



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(22) <b>Date de dépôt/Filing Date:</b> 1998/10/23</p> <p>(41) <b>Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.:</b> 1999/05/06</p> <p>(45) <b>Date de délivrance/Issue Date:</b> 2019/04/02</p> <p>(62) <b>Demande originale/Original Application:</b> 2 307 316</p> <p>(30) <b>Priorité/Priority:</b> 1997/10/24 (US60/063,147)</p> <p>(23) <b>Date d'expiration/Expiry Date:</b> 2018/10/23</p> | <p>(51) <b>Cl.Int./Int.Cl.</b> <i>C12N 15/12</i> (2006.01),<br/><i>C07H 21/00</i> (2006.01), <i>C07H 21/04</i> (2006.01),<br/><i>C07K 14/705</i> (2006.01), <i>C07K 16/28</i> (2006.01)</p> <p>(72) <b>Inventeurs/Inventors:</b><br/>SINGH, NANDA A., US;<br/>LEPPERT, MARK F., US;<br/>CHARLIER, CAROLE, BE</p> <p>(73) <b>Propriétaire/Owner:</b><br/>UNIVERSITY OF UTAH RESEARCH FOUNDATION, US</p> <p>(74) <b>Agent:</b> GOWLING WLG (CANADA) LLP</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- (54) **Titre :** KNCQ2 et KNCQ3, GENES DU CANAL POTASSIUM AYANT SUBI UNE MUTATION DANS DES CONVULSIONS NEONATALES FAMILIALES BENIGNES (BFNC) ET D'AUTRES EPILEPSIES
- (54) **Title:** KCNQ2 and KCNQ3-POTASSIUM CHANNEL GENES WHICH ARE MUTATED IN BENIGN FAMILIAL NEONATAL CONVULSIONS (BFNC) AND OTHER EPILEPSIES

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Generalized idiopathic epilepsies (IGE) cause 40% of all seizures and commonly have a genetic basis. One type of IGE is Benign Familial Neonatal Convulsions (BFNC), a dominantly inherited disorder of newborns. A submicroscopic deletion of chromosome 20q13.3 which cosegregates with seizures in a BFNC family has been identified. Characterization of cDNAs spanning the deleted region identified a novel voltage-gated potassium channel, KCNQ2, which belongs to a new KCNQ1-like class of potassium channels. Nine other BFNC probands were shown to have KCNQ2 mutations including three missense mutations, three frameshifts, two nonsense mutations, and one splice site mutation. A second gene, KCNQ3, was found in a separate BFNC family in which the mutation had been localized to chromosome 8. A missense mutation was found in this gene in perfect cosegregation with the BFNC phenotype in this latter family. This demonstrates that defects in potassium channels can cause epilepsy. Furthermore, some members of one of the BFNC families with a mutation in KCNQ2 also exhibited rolandic epilepsy and one individual with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy has a mutation in an alternative exon of KCNQ3.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Generalized idiopathic epilepsies (IGE) cause 40% of all seizures and commonly have a genetic basis. One type of IGE is Benign Familial Neonatal Convulsions (BFNC), a dominantly inherited disorder of newborns. A submicroscopic deletion of chromosome 20q13.3 which co-segregates with seizures in a BFNC family has been identified. Characterization of cDNAs spanning the deleted region identified a novel voltage-gated potassium channel, *KCNQ2*, which belongs to a new *KCNQ1*-like class of potassium channels. Nine other BFNC probands were shown to have *KCNQ2* mutations including three missense mutations, three frameshifts, two nonsense mutations, and one splice site mutation. A second gene, *KCNQ3*, was found in a separate BFNC family in which the mutation had been localized to chromosome 8. A missense mutation was found in this gene in perfect cosegregation with the BFNC phenotype in this latter family. This demonstrates that defects in potassium channels can cause epilepsy. Furthermore, some members of one of the BFNC families with a mutation in *KCNQ2* also exhibited rolandic epilepsy and one individual with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy has a mutation in an alternative exon of *KCNQ3*.

## KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 - POTASSIUM CHANNEL GENES WHICH ARE MUTATED IN BENIGN FAMILIAL NEONATAL CONVULSIONS (BFNC) AND OTHER EPILEPSIES

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5           Epileptic disorders affect about 20 to 40 million people worldwide. Generalized idiopathic epilepsies (IGE) cause 40% of all epileptic disorders and commonly have a genetic basis (Plouin, 1994). Most of the IGEs that are inherited are complex, non-monogenic diseases. One type of IGE is Benign Familial Neonatal Convulsions (BFNC), a dominantly inherited disorder of newborns (Ronen et al., 1993; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). BFNC (OMIM 121200) is an autosomal  
10   dominantly inherited epilepsy of the newborn infant. This idiopathic, generalized epilepsy typically has an onset of seizures on day two to four of life. Spontaneous remission of the seizures occurs between two to fifteen weeks (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). Seizures typically start with a tonic posture, ocular symptoms and other autonomic features which then often progress to clonic movements and motor automatisms. These neonates thrive normally  
15   between the seizures, and their neurologic examinations and later development indicate normal brain functioning (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). However, in spite of normal neurologic development, seizures recur later in life in approximately 16% of BFNC cases compared with a 2% cumulative lifetime risk of epilepsy in the general population (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975).

20           Genetic heterogeneity of BFNC has been observed (Ryan et al., 1991). Two loci, *EBN1* and *EBN2*, have been mapped by linkage analysis to chromosome 20q13 (Leppert et al., 1989; Malafosse et al., 1992) and chromosome 8q24 (Lewis et al., 1993; Steinlein et al., 1995), respectively.

          The nomenclature of the genes of this invention as well as related genes has changed over time. Two of the genes of this invention from humans are now referred to as *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3*.  
25   These had originally been named *KVEBN1* and *KVEBN2*, respectively. The two sets of names are equivalent and can be used interchangeably, but the accepted nomenclature is now *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* and these names will be used herein. Also, the related gene *KCNQ1* had originally been called *KVLQT1* in the literature, but again the accepted name now is *KCNQ1* and this name will be used herein.

30           Linkage analysis in a large kindred demonstrated that a gene, herein called *KCNQ2*, responsible for BFNC maps to chromosome 20q13.3 close to the markers D20S20 and D20S19 (Leppert et al., 1989). Following the initial report, two centers confirmed linkage of BFNC to the

same two genetic markers on chromosome 20, termed the EBN1 (epilepsy benign neonatal type 1) locus (Ryan et al., 1991; Malafosse et al., 1992; Steinlein et al., 1992). A more distal marker, D20S24, shows complete co-segregation with the BFNC phenotype in chromosome 20 linked families. Finding a distal flanking marker for the BFNC locus has not been successful probably because of its proximity to the telomere. This telomeric region is characterized by a high recombination rate between markers when compared to the physical distance (Steinlein et al., 1992). In fact, Steinlein et al. have demonstrated that the three markers D20S19, D20S20 and D20S24 are contained on the same 450 Mb Mlu I restriction fragment (Steinlein et al., 1992). All of the families in the present study used to find and study *KCNQ2* show linkage to chromosome 20q markers with LOD scores of greater than 3.0 or have probands with clinical manifestations consistent with BFNC (Leppert et al., 1993). Each subject and control signed a Consent for Participation in these studies approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subject Research at their home institution. To find a gene responsible for BFNC, we narrowed a BFNC region with a sub-microscopic deletion in a single family, identified candidate cDNAs in this deletion, and then searched for mutations in other BFNC families. The gene has been identified and sequenced. Several distinct mutations have been found in this gene. These include a large deletion, three missense mutations, three frameshift mutations, two nonsense mutations and one splice site mutation. One of these mutations is associated with rolandic epilepsy as described in the Examples below.

A second chromosomal locus, EBN2, has also been identified for BFNC. Lewis et al. (1993) demonstrated linkage to markers on chromosome 8q24 in a single Hispanic family affected with BFNC. Evidence for this second locus was also reported in a Caucasian pedigree (Steinlein et al., 1995). The gene, herein called *KCNQ3*, responsible for EBN2 was mapped to chromosome 8, between markers D8S256 and D8S284 on a radiation hybrid map (Lewis et al., 1995). *KCNQ3* has been identified as set out in the examples of the instant disclosure. *KCNQ3* was screened for mutations in the large BFNC family previously linked to chromosome 8q24 in the same marker interval (Ryan et al., 1991; Lewis et al., 1993). A missense mutation was found in the critical pore region in perfect cosegregation with the BFNC phenotype. The same conserved amino acid is also mutated in *KCNQ1* in an LQT patient (Wang et al., 1996). Furthermore, the segment of mouse chromosome 15 that harbors the *stargazer* (*stg*) locus (Noebels et al., 1990; Letts et al., 1997) is homologous to the human 8q24 region and the *stg* phenotype is close to a common form of IGE, the absence epilepsy. *KCNQ2*, *KCNQ3* and other undiscovered genes of the same family of K<sup>+</sup> channels are strong candidates for other, more common IGEs. One individual with juvenile myoclonic

epilepsy has been found who has a mutation in an alternative exon of *KCNQ3* as shown in the Examples below.

IGEs include many different types of seizures. Common IGEs include generalized tonic-clonic seizure (GTCS), absence epilepsy of childhood (AEC), juvenile absence epilepsy (JAE) and juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME). Reutens and Berkovic (1995) have shown that the boundaries between the different IGE syndromes are indistinct and suggest that neurobiological and possibly genetic relationships exist between these syndromes. Interestingly, using non-parametric linkage methods, Zara et al. (1995) obtained evidence for involvement of an epilepsy locus at chromosome 8q24 in a panel of families with multiple cases of IGEs. Furthermore, in a population study, Steinlein et al. (1997) recently described a weak allelic association at the *CHRNA4* locus, on chromosome 20q13.3, physically close to *KCNQ2*, in a group of unrelated patients with multiple forms of IGEs. Finally, an epileptic mutant mouse *stargazer* (*stg*) (Noebels et al., 1990) is a genetic model of spike wave epilepsy. This is a recessive mutation and the phenotype is related to a common form of human IGE, the absence epilepsy. *Stg* has been mapped on mouse chromosome 15 in a region homologous to the human 8q24 region. Screening the mouse homolog of *KCNQ3* for mutations in an affected mouse will assess the hypothesis that the same gene is responsible for both BFNC and *Stargazer* phenotypes.

The present invention is directed to both *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* and their gene products, mutations in the genes, the mutated genes, probes for the wild-type and mutated genes, and to a process for the diagnosis and prevention of BFNC. Each of the genes encodes a potassium channel protein. The instant work shows that some families with BFNC have mutations in either *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. BFNC is diagnosed in accordance with the present invention by analyzing the DNA sequence of the *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* gene of an individual to be tested and comparing the respective DNA sequence to the known DNA sequence of a normal *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* gene. Alternatively, the *KCNQ2* gene and/or *KCNQ3* gene of an individual to be tested can be screened for mutations which cause BFNC. Prediction of BFNC will enable practitioners to prevent this disorder using existing medical therapy. Furthermore, a mutation in *KCNQ2* has been found which is associated with rolandic epilepsy and a mutation in *KCNQ3* has been found which is associated with JME. These two forms of epilepsy may also be diagnosed in accord with the invention.

Mouse genes homologous to the human *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* have also been found and sequenced and the sequences are disclosed. The mouse *KCNQ2* gene has been only partially

isolated and sequenced (shown as SEQ ID NO:88), the 3' end not yet having been found. The complete mouse *KCNQ3* gene has been isolated and sequenced (shown as SEQ ID NO:90).

