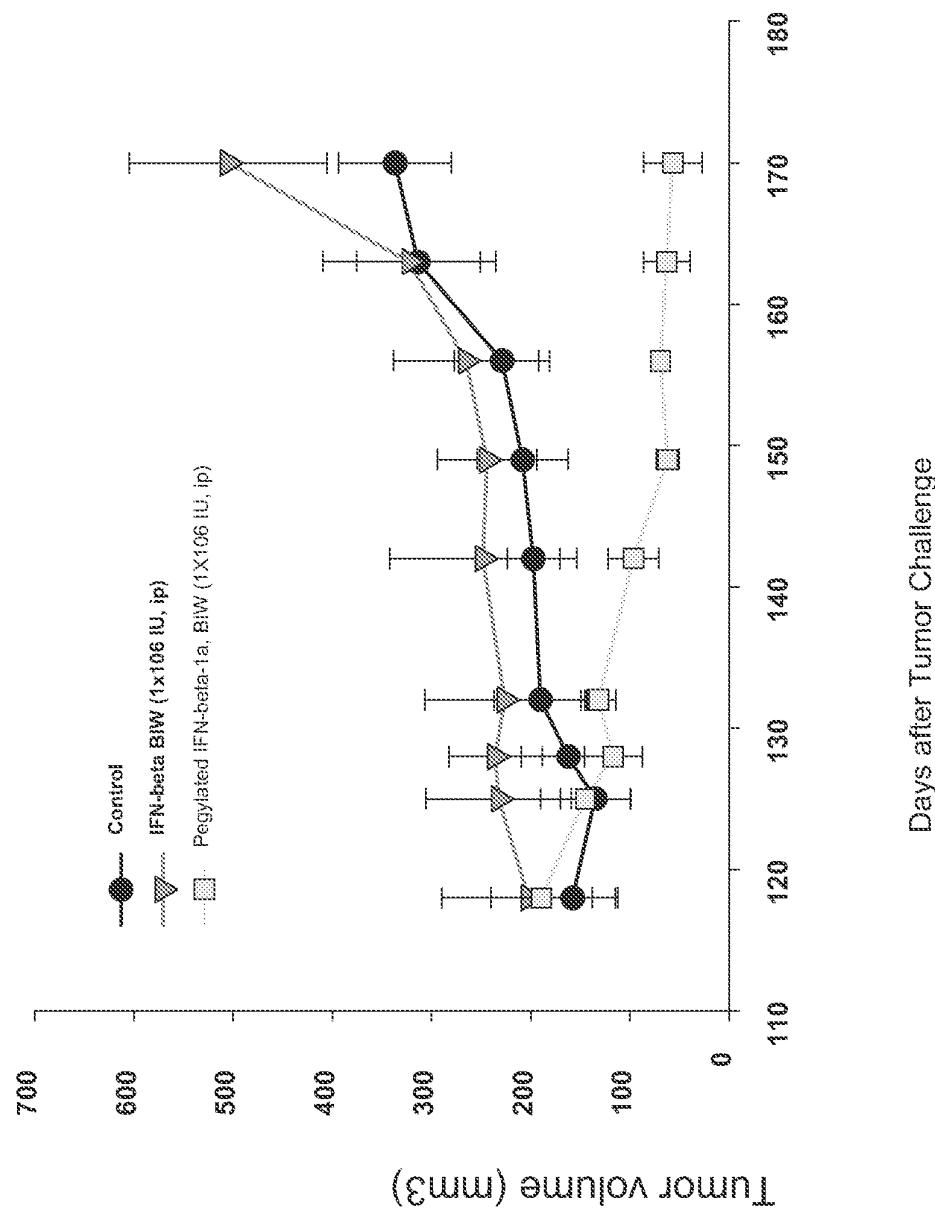


FIGURE 14A

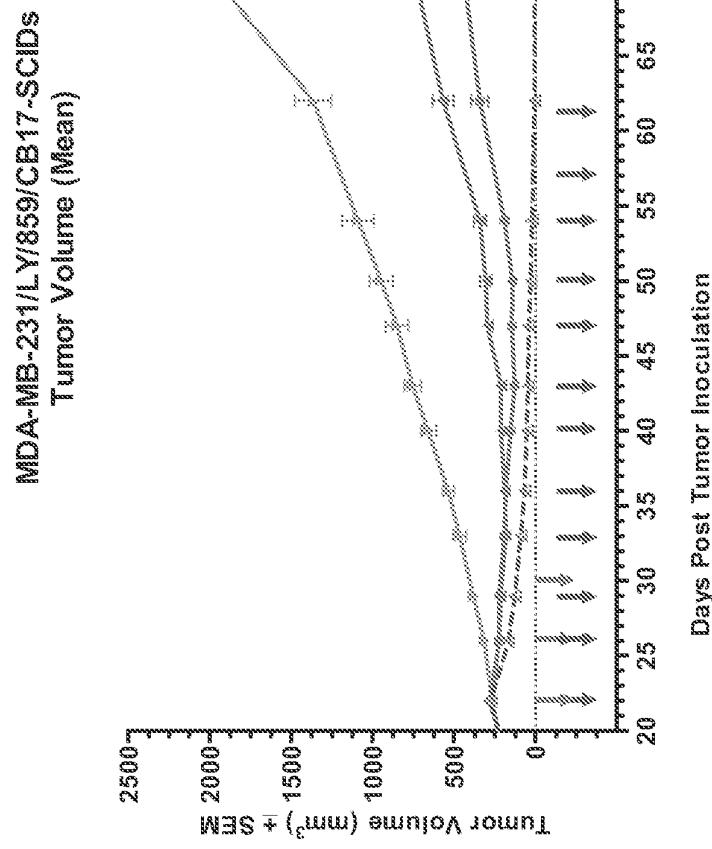


