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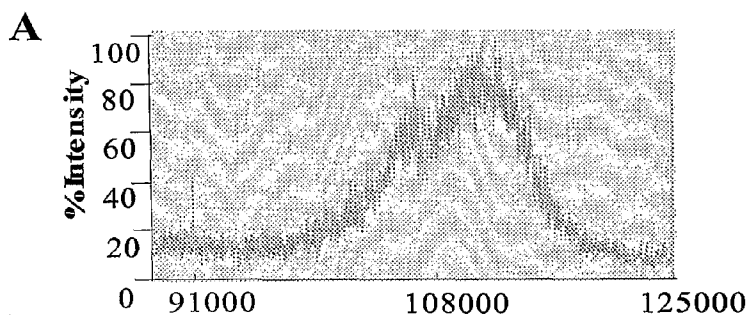
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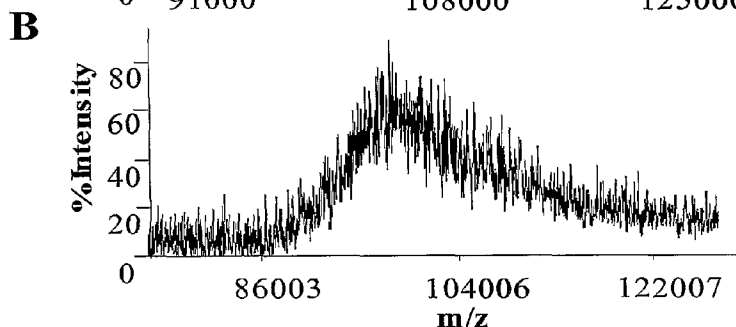
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(54) Title: TLR3 GLYCOSYLATION SITE MUTEINS AND METHODS OF USE



Human TLR3ECD



**Human TLR3ECD
(+ deglycosidase)**

(57) Abstract: TLR3 glycosylation site muteins, nucleic acids encoding the muteins, and methods of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell are disclosed.

WO 2007/051201 A2

TLR3 GLYCOSYLATION SITE MUTEINS AND METHODS OF USE**Field of the Invention**

5 The present invention relates to TLR3 glycosylation site muteins, nucleic acids encoding the muteins, and methods of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell.

Background of the Invention

10 Pathologies associated with inflammatory conditions represent a significant challenge in health care and can be painful, debilitating and lethal. For example, sepsis and sepsis-associated conditions affect more than 750,000 people annually in the U.S. with mortality rates of 28-50%, resulting in 215,000 annual deaths (Natanson *et al.*, *Crit. Care Med.* 26:1927-15 1931 (1998); Angus *et al.*, *Crit. Care Med.* 29:1303-1310 (2001)). Other inflammatory conditions such as the inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect more than 1 million people per year in the U.S. (Hanauer *et al.*, *Rev. Gastroenterol. Disord.* 3:81-92 (2003)).

20 Inflammatory pulmonary conditions affecting lung function such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma and lung infections also affect significant numbers of people in the U.S. COPD, for example, affects an estimated 10 million adult Americans and the prevalence is rising (Mapel *et al.*, *Manag. Care* 25 *Interface* 17:61-66 (2004)). Pathologies associated with these inflammatory conditions and exacerbations of these conditions have significant health and economic impacts.

30 Exacerbation in pulmonary diseases such as asthma and COPD is characterized by the worsening of symptoms and a decline in lung function. Viral infections are associated with exacerbations of many pulmonary diseases (Johnston, *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 152: S46-52 (1995); Bandi *et al.*, *FEMS Immunol. Med. Microbiol.* 37: 69-75 (2003)) and are believed to be a major cause of exacerbations. Secretion of pro-inflammatory 35 cytokines in the lungs following viral infection represents a

crucial step in promoting the inflammatory response in various lung diseases (Gern *et al.*, *Am. J. Respir. Cell. Mol. Biol.* 28:731-737 (2003); Panina-Bordignon *et al.*, *Curr. Opin. Pulm. Med.* 9:104-110 (2003)).

5 Recognition of microbial antigens by the host immune system is mediated through innate immune receptors, whose activation represents an important step in the initiation of an inflammatory response. Toll-Like Receptors (TLR) represent a family of innate immune receptors that play a crucial role in mediating an immune
10 response to foreign antigens. TLR3, for example, is a mammalian pattern recognition receptor that recognizes double-stranded (ds) RNA as well as the synthetic ds RNA analog poly-riboinosinic-ribocytidylic acid (poly I:C), (Alexopoulou *et al.*, *Nature* 413: 732-238 (2001)). Moreover, TLR3 has been shown to recognize
15 endogenous ligands such as mRNA released from necrotic cells (Kariko *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 26: 12542-12550 (2004)) indicating that necrotic cell death at inflammation sites may contribute to activation of TLR3. A full-length human TLR3 amino acid sequence and encoding polynucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and
20 SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively.

Activation of TLR3 by the ds viral RNA analog poly(I:C) or by endogenous mRNA ligands induces secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines, a finding that indicates TLR3
activation modulates disease outcome during infection-associated
25 inflammation. Thus, TLR3 ligation *in vivo* is thought to occur in the context of viral infection (Tabeta *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 101:3516-3521 (2004)) or necrosis associated with inflammation (Kariko *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 26: 12542-12550 (2004)). Overall, these data demonstrate that ligation of TLR3
30 initiates cascades of phosphorylation and transcriptional activation events that result in the production of numerous inflammatory cytokines that are thought to contribute to innate immunity (reviewed by Takeda and Akira, *J. Derm. Sci.* 34:73-82 (2004)). Further, these data suggest that sustained TLR3
35 activation can be a critical component in the modulation of

infection-associated inflammatory diseases. Published data lend support to this hypothesis as shown by findings that associate over-production of pro-inflammatory cytokines with systemic inflammatory response syndrome, infection-associated acute
5 cytokine storms (reviewed by Van Amersfoort *et al.*, *Clin. Microbiol. Rev.* 16: 379-414 (2003)) and immune-mediated chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis (reviewed by Miossec *et al.*, *Curr. Opin. Rheumatol.* 16:218-222 (2004)) and inflammatory bowel diseases (reviewed by Ogata and Hibi, *Curr. Pharm. Des.* 9:
10 1107-1113 (2003)).

Importantly, it is becoming clear that TLR3 activity also plays a significant role in conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease symptoms, sepsis, cytokine, chemokine, and growth factor mediated lung pathologies and pulmonary inflammatory conditions
15 resulting from increased inflammatory cell infiltration into lung tissues. However, it has been unclear what, if any, effect TLR3 glycosylation has on TLR3 activity and TLR3 activity mediated conditions.

Thus, a need exists to understand the effect of TLR3
20 glycosylation on TLR3 activity and exploit this information to develop compositions and methods that effectively modulate TLR3 activity.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 panel (A) shows MALDI-TOF mass spectra of hTLR3
25 extracellular domain (ECD) and panel (B) shows MALDI-TOF mass spectra of hTLR3 ECD treated with deglycosidases.

Fig. 2 shows the effect of N-glycosylation with tunicamycin on poly(I:C) induced activation of hTLR3 signaling in HEK293 cells.

30 Fig. 3 shows the effect of ECD N-glycosylation by mutagenesis of N247, N252, or N413 in hTLR3 (SEQ ID NO: 2) on activation of hTLR3 signaling in cells. Panel (A) is an alignment of possible N-glycosylation sites from selected hTLR3 homologs; panels (B) and (C) are hTLR3 activation assays

performed with the indicated hTLR3 mutants at 10 µg/ml (B) or 2.5 µg/ml (C) of the hTLR3 ligand poly(I:C).

Fig. 4 shows the effect of hTLR3 ECD N-glycosylation by mutagenesis of N247, N252, or N662 of hTLR (SEQ ID NO: 2) on poly(I:C) induced activation of hTLR3 signaling in cells.

Summary of the Invention

One aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising an amino acid sequence with at least 75% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 and at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of a position aligning to N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6.