The publications and other materials used herein to illuminate the background of the invention or provide additional details respecting the practice are respectively grouped in the  
5 appended List of References.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention demonstrates a molecular basis of Benign Familial Neonatal Convulsions (BFNC) as well as for rolandic epilepsy and juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. More  
10 specifically, the present invention has determined that molecular variants of either the *KCNQ2* gene or *KCNQ3* gene cause or are involved in the pathogenesis of these three forms of epilepsy. Genotypic analyses show that *KCNQ2* is linked to BFNC in ten unrelated families and *KCNQ3* is linked to BFNC in one other family. Furthermore, one mutation in the *KCNQ2* gene in two individuals of one family has been associated with rolandic epilepsy and one individual with a  
15 mutation in *KCNQ3* has been diagnosed with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. Analysis of the *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* genes will provide an early diagnosis of subjects with BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. The diagnostic method comprises analyzing the DNA sequence of the *KCNQ2* and/or the *KCNQ3* gene of an individual to be tested and comparing it with the DNA sequence of the native, non-variant gene. In a second embodiment, the *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* gene of an individual to be  
20 tested is screened for mutations which cause BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. The ability to predict these epilepsies will enable physicians to prevent the disease with medical therapy such as drugs which directly or indirectly modulate K<sup>+</sup> ion channels.

The invention shows that various genetic defects of a potassium channel are responsible for the human idiopathic epilepsy of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and/or JME. This finding adds to the  
25 growing list of channelopathies in humans (Ptacek, 1997). Importantly, this result suggests that drugs which directly or indirectly modulate K<sup>+</sup> ion channels will be helpful in the treatment of seizure disorders.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent  
30 with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Figure 1. Southern blot of kindred 1547 (showing 4 generations listed as I, II, III and IV) genomic DNA cut with *TaqI* and probed with the VNTR marker D20S24 showing a null allele in affected individuals. Line A shows genotype misinheritances shown in boxes; line B shows corrected genotypes. The AN@ indicates non-penetrant individuals.

Figures 2A-C. Metaphase spreads of cell lines from affected individuals of kindred 1547 probed with P1-KO9-7 (Figure 2C) and P1-KO9-6b (Figure 2B) genomic P1 clones and the 12 kb D20S24 RFLP marker (Figure 2A) demonstrating a deletion of D20S24.

Figures 3A and 3B. Amino acid alignment between human members (KCNQ2, KCNQ3 and KCNQ1) and the *C. elegans* homologue (nKQT1) of the KQT-like family. The six transmembrane domains and the pore are indicated by a solid line located above the corresponding sequence. The conserved charged amino acids in the transmembrane domains are highlighted in gray. The sequence of KCNQ2 is SEQ ID NO:2, the sequence of KCNQ3 is SEQ ID NO:7, the sequence of nKQT1 is SEQ ID NO:3 and the sequence of KCNQ1 is SEQ ID NO:4.

Figure 4. Figure 4 shows a three generation pedigree with BFNC linked to chromosome 20. BFNC individuals are depicted by filled in black circles and squares. The data is from kindred 1504 which shows variants in the KCNQ2 pores. The lower portion of the figure shows the cosegregation of the variant form which is present only in affected individuals. Sequence analysis revealed the existence of a two base pair insertion in affected individuals showing the upper two (variant) bands.

Figure 5. Radiation Hybrid Mapping of the *KCNQ3* locus. Interpair LOD scores are given above the center line and distance between marker pairs, in cR<sub>5000</sub>, is shown below. The odds against inversion for adjacent loci is also given for each marker pair.

Figure 6. Figure 6 shows a three generation pedigree with BFNC linked to chromosome 8. BFNC individuals are depicted by filled in black circles and squares. The non-penetrant individual III-8 is indicated by the symbol NP. The lower portion of the figure shows the co-segregation of the 187 bp SSCP variant, present only in affected and non-penetrant individuals (arrow).

Figures 7A-O. Intron/exon sequence is shown for *KCNQ2*. Exon sequence is shown in bold and primer sequence is in italics. The primer sequences are found in Table 4. The sequences are SEQ ID NOs:100-114.

Figures 8A-O. Intron/exon sequence is shown for *KCNQ3*. Exon sequence is shown uppercase and intron is shown lowercase and primer sequences are underlined. The primer sequences are found in Table 5. The sequences are SEQ ID NOs:115-129. Figure 8I shows the

alternatively spliced exon found in a JME patient. Figure 8N shows an AN@ in the 3' intron region. This AN@ stands for Alu repeats which are found in this region.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE LISTING

- 5 SEQ ID NO:1 is the cDNA sequence for *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NO:2 is the amino acid sequence for *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NO:3 is the amino acid sequence for *nKQT1*.  
SEQ ID NO:4 is the amino acid sequence for *KCNQ1*.  
SEQ ID NO:5 is nucleotide sequence at the intron/exon junction of the 3' end of the intron  
10 interrupting the two exons which encode amino acid 544 of *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NO:6 is the cDNA sequence for *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NO:7 is the amino acid sequence for *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NOs:8-9 are primers used for somatic cell hybrid panel genotyping (Example 7).  
SEQ ID NOs:10-11 are primers used for genotyping a chromosome 8 radiation hybrid panel  
15 (Example 8).  
SEQ ID NOs:12-17 are primers used to perform RACE to obtain full length cDNA (Example 9).  
SEQ ID NOs:18-19 are primers used to prepare a PCR fragment which identified an SSCP variant for *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NOs:20-21 are hypothetical nucleic acid sequences to demonstrate calculation of percent  
20 homology between two nucleic acids.  
SEQ ID NOs:22-53 are primers for amplifying portions of *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NOs:54-87 are primers for amplifying portions of *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NO:88 is a partial mouse *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NO:89 is a partial mouse *KCNQ2* encoded by SEQ ID NO:88.  
25 SEQ ID NO:90 is a mouse *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NO:91 is the mouse *KCNQ3* encoded by SEQ ID NO:90.  
SEQ ID NO:92 is an alternative exon found in *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NOs:93-94 are primers based on mouse sequence to amplify 5' end of human *KCNQ3*.  
SEQ ID NO:95 is a mutated human *KCNQ2* with a GGGCC insertion after nucleotide 2736.  
30 SEQ ID NO:96 is a mutated human *KCNQ2* encoded by SEQ ID NO:95.  
SEQ ID NOs:97-99 are primers for amplifying portions of *KCNQ2*.  
SEQ ID NOs:100-114 are intron/exon sequence for *KCNQ2* (Figures 7A-O).

SEQ ID NOs:115-129 are intron/exon sequence for *KCNQ3* (Figures 8A-O).

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to the determination that BFNC maps to the *KCNQ2* gene and to the *KCNQ3* gene and that molecular variants of these genes cause or are involved in the pathogenesis of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and/or JME. More specifically, the present invention relates to mutations in the *KCNQ2* gene and in the *KCNQ3* gene and their use in the diagnosis of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME. The present invention is further directed to methods of screening humans for the presence of *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* gene variants which cause BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and/or JME. Since these forms of epilepsy can now be detected earlier (i.e., before symptoms appear) and more definitively, better treatment options will be available in those individuals identified as having BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. The present invention is also directed to methods for screening for drugs useful in treating or preventing BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME.

The present invention provides methods of screening the *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* gene to identify mutations. Such methods may further comprise the step of amplifying a portion of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene, and may further include a step of providing a set of polynucleotides which are primers for amplification of said portion of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. The method is useful for identifying mutations for use in either diagnosis of or prognosis of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME.

Benign Familial Neonatal Convulsion is an autosomal dominantly inherited disorder that causes epilepsy of the newborn infant. This idiopathic, generalized epilepsy typically has an onset of seizures on day two to four of life. Spontaneous remission of the seizures occurs between two to fifteen weeks (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). Seizures typically start with a tonic posture, ocular symptoms and other autonomic features which then often progress to clonic movements and motor automatisms. These neonates thrive normally between the seizures, and their neurologic examinations and later development indicate normal brain functioning (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). However, in spite of normal neurologic development, seizures recur later in life in approximately 16% of BFNC cases compared with a 2% cumulative lifetime risk of epilepsy in the general population (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975).

Linkage analysis in a large kindred demonstrated that a gene responsible for BFNC maps to chromosome 20q13.3 close to the markers D20S20 and D20S19 (Leppert et al, 1989). Following the initial report, two centers confirmed linkage of BFNC to the same two genetic markers on chromosome 20, termed the EBN1 (epilepsy benign neonatal type 1) locus (Ryan et al., 1991; 5 Malafosse et al., 1992). A more distal marker, D20S24, shows complete co-segregation with the BFNC phenotype in chromosome 20 linked families. Finding a distal flanking marker for the BFNC locus has not been successful probably because of its proximity to the telomere. This telomeric region is characterized by a high recombination rate between markers when compared to the physical distance (Steinlein et al., 1992). In fact, Steinlein et al. have demonstrated that the three 10 markers D20S19, D20S20 and D20S24 are contained on the same 450 Mb Mlu I restriction fragment (Steinlein et al., 1992). All of the families in the present study for *KCNQ2* show linkage to chromosome 20q markers with LOD scores of greater than 3.0 or have probands with clinical manifestations consistent with BFNC (Leppert et al., 1993). To find this gene responsible for BFNC, we narrowed the BFNC region with a sub-microscopic deletion in a single family, identified 15 candidate cDNAs in this deletion, and then searched for mutations in other BFNC families.

A second chromosomal locus, EBN2, has also been identified for BFNC. Lewis et al. (1993) demonstrated linkage to markers on chromosome 8q24 in a single Hispanic family affected with BFNC. Evidence for this second locus was also reported in a Caucasian pedigree (Steinlein et al., 1995). The gene for EBN2, *KCNQ3*, has now been found and characterized as detailed in this 20 disclosure.

Finally, the present invention is directed to a method for screening drug candidates to identify drugs useful for treating or preventing BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. Drug screening is performed by expressing mutant *KCNQ2* or mutant *KCNQ3* in cells, such as oocytes, mammalian cells or transgenic animals, and assaying the effect of a drug candidate on the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* 25 potassium channel. The effect is compared to the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* potassium channel activity obtained using the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene.

Proof that the *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* genes are involved in causing BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME is obtained by finding sequences in DNA extracted from affected kindred members which create abnormal *KCNQ2* or abnormal *KCNQ3* gene products or abnormal levels of the gene 30 products. Such susceptibility alleles will co-segregate with the disease in large kindreds. They will also be present at a much higher frequency in non-kindred individuals with epilepsy than in individuals in the general population. The key is to find mutations which are serious enough to

cause obvious disruption to the normal function of the gene product. These mutations can take a number of forms. The most severe forms would be frame shift mutations or large deletions which would cause the gene to code for an abnormal protein or one which would significantly alter protein expression. Less severe disruptive mutations would include small in-frame deletions and nonconservative base pair substitutions which would have a significant effect on the protein produced, such as changes to or from a cysteine residue, from a basic to an acidic amino acid or vice versa, from a hydrophobic to hydrophilic amino acid or vice versa, or other mutations which would affect secondary or tertiary protein structure. Silent mutations or those resulting in conservative amino acid substitutions would not generally be expected to disrupt protein function.

According to the diagnostic and prognostic method of the present invention, alteration of the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene is detected. In addition, the method can be performed by detecting the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene and confirming the lack of a cause of epilepsy as a result of this locus. Alteration of a wild-type gene encompasses all forms of mutations including deletions, insertions and point mutations in the coding and noncoding regions. Deletions may be of the entire gene or of only a portion of the gene. Point mutations may result in stop codons, frameshift mutations or amino acid substitutions. Somatic mutations are those which occur only in certain tissues and are not inherited in the germline. Germline mutations can be found in any of a body's tissues and are inherited. Point mutational events may occur in regulatory regions, such as in the promoter of the gene, leading to loss or diminution of expression of the mRNA. Point mutations may also abolish proper RNA processing, leading to loss of expression of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene product, or to a decrease in mRNA stability or translation efficiency.