FIGURE 14B

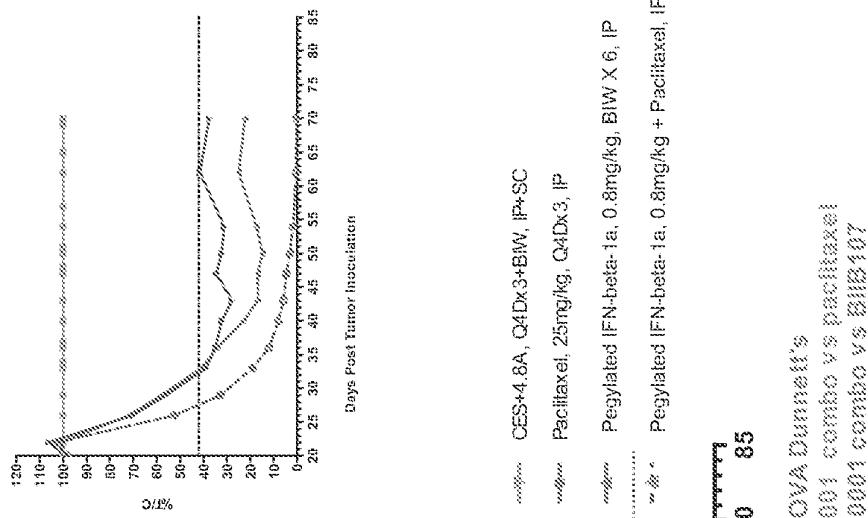


FIGURE 15A