Another aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of position N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6.

Another aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 20.

Another aspect of the invention is a method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising decreasing TLR3 glycosylation in the cell.

Detailed Description of the Invention

All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as though fully set forth.

The term "homolog" means protein sequences having between 40% and 100% sequence identity to a reference sequence. Homologs of hTLR3 include peptide chains from other species that have between 40% and 100% sequence identity to a known hTLR3 sequence. The terms "TLR3 homolog" and "TLR3" are used interchangeably throughout the specification and claims.

The term "peptide chain" as used herein means a molecule comprising at least two naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid residues linked by peptide bonds.

5 The term "TLR3 activity" as used herein refers to any activities occurring as a result of ligand binding to a cell surface TLR3 homolog or that are mediated, in whole or in part, by at least one TLR3 homolog peptide chain.

10 The compositions and methods of the invention are useful in modulating the activity of TLR3 homologs in cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. In particular, the compositions and methods of the invention can be used to attenuate *in vivo* TLR3 dependent signaling and biological processes associated with TLR3 activity in conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease symptoms, sepsis, cytokine, chemokine, and growth factor mediated lung pathologies and pulmonary inflammatory conditions resulting from increased inflammatory cell infiltration into lung tissues.

15 One aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising an amino acid sequence with at least 75% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 and at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of a position aligning to N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6. Percent identity between two peptide chains can be determined by alignment using the default settings of the BLASTP 2.2.12 [Aug-07-2005] algorithm with low complexity filtering turned off and using SEQ ID NO: 6 as the BLASTP query sequence. The amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, and SEQ ID NO: 20 are exemplary of such peptide chains. Such peptide chains may comprise additional sequences in addition to the mutagenized mature form ECD TLR3 homolog. Such additional sequences may be, for example, signal peptides such as a native signal peptide or the native intracellular and transmembrane domains of the homolog. Those skilled in the art will recognize other such additional sequences such as affinity tag sequences or other sequences that facilitate TLR activity, function or purification.

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Such peptide chains may be readily made by determining the percent identity between a TLR3 homolog and SEQ ID NO: 6 as described above, selecting a homolog with at least 75% identity to SEQ ID NO: 6, identifying a position aligning to N221, N226, N387, or N636 of SEQ ID NO: 6, and introducing at least one mutation within 3 residues of the position identified. Importantly, the core consensus glycosylation site motif is the 3 amino acid residue Asn-X-Ser/Thr motif. Such mutations may be substitutions, deletions, or insertions and can be generated using *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenesis techniques well known in the art. Such peptide chains may also comprise additional mutations incorporated into the TLR3 homolog that do not occur within 3 amino acid residues of a position aligning to N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6.

Another aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of position N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6. The amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 20 are exemplary of such peptide chains. Such mutations may be substitutions, deletions, or insertions and can be generated using *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenesis techniques well known in the art. Such peptide chains may also comprise additional sequences as discussed above.

Another aspect of the invention is a peptide chain comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 20. Such peptide chains may also comprise additional sequences as discussed above.

In one embodiment the invention provides a nucleic acid encoding a peptide chain of the invention.

In another embodiment the invention provides a nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

The nucleic acids of the invention may be made using *in vivo* or *in vitro* techniques known by those skilled in the art. Such nucleic acids may comprise DNA and RNA. Additionally, such nucleic acids may comprise additional nucleic acid sequences or be conjugated to another class of molecules. For example, such nucleic acids may be inserted into vector nucleic acids or supplied to a cell or system to produce expression of a peptide chain encoded by the nucleic acid. Such cells or systems may be eukaryotic cells, prokaryotic cells, archael cells, or cell free *in vitro* systems such as *in vitro* coupled transcription and translation systems. Techniques for peptide chain expression, introducing nucleic acids into vectors and supplying nucleic acids to cells, and cells or systems suitable for expression of peptide chains encoded by a nucleic acid are well know to those skilled in the art.

Another aspect of the invention is a method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising decreasing TLR3 glycosylation in the cell using techniques such as gene inactivation or transcript targeting (e.g. siRNA). TLR3 glycosylation may decreased, for example, by providing a cell with small molecules that inhibit TLR3 glycosylation such as tunicamycin, providing TLR3 homologs in which a glycosylation site has been modified so that it can no longer be glycosylated, over expressing glycolytic enzymes in the cell, and deceasing or inactivating expression of glycoslyases in the cell. Antibody molecules or antibody fragments may also be used to decrease TLR3 glycosylation and activity. Such antibody molecules or fragments may block ligand or receptor multimerization by binding to the region of cell surface TLR3 containing residue N221, N226, N387 or N636 of SEQ ID NO: 6. In the methods of the invention both N-glycosylation and O-glycosylation of TLR3 homologs may be targeted to decrease TLR3 glycosylation.

One aspect of the invention is a method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing tunicamycin to the cell. Tunicamycin can be provided to a cell *in vitro* via the culture

media (at a concentration of about 0.2 to 0.5 µg/ml or *in vivo* via intravenous injection for example. Those skilled in the art will recognize many other methods and routes by which tunicamycin can be provided to a cell *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

5 In another embodiment the invention provides a method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing a peptide chain of the invention to the cell. Peptide chains may be provided to a cell by, for example, supplying the peptide chain to the fluid or tissue surrounding a cell, introducing an
10 exogenous nucleic acid expressing the peptide chain into the cell, microinjection of the peptide chain into the cell, or fusing a cell with a second cell or vesicle containing the peptide chain. Those skilled in the art will recognize other means by which to provide a peptide chain to a cell.

15 In another embodiment the invention provides a method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing a nucleic acid of the invention to the cell. The nucleic acids of the invention may be provided to a cell through the use of viral, plasmid, cellular, or vesicular vectors, microinjection,
20 naturally occurring nucleic acid uptake or competency, conjugation to molecule capable of entering a cell or by any other technique known to those skilled in the art by which nucleic acids may be introduced into a cell.

25 In another embodiment of the invention the nucleic acid is provided to the cell by transfection. Transfection of nucleic acids into a cell may be accomplished by a variety of techniques such as electroporation, chemical shock, lipofection, vesicle fusion, and other techniques known by those skilled in the art.

30 The present invention will now be described with reference to the following specific, non-limiting examples.

Example 1

Glycosylation of hTLR3 Extracellular Domain

Mass spectroscopic analysis performed on the purified,
5 soluble ECD of hTLR3 recombinantly expressed in *Homo sapiens*
derived HEK293 cells (ATCC® number: CRL-1573™) revealed a high
degree of charge heterogeneity among ionized hTLR3 ECD fragment
species (Fig. 1A) and an average ion fragment mass of 110 kD.
Treatment of recombinantly expressed hTLR3 ECD with a mixture of
10 deglycosidases specific for O-linked and N-linked glycosylation
followed by mass spectroscopic analysis revealed that
deglycosidase treatment decreased the average ion fragment mass
to 94 kD (Fig. 1B). Additionally, incubation of hTLR3 ECD with
N-acetylneuraminic acid (NANase), O-glycosidase DS, peptide N-
15 Glycosidase F (PNGase F), or a cocktail containing all of these
enzymes decreased glycoprotein specific staining of SDS-PAGE
resolved hTLR3 ECD. Together these results indicate that the
hTLR3 ECD is both N- and O-glycosylated.

hTLR3 ECD for mass spectroscopic and glycoprotein specific
20 SDS-PAGE analyses were prepared as follows. First, a cDNA (SEQ
ID NO: 1) encoding the full-length *Homo sapiens* TLR3 protein (SEQ
ID NO: 2) and identical to accession number U88879 was cloned
into pCDNA3.1. Next, a cDNA fragment encoding the hTLR3 ECD (SEQ
ID NO: 3) and consisting of amino acids 1-703 of full length
25 hTLR3 (SEQ ID NO: 4) was cloned into pCDNA3.1. This cDNA
fragment was cloned into pCDNA3.1 in frame and on the 5' side of
a cDNA encoding a hexahistidine affinity tag. The resulting
plasmid encodes a recombinant hTLR3 ECD comprising a C-terminal
hexahistidine tag.