Useful diagnostic techniques include, but are not limited to fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH), direct DNA sequencing, PFGE analysis, Southern blot analysis, single stranded conformation analysis (SSCA), RNase protection assay, allele-specific oligonucleotide (ASO), dot blot analysis, hybridization using nucleic acid modified with gold nanoparticles and PCR-SSCP, as discussed in detail further below. Also useful is the recently developed technique of DNA microchip technology.

The presence of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME may be ascertained by testing any tissue of a human for mutations of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. For example, a person who has inherited a germline *KCNQ2* mutation would be prone to develop BFNC. This can be determined by testing DNA from any tissue of the person's body. Most simply, blood can be drawn and DNA extracted from the cells of the blood. In addition, prenatal diagnosis can be accomplished by testing fetal

cells, placental cells or amniotic cells for mutations of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. Alteration of a wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele, whether, for example, by point mutation or deletion, can be detected by any of the means discussed herein.

There are several methods that can be used to detect DNA sequence variation. Direct DNA sequencing, either manual sequencing or automated fluorescent sequencing can detect sequence variation. Another approach is the single-stranded conformation polymorphism assay (SSCP) (Orita et al., 1989). This method does not detect all sequence changes, especially if the DNA fragment size is greater than 200 bp, but can be optimized to detect most DNA sequence variation. The reduced detection sensitivity is a disadvantage, but the increased throughput possible with SSCP makes it an attractive, viable alternative to direct sequencing for mutation detection on a research basis. The fragments which have shifted mobility on SSCP gels are then sequenced to determine the exact nature of the DNA sequence variation. Other approaches based on the detection of mismatches between the two complementary DNA strands include clamped denaturing gel electrophoresis (CDGE) (Sheffield et al., 1991), heteroduplex analysis (HA) (White et al., 1992) and chemical mismatch cleavage (CMC) (Grompe et al., 1989). None of the methods described above will detect large deletions, duplications or insertions, nor will they detect a regulatory mutation which affects transcription or translation of the protein. Other methods which might detect these classes of mutations such as a protein truncation assay or the asymmetric assay, detect only specific types of mutations and would not detect missense mutations. A review of currently available methods of detecting DNA sequence variation can be found in a recent review by Grompe (1993). Once a mutation is known, an allele specific detection approach such as allele specific oligonucleotide (ASO) hybridization can be utilized to rapidly screen large numbers of other samples for that same mutation. Such a technique can utilize probes which are labeled with gold nanoparticles to yield a visual color result (Elghanian et al., 1997).

A rapid preliminary analysis to detect polymorphisms in DNA sequences can be performed by looking at a series of Southern blots of DNA cut with one or more restriction enzymes, preferably with a large number of restriction enzymes. Each blot contains a series of normal individuals and a series of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME cases. Southern blots displaying hybridizing fragments differing in length from control DNA when probed with sequences near or including the *KCNQ2* locus indicate a possible mutation. If restriction enzymes which produce very large restriction fragments are used, then pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) is employed.

Detection of point mutations may be accomplished by molecular cloning of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele and sequencing the allele using techniques well known in the art. Also, the gene or portions of the gene may be amplified, e.g., by PCR or other amplification technique, and the amplified gene or amplified portions of the gene may be sequenced.

5           There are six well known methods for a more complete, yet still indirect, test for confirming the presence of a susceptibility allele: 1) single stranded conformation analysis (SSCP) (Orita et al., 1989); 2) denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) (Wartell et al., 1990; Sheffield et al., 1989); 3) RNase protection assays (Finkelstein et al., 1990; Kinszler et al., 1991); 4) allele-specific oligonucleotides (ASOs) (Conner et al., 1983); 5) the use of proteins which recognize nucleotide  
10 mismatches, such as the *E. coli* mutS protein (Modrich, 1991); and 6) allele-specific PCR (Ruano and Kidd, 1989). For allele-specific PCR, primers are used which hybridize at their 3' ends to a particular *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* mutation. If the particular mutation is not present, an amplification product is not observed. Amplification Refractory Mutation System (ARMS) can also be used, as disclosed in European Patent Application Publication No. 0332435 and in Newton et al., 1989.  
15 Insertions and deletions of genes can also be detected by cloning, sequencing and amplification. In addition, restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) probes for the gene or surrounding marker genes can be used to score alteration of an allele or an insertion in a polymorphic fragment. Such a method is particularly useful for screening relatives of an affected individual for the presence of the mutation found in that individual. Other techniques for detecting insertions and deletions as  
20 known in the art can be used.

          In the first three methods (SSCP, DGGE and RNase protection assay), a new electrophoretic band appears. SSCP detects a band which migrates differentially because the sequence change causes a difference in single-strand, intramolecular base pairing. RNase protection involves cleavage of the mutant polynucleotide into two or more smaller fragments. DGGE detects  
25 differences in migration rates of mutant sequences compared to wild-type sequences, using a denaturing gradient gel. In an allele-specific oligonucleotide assay, an oligonucleotide is designed which detects a specific sequence, and the assay is performed by detecting the presence or absence of a hybridization signal. In the mutS assay, the protein binds only to sequences that contain a nucleotide mismatch in a heteroduplex between mutant and wild-type sequences.

30           Mismatches, according to the present invention, are hybridized nucleic acid duplexes in which the two strands are not 100% complementary. Lack of total homology may be due to deletions, insertions, inversions or substitutions. Mismatch detection can be used to detect point

mutations in the gene or in its mRNA product. While these techniques are less sensitive than sequencing, they are simpler to perform on a large number of samples. An example of a mismatch cleavage technique is the RNase protection method. In the practice of the present invention, the method involves the use of a labeled riboprobe which is complementary to the human wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene coding sequence. The riboprobe and either mRNA or DNA isolated from the person are annealed (hybridized) together and subsequently digested with the enzyme RNase A which is able to detect some mismatches in a duplex RNA structure. If a mismatch is detected by RNase A, it cleaves at the site of the mismatch. Thus, when the annealed RNA preparation is separated on an electrophoretic gel matrix, if a mismatch has been detected and cleaved by RNase A, an RNA product will be seen which is smaller than the full length duplex RNA for the riboprobe and the mRNA or DNA. The riboprobe need not be the full length of the mRNA or gene but can be a segment of either. If the riboprobe comprises only a segment of the mRNA or gene, it will be desirable to use a number of these probes to screen the whole mRNA sequence for mismatches.

In similar fashion, DNA probes can be used to detect mismatches, through enzymatic or chemical cleavage. See, e.g., Cotton et al., 1988; Shenk et al., 1975; Novack et al., 1986. Alternatively, mismatches can be detected by shifts in the electrophoretic mobility of mismatched duplexes relative to matched duplexes. See, e.g., Cariello, 1988. With either riboprobes or DNA probes, the cellular mRNA or DNA which might contain a mutation can be amplified using PCR (see below) before hybridization. Changes in DNA of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene can also be detected using Southern hybridization, especially if the changes are gross rearrangements, such as deletions and insertions.

DNA sequences of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene which have been amplified by use of PCR may also be screened using allele-specific probes. These probes are nucleic acid oligomers, each of which contains a region of the gene sequence harboring a known mutation. For example, one oligomer may be about 30 nucleotides in length, corresponding to a portion of the gene sequence. By use of a battery of such allele-specific probes, PCR amplification products can be screened to identify the presence of a previously identified mutation in the gene. Hybridization of allele-specific probes with amplified *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* sequences can be performed, for example, on a nylon filter. Hybridization to a particular probe under high stringency hybridization conditions indicates the presence of the same mutation in the tissue as in the allele-specific probe. High stringency hybridization conditions are defined as those conditions which allow an 8 basepair stretch of a first nucleic acid (a probe) to bind to a 100% perfectly complementary 8 basepair stretch of nucleic acid

while simultaneously preventing binding of said first nucleic acid to a nucleic acid which is not 100% complementary, i.e., binding will not occur if there is a mismatch.

The newly developed technique of nucleic acid analysis via microchip technology is also applicable to the present invention. In this technique, literally thousands of distinct oligonucleotide probes are built up in an array on a silicon chip. Nucleic acid to be analyzed is fluorescently labeled and hybridized to the probes on the chip. It is also possible to study nucleic acid-protein interactions using these nucleic acid microchips. Using this technique one can determine the presence of mutations or even sequence the nucleic acid being analyzed or one can measure expression levels of a gene of interest. The method is one of parallel processing of many, even thousands, of probes at once and can tremendously increase the rate of analysis. Several papers have been published which use this technique. Some of these are Hacia et al., 1996; Shoemaker et al., 1996; Chee et al., 1996; Lockhart et al., 1996; DeRisi et al., 1996; Lipshutz et al., 1995. This method has already been used to screen people for mutations in the breast cancer gene BRCA1 (Hacia et al., 1996). This new technology has been reviewed in a news article in Chemical and Engineering News (Borman, 1996) and been the subject of an editorial (Nature Genetics, 1996). Also see Fodor (1997).

The most definitive test for mutations in a candidate locus is to directly compare genomic *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* sequences from patients with those from a control population. Alternatively, one could sequence messenger RNA after amplification, e.g., by PCR, thereby eliminating the necessity of determining the exon structure of the candidate gene.

Mutations from patients falling outside the coding region of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* can be detected by examining the non-coding regions, such as introns and regulatory sequences near or within the genes. An early indication that mutations in noncoding regions are important may come from Northern blot experiments that reveal messenger RNA molecules of abnormal size or abundance in patients as compared to control individuals.

Alteration of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* mRNA expression can be detected by any techniques known in the art. These include Northern blot analysis, PCR amplification and RNase protection. Diminished mRNA expression indicates an alteration of the wild-type gene. Alteration of wild-type genes can also be detected by screening for alteration of wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* protein. For example, monoclonal antibodies immunoreactive with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* can be used to screen a tissue. Lack of cognate antigen would indicate a mutation. Antibodies specific for products of mutant alleles could also be used to detect mutant gene product. Such immunological assays can be done in any convenient formats known in the art. These include Western blots,

immunohistochemical assays and ELISA assays. Any means for detecting an altered *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* protein can be used to detect alteration of the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. Functional assays, such as protein binding determinations, can be used. In addition, assays can be used which detect *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* biochemical function. Finding a mutant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene product indicates alteration of a wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene.

A mutant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or gene product can also be detected in other human body samples, such as serum, stool, urine and sputum. The same techniques discussed above for detection of mutant genes or gene products in tissues can be applied to other body samples. By screening such body samples, a simple early diagnosis can be achieved for BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME.

The primer pairs of the present invention are useful for determination of the nucleotide sequence of a particular *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele using PCR. The pairs of single-stranded DNA primers for *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* can be annealed to sequences within or surrounding the *KCNQ2* gene on chromosome 20 or *KCNQ3* gene on chromosome 8 in order to prime amplifying DNA synthesis of the gene itself. A complete set of these primers allows synthesis of all of the nucleotides of the gene coding sequences, i.e., the exons. The set of primers preferably allows synthesis of both intron and exon sequences. Allele-specific primers can also be used. Such primers anneal only to particular *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* mutant alleles, and thus will only amplify a product in the presence of the mutant allele as a template.

In order to facilitate subsequent cloning of amplified sequences, primers may have restriction enzyme site sequences appended to their 5' ends. Thus, all nucleotides of the primers are derived from *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* sequence or sequences adjacent to *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*, except for the few nucleotides necessary to form a restriction enzyme site. Such enzymes and sites are well known in the art. The primers themselves can be synthesized using techniques which are well known in the art. Generally, the primers can be made using oligonucleotide synthesizing machines which are commercially available. Given the sequence of *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3*, design of particular primers is well within the skill of the art.

The nucleic acid probes provided by the present invention are useful for a number of purposes. They can be used in Southern hybridization to genomic DNA and in the RNase protection method for detecting point mutations already discussed above. The probes can be used to detect PCR amplification products. They may also be used to detect mismatches with the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or mRNA using other techniques.