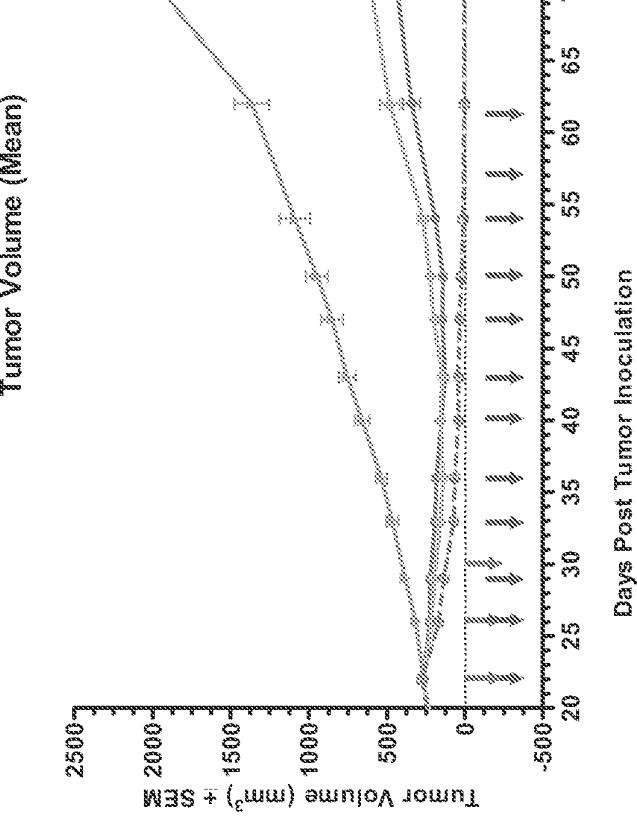


FIGURE 15B

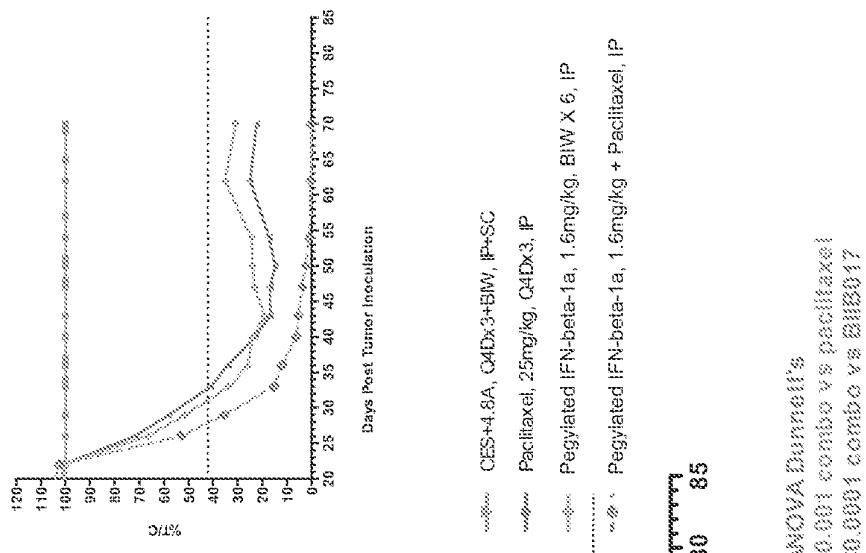