30 hTLR3 ECD encoded by this plasmid was expressed, processed,
and secreted by transiently transfected HEK293 cells. Cells were
transfected and cultured using standard methods. The recombinant
hTLR3 ECD with carboxy terminal hexahistidine affinity tag was
purified from cell culture supernatant using a Ni-NTA resin and
35 was further purified by ion exchange chromatography using

standard methods. The majority of hTLR3 ECD protein produced by this process is predicted to lack the first 26 amino terminal, signal peptide residues due to post-translational proteolytic processing and secretion. The hTLR3 ECD protein purified
5 comprised amino acid residues 27 to 703 (SEQ ID NO: 6) of full length hTLR3 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

Mass spectroscopic analyses of purified, recombinant hTLR3 ECD were performed as follows. First, samples were concentrated with a Nanosep™ centrifugation concentrator (Pall Corp., East
10 Hills, NY), desalted using C-18 Zip Tips (Millipore Corp., Billerica, MA), and eluted with 50% acetonitrile/0.1% trifluoroacetic acid. 1 µL of each sample was then co-crystallized with the matrix in 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid in acetonitrile/water (50:50) containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid
15 (TFA). MALDI-TOF experiments were then performed using standard methods and recorded using an ABI Voyager-DE™ STR mass spectrometer. To examine glycosylation, 1 µg of the purified hTLR3 ECD protein was incubated with a mixture of N-glycanase, O-glycanase, and sialidase at 37°C for 24 h. Products of this
20 incubation were then analyzed by MALDI-TOF spectroscopy as described above.

Preparation of purified hTLR3 ECD for SDS-PAGE resolution and glycoprotein specific visualization was performed as follows. First, samples containing recombinantly expressed hTLR3 ECD
25 alone, hTLR3 ECD incubated with N-acetylneuraminic acid (NANase), hTLR3 ECD incubated with O-glycosidase DS, peptide N-Glycosidase F (PNGase F), or a cocktail containing all of these enzymes and hTLR3 ECD were prepared. Samples containing equal amounts of hTLR3 ECD were then resolved by SDS-PAGE on a 4-12% gradient gel
30 using standard methods and glycoprotein was visualized with the glycoprotein specific SYPRO Ruby protein gel stain (Invitrogen, Inc., Carlsbad, CA).

Example 2

Effect of N-Glycosylation on Poly(I:C) Induced Activation of hTLR3 Signaling in Cells

In these experiments, TLR3 signaling was assayed using
5 the pNF- κ B-Luciferase (Stratagene, Inc., Carlsbad, CA) reporter
gene construct transiently transfected by standard methods into
HEK293 cells. This reporter construct comprised an NF- κ B
responsive DNA element linked to a luciferase reporter gene.
Activation of TLR3 by poly(I:C) ligand increases NF- κ B activity
10 and results in activation of NF- κ B responsive genes such as the
luciferase reporter gene. HEK293 cells transfected with pNF- κ B-
Luciferase were transiently co-transfected with the control
vector pHRL-TK constitutively producing a luciferase protein
derived from *Renilla*. A cDNA encoding full-length hTLR3 was also
15 transiently co-transfected, using standard methods, into HEK-293
cells transfected with the luciferase reporter gene.

After transfection, cells were treated with non-toxic doses
of tunicamycin as shown in Fig. 2. Tunicamycin inhibits N-
linked glycosylation by inhibiting the attachment of N-
20 acetylglucoasamine which is the first sugar residue attached to a
peptide chain during glycosylation. Treated or control HEK293
cells were then incubated with 10 μ g/ml of the hTLR3 ligand
poly(I:C) (PIC) as indicated in Fig. 2.

After treatment, luciferase expressed from pNF- κ B-
25 Luciferase and pHRL-TK was assayed using standard methods. Data
was expressed as a "luciferase ratio" equal to the pNF- κ B-
Luciferase activity normalized to pHRL-TK luciferase activity.
Results are presented as scatter plots of data collected from 9
individual samples and is representative of 3 independently
30 conducted, identical experiments.

Example 3

Effect of hTLR3 ECD N-Glycosylation Inhibition on Poly(I:C) Induced Activation of hTLR3 Signaling in Cells

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Surprisingly, two potential N-glycosylation sites, N247 and N413, of the many possible sites within the hTLR3 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 were found to play a critical role in hTLR3 signaling (Fig. 3C). Additionally, two other potential N-glycosylation sites in SEQ ID NO: 2, N252 and N662, were also found to play an important role in hTLR signaling (Fig. 3B and Fig. 4). Positions N247, N252, N413, and N662 in SEQ ID NO: 2 are respectively equivalent to N221, N226, N387, and N636 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

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The hTLR3 ECD has several potential N-linked glycosylation sites, based on the presence of the N-glycosylation motif Asn-X-Ser/Thr (Fig. 3A) in various TLR3 homologs. Only five of these potential N-linked glycosylation sites were conserved between *Homo sapiens*, *Pan troglodytes*, *Canis familiaris*, *Bos taurus*, *Rattus norvegicus* and *Mus musculus* TLR3 homologs (Fig. 3A) as assessed by standard CLUSTALW alignment. The five conserved sites in SEQ ID NO: 2 were N57, N196, N247, N275, and N413. Four other potential N-glycosylation sites in SEQ ID NO: 2 varied between the various TLR3 homologs examined (Fig. 3A). These four other potential, albeit non-conserved, N-glycosylation sites were N252, N265, N291, N507, N636, and N662 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

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The asparagines residues within these potential N-linked glycosylation sites in the hTLR3 ECD were individually mutated using standard methods to alanine residues (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). Four additional asparagine residues present in the hTLR3 ECD that do not contain a match to the Asn-X-Ser/Thr N-glycosylation motif in any TLR3 homolog were also mutated as a control. These residues were N70, N124, and N388 of full length hTLR3 (SEQ ID NO: 2). All mutagenesis was performed on cDNAs encoding full-length hTLR3 in order to produce full-length, processed, and secreted hTLR3 with a mutagenized ECD. Mutated positions in SEQ

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ID NO: 2 are indicated in the figures by identification of the position of the alanine substitution (e.g. N70 means N70 has been replaced with an alanine residue).

5 Plasmids encoding and expressing the mutant hTLR3 cDNA constructs described above were individually transfected into HEK293T cells. Cells transfected with plasmids encoding individual, mutant hTLR3 molecules were also simultaneously transfected with the pNF- κ B-Luciferase reporter and pHRL-TK luciferase control vector. Transfections and cell culture were
10 performed using standard methods.

Transfected and control HEK293 cells were then incubated with 10 μ g/ml (Fig. 3B and Fig. 4) or 2.5 μ g/ml (Fig. 3C) of the hTLR3 ligand poly(I:C) (PIC) as indicated to assess the effect of the various hTLR3 mutations on hTLR3 signaling. After treatment
15 luciferase expressed from pNF- κ B-Luciferase and pHRL-TK was assayed using standard methods. Data was expressed as a "luciferase ratio" as described above. Results are presented as scatter plots of data collected from 6 individual samples.

The present invention now being fully described, it will be
20 apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many changes and modifications can be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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 30 Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln
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 Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser
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 Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu
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 260 265 270
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40 <213> Homo sapiens

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50 55 60
Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
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Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
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 Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
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 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn Thr Ser Ile
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 15 Arg Asn Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 225 230 235 240
 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 245 250 255
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 260 265 270
 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
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 385 390 395 400
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 40 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
 435 440 445
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 450 455 460
 45 Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Gln Pro Leu Arg
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 485 490 495
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 515 520 525
 Ile Tyr Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
 530 535 540
 55 Ser Asn Gly Phe Asp Glu Ile Pro Val Glu Val Phe Lys Asp Leu Phe
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    <213> Artificial Sequence

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        peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution
        mutation at N221.