It has been discovered that most individuals with the wild-type *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* genes do not have BFNC. However, mutations which interfere with the function of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene product are involved in the pathogenesis of BFNC. Thus, the presence of an altered (or a mutant) *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene which produces a protein having a loss of function, or altered function, directly causes BFNC which increases the risk of seizures. In order to detect a *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene mutation, a biological sample is prepared and analyzed for a difference between the sequence of the allele being analyzed and the sequence of the wild-type allele. Mutant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* alleles can be initially identified by any of the techniques described above. The mutant alleles are then sequenced to identify the specific mutation of the particular mutant allele. Alternatively, mutant alleles can be initially identified by identifying mutant (altered) proteins, using conventional techniques. The mutant alleles are then sequenced to identify the specific mutation for each allele. The mutations, especially those which lead to an altered function of the protein, are then used for the diagnostic and prognostic methods of the present invention.

This is the first human idiopathic generalized epilepsy for which a  $K^+$  channel has been implicated. BFNC is considered to be a true idiopathic epilepsy without the degenerative characteristics associated with other syndromes such as progressive myoclonus epilepsy of the Unverricht-Lundborg type. It is not surprising, therefore, that an alteration in a gene which directly regulates neuronal excitability causes this epileptic disorder. Voltage-gated potassium channels repolarize neuronal membranes that have been depolarized by  $Na^+$  and  $Ca^{++}$  voltage-gated ion channels.  $K^+$  channels are also thought to repolarize neuronal membranes following activation of excitatory neurotransmitter ion channels, including glutamate and acetylcholine. In the presence of mutant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* channels with reduced function, excitatory ligand and voltage-gated channels that are activated would remain open for a longer duration (Keating and Sanguinetti, 1996; Meldrum, 1995; McNamara, 1994). Such unchecked activity of excitatory systems could lead to an epileptic phenotype. Electrophysiologic analysis of the mutant *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* channels will shed light on how the mutations identified in the current study produce an epileptic phenotype. It is likely that *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* will have biophysical properties similar to the delayed rectifier *KCNQ1* channel. *KCNQ1* alpha subunits coassemble with minK beta subunits to form heteromultimeric  $I_{Ks}$  channels in the heart (Sanguinetti et al., 1996). It is possible that *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* subunits coassemble with minK-like beta subunits in the brain. This interaction may also alter the gating properties of the resulting heteromultimeric channel as is the case for *KCNQ1*.

Mutations in K<sup>+</sup> channels have been associated with epilepsy in only one other case, the weaver mouse, where a single missense mutation in the GIRK2 gene produces spontaneous seizures (Patil et al., 1995; Signorini et al., 1997). Mutations in K<sup>+</sup> channels have been implicated in other human disorders such as the Long QT syndrome on chromosome 11 and ataxia/myokymia on chromosome 12 (Wang et al., 1996; Neyroud et al., 1997; Russell et al., 1996; Chandy and Gutman, 1995; Browne et al., 1994). Long QT is associated with four loci, two of which are the K<sup>+</sup> channel genes HERG and KCNQ1. In KCNQ1, mutational hot spots have been identified in the pore and S6 domains where missense mutations in these regions account for a majority of the disease causing mutations in LQT (Russell et al., 1996; Wang et al., 1996).

Since the first publications of the finding of the *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* genes, there have been several more publications. Iannotti et al. (1998) found that there are two splice variants of *KCNQ2*. These are a long and a short form which differ in their C-termini. The long form is expressed exclusively in human brain (adult and fetal), where it is restricted to neuronal rather than glial cells. The short form is expressed weakly in adult brain but is prominent in fetal brain and testes (Iannotti et al., 1998). Gribkoff et al. (1998) cloned and expressed a mouse homologue of *KCNQ2* in *Xenopus* oocytes and performed two-electrode voltage clamp studies. Dworetzky et al. (1998) cloned a mouse homologue of *KCNQ2* and also noted alternative splice variants in the 3' region of the gene. They also performed Northern blots and measured polarization in *Xenopus* oocytes expressing the mouse gene. Yang et al. (1998) have also cloned and expressed the human *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3*. They note that the encoded proteins act like KCNQ1 in eliciting voltage-gated, rapidly activating K<sup>+</sup>-selective currents, but in contrast to KCNQ1, the KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 protein induced currents are not augmented by coexpression of KCNE1. However, coexpression of KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 results in a substantial synergistic increase in current amplitude (Yang et al., 1998). Finally, Biervert et al. (1998) cloned human *KCNQ2* and expressed it in *Xenopus* oocytes.

## Definitions

The present invention employs the following definitions.

**"Amplification of Polynucleotides"** utilizes methods such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), ligation amplification (or ligase chain reaction, LCR) and amplification methods based on the use of Q-beta replicase. Also useful are strand displacement amplification (SDA), thermophilic SDA, and nucleic acid sequence based amplification (3SR or NASBA). These methods are well known and widely practiced in the art. See, e.g., U.S. Patents 4,683,195 and 4,683,202 and Innis et

al., 1990 (for PCR); Wu and Wallace, 1989 (for LCR); U.S. Patents 5,270,184 and 5,455,166 and Walker et al., 1992 (for SDA); Spargo et al., 1996 (for thermophilic SDA) and U.S. Patent 5,409,818, Fahy et al., 1991 and Compton, 1991 for 3SR and NASBA. Reagents and hardware for conducting PCR are commercially available. Primers useful to amplify sequences from the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* region are preferably complementary to, and hybridize specifically to sequences in the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* region or in regions that flank a target region therein. *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* sequences generated by amplification may be sequenced directly. Alternatively, but less desirably, the amplified sequence(s) may be cloned prior to sequence analysis. A method for the direct cloning and sequence analysis of enzymatically amplified genomic segments has been described by Scharf et al., 1986.

**"Analyte polynucleotide"** and **"analyte strand"** refer to a single- or double-stranded polynucleotide which is suspected of containing a target sequence, and which may be present in a variety of types of samples, including biological samples.

**"Antibodies."** The present invention also provides polyclonal and/or monoclonal antibodies and fragments thereof, and immunologic binding equivalents thereof, which are capable of specifically binding to the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide and fragments thereof or to polynucleotide sequences from the *KCNQ2* *KCNQ3* region. The term **"antibody"** is used both to refer to a homogeneous molecular entity, or a mixture such as a serum product made up of a plurality of different molecular entities. Polypeptides may be prepared synthetically in a peptide synthesizer and coupled to a carrier molecule (e.g., keyhole limpet hemocyanin) and injected over several months into rabbits. Rabbit sera is tested for immunoreactivity to the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide or fragment. Monoclonal antibodies may be made by injecting mice with the protein polypeptides, fusion proteins or fragments thereof. Monoclonal antibodies will be screened by ELISA and tested for specific immunoreactivity with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide or fragments thereof. See, Harlow and Lane, 1988. These antibodies will be useful in assays as well as pharmaceuticals.

Once a sufficient quantity of desired polypeptide has been obtained, it may be used for various purposes. A typical use is the production of antibodies specific for binding. These antibodies may be either polyclonal or monoclonal, and may be produced by *in vitro* or *in vivo* techniques well known in the art. For production of polyclonal antibodies, an appropriate target immune system, typically mouse or rabbit, is selected. Substantially purified antigen is presented to the immune system in a fashion determined by methods appropriate for the animal and by other

parameters well known to immunologists. Typical sites for injection are in footpads, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, or intradermally. Of course, other species may be substituted for mouse or rabbit. Polyclonal antibodies are then purified using techniques known in the art, adjusted for the desired specificity.

5 An immunological response is usually assayed with an immunoassay. Normally, such immunoassays involve some purification of a source of antigen, for example, that produced by the same cells and in the same fashion as the antigen. A variety of immunoassay methods are well known in the art. See, e.g., Harlow and Lane, 1988, or Goding, 1986.

10 Monoclonal antibodies with affinities of  $10^{-8} \text{ M}^{-1}$  or preferably  $10^{-9}$  to  $10^{-10} \text{ M}^{-1}$  or stronger will typically be made by standard procedures as described, e.g., in Harlow and Lane, 1988 or Goding, 1986. Briefly, appropriate animals will be selected and the desired immunization protocol followed. After the appropriate period of time, the spleens of such animals are excised and individual spleen cells fused, typically, to immortalized myeloma cells under appropriate selection conditions. Thereafter, the cells are clonally separated and the supernatants of each clone tested for  
15 their production of an appropriate antibody specific for the desired region of the antigen.

Other suitable techniques involve *in vitro* exposure of lymphocytes to the antigenic polypeptides, or alternatively, to selection of libraries of antibodies in phage or similar vectors. See Huse et al., 1989. The polypeptides and antibodies of the present invention may be used with or without modification. Frequently, polypeptides and antibodies will be labeled by joining, either  
20 covalently or non-covalently, a substance which provides for a detectable signal. A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known and are reported extensively in both the scientific and patent literature. Suitable labels include radionuclides, enzymes, substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, fluorescent agents, chemiluminescent agents, magnetic particles and the like. Patents teaching the use of such labels include U.S. Patents 3,817,837; 3,850,752; 3,939,350; 3,996,345; 4,277,437;  
25 4,275,149 and 4,366,241. Also, recombinant immunoglobulins may be produced (see U.S. Patent 4,816,567).

"**Binding partner**" refers to a molecule capable of binding a ligand molecule with high specificity, as for example, an antigen and an antigen-specific antibody or an enzyme and its inhibitor. In general, the specific binding partners must bind with sufficient affinity to immobilize  
30 the analyte copy/complementary strand duplex (in the case of polynucleotide hybridization) under the isolation conditions. Specific binding partners are known in the art and include, for example, biotin and avidin or streptavidin, IgG and protein A, the numerous, known receptor-ligand couples,

and complementary polynucleotide strands. In the case of complementary polynucleotide binding partners, the partners are normally at least about 15 bases in length, and may be at least 40 bases in length. It is well recognized by those of skill in the art that lengths shorter than 15 (e.g., 8 bases), between 15 and 40, and greater than 40 bases may also be used. The polynucleotides may be composed of DNA, RNA, or synthetic nucleotide analogs. Further binding partners can be identified using, e.g., the two-hybrid yeast screening assay as described herein.

A **"biological sample"** refers to a sample of tissue or fluid suspected of containing an analyte polynucleotide or polypeptide from an individual including, but not limited to, e.g., plasma, serum, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, the external sections of the skin, respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts, tears, saliva, blood cells, tumors, organs, tissue and samples of *in vitro* cell culture constituents.

**"Encode"**. A polynucleotide is said to "encode" a polypeptide if, in its native state or when manipulated by methods well known to those skilled in the art, it can be transcribed and/or translated to produce the mRNA for and/or the polypeptide or a fragment thereof. The anti-sense strand is the complement of such a nucleic acid, and the encoding sequence can be deduced therefrom.

**"Isolated" or "substantially pure"**. An "isolated" or "substantially pure" nucleic acid (e.g., an RNA, DNA or a mixed polymer) is one which is substantially separated from other cellular components which naturally accompany a native human sequence or protein, e.g., ribosomes, polymerases, many other human genome sequences and proteins. The term embraces a nucleic acid sequence or protein which has been removed from its naturally occurring environment, and includes recombinant or cloned DNA isolates and chemically synthesized analogs or analogs biologically synthesized by heterologous systems.

**"KCNQ2 Allele"** refers to normal alleles of the KCNQ2 locus as well as alleles of KCNQ2 carrying variations that cause BFNC and/or rolandic epilepsy.

**"KCNQ3 Allele"** refers to normal alleles of the KCNQ3 locus as well as alleles of KCNQ3 carrying variations that cause BFNC and/or JME.