FIGURE 16

WM-266-4/AB/821

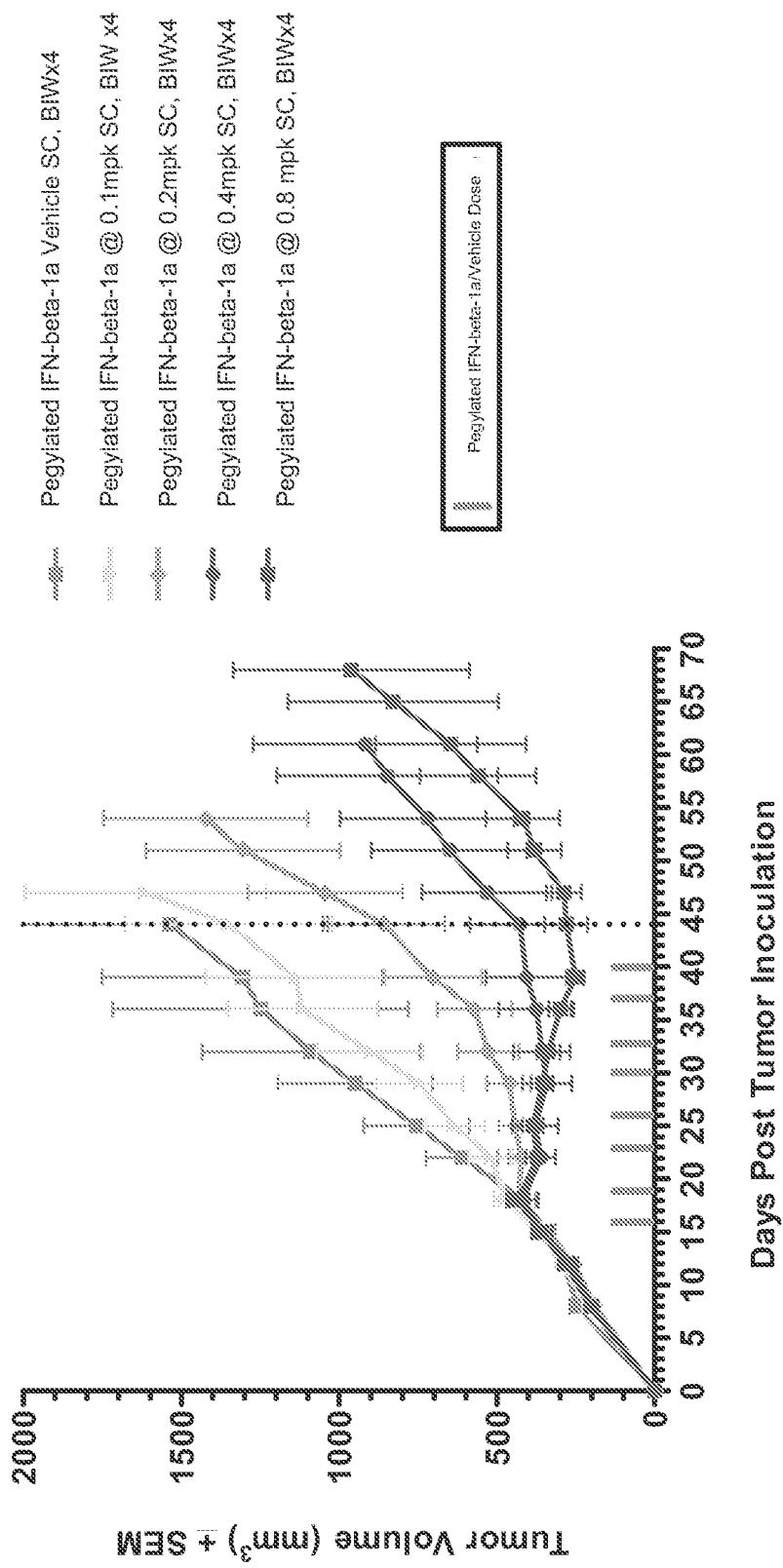