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      35          40          45
    Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
      50          55          60
30 Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
      65          70          75          80
    Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
      85          90          95
    Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
      100         105         110
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      115         120         125
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      130         135         140
40 Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
      145         150         155         160
    Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
      165         170         175
    Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
      180         185         190
45 Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
      195         200         205
    Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Ala Thr Ser Ile
      210         215         220
50 Arg Asn Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
      225         230         235
    Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
      245         250         255
    Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
      260         265         270
55 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
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 Arg Ser Phe Thr Lys Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Lys Ile
 305 310 315 320
 5 Asp Asp Phe Ser Phe Gln Trp Leu Lys Cys Leu Glu His Leu Asn Met
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 370 375 380
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 385 390 395 400
 15 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly His Leu Glu Val Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 405 410 415
 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 20 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
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 Ser Phe Ala Leu Val Pro Ser Leu Gln Arg Leu Met Leu Arg Arg Val
 450 455 460
 Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Gln Pro Leu Arg
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 25 Asn Leu Thr Ile Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Asn Ile Ala Asn Ile Asn
 485 490 495
 Asp Asp Met Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Lys Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Leu Gln
 500 505 510
 30 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys His Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
 Ile Tyr Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
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 Ser Asn Gly Phe Asp Glu Ile Pro Val Glu Val Phe Lys Asp Leu Phe
 545 550 555 560
 35 Glu Leu Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Thr Leu Pro
 565 570 575
 Ala Ser Val Phe Asn Asn Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Ser Leu Asn Leu Gln
 580 585 590
 40 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Ala Phe
 595 600 605
 Arg Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ala Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Asn Glu Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640
 45 Asn Ile Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro Pro His
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 Tyr His Gly Phe Pro Val Arg Leu Phe Asp Thr Ser Ser Cys Lys Asp
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 50 Ser Ala Pro Phe Glu
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<210> 9
 <211> 2031
 55 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Artificial cDNA sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution mutation at N387.

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ccggcggcga actttaccgg ctatagccag ctgaccagcc tggatgtggg ctttaacacc 180
attagcaaac tggaaaccgga actgtgccag aaactgccga tgctgaaagt gctgaacctg 240
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gaactgcatc tgatgagcaa cagcattcag aaaattaaaa acaaccctgt tgtgaaacag 360
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aacattccgg aactgagcag ccattatctg tgcaaacacc cgccgcatta tcatggcttt 1980
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<210> 10

<211> 677

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<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution mutation at N387.

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Thr Gln Val Pro Asp Asp Leu Pro Thr Asn Ile Thr Val Leu Asn Leu
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 35 40 45
 5 Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
 50 55 60
 Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
 65 70 75 80
 10 Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
 85 90 95
 Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
 100 105 110
 Lys Asn Asn Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Leu Asp Leu
 115 120 125
 15 Ser His Asn Gly Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Gly Thr Gln Val Gln Leu
 130 135 140
 Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
 145 150 155 160
 20 Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
 165 170 175
 Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
 180 185 190
 Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
 195 200 205
 25 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn Thr Ser Ile
 210 215 220
 Arg Asn Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 225 230 235 240
 30 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 245 250 255
 Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
 260 265 270
 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
 275 280 285
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 Arg Ser Phe Thr Lys Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Lys Ile
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 325 330 335
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 340 345 350
 Ile Asn Leu Lys Tyr Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Phe Thr Ser Leu Arg
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 45 Thr Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Phe Val Ser Leu Ala His Ser Pro Leu His
 370 375 380
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 385 390 395 400
 50 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly His Leu Glu Val Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 405 410 415
 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
 435 440 445
 55 Ser Phe Ala Leu Val Pro Ser Leu Gln Arg Leu Met Leu Arg Arg Val
 450 455 460

Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Gln Pro Leu Arg
 465 470 475 480
 Asn Leu Thr Ile Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Asn Ile Ala Asn Ile Asn
 485 490 495
 5 Asp Asp Met Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Lys Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Leu Gln
 500 505 510
 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys His Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
 10 Ile Tyr Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
 530 535 540
 Ser Asn Gly Phe Asp Glu Ile Pro Val Glu Val Phe Lys Asp Leu Phe
 545 550 555 560
 Glu Leu Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Thr Leu Pro
 565 570 575
 15 Ala Ser Val Phe Asn Asn Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Ser Leu Asn Leu Gln
 580 585 590
 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Ala Phe
 595 600 605
 20 Arg Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ala Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Asn Glu Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640
 Asn Ile Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro Pro His
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 <210> 11
 <211> 2031
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

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 <223> Artificial cDNA sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains alanine (A) substitution mutations at
 40 N221 and N387.

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 45 ccggcgcgca actttaccg ctatagccag ctgaccagcc tggatgtggg ctttaacacc 180
 attagcaaac tggaaccgga actgtgccag aaactgccga tgctgaaagt gctgaacctg 240
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 50 aaaaacctga ttaccctgga tctgagccat aacggcctga gcagcaccac actgggcacc 420
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 tttctgaaca acgtgcagct gggcccgcag ctgacogaaa aactgtgcct ggaactggcg 660
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 aacgtggtgg gcaacgatag ctttgcgtgg ctgccgcagc tggaatattt ttttctggaa 840
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<210> 12
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<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence

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25
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<223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the
      Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal
      peptide and contains alanine (A) substitution
30      mutations at N221 and N387.

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35 Thr Gln Val Pro Asp Asp Leu Pro Thr Asn Ile Thr Val Leu Asn Leu
      20      25      30
Thr His Asn Gln Leu Arg Arg Leu Pro Ala Ala Asn Phe Thr Arg Tyr
      35      40      45
40 Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
      50      55      60
Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
65      70      75      80
Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
      85      90      95
45 Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
      100     105     110
Lys Asn Asn Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Leu Asp Leu
      115     120     125
50 Ser His Asn Gly Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Gly Thr Gln Val Gln Leu
      130     135     140
Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
145     150     155     160
Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
      165     170     175
55 Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
      180     185     190

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Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
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 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Ala Thr Ser Ile
 210 215 220
 5 Arg Asn Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 225 230 235 240
 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 245 250 255
 10 Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
 260 265 270
 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
 275 280 285
 Ser His Ser Leu His Gly Leu Phe Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Asn Leu Lys
 290 295 300
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 485 490 495
 40 Asp Asp Met Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Lys Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Leu Gln
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 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys His Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
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 545 550 555 560
 Glu Leu Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Thr Leu Pro
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 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Ala Phe
 595 600 605
 Arg Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 55 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ala Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Asn Glu Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640

Asn Ile Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro Pro His
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 675