**"KCNQ2 Locus", "KCNQ2 Gene", "KCNQ2 Nucleic Acids" or "KCNQ2 Polynucleotide"** each refer to polynucleotides, all of which are in the *KCNQ2* region, that are likely to be expressed in normal tissue, certain alleles of which result in BFNC and/or rolandic epilepsy. The KCNQ2 locus is intended to include coding sequences, intervening sequences and regulatory elements controlling transcription and/or translation. The KCNQ2 locus is intended to include all allelic variations of the DNA sequence.

"**KCNQ3 Locus**", "**KCNQ3 Gene**", "**KCNQ3 Nucleic Acids**" or "**KCNQ3 Polynucleotide**" each refer to polynucleotides, all of which are in the *KCNQ3* region, that are likely to be expressed in normal tissue, certain alleles of which result in BFNC and/or JME. The *KCNQ3* locus is intended to include coding sequences, intervening sequences and regulatory elements  
 5 controlling transcription and/or translation. The *KCNQ3* locus is intended to include all allelic variations of the DNA sequence.

These terms, when applied to a nucleic acid, refer to a nucleic acid which encodes a human *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide, fragment, homolog or variant, including, e.g., protein fusions or deletions. The nucleic acids of the present invention will possess a sequence which is either derived  
 10 from, or substantially similar to a natural *KCNQ2*- or *KCNQ3*-encoding gene or one having substantial homology with a natural *KCNQ2*- or *KCNQ3*-encoding gene or a portion thereof.

The *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or nucleic acid includes normal alleles of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene, respectively, including silent alleles having no effect on the amino acid sequence of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide as well as alleles leading to amino acid sequence variants of the  
 15 *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide that do not substantially affect its function. These terms also include alleles having one or more mutations which adversely affect the function of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide. A mutation may be a change in the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* nucleic acid sequence which produces a deleterious change in the amino acid sequence of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide, resulting in partial or complete loss of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* function, respectively, or  
 20 may be a change in the nucleic acid sequence which results in the loss of effective *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* expression or the production of aberrant forms of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide.

The *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* nucleic acid may be that shown in SEQ ID NO:1 (*KCNQ2*) or SEQ ID NO:6 (*KCNQ3*) or it may be an allele as described above or a variant or derivative differing from that shown by a change which is one or more of addition, insertion, deletion and substitution of one  
 25 or more nucleotides of the sequence shown. Changes to the nucleotide sequence may result in an amino acid change at the protein level, or not, as determined by the genetic code.

Thus, nucleic acid according to the present invention may include a sequence different from the sequence shown in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 6 yet encode a polypeptide with the same amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs:2 (*KCNQ2*) and 7 (*KCNQ3*). That is, nucleic acids of the  
 30 present invention include sequences which are degenerate as a result of the genetic code. On the other hand, the encoded polypeptide may comprise an amino acid sequence which differs by one or more amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NOs:2 and 7. Nucleic

acid encoding a polypeptide which is an amino acid sequence variant, derivative or allele of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NOs:2 and 7 is also provided by the present invention.

The *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene, respectively, also refers to (a) any DNA sequence that (i) hybridizes to the complement of the DNA sequences that encode the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:6 under highly stringent conditions (Ausubel et al., 1992) and (ii) encodes a gene product functionally equivalent to *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*, or (b) any DNA sequence that (i) hybridizes to the complement of the DNA sequences that encode the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 under less stringent conditions, such as moderately stringent conditions (Ausubel et al., 1992) and (ii) encodes a gene product functionally equivalent to *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. The invention also includes nucleic acid molecules that are the complements of the sequences described herein.

The polynucleotide compositions of this invention include RNA, cDNA, genomic DNA, synthetic forms, and mixed polymers, both sense and antisense strands, and may be chemically or biochemically modified or may contain non-natural or derivatized nucleotide bases, as will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art. Such modifications include, for example, labels, methylation, substitution of one or more of the naturally occurring nucleotides with an analog, internucleotide modifications such as uncharged linkages (e.g., methyl phosphonates, phosphotriesters, phosphoramidates, carbamates, etc.), charged linkages (e.g., phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, etc.), pendent moieties (e.g., polypeptides), intercalators (e.g., acridine, psoralen, etc.), chelators, alkylators, and modified linkages (e.g., alpha anomeric nucleic acids, etc.). Also included are synthetic molecules that mimic polynucleotides in their ability to bind to a designated sequence via hydrogen bonding and other chemical interactions. Such molecules are known in the art and include, for example, those in which peptide linkages substitute for phosphate linkages in the backbone of the molecule.

The present invention provides recombinant nucleic acids comprising all or part of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* region. The recombinant construct may be capable of replicating autonomously in a host cell. Alternatively, the recombinant construct may become integrated into the chromosomal DNA of the host cell. Such a recombinant polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide of genomic, cDNA, semi-synthetic, or synthetic origin which, by virtue of its origin or manipulation, 1) is not associated with all or a portion of a polynucleotide with which it is associated in nature; 2) is linked to a polynucleotide other than that to which it is linked in nature; or 3) does not occur in nature.

Where nucleic acid according to the invention includes RNA, reference to the sequence shown should be construed as reference to the RNA equivalent, with U substituted for T.

Therefore, recombinant nucleic acids comprising sequences otherwise not naturally occurring are provided by this invention. Although the wild-type sequence may be employed, it will often be altered, e.g., by deletion, substitution or insertion. cDNA or genomic libraries of various types may be screened as natural sources of the nucleic acids of the present invention, or such nucleic acids may be provided by amplification of sequences resident in genomic DNA or other natural sources, e.g., by PCR. The choice of cDNA libraries normally corresponds to a tissue source which is abundant in mRNA for the desired proteins. Phage libraries are normally preferred, but other types of libraries may be used. Clones of a library are spread onto plates, transferred to a substrate for screening, denatured and probed for the presence of desired sequences.

The DNA sequences used in this invention will usually comprise at least about five codons (15 nucleotides), more usually at least about 7-15 codons, and most preferably, at least about 35 codons. One or more introns may also be present. This number of nucleotides is usually about the minimal length required for a successful probe that would hybridize specifically with a KCNQ2- or KCNQ3-encoding sequence. In this context, oligomers of as low as 8 nucleotides, more generally 8-17 nucleotides, can be used for probes, especially in connection with chip technology.

Techniques for nucleic acid manipulation are described generally, for example, in Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992. Reagents useful in applying such techniques, such as restriction enzymes and the like, are widely known in the art and commercially available from such vendors as New England BioLabs, Boehringer Mannheim, Amersham, Promega, U. S. Biochemicals, New England Nuclear, and a number of other sources. The recombinant nucleic acid sequences used to produce fusion proteins of the present invention may be derived from natural or synthetic sequences. Many natural gene sequences are obtainable from various cDNA or from genomic libraries using appropriate probes. See, GenBank, National Institutes of Health.

As used herein, a "**portion**" of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* locus or region or allele is defined as having a minimal size of at least about eight nucleotides, or preferably about 15 nucleotides, or more preferably at least about 25 nucleotides, and may have a minimal size of at least about 40 nucleotides. This definition includes all sizes in the range of 8-40 nucleotides as well as greater than 40 nucleotides. Thus, this definition includes nucleic acids of 8, 12, 15, 20, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 nucleotides, or nucleic acids having any number of nucleotides within these ranges of values (e.g., 9, 10, 11, 16, 23, 30, 38, 50, 72, 121, etc., nucleotides), or nucleic acids having more

than 500 nucleotides. The present invention includes all novel nucleic acids having at least 8 nucleotides derived from SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:6, its complement or functionally equivalent nucleic acid sequences. The present invention does not include nucleic acids which exist in the prior art. That is, the present invention includes all nucleic acids having at least 8 nucleotides derived  
5 from SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:6 with the proviso that it does not include nucleic acids existing in the prior art.

**"KCNQ2 protein" or "KCNQ2 polypeptide"** refers to a protein or polypeptide encoded by the *KCNQ2* locus, variants or fragments thereof. The term "polypeptide" refers to a polymer of amino acids and its equivalent and does not refer to a specific length of the product; thus, peptides,  
10 oligopeptides and proteins are included within the definition of a polypeptide. This term also does not refer to, or exclude modifications of the polypeptide, for example, glycosylations, acetylations, phosphorylations, and the like. Included within the definition are, for example, polypeptides containing one or more analogs of an amino acid (including, for example, unnatural amino acids, etc.), polypeptides with substituted linkages as well as other modifications known in the art, both  
15 naturally and non-naturally occurring. Ordinarily, such polypeptides will be at least about 50% homologous to the native KCNQ2 sequence, preferably in excess of about 90%, and more preferably at least about 95% homologous. Also included are proteins encoded by DNA which hybridize under high or low stringency conditions, to KCNQ2-encoding nucleic acids and closely related polypeptides or proteins retrieved by antisera to the KCNQ2 protein(s).

**"KCNQ3 protein" or "KCNQ3 polypeptide"** refers to a protein or polypeptide encoded by the *KCNQ3* locus, variants or fragments thereof. The term "polypeptide" refers to a polymer of amino acids and its equivalent and does not refer to a specific length of the product; thus, peptides,  
20 oligopeptides and proteins are included within the definition of a polypeptide. This term also does not refer to, or exclude modifications of the polypeptide, for example, glycosylations, acetylations, phosphorylations, and the like. Included within the definition are, for example, polypeptides containing one or more analogs of an amino acid (including, for example, unnatural amino acids, etc.), polypeptides with substituted linkages as well as other modifications known in the art, both  
25 naturally and non-naturally occurring. Ordinarily, such polypeptides will be at least about 50% homologous to the native KCNQ3 sequence, preferably in excess of about 90%, and more preferably at least about 95% homologous. Also included are proteins encoded by DNA which hybridize under  
30 high or low stringency conditions, to KCNQ3-encoding nucleic acids and closely related polypeptides or proteins retrieved by antisera to the KCNQ3 protein(s).

The KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide may be that shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 which may be in isolated and/or purified form, free or substantially free of material with which it is naturally associated. The polypeptide may, if produced by expression in a prokaryotic cell or produced synthetically, lack native post-translational processing, such as glycosylation. Alternatively, the present invention is also directed to polypeptides which are sequence variants, alleles or derivatives of the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide. Such polypeptides may have an amino acid sequence which differs from that set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7 by one or more of addition, substitution, deletion or insertion of one or more amino acids. Preferred such polypeptides have KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 function.

Substitutional variants typically contain the exchange of one amino acid for another at one or more sites within the protein, and may be designed to modulate one or more properties of the polypeptide, such as stability against proteolytic cleavage, without the loss of other functions or properties. Amino acid substitutions may be made on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues involved. Preferred substitutions are ones which are conservative, that is, one amino acid is replaced with one of similar shape and charge. Conservative substitutions are well known in the art and typically include substitutions within the following groups: glycine, alanine; valine, isoleucine, leucine; aspartic acid, glutamic acid; asparagine, glutamine; serine, threonine; lysine, arginine; and tyrosine, phenylalanine.

Certain amino acids may be substituted for other amino acids in a protein structure without appreciable loss of interactive binding capacity with structures such as, for example, antigen-binding regions of antibodies or binding sites on substrate molecules or binding sites on proteins interacting with the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide. Since it is the interactive capacity and nature of a protein which defines that protein's biological functional activity, certain amino acid substitutions can be made in a protein sequence, and its underlying DNA coding sequence, and nevertheless obtain a protein with like properties. In making such changes, the hydropathic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydrophobic amino acid index in conferring interactive biological function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982). Alternatively, the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophilicity. The importance of hydrophilicity in conferring interactive biological function of a protein is generally understood in the art (U.S. Patent 4,554,101). The use of the hydrophobic index or hydrophilicity in designing polypeptides is further discussed in U.S. Patent 5,691,198.

The length of polypeptide sequences compared for homology will generally be at least about 16 amino acids, usually at least about 20 residues, more usually at least about 24 residues, typically at least about 28 residues, and preferably more than about 35 residues.