FIGURE 17A

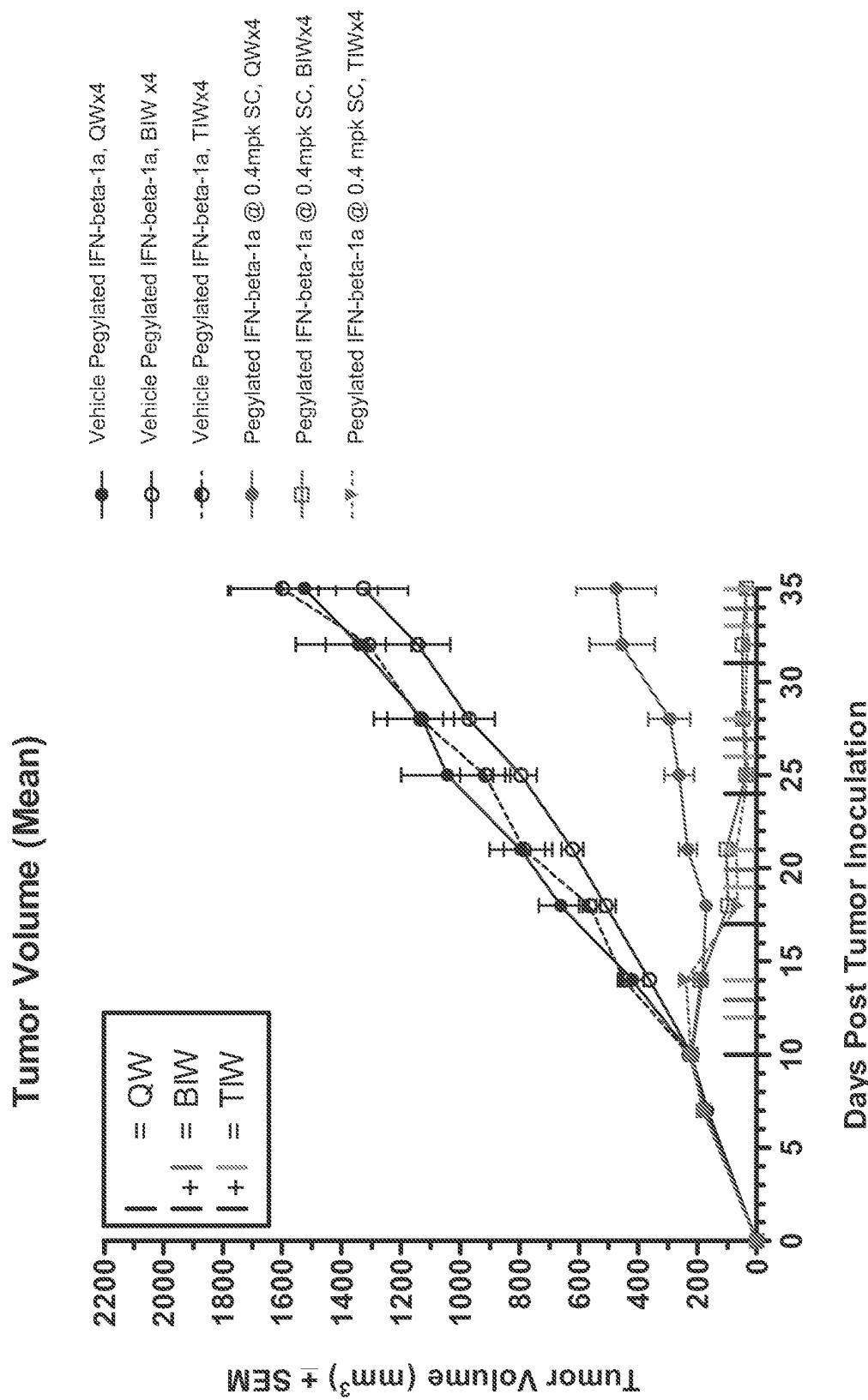


FIGURE 17B

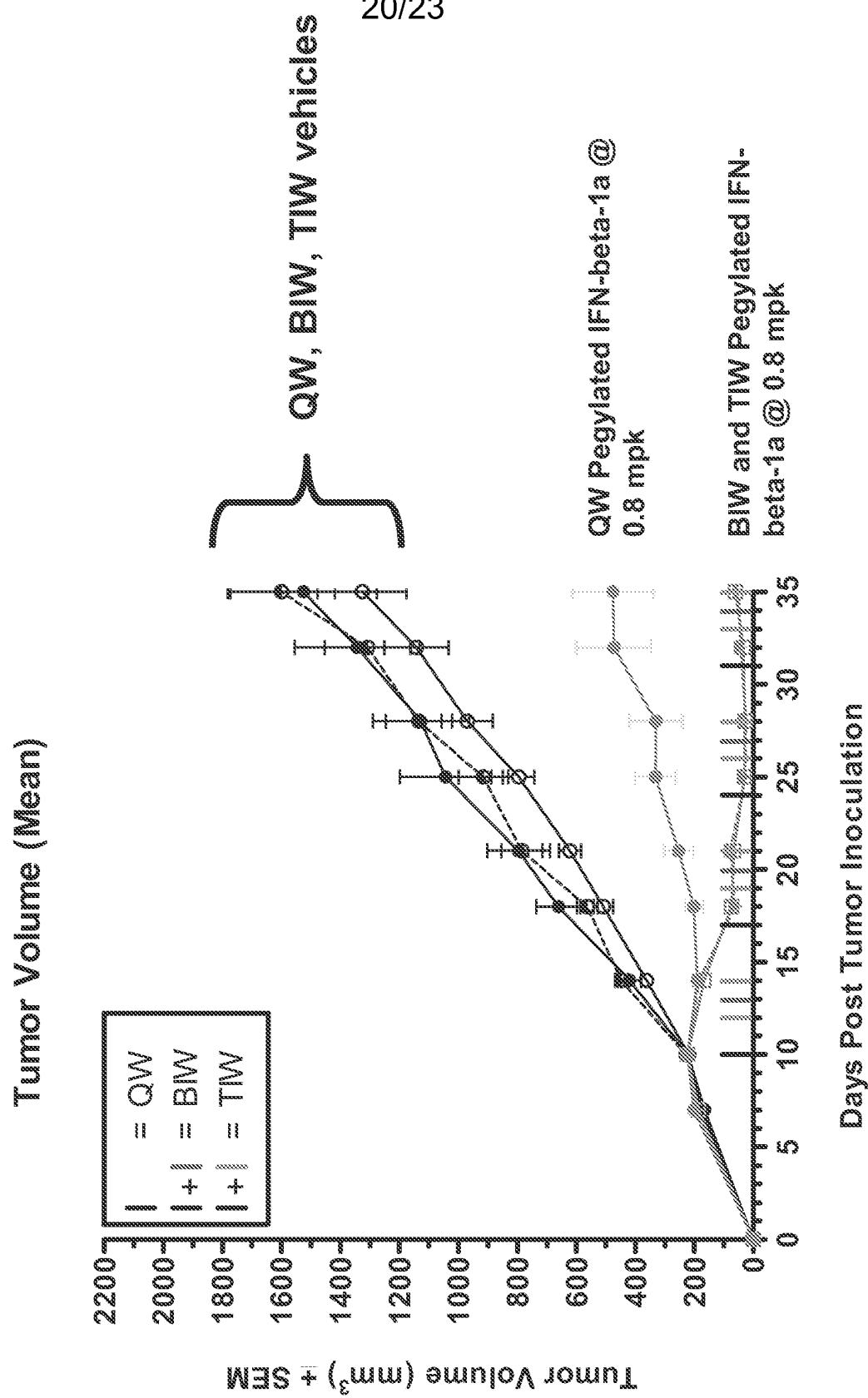