10 <210> 13
 <211> 2031
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

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<210> 14
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<212> PRT
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5 <223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the
 Mus musculus TLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide
 and contains alanine (A) substitution mutations at
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				20					25					30		
15	Thr	His	Asn	Gln	Leu	Arg	Arg	Leu	Pro	Pro	Thr	Asn	Phe	Thr	Arg	Tyr
			35					40					45			
	Ser	Gln	Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asp	Ala	Gly	Phe	Asn	Ser	Ile	Ser	Lys	Leu
	50						55					60				
	Glu	Pro	Glu	Leu	Cys	Gln	Ile	Leu	Pro	Leu	Leu	Lys	Val	Leu	Asn	Leu
20	65					70						75				80
	Gln	His	Asn	Glu	Leu	Ser	Gln	Ile	Ser	Asp	Gln	Thr	Phe	Val	Phe	Cys
					85					90					95	
	Thr	Asn	Leu	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Met	Ser	Asn	Ser	Ile	His	Lys	Ile
				100					105						110	
25	Lys	Ser	Asn	Pro	Phe	Lys	Asn	Gln	Lys	Asn	Leu	Ile	Lys	Leu	Asp	Leu
			115					120						125		
	Ser	His	Asn	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Lys	Leu	Gly	Thr	Gly	Val	Gln	Leu
	130							135					140			
	Glu	Asn	Leu	Gln	Glu	Leu	Leu	Leu	Ala	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ile	Leu	Ala	Leu
30	145					150					155					160
	Arg	Ser	Glu	Glu	Leu	Glu	Phe	Leu	Gly	Asn	Ser	Ser	Leu	Arg	Lys	Leu
					165					170					175	
	Asp	Leu	Ser	Ser	Asn	Pro	Leu	Lys	Glu	Phe	Ser	Pro	Gly	Cys	Phe	Gln
				180					185					190		
35	Thr	Ile	Gly	Lys	Leu	Phe	Ala	Leu	Leu	Leu	Asn	Asn	Ala	Gln	Leu	Asn
			195					200					205			
	Pro	His	Leu	Thr	Glu	Lys	Leu	Cys	Trp	Glu	Leu	Ser	Ala	Thr	Ser	Ile
	210						215						220			
	Gln	Ala	Leu	Ser	Leu	Ala	Asn	Asn	Gln	Leu	Leu	Ala	Thr	Ser	Glu	Ser
40	225					230						235				240
	Thr	Phe	Ser	Gly	Leu	Lys	Trp	Thr	Asn	Leu	Thr	Gln	Leu	Asp	Leu	Ser
					245					250					255	
	Tyr	Asn	Asn	Leu	His	Asp	Val	Gly	Asn	Gly	Ser	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Pro
				260					265					270		
45	Ser	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Leu	Glu	Tyr	Asn	Asn	Ile	Gln	Arg	Leu	Ser
			275					280						285		
	Pro	Arg	Ser	Phe	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Ser	Asn	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Leu	Lys
	290						295					300				
	Arg	Ala	Phe	Thr	Lys	Gln	Ser	Val	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ser	His	Pro	Asn	Ile
50	305					310						315				320
	Asp	Asp	Phe	Ser	Phe	Gln	Trp	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Asn	Met
					325					330					335	
	Asp	Asp	Asn	Asn	Ile	Pro	Ser	Thr	Lys	Ser	Asn	Thr	Phe	Thr	Gly	Leu
				340					345					350		
55	Val	Ser	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Leu	Ser	Lys	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ser	Leu	Gln
			355					360						365		

Thr Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Phe Val Ser Leu Ala His Ser Pro Leu Leu
 370 375 380
 Thr Leu Ala Leu Thr Lys Asn His Ile Ser Lys Ile Ala Asn Gly Thr
 385 390 395 400
 5 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly Gln Leu Arg Ile Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 405 410 415
 Ile Glu Gln Lys Leu Ser Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Arg Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 10 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Ser Thr Ser
 435 440 445
 Ser Phe Ala Leu Val Pro Ser Leu Gln Arg Leu Met Leu Arg Arg Val
 450 455 460
 Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ile Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Arg Pro Leu Arg
 465 470 475 480
 15 Asn Leu Thr Ile Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Asn Ile Ala Asn Ile Asn
 485 490 495
 Glu Asp Leu Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Asn Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Phe Gln
 500 505 510
 20 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys Arg Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
 Val Asn Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
 530 535 540
 Ser Asn Gly Leu Asp Glu Ile Pro Val Gly Val Phe Lys Asn Leu Phe
 545 550 555 560
 25 Glu Leu Lys Ser Ile Asn Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Lys Leu Glu
 565 570 575
 Pro Phe Ile Phe Asp Asp Gln Thr Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu Asn Leu Gln
 580 585 590
 30 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Asp Val Phe Gly Pro Pro Phe
 595 600 605
 Gln Asn Leu Asn Ser Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ser Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Ala Gln Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640
 35 Asn Ile Ser Glu Leu Ser Thr His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro His His
 645 650 655
 Tyr Tyr Gly Phe Pro Leu Lys Leu Phe Asp Thr Ser Ser Cys Lys Asp
 660 665 670
 40 Ser Ala Pro Phe Glu
 675

<210> 15
 <211> 2031
 45 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 50 <223> Artificial cDNA sequence derived from the Homo
 sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and
 contains an alanine (A) substitution mutation at
 N226.

<400> 15
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 gatgatctgc cgaccaacat taccgtgctg aacctgacctg ataaccagct gcgcccctg 120
 ccggcggcga actttaccgg ctatagccag ctgaccagcc tggatgtggg ctttaacacc 180

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attagcaaac tggaaaccgga actgtgccag aaactgccga tgctgaaagt gctgaacctg 240
cagcataacg aactgagcca gctgagcgat aaaacctttg cgttttgcac caacctgacc 300
gaactgcatc tgatgagcaa cagcattcag aaaatataaa acaaccggtt tgtgaaacag 360
aaaaacctga ttaccctgga tctgagccat aacggcctga gcagcaccaa actgggcacc 420
5 caggtgcagc tggaaaacct gcaggaactg ctgctgagca acaacaaaat tcaggcgctg 480
aaaagcgaag aactggatat ttttgcgaac agcagcctga aaaaactgga actgagcagc 540
aaccagatta aagaatthag cccgggctgc tttcatgcga ttggcgcgct gtttggcctg 600
tttctgaaca acgtgcagct gggcccgcagc ctgaccgaaa aactgtgcct ggaactggcg 660
10 aacaccagca ttcgcgcgct gagcctgagc aacagccagc tgagcaccac cagcaacacc 720
acctttctgg gcctgaaatg gaccaacctg acctatgctg atctgagcta taacaacctg 780
aacgtggtgg gcaacgatag ctttgcgtgg ctgccgcagc tggaaatattt ttttctggaa 840
tataacaaca ttcagcatct gtttagccat agcctgcatg gcctgtttaa cgtgcgctat 900
ctgaacctga aacgcagctt taccaaacag agcattagcc tggcgagcct gccgaaaatt 960
gatgatthta gctttcagtg gctgaaatgc ctggaacatc tgaacatgga agataacgat 1020
15 attccgggca ttaaaagcaa catgtttacc ggcctgatta acctgaaata tctgagcctg 1080
agcaacagct ttaccagcct ggcaccctg accaacgaaa cctttgtgag cctggcgcat 1140
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tttagctggc tgggccatct ggaagtgctg gatctgggcc tgaacgaaat tggccaggaa 1260
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20 aaatatctgc agctgaccgg caacagcttt gcgctggtgc cgagcctgca gcgctgatg 1380
ctgcgcgcgcg tggcgctgaa aaacgtggat agcagcccga gcccgthttca gccgctgagc 1440
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gaaggcctgg aaaaactgga aattctggat ctgcagcata acaacctggc gcgctgtgg 1560
aaacatgcga acccgggcgg cccgatttat tttctgaaag gctgagcca tctgcatatt 1620
25 ctgaacctgg aaagcaacgg ctttgatgaa attccggtgg aagtgtthta agatctgtht 1680
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aaaaaagtgt ttggcccggc gtttcgcaac ctgaccgaac tggatatgag ctttaacctg 1860
tttgattgca cctgcgaaag cattgcgtgg tttgtgaaact ggattaacga aaccataacc 1920
30 aacattccgg aactgagcag ccattatctg tgcaacaccc cgccgcatta tcatggcttt 1980
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<210> 16

<211> 677

35 <212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

40 <223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the
Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal
peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution
mutation at N226.