5       **"Operably linked"** refers to a juxtaposition wherein the components so described are in a relationship permitting them to function in their intended manner. For instance, a promoter is operably linked to a coding sequence if the promoter affects its transcription or expression.

10       The term **peptide mimetic** or **mimetic** is intended to refer to a substance which has the essential biological activity of the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide. A peptide mimetic may be a peptide-containing molecule that mimics elements of protein secondary structure (Johnson et al., 1993). The underlying rationale behind the use of peptide mimetics is that the peptide backbone of proteins exists chiefly to orient amino acid side chains in such a way as to facilitate molecular interactions, such as those of antibody and antigen, enzyme and substrate or scaffolding proteins. A peptide mimetic is designed to permit molecular interactions similar to the natural molecule. A mimetic may not be a peptide at all, but it will retain the essential biological activity of natural  
15       KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide.

20       **"Probes"**. Polynucleotide polymorphisms associated with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* alleles which predispose to BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME are detected by hybridization with a polynucleotide probe which forms a stable hybrid with that of the target sequence, under highly stringent to moderately stringent hybridization and wash conditions. If it is expected that the probes will be perfectly complementary to the target sequence, high stringency conditions will be used. Hybridization stringency may be lessened if some mismatching is expected, for example, if variants are expected with the result that the probe will not be completely complementary. Conditions are chosen which rule out nonspecific/adventitious bindings, that is, which minimize noise. (It should be noted that throughout this disclosure, if it is simply stated that Astringent@ conditions are used  
25       that is meant to be read as Ahigh stringency@ conditions are used.) Since such indications identify neutral DNA polymorphisms as well as mutations, these indications need further analysis to demonstrate detection of a *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* susceptibility allele.

30       Probes for *KCNQ2* alleles may be derived from the sequences of the *KCNQ2* region, its cDNA, functionally equivalent sequences, or the complements thereof. Probes for *KCNQ3* alleles may be derived from the sequences of the *KCNQ3* region, its cDNA, functionally equivalent sequences, or the complements thereof. The probes may be of any suitable length, which span all or a portion of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* region, and which allow specific hybridization to the region. If

the target sequence contains a sequence identical to that of the probe, the probes may be short, e.g., in the range of about 8-30 base pairs, since the hybrid will be relatively stable under even highly stringent conditions. If some degree of mismatch is expected with the probe, i.e., if it is suspected that the probe will hybridize to a variant region, a longer probe may be employed which hybridizes to the target sequence with the requisite specificity.

The probes will include an isolated polynucleotide attached to a label or reporter molecule and may be used to isolate other polynucleotide sequences, having sequence similarity by standard methods. For techniques for preparing and labeling probes see, e.g., Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992. Other similar polynucleotides may be selected by using homologous polynucleotides. Alternatively, polynucleotides encoding these or similar polypeptides may be synthesized or selected by use of the redundancy in the genetic code. Various codon substitutions may be introduced, e.g., by silent changes (thereby producing various restriction sites) or to optimize expression for a particular system. Mutations may be introduced to modify the properties of the polypeptide, perhaps to change the polypeptide degradation or turnover rate.

Probes comprising synthetic oligonucleotides or other polynucleotides of the present invention may be derived from naturally occurring or recombinant single- or double-stranded polynucleotides, or be chemically synthesized. Probes may also be labeled by nick translation, Klenow fill-in reaction, or other methods known in the art.

Portions of the polynucleotide sequence having at least about eight nucleotides, usually at least about 15 nucleotides, and fewer than about 9 kb, usually fewer than about 1.0 kb, from a polynucleotide sequence encoding *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* are preferred as probes. This definition therefore includes probes of sizes 8 nucleotides through 9000 nucleotides. Thus, this definition includes probes of 8, 12, 15, 20, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 nucleotides or probes having any number of nucleotides within these ranges of values (e.g., 9, 10, 11, 16, 23, 30, 38, 50, 72, 121, etc., nucleotides), or probes having more than 500 nucleotides. The probes may also be used to determine whether mRNA encoding *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* is present in a cell or tissue. The present invention includes all novel probes having at least 8 nucleotides derived from SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:6, its complement or functionally equivalent nucleic acid sequences. The present invention does not include probes which exist in the prior art. That is, the present invention includes all probes having at least 8 nucleotides derived from SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:6 with the proviso that they do not include probes existing in the prior art.

Similar considerations and nucleotide lengths are also applicable to primers which may be used for the amplification of all or part of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. Thus, a definition for primers includes primers of 8, 12, 15, 20, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 nucleotides, or primers having any number of nucleotides within these ranges of values (e.g., 9, 10, 11, 16, 23, 30, 38, 50, 72, 121, etc. nucleotides), or primers having more than 500 nucleotides, or any number of nucleotides between 500 and 9000. The primers may also be used to determine whether mRNA encoding *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* is present in a cell or tissue. The present invention includes all novel primers having at least 8 nucleotides derived from the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* locus for amplifying the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene, its complement or functionally equivalent nucleic acid sequences. The present invention does not include primers which exist in the prior art. That is, the present invention includes all primers having at least 8 nucleotides with the proviso that it does not include primers existing in the prior art.

**"Protein modifications or fragments"** are provided by the present invention for *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptides or fragments thereof which are substantially homologous to primary structural sequence but which include, e.g., *in vivo* or *in vitro* chemical and biochemical modifications or which incorporate unusual amino acids. Such modifications include, for example, acetylation, carboxylation, phosphorylation, glycosylation, ubiquitination, labeling, e.g., with radionuclides, and various enzymatic modifications, as will be readily appreciated by those well skilled in the art. A variety of methods for labeling polypeptides and of substituents or labels useful for such purposes are well known in the art, and include radioactive isotopes such as  $^{32}\text{P}$ , ligands which bind to labeled antiligands (e.g., antibodies), fluorophores, chemiluminescent agents, enzymes, and antiligands which can serve as specific binding pair members for a labeled ligand. The choice of label depends on the sensitivity required, ease of conjugation with the primer, stability requirements, and available instrumentation. Methods of labeling polypeptides are well known in the art. See Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992.

Besides substantially full-length polypeptides, the present invention provides for biologically active fragments of the polypeptides. Significant biological activities include ligand-binding, immunological activity and other biological activities characteristic of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptides. Immunological activities include both immunogenic function in a target immune system, as well as sharing of immunological epitopes for binding, serving as either a competitor or substitute antigen for an epitope of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* protein. As used herein, "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant of a polypeptide. An epitope could comprise three amino acids in a

spatial conformation which is unique to the epitope. Generally, an epitope consists of at least five such amino acids, and more usually consists of at least 8-10 such amino acids. Methods of determining the spatial conformation of such amino acids are known in the art.

For immunological purposes, tandem-repeat polypeptide segments may be used as  
5 immunogens, thereby producing highly antigenic proteins. Alternatively, such polypeptides will serve as highly efficient competitors for specific binding. Production of antibodies specific for KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptides or fragments thereof is described below.

The present invention also provides for fusion polypeptides, comprising KCNQ2 or KCNQ3  
10 polypeptides and fragments. Homologous polypeptides may be fusions between two or more KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide sequences or between the sequences of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 and a related protein. Likewise, heterologous fusions may be constructed which would exhibit a combination of properties or activities of the derivative proteins. For example, ligand-binding or other domains may be "swapped" between different new fusion polypeptides or fragments. Such  
15 homologous or heterologous fusion polypeptides may display, for example, altered strength or specificity of binding. Fusion partners include immunoglobulins, bacterial  $\beta$ -galactosidase, trpE, protein A,  $\beta$ -lactamase, alpha amylase, alcohol dehydrogenase and yeast alpha mating factor. See Godowski et al., 1988.

Fusion proteins will typically be made by either recombinant nucleic acid methods, as  
20 described below, or may be chemically synthesized. Techniques for the synthesis of polypeptides are described, for example, in Merrifield, 1963.

**"Protein purification"** refers to various methods for the isolation of the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3  
polypeptides from other biological material, such as from cells transformed with recombinant nucleic acids encoding KCNQ2 or KCNQ3, and are well known in the art. For example, such polypeptides may be purified by immunoaffinity chromatography employing, e.g., the antibodies  
25 provided by the present invention. Various methods of protein purification are well known in the art, and include those described in Deutscher, 1990 and Scopes, 1982.

The terms **"isolated"**, **"substantially pure"**, and **"substantially homogeneous"** are used interchangeably to describe a protein or polypeptide which has been separated from components which accompany it in its natural state. A monomeric protein is substantially pure when at least  
30 about 60 to 75% of a sample exhibits a single polypeptide sequence. A substantially pure protein will typically comprise about 60 to 90% W/W of a protein sample, more usually about 95%, and preferably will be over about 99% pure. Protein purity or homogeneity may be indicated by a

number of means well known in the art, such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of a protein sample, followed by visualizing a single polypeptide band upon staining the gel. For certain purposes, higher resolution may be provided by using HPLC or other means well known in the art which are utilized for purification.

5           A KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 protein is substantially free of naturally associated components when it is separated from the native contaminants which accompany it in its natural state. Thus, a polypeptide which is chemically synthesized or synthesized in a cellular system different from the cell from which it naturally originates will be substantially free from its naturally associated components. A protein may also be rendered substantially free of naturally associated components  
10 by isolation, using protein purification techniques well known in the art.

A polypeptide produced as an expression product of an isolated and manipulated genetic sequence is an "isolated polypeptide," as used herein, even if expressed in a homologous cell type. Synthetically made forms or molecules expressed by heterologous cells are inherently isolated molecules.

15           **"Recombinant nucleic acid"** is a nucleic acid which is not naturally occurring, or which is made by the artificial combination of two otherwise separated segments of sequence. This artificial combination is often accomplished by either chemical synthesis means, or by the artificial manipulation of isolated segments of nucleic acids, e.g., by genetic engineering techniques. Such is usually done to replace a codon with a redundant codon encoding the same or a conservative amino  
20 acid, while typically introducing or removing a sequence recognition site. Alternatively, it is performed to join together nucleic acid segments of desired functions to generate a desired combination of functions.

**"Regulatory sequences"** refers to those sequences normally within 100 kb of the coding region of a locus, but they may also be more distant from the coding region, which affect the  
25 expression of the gene (including transcription of the gene, and translation, splicing, stability or the like of the messenger RNA).

**"Substantial homology or similarity"**. A nucleic acid or fragment thereof is "substantially homologous" ("or substantially similar") to another if, when optimally aligned (with appropriate nucleotide insertions or deletions) with the other nucleic acid (or its complementary strand), there is  
30 nucleotide sequence identity in at least about 60% of the nucleotide bases, usually at least about 70%, more usually at least about 80%, preferably at least about 90%, and more preferably at least about 95-98% of the nucleotide bases.

To determine homology between two different nucleic acids, the percent homology is to be determined using the BLASTN program ABLAST 2 sequences@. This program is available for public use from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) over the Internet (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gorf/bl2.html>) (Altschul et al., 1997). The parameters to be used are  
 5 whatever combination of the following yields the highest calculated percent homology (as calculated below) with the default parameters shown in parentheses:

Program - blastn

Matrix - 0 BLOSUM62

Reward for a match - 0 or 1 (1)

10 Penalty for a mismatch - 0, -1, -2 or -3 (-2)

Open gap penalty - 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 (5)

Extension gap penalty - 0 or 1 (1)

Gap x\_dropoff - 0 or 50 (50)

Expect - 10

15 Along with a variety of other results, this program shows a percent identity across the complete strands or across regions of the two nucleic acids being matched. The program shows as part of the results an alignment and identity of the two strands being compared. If the strands are of equal length then the identity will be calculated across the complete length of the nucleic acids. If the strands are of unequal lengths, then the length of the shorter nucleic acid is to be used. If the  
 20 nucleic acids are quite similar across a portion of their sequences but different across the rest of their sequences, the blastn program ABLAST 2 Sequences@ will show an identity across only the similar portions, and these portions are reported individually. For purposes of determining homology herein, the percent homology refers to the shorter of the two sequences being compared. If any one region is shown in different alignments with differing percent identities, the alignments which yield  
 25 the greatest homology are to be used. The averaging is to be performed as in this example of SEQ ID NOs:20 and 21.