FIGURE 17C

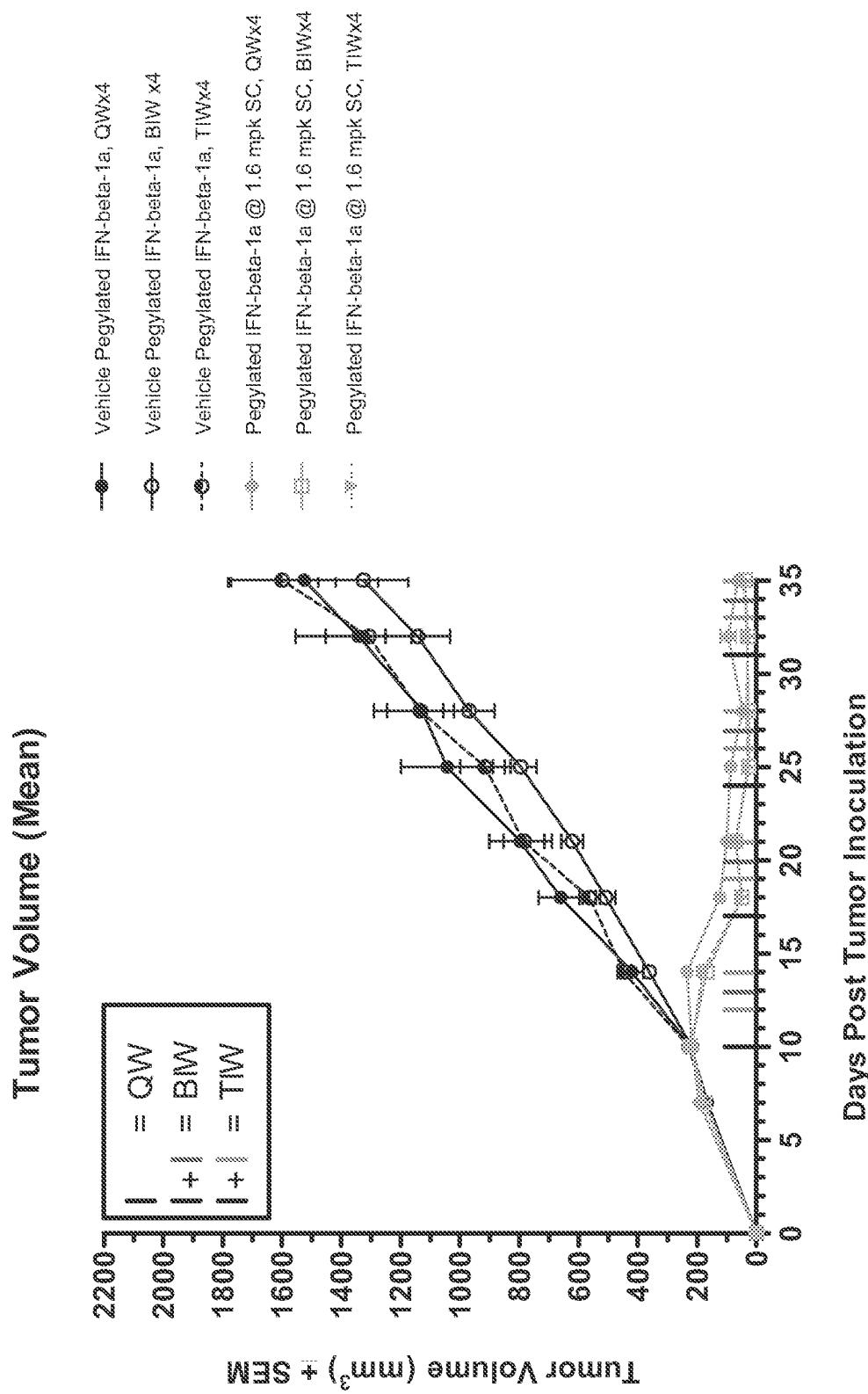


FIGURE 18