<400> 16

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1 5 10 15
Thr Gln Val Pro Asp Asp Leu Pro Thr Asn Ile Thr Val Leu Asn Leu
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Thr His Asn Gln Leu Arg Arg Leu Pro Ala Ala Asn Phe Thr Arg Tyr
50 35 40 45
Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
50 55 60
Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
65 70 75 80
55 Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
85 90 95

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Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
 100 105 110
 Lys Asn Asn Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Leu Asp Leu
 115 120 125
 5 Ser His Asn Gly Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Gly Thr Gln Val Gln Leu
 130 135 140
 Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
 145 150 155 160
 10 Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
 165 170 175
 Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
 180 185 190
 Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
 195 200 205
 15 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn Thr Ser Ile
 210 215 220
 Arg Ala Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 225 230 235 240
 20 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 245 250 255
 Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
 260 265 270
 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
 275 280 285
 25 Ser His Ser Leu His Gly Leu Phe Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Asn Leu Lys
 290 295 300
 Arg Ser Phe Thr Lys Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Lys Ile
 305 310 315 320
 30 Asp Asp Phe Ser Phe Gln Trp Leu Lys Cys Leu Glu His Leu Asn Met
 325 330 335
 Glu Asp Asn Asp Ile Pro Gly Ile Lys Ser Asn Met Phe Thr Gly Leu
 340 345 350
 Ile Asn Leu Lys Tyr Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Phe Thr Ser Leu Arg
 355 360 365
 35 Thr Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Phe Val Ser Leu Ala His Ser Pro Leu His
 370 375 380
 Ile Leu Asn Leu Thr Lys Asn Lys Ile Ser Lys Ile Glu Ser Asp Ala
 385 390 395 400
 40 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly His Leu Glu Val Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 405 410 415
 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
 435 440 445
 45 Ser Phe Ala Leu Val Pro Ser Leu Gln Arg Leu Met Leu Arg Arg Val
 450 455 460
 Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Gln Pro Leu Arg
 465 470 475 480
 50 Asn Leu Thr Ile Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Ile Ala Asn Ile Asn
 485 490 495
 Asp Asp Met Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Lys Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Leu Gln
 500 505 510
 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys His Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
 55 Ile Tyr Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
 530 535 540

Ser Asn Gly Phe Asp Glu Ile Pro Val Glu Val Phe Lys Asp Leu Phe
 545 550 555 560
 Glu Leu Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Thr Leu Pro
 565 570 575
 5 Ala Ser Val Phe Asn Asn Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Ser Leu Asn Leu Gln
 580 585 590
 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Ala Phe
 595 600 605
 10 Arg Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ala Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Asn Glu Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640
 Asn Ile Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro Pro His
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 660 665 670
 Ser Ala Pro Phe Glu
 675

20 <210> 17
 <211> 2031
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

25 <220>
 <223> Artificial cDNA sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution mutation at
 30 N636.

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 35 ccggcgcgga actttaccgg ctatagccag ctgaccagcc tggatgtggg ctttaacacc 180
 attagcaaac tggaaccgga actgtgccag aaactgccga tgctgaaagt gctgaacctg 240
 cagcataacg aactgagcca gctgagcgat aaaacctttg cgttttgcac caacctgacc 300
 gaactgcatc tgatgagcaa cagcattcag aaaattaaaa acaaccggtt tgtgaaacag 360
 aaaaacctga ttaccctgga tctgagccat aacggcctga gcagcaccaa actgggcacc 420
 40 caggtgcagc tggaaaacct gcaggaactg ctgctgagca acaacaaaat tcaggcgctg 480
 aaaagcgaag aactggatat ttttgcgaac agcagcctga aaaaactgga actgagcagc 540
 aaccagatta aagaatttag cccgggctgc tttcatgcga ttggccgcct gtttggcctg 600
 tttctgaaca acgtgcagct gggcccagac ctgaccgaaa aactgtgcct ggaactggcg 660
 aacaccagca ttcgcaacct gagcctgagc aacagccagc tgagcaccac cagcaacacc 720
 45 acctttctgg gcctgaaatg gaccaacctg accatgctgg atctgagcta taacaacctg 780
 aacgtggtgg gcaacgatag ctttgcgtgg ctgocgcagc tggaatattt ttttctggaa 840
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 gatgatttta gctttcagtg gctgaaatgc ctggaacatc tgaacatgga agataacgat 1020
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 55 aaatatctgc agctgaccgg caacagcttt gcgctggtgc cgagcctgca gcgctgatg 1380
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 aaaaaagtgt ttggcccggc gtttcgcaac ctgaccgaac tggatatgcg ctttaacccg 1860
 tttgattgca cctgogaaag cattgogtgg tttgtgaact ggattgcgga aaccataacc 1920
 aacattccgg aactgagcag ccattatctg tgcaacaccc cgccgcatta tcatggcttt 1980
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<210> 18
 <211> 677
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

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<220>
 <223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the
 Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal
 peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution
 mutation at N636.

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 Thr His Asn Gln Leu Arg Arg Leu Pro Ala Ala Asn Phe Thr Arg Tyr
 35 40 45
 Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
 30 50 55 60
 Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
 65 70 75 80
 Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
 85 90 95
 35 Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
 100 105 110
 Lys Asn Asn Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Leu Asp Leu
 115 120 125
 Ser His Asn Gly Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Gly Thr Gln Val Gln Leu
 40 130 135 140
 Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
 145 150 155 160
 Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
 165 170 175
 45 Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
 180 185 190
 Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
 195 200 205
 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn Thr Ser Ile
 50 210 215 220
 Arg Asn Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 225 230 235 240
 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 245 250 255
 55 Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
 260 265 270

Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
 275 280 285
 Ser His Ser Leu His Gly Leu Phe Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Asn Leu Lys
 290 295 300
 5 Arg Ser Phe Thr Lys Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Lys Ile
 305 310 315 320
 Asp Asp Phe Ser Phe Gln Trp Leu Lys Cys Leu Glu His Leu Asn Met
 325 330 335
 10 Glu Asp Asn Asp Ile Pro Gly Ile Lys Ser Asn Met Phe Thr Gly Leu
 340 345 350
 Ile Asn Leu Lys Tyr Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Phe Thr Ser Leu Arg
 355 360 365
 Thr Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Phe Val Ser Leu Ala His Ser Pro Leu His
 370 375 380
 15 Ile Leu Asn Leu Thr Lys Asn Lys Ile Ser Lys Ile Glu Ser Asp Ala
 385 390 395 400
 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly His Leu Glu Val Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 405 410 415
 20 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 420 425 430
 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
 435 440 445
 Ser Phe Ala Leu Val Pro Ser Leu Gln Arg Leu Met Leu Arg Arg Val
 450 455 460
 25 Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro Phe Gln Pro Leu Arg
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 Asn Leu Thr Ile Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Asn Ile Ala Asn Ile Asn
 485 490 495
 30 Asp Asp Met Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Lys Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Leu Gln
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 His Asn Asn Leu Ala Arg Leu Trp Lys His Ala Asn Pro Gly Gly Pro
 515 520 525
 Ile Tyr Phe Leu Lys Gly Leu Ser His Leu His Ile Leu Asn Leu Glu
 530 535 540
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 545 550 555 560
 Glu Leu Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Asn Leu Asn Thr Leu Pro
 565 570 575
 40 Ala Ser Val Phe Asn Asn Gln Val Ser Leu Lys Ser Leu Asn Leu Gln
 580 585 590
 Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Ser Val Glu Lys Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Ala Phe
 595 600 605
 Arg Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu Asp Met Arg Phe Asn Pro Phe Asp Cys Thr
 610 615 620
 45 Cys Glu Ser Ile Ala Trp Phe Val Asn Trp Ile Ala Glu Thr His Thr
 625 630 635 640
 Asn Ile Pro Glu Leu Ser Ser His Tyr Leu Cys Asn Thr Pro Pro His
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 50 Tyr His Gly Phe Pro Val Arg Leu Phe Asp Thr Ser Ser Cys Lys Asp
 660 665 670
 Ser Ala Pro Phe Glu
 675

55 <210> 19
 <211> 2031
 <212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

5 <223> Artificial cDNA sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution mutations at N221, N226, N387, and N636.

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 ccggcggcga actttacccg ctatagccag ctgaccagcc tggatgtggg ctttaacacc 180
 attagcaaac tggaaccgga actgtgccag aaactgccga tgctgaaagt gctgaacctg 240
 15 cagcataacg aactgagcca gctgagcgat aaaacctttg cgttttgcac caacctgacc 300
 gaactgcatc tgatgagcaa cagcattcag aaaattaaaa acaaccogtt tgtgaaacag 360
 aaaaacctga ttaccctgga tctgagccat aacggcctga gcagcaccaa actgggcacc 420
 caggtgcagc tggaaaacct gcaggaactg ctgctgagca acaacaaaat tcaggcgctg 480
 aaaagcgaag aactggatat ttttgcgaac agcagcctga aaaaactgga actgagcagc 540
 aaccagatta aagaatttag cccgggctgc tttcatgcga ttggccgcct gtttggcctg 600
 20 tttctgaaca acgtgcagct gggcccagac ctgaccgaaa aactgtgcct ggaactggcg 660
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 aacgtggtgg gcaacgatag ctttgcgtgg ctgccgcagc tggaatatct ttttctggaa 840
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 25 ctgaacctga aacgcagctt taccaaacag agcattagcc tggcgagcct gccgaaaatt 960
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45 <210> 20

<211> 677

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

50 <220>

<223> Artificial amino acid sequence derived from the Homo sapiens hTLR3 ECD which lacks a signal peptide and contains an alanine (A) substitution mutations at N221, N226, N387, and N636.