5'-ACCGTAGCTACGTACGTATATAGAAAGGGCGCGATCGTCGTCGCGTATGACGAC  
 TTAGCATGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:20)

5'-ACCGGTAGCTACGTACGTTATTTAGAAAGGGGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTAAACCGGG  
 30 GTTTTCGGGATCGTCCGTCGCGTATGACGACTTAGCCATGCACGGTATATCGTATTAGG  
 ACTAGCGATTGACTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:21)

The program ABLAST 2 Sequences@ shows differing alignments of these two nucleic acids depending upon the parameters which are selected. As examples, four sets of parameters were selected for comparing SEQ ID NOs:20 and 21 (gap x\_dropoff was 50 for all cases), with the results shown in Table 1. It is to be noted that none of the sets of parameters selected as shown in Table 1 is necessarily the best set of parameters for comparing these sequences. The percent homology is calculated by multiplying for each region showing identity the fraction of bases of the shorter strand within a region times the percent identity for that region and adding all of these together. For example, using the first set of parameters shown in Table 1, SEQ ID NO:20 is the short sequence (63 bases), and two regions of identity are shown, the first encompassing bases 4-29 (26 bases) of SEQ ID NO:20 with 92% identity to SEQ ID NO:21 and the second encompassing bases 39-59 (21 bases) of SEQ ID NO:20 with 100% identity to SEQ ID NO:21. Bases 1-3, 30-38 and 60-63 (16 bases) are not shown as having any identity with SEQ ID NO:21. Percent homology is calculated as:  $(26/63)(92) + (21/63)(100) + (16/63)(0) = 71.3\%$  homology. The percents of homology calculated using each of the four sets of parameters shown are listed in Table 1. Several other combinations of parameters are possible, but they are not listed for the sake of brevity. It is seen that each set of parameters resulted in a different calculated percent homology. Because the result yielding the highest percent homology is to be used, based solely on these four sets of parameters one would state that SEQ ID NOs:20 and 21 have 87.1% homology. Again it is to be noted that use of other parameters may show an even higher homology for SEQ ID NOs:20 and 21, but for brevity not all the possible results are shown.

Alternatively, substantial homology or (similarity) exists when a nucleic acid or fragment thereof will hybridize to another nucleic acid (or a complementary strand thereof) under selective hybridization conditions, to a strand, or to its complement. Selectivity of hybridization exists when

TABLE 1

| Parameter Values |          |          |               | Regions of identity (%)               |                                          | Homology |
|------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Match            | Mismatch | Open Gap | Extension Gap |                                       |                                          |          |
| 1                | -2       | 5        | 1             | 4-29 of 20 and<br>5-31 of 21<br>(92%) | 39-59 of 20 and<br>71-91 of 21<br>(100%) | 71.3     |
| 1                | -2       | 2        | 1             | 4-29 of 20 and<br>5-31 of 21<br>(92%) | 33-63 of 20 and<br>64-96 of 21<br>(93%)  | 83.7     |
| 1                | -1       | 5        | 1             | -----                                 | 30-59 of 20 and<br>61-91 of 21<br>(93%)  | 44.3     |
| 1                | -1       | 2        | 1             | 4-29 of 20 and<br>5-31 of 21<br>(92%) | 30-63 of 20 and<br>61-96 of 21<br>(91%)  | 87.1     |

hybridization which is substantially more selective than total lack of specificity occurs. Typically, selective hybridization will occur when there is at least about 55% homology over a stretch of at least about 14 nucleotides, preferably at least about 65%, more preferably at least about 75%, and most preferably at least about 90%. See, Kanehisa, 1984. The length of homology comparison, as  
5 described, may be over longer stretches, and in certain embodiments will often be over a stretch of at least about nine nucleotides, usually at least about 20 nucleotides, more usually at least about 24 nucleotides, typically at least about 28 nucleotides, more typically at least about 32 nucleotides, and preferably at least about 36 or more nucleotides.

Nucleic acid hybridization will be affected by such conditions as salt concentration,  
10 temperature, or organic solvents, in addition to the base composition, length of the complementary strands, and the number of nucleotide base mismatches between the hybridizing nucleic acids, as will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art. Stringent temperature conditions will generally include temperatures in excess of 30EC, typically in excess of 37EC, and preferably in excess of 45EC. Stringent salt conditions will ordinarily be less than 1000 mM, typically less than  
15 500 mM, and preferably less than 200 mM. However, the combination of parameters is much more important than the measure of any single parameter. The stringency conditions are dependent on the length of the nucleic acid and the base composition of the nucleic acid and can be determined by techniques well known in the art. See, e.g., Wetmur and Davidson, 1968.

Probe sequences may also hybridize specifically to duplex DNA under certain conditions to  
20 form triplex or other higher order DNA complexes. The preparation of such probes and suitable hybridization conditions are well known in the art.

The terms "**substantial homology**" or "**substantial identity**", when referring to polypeptides, indicate that the polypeptide or protein in question exhibits at least about 30% identity with an entire naturally-occurring protein or a portion thereof, usually at least about 70% identity,  
25 more usually at least about 80% identity, preferably at least about 90% identity, and more preferably at least about 95% identity.

Homology, for polypeptides, is typically measured using sequence analysis software. See, e.g., the Sequence Analysis Software Package of the Genetics Computer Group, University of Wisconsin Biotechnology Center, 910 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. Protein  
30 analysis software matches similar sequences using measures of homology assigned to various substitutions, deletions and other modifications. Conservative substitutions typically include

substitutions within the following groups: glycine, alanine; valine, isoleucine, leucine; aspartic acid, glutamic acid; asparagine, glutamine; serine, threonine; lysine, arginine; and phenylalanine, tyrosine.

"**Substantially similar function**" refers to the function of a modified nucleic acid or a modified protein, with reference to the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* nucleic acid or wild-type  
5 *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide. The modified polypeptide will be substantially homologous to the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide and will have substantially the same function. The modified polypeptide may have an altered amino acid sequence and/or may contain modified amino acids. In addition to the similarity of function, the modified polypeptide may have other useful properties, such as a longer half-life. The similarity of function (activity) of the modified  
10 polypeptide may be substantially the same as the activity of the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide. Alternatively, the similarity of function (activity) of the modified polypeptide may be higher than the activity of the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide. The modified polypeptide is synthesized using conventional techniques, or is encoded by a modified nucleic acid and produced using conventional techniques. The modified nucleic acid is prepared by conventional techniques.  
15 A nucleic acid with a function substantially similar to the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene function produces the modified protein described above.

A polypeptide "**fragment**," "**portion**" or "**segment**" is a stretch of amino acid residues of at least about five to seven contiguous amino acids, often at least about seven to nine contiguous amino acids, typically at least about nine to 13 contiguous amino acids and, most preferably, at least about  
20 20 to 30 or more contiguous amino acids.

The polypeptides of the present invention, if soluble, may be coupled to a solid-phase support, e.g., nitrocellulose, nylon, column packing materials (e.g., Sepharose beads), magnetic beads, glass wool, plastic, metal, polymer gels, cells, or other substrates. Such supports may take the form, for example, of beads, wells, dipsticks, or membranes.

25 "**Target region**" refers to a region of the nucleic acid which is amplified and/or detected. The term "**target sequence**" refers to a sequence with which a probe or primer will form a stable hybrid under desired conditions.

The practice of the present invention employs, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, genetics, and  
30 immunology. See, e.g., Maniatis et al., 1982; Sambrook et al., 1989; Ausubel et al., 1992; Glover, 1985; Anand, 1992; Guthrie and Fink, 1991. A general discussion of techniques and materials for

human gene mapping, including mapping of human chromosome 1, is provided, e.g., in White and Lalouel, 1988.

5 Preparation of recombinant or chemically synthesized  
nucleic acids; vectors, transformation, host cells

10 Large amounts of the polynucleotides of the present invention may be produced by replication in a suitable host cell. Natural or synthetic polynucleotide fragments coding for a desired fragment will be incorporated into recombinant polynucleotide constructs, usually DNA constructs, capable of introduction into and replication in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. Usually the polynucleotide constructs will be suitable for replication in a unicellular host, such as yeast or bacteria, but may also be intended for introduction to (with and without integration within the genome) cultured mammalian or plant or other eukaryotic cell lines. The purification of nucleic acids produced by the methods of the present invention are described, e.g., in Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992.

15 The polynucleotides of the present invention may also be produced by chemical synthesis, e.g., by the phosphoramidite method described by Beaucage and Carruthers (1981) or the triester method according to Matteucci and Caruthers (1981), and may be performed on commercial, automated oligonucleotide synthesizers. A double-stranded fragment may be obtained from the single-stranded product of chemical synthesis either by synthesizing the complementary strand and  
20 annealing the strands together under appropriate conditions or by adding the complementary strand using DNA polymerase with an appropriate primer sequence.

Polynucleotide constructs prepared for introduction into a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host may comprise a replication system recognized by the host, including the intended polynucleotide fragment encoding the desired polypeptide, and will preferably also include transcription and  
25 translational initiation regulatory sequences operably linked to the polypeptide encoding segment. Expression vectors may include, for example, an origin of replication or autonomously replicating sequence (ARS) and expression control sequences, a promoter, an enhancer and necessary processing information sites, such as ribosome-binding sites, RNA splice sites, polyadenylation sites, transcriptional terminator sequences, and mRNA stabilizing sequences. Such vectors may be  
30 prepared by means of standard recombinant techniques well known in the art and discussed, for example, in Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992.

An appropriate promoter and other necessary vector sequences will be selected so as to be functional in the host, and may include, when appropriate, those naturally associated with the

*KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. Examples of workable combinations of cell lines and expression vectors are described in Sambrook et al., 1989 or Ausubel et al., 1992; see also, e.g., Metzger et al., 1988. Many useful vectors are known in the art and may be obtained from such vendors as Stratagene, New England Biolabs, Promega Biotech, and others. Promoters such as the trp, lac and phage  
5 promoters, tRNA promoters and glycolytic enzyme promoters may be used in prokaryotic hosts. Useful yeast promoters include promoter regions for metallothionein, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase or other glycolytic enzymes such as enolase or glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose utilization, and others. Vectors and promoters suitable for use in yeast expression are further described in Hitzeman et al., EP 73,675A. Appropriate non-native  
10 mammalian promoters might include the early and late promoters from SV40 (Fiers et al., 1978) or promoters derived from murine Molony leukemia virus, mouse tumor virus, avian sarcoma viruses, adenovirus II, bovine papilloma virus or polyoma. Insect promoters may be derived from baculovirus. In addition, the construct may be joined to an amplifiable gene (e.g., DHFR) so that multiple copies of the gene may be made. For appropriate enhancer and other expression control  
15 sequences, see also Enhancers and Eukaryotic Gene Expression, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1983). See also, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,691,198; 5,735,500; 5,747,469 and 5,436,146.

While such expression vectors may replicate autonomously, they may also replicate by being inserted into the genome of the host cell, by methods well known in the art.

20 Expression and cloning vectors will likely contain a selectable marker, a gene encoding a protein necessary for survival or growth of a host cell transformed with the vector. The presence of this gene ensures growth of only those host cells which express the inserts. Typical selection genes encode proteins that a) confer resistance to antibiotics or other toxic substances, e.g. ampicillin, neomycin, methotrexate, etc., b) complement auxotrophic deficiencies, or c) supply critical nutrients  
25 not available from complex media, e.g., the gene encoding D-alanine racemase for *Bacilli*. The choice of the proper selectable marker will depend on the host cell, and appropriate markers for different hosts are well known in the art.