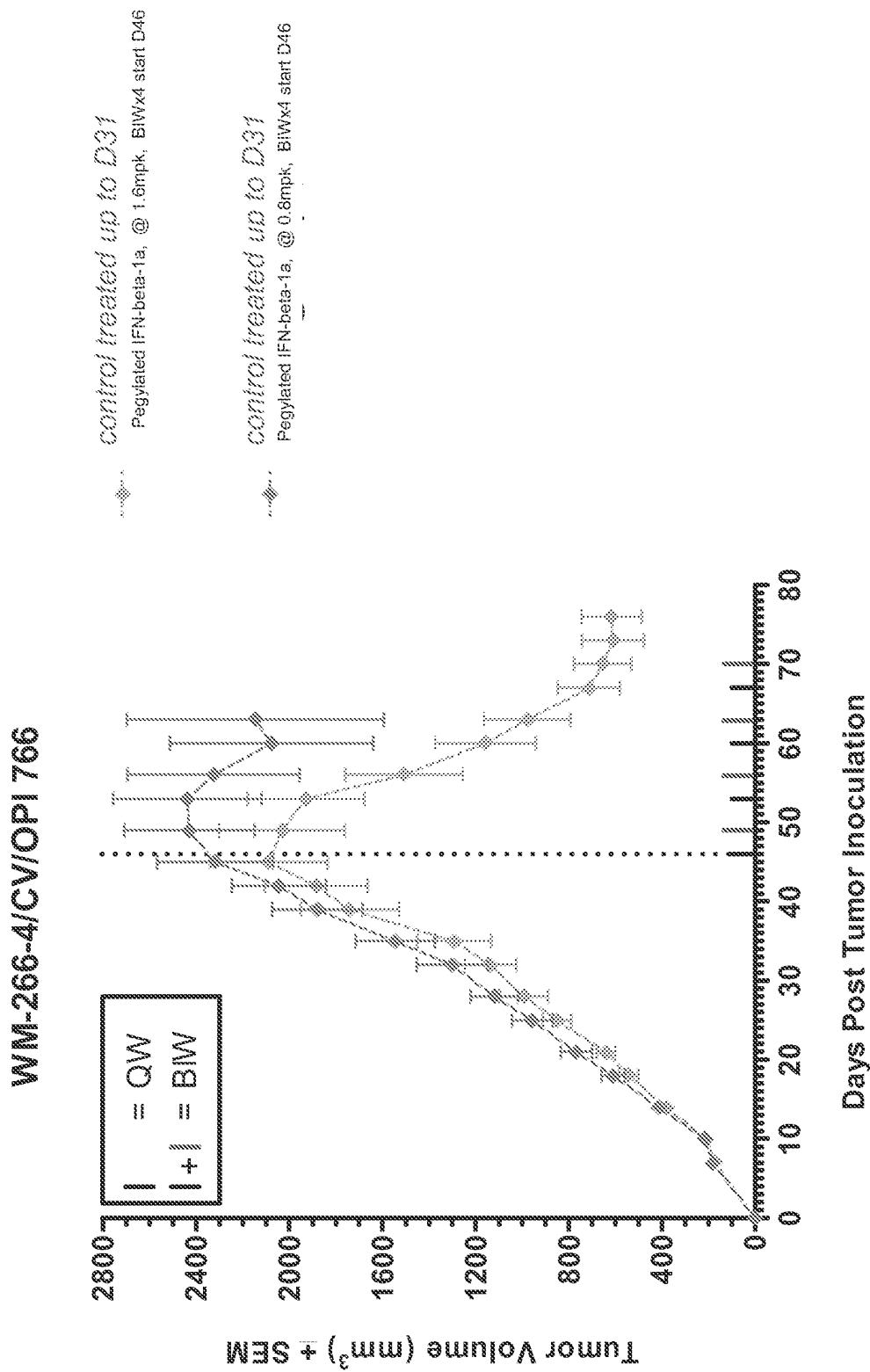


FIGURE 19A

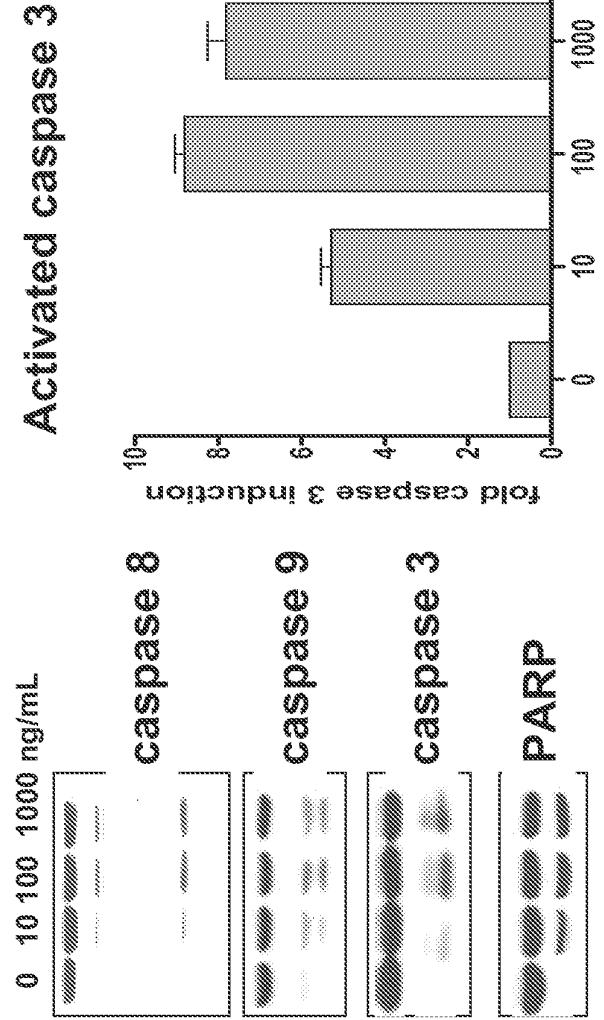


FIGURE 19B

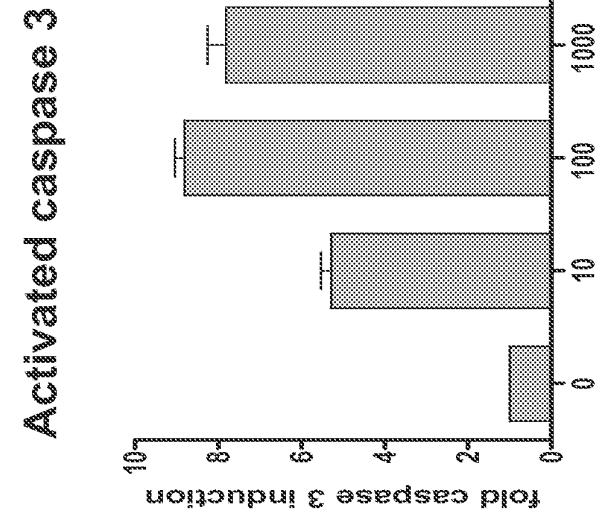


FIGURE 19C