55

<400> 20

1 Lys Cys Thr Val Ser His Glu Val Ala Asp Cys Ser His Leu Lys Leu
 5 Thr Gln Val Pro Asp Asp Leu Pro Thr Asn Ile Thr Val Leu Asn Leu
 10 Thr His Asn Gln Leu Arg Arg Leu Pro Ala Ala Asn Phe Thr Arg Tyr
 15 Ser Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Asp Val Gly Phe Asn Thr Ile Ser Lys Leu
 20 Glu Pro Glu Leu Cys Gln Lys Leu Pro Met Leu Lys Val Leu Asn Leu
 25 Gln His Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln Leu Ser Asp Lys Thr Phe Ala Phe Cys
 30 Thr Asn Leu Thr Glu Leu His Leu Met Ser Asn Ser Ile Gln Lys Ile
 35 Lys Asn Asn Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Lys Asn Leu Ile Thr Leu Asp Leu
 40 Ser His Asn Gly Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Gly Thr Gln Val Gln Leu
 45 Glu Asn Leu Gln Glu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile Gln Ala Leu
 50 Lys Ser Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Phe Ala Asn Ser Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu
 55 Glu Leu Ser Ser Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Phe Ser Pro Gly Cys Phe His
 60 Ala Ile Gly Arg Leu Phe Gly Leu Phe Leu Asn Asn Val Gln Leu Gly
 65 Pro Ser Leu Thr Glu Lys Leu Cys Leu Glu Leu Ala Ala Thr Ser Ile
 70 Arg Ala Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Ser Thr Thr Ser Asn Thr
 75 Thr Phe Leu Gly Leu Lys Trp Thr Asn Leu Thr Met Leu Asp Leu Ser
 80 Tyr Asn Asn Leu Asn Val Val Gly Asn Asp Ser Phe Ala Trp Leu Pro
 85 Gln Leu Glu Tyr Phe Phe Leu Glu Tyr Asn Asn Ile Gln His Leu Phe
 90 Ser His Ser Leu His Gly Leu Phe Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Asn Leu Lys
 95 Arg Ser Phe Thr Lys Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Lys Ile
 100 Asp Asp Phe Ser Phe Gln Trp Leu Lys Cys Leu Glu His Leu Asn Met
 105 Glu Asp Asn Asp Ile Pro Gly Ile Lys Ser Asn Met Phe Thr Gly Leu
 110 Ile Asn Leu Lys Tyr Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Phe Thr Ser Leu Arg
 115 Thr Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Phe Val Ser Leu Ala His Ser Pro Leu His
 120 Ile Leu Ala Leu Thr Lys Asn Lys Ile Ser Lys Ile Glu Ser Asp Ala
 125 Phe Ser Trp Leu Gly His Leu Glu Val Leu Asp Leu Gly Leu Asn Glu
 130 Ile Gly Gln Glu Leu Thr Gly Gln Glu Trp Arg Gly Leu Glu Asn Ile
 135 Phe Glu Ile Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Asn Lys Tyr Leu Gln Leu Thr Arg Asn
 140 435 440 445

	Ser	Phe	Ala	Leu	Val	Pro	Ser	Leu	Gln	Arg	Leu	Met	Leu	Arg	Arg	Val
	450						455					460				
	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asn	Val	Asp	Ser	Ser	Pro	Ser	Pro	Phe	Gln	Pro	Leu	Arg
	465					470					475					480
5	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ile	Leu	Asp	Leu	Ser	Asn	Asn	Asn	Ile	Ala	Asn	Ile	Asn
					485					490						495
	Asp	Asp	Met	Leu	Glu	Gly	Leu	Glu	Lys	Leu	Glu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Leu	Gln
				500					505					510		
10	His	Asn	Asn	Leu	Ala	Arg	Leu	Trp	Lys	His	Ala	Asn	Pro	Gly	Gly	Pro
		515						520					525			
	Ile	Tyr	Phe	Leu	Lys	Gly	Leu	Ser	His	Leu	His	Ile	Leu	Asn	Leu	Glu
		530						535					540			
	Ser	Asn	Gly	Phe	Asp	Glu	Ile	Pro	Val	Glu	Val	Phe	Lys	Asp	Leu	Phe
	545					550					555					560
15	Glu	Leu	Lys	Ile	Ile	Asp	Leu	Gly	Leu	Asn	Asn	Leu	Asn	Thr	Leu	Pro
					565						570					575
	Ala	Ser	Val	Phe	Asn	Asn	Gln	Val	Ser	Leu	Lys	Ser	Leu	Asn	Leu	Gln
				580					585					590		
20	Lys	Asn	Leu	Ile	Thr	Ser	Val	Glu	Lys	Lys	Val	Phe	Gly	Pro	Ala	Phe
		595						600					605			
	Arg	Asn	Leu	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp	Met	Arg	Phe	Asn	Pro	Phe	Asp	Cys	Thr
		610					615					620				
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	625					630					635					640
25	Asn	Ile	Pro	Glu	Leu	Ser	Ser	His	Tyr	Leu	Cys	Asn	Thr	Pro	Pro	His
					645						650					655
	Tyr	His	Gly	Phe	Pro	Val	Arg	Leu	Phe	Asp	Thr	Ser	Ser	Cys	Lys	Asp
				660					665					670		
30	Ser	Ala	Pro	Phe	Glu											
			675													

CLAIMS

1. A peptide chain comprising an amino acid sequence with at least 75% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 and at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of a position aligning to N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6.

2. A peptide chain comprising at least one mutation within 3 amino acid residues of position N221, N226, N387, or N636 of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6.

3. A peptide chain comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 20.

4. A nucleic acid encoding the peptide chain of claim 1, 2 or 3.

5. The nucleic acid of claim 4 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

6. A method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising decreasing TLR3 glycosylation in the cell.

7. A method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing tunicamycin to the cell.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the tunicamycin concentration outside the cell is about 0.2 µg/ml to 0.5 µg/ml.

9. A method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing the peptide chain of claim 1, 2, or 3 to the cell.

10. A method of modulating TLR3 activity in a cell comprising providing the nucleic acid of claim 4 to the cell.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the nucleic acid is provided to the cell by transfection.

Fig. 1

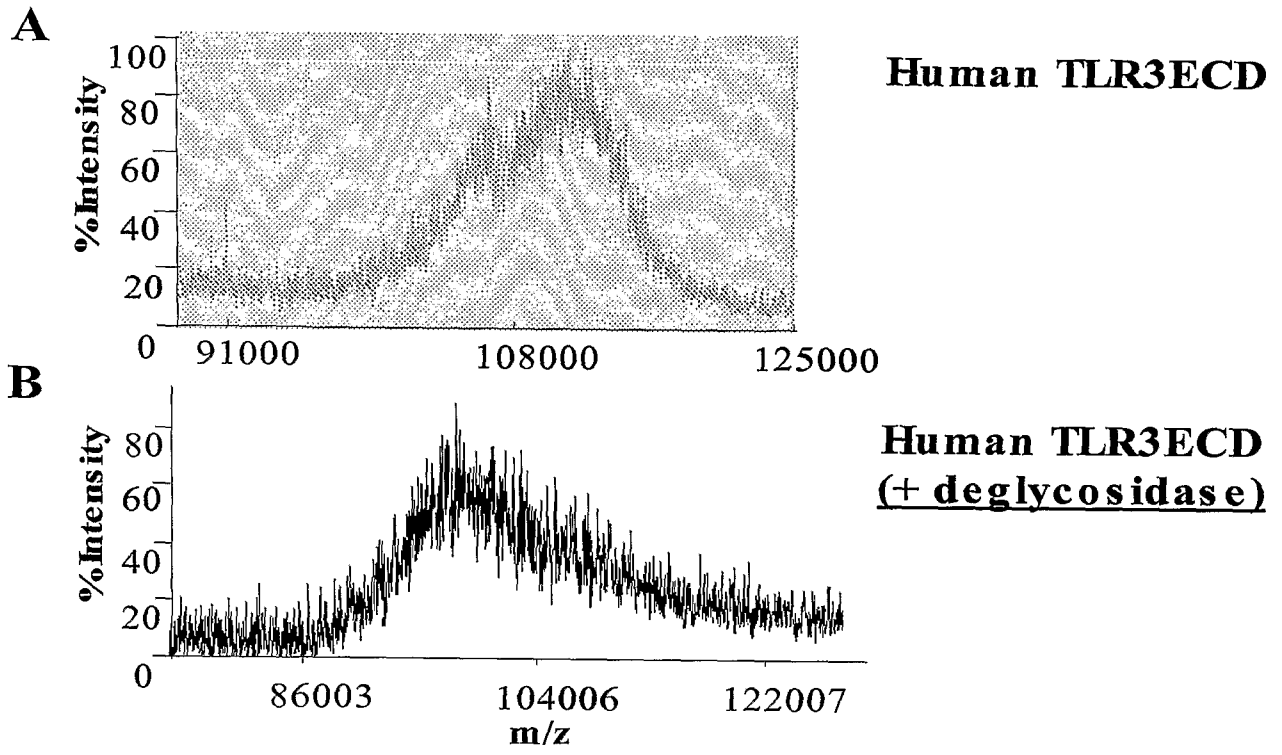


Fig. 2

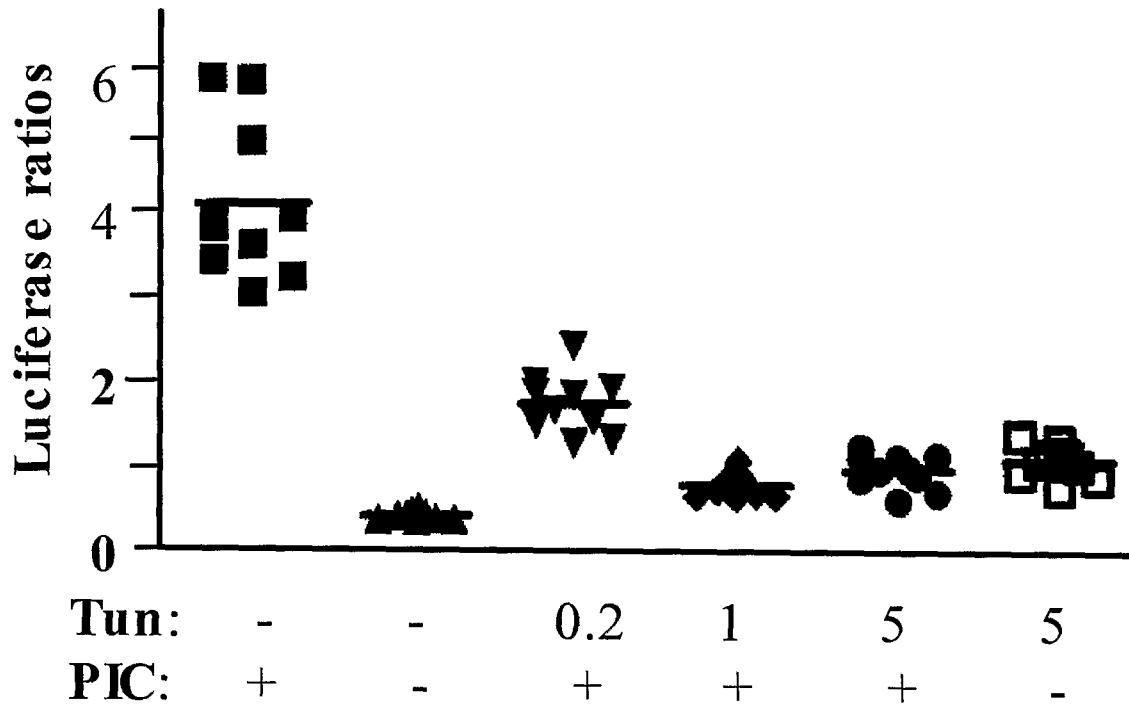


Fig. 3

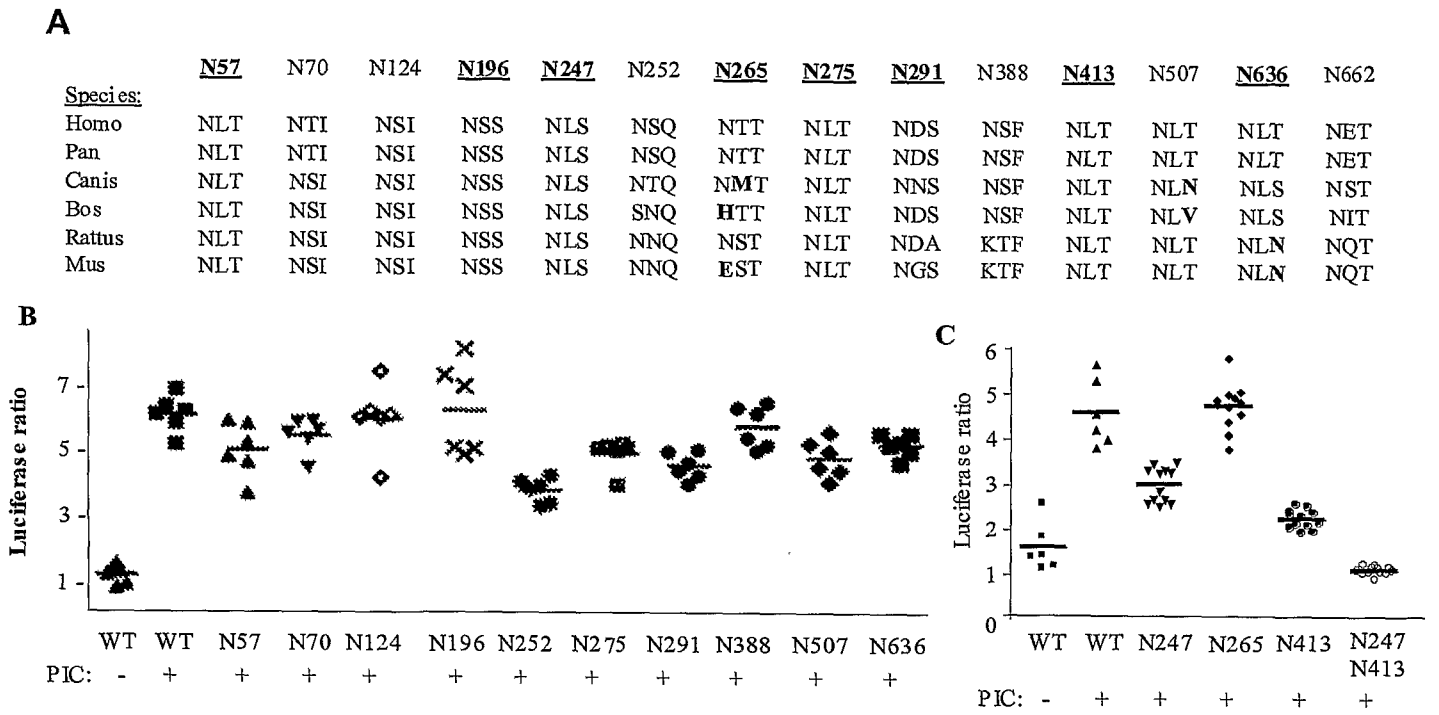


Fig. 4