The vectors containing the nucleic acids of interest can be transcribed *in vitro*, and the resulting RNA introduced into the host cell by well-known methods, e.g., by injection (see, Kubo et  
30 al., 1988), or the vectors can be introduced directly into host cells by methods well known in the art, which vary depending on the type of cellular host, including electroporation; transfection employing calcium chloride, rubidium chloride, calcium phosphate, DEAE-dextran, or other substances;

microprojectile bombardment; lipofection; infection (where the vector is an infectious agent, such as a retroviral genome); and other methods. See generally, Sambrook et al., 1989 and Ausubel et al., 1992. The introduction of the polynucleotides into the host cell by any method known in the art, including, *inter alia*, those described above, will be referred to herein as "transformation." The cells  
5 into which have been introduced nucleic acids described above are meant to also include the progeny of such cells.

Large quantities of the nucleic acids and polypeptides of the present invention may be prepared by expressing the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* nucleic acid or portions thereof in vectors or other expression vehicles in compatible prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells. The most commonly used  
10 prokaryotic hosts are strains of *Escherichia coli*, although other prokaryotes, such as *Bacillus subtilis* or *Pseudomonas* may also be used.

Mammalian or other eukaryotic host cells, such as those of yeast, filamentous fungi, plant, insect, or amphibian or avian species, may also be useful for production of the proteins of the present invention. Propagation of mammalian cells in culture is *per se* well known. See, Jakoby  
15 and Pastan (eds.) (1979). Examples of commonly used mammalian host cell lines are VERO and HeLa cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, and WI38, BHK, and COS cell lines, although it will be appreciated by the skilled practitioner that other cell lines may be appropriate, e.g., to provide higher expression, desirable glycosylation patterns, or other features. An example of a commonly used insect cell line is SF9.

20 Clones are selected by using markers depending on the mode of the vector construction. The marker may be on the same or a different DNA molecule, preferably the same DNA molecule. In prokaryotic hosts, the transformant may be selected, e.g., by resistance to ampicillin, tetracycline or other antibiotics. Production of a particular product based on temperature sensitivity may also serve as an appropriate marker.

25 Prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells transformed with the polynucleotides of the present invention will be useful not only for the production of the nucleic acids and polypeptides of the present invention, but also, for example, in studying the characteristics of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide.

The probes and primers based on the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene sequence disclosed herein are used to identify homologous *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene sequences and proteins in other species. These  
30 gene sequences and proteins are used in the diagnostic/prognostic, therapeutic and drug screening methods described herein for the species from which they have been isolated.

Methods of Use: Drug Screening

This invention is particularly useful for screening compounds by using the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or binding fragment thereof in any of a variety of drug screening techniques.

5 The KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment employed in such a test may either be free in solution, affixed to a solid support, or borne on a cell surface. One method of drug screening utilizes eucaryotic or procaryotic host cells which are stably transformed with recombinant polynucleotides expressing the polypeptide or fragment, preferably in competitive binding assays. Such cells, either in viable or fixed form, can be used for standard binding assays. One may measure, for example, for the formation of complexes between a KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or  
10 fragment and the agent being tested, or examine the degree to which the formation of a complex between a KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment and a known ligand is interfered with by the agent being tested.

Thus, the present invention provides methods of screening for drugs comprising contacting such an agent with a KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment thereof and assaying (i) for the  
15 presence of a complex between the agent and the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment, or (ii) for the presence of a complex between the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment and a ligand, by methods well known in the art. In such competitive binding assays the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment is typically labeled. Free KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragment is separated from that present in a protein:protein complex, and the amount of free (i.e.,  
20 uncomplexed) label is a measure of the binding of the agent being tested to KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 or its interference with KCNQ2(or KCNQ3):ligand binding, respectively. One may also measure the amount of bound, rather than free, KCNQ2 or KCNQ3. It is also possible to label the ligand rather than the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 and to measure the amount of ligand binding to KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 in the presence and in the absence of the drug being tested.

25 Another technique for drug screening provides high throughput screening for compounds having suitable binding affinity to the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptides and is described in detail in Geysen (published PCT published application WO 84/03564). Briefly stated, large numbers of different small peptide test compounds are synthesized on a solid substrate, such as plastic pins or some other surface. The peptide test compounds are reacted with KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide  
30 and washed. Bound KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide is then detected by methods well known in the art.

Purified KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 can be coated directly onto plates for use in the aforementioned drug screening techniques. However, non-neutralizing antibodies to the polypeptide can be used to capture antibodies to immobilize the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide on the solid phase.

5 This invention also contemplates the use of competitive drug screening assays in which neutralizing antibodies capable of specifically binding the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide compete with a test compound for binding to the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide or fragments thereof. In this manner, the antibodies can be used to detect the presence of any peptide which shares one or more antigenic determinants of the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide.

10 The invention is particularly useful for screening compounds by using KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 protein in transformed cells, transfected oocytes or transgenic animals. The drug is added to the cells in culture or administered to a transgenic animal containing mutant KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 and the effect on the current of the potassium channel is compared to the current of a cell or animal containing the wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3. Drug candidates which alter the current to a more normal level are useful for treating or preventing BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME.

15 The above screening methods are not limited to assays employing only KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 but are also applicable to studying KCNQ2- or KCNQ3-protein complexes. The effect of drugs on the activity of this complex is analyzed.

In accordance with these methods, the following assays are examples of assays which can be used for screening for drug candidates.

20 A mutant KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein) is mixed with a wild-type protein (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein) to which wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 binds. This mixing is performed in both the presence of a drug and the absence of the drug, and the amount of binding of the mutant KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 with the wild-type protein is measured. If the amount of the binding is more in the presence of said drug than in the absence of said drug, the drug is a drug  
25 candidate for treating BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME resulting from a mutation in *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*.

A wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein) is mixed with a wild-type protein (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein) to which wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 binds. This mixing is performed in both the presence of a drug and the absence of the drug, and the amount  
30 of binding of the wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 with the wild-type protein is measured. If the amount of the binding is more in the presence of said drug than in the absence of said drug, the drug

is a drug candidate for treating BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME resulting from a mutation in *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*.

A mutant protein, which as a wild-type protein binds to *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein) is mixed with a wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* (*per se* or as part of a fusion protein). This mixing is performed in both the presence of a drug and the absence of the drug, and the amount of binding of the mutant protein with the wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* is measured. If the amount of the binding is more in the presence of said drug than in the absence of said drug, the drug is a drug candidate for treating BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME resulting from a mutation in the gene encoding the protein.

The polypeptide of the invention may also be used for screening compounds developed as a result of combinatorial library technology. Combinatorial library technology provides an efficient way of testing a potential vast number of different substances for ability to modulate activity of a polypeptide. Such libraries and their use are known in the art. The use of peptide libraries is preferred. See, for example, WO 97/02048.

Briefly, a method of screening for a substance which modulates activity of a polypeptide may include contacting one or more test substances with the polypeptide in a suitable reaction medium, testing the activity of the treated polypeptide and comparing that activity with the activity of the polypeptide in comparable reaction medium untreated with the test substance or substances. A difference in activity between the treated and untreated polypeptides is indicative of a modulating effect of the relevant test substance or substances.

Prior to or as well as being screened for modulation of activity, test substances may be screened for ability to interact with the polypeptide, e.g., in a yeast two-hybrid system (e.g., Bartel et al., 1993; Fields and Song, 1989; Chevray and Nathans, 1992; Lee et al., 1995). This system may be used as a coarse screen prior to testing a substance for actual ability to modulate activity of the polypeptide. Alternatively, the screen could be used to screen test substances for binding to a *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* specific binding partner, or to find mimetics of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide.

Following identification of a substance which modulates or affects polypeptide activity, the substance may be investigated further. Furthermore, it may be manufactured and/or used in preparation, i.e., manufacture or formulation, or a composition such as a medicament, pharmaceutical composition or drug. These may be administered to individuals.

Thus, the present invention extends in various aspects not only to a substance identified using a nucleic acid molecule as a modulator of polypeptide activity, in accordance with what is disclosed herein, but also a pharmaceutical composition, medicament, drug or other composition comprising such a substance, a method comprising administration of such a composition comprising  
5 such a substance, a method comprising administration of such a composition to a patient, e.g., for treatment (which may include preventative treatment) of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME, use of such a substance in the manufacture of a composition for administration, e.g., for treatment of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME, and a method of making a pharmaceutical composition comprising admixing such a substance with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, vehicle or carrier, and  
10 optionally other ingredients.

A substance identified as a modulator of polypeptide function may be peptide or non-peptide in nature. Non-peptide small molecules are often preferred for many *in vivo* pharmaceutical uses. Accordingly, a mimetic or mimic of the substance (particularly if a peptide) may be designed for pharmaceutical use.

15 The designing of mimetics to a known pharmaceutically active compound is a known approach to the development of pharmaceuticals based on a lead compound. This might be desirable where the active compound is difficult or expensive to synthesize or where it is unsuitable for a particular method of administration, e.g., pure peptides are unsuitable active agents for oral compositions as they tend to be quickly degraded by proteases in the alimentary canal. Mimetic  
20 design, synthesis and testing is generally used to avoid randomly screening large numbers of molecules for a target property.

There are several steps commonly taken in the design of a mimetic from a compound having a given target property. First, the particular parts of the compound that are critical and/or important in determining the target property are determined. In the case of a peptide, this can be done by  
25 systematically varying the amino acid residues in the peptide, e.g., by substituting each residue in turn. Alanine scans of peptide are commonly used to refine such peptide motifs. These parts or residues constituting the active region of the compound are known as its pharmacophore.

Once the pharmacophore has been found, its structure is modeled according to its physical properties, e.g., stereochemistry, bonding, size and/or charge, using data from a range of sources,  
30 e.g., spectroscopic techniques, x-ray diffraction data and NMR. Computational analysis, similarity mapping (which models the charge and/or volume of a pharmacophore, rather than the bonding between atoms) and other techniques can be used in this modeling process.

In a variant of this approach, the three-dimensional structure of the ligand and its binding partner are modeled. This can be especially useful where the ligand and/or binding partner change conformation on binding, allowing the model to take account of this in the design of the mimetic.

5 A template molecule is then selected onto which chemical groups which mimic the pharmacophore can be grafted. The template molecule and the chemical groups grafted onto it can conveniently be selected so that the mimetic is easy to synthesize, is likely to be pharmacologically acceptable, and does not degrade *in vivo*, while retaining the biological activity of the lead compound. Alternatively, where the mimetic is peptide-based, further stability can be achieved by cyclizing the peptide, increasing its rigidity. The mimetic or mimetics found by this approach can  
10 then be screened to see whether they have the target property, or to what extent they exhibit it. Further optimization or modification can then be carried out to arrive at one or more final mimetics for *in vivo* or clinical testing.

#### Methods of Use: Nucleic Acid Diagnosis and Diagnostic Kits

15 In order to detect the presence of a *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele predisposing an individual to BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME, a biological sample such as blood is prepared and analyzed for the presence or absence of susceptibility alleles of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. In order to detect the presence of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME, or as a prognostic indicator, a biological sample is prepared and analyzed for the presence or absence of mutant alleles of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. Results of these tests  
20 and interpretive information are returned to the health care provider for communication to the tested individual. Such diagnoses may be performed by diagnostic laboratories, or, alternatively, diagnostic kits are manufactured and sold to health care providers or to private individuals for self-diagnosis.

Initially, the screening method involves amplification of the relevant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*  
25 sequences. In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the screening method involves a non-PCR based strategy. Such screening methods include two-step label amplification methodologies that are well known in the art. Both PCR and non-PCR based screening strategies can detect target sequences with a high level of sensitivity.

The most popular method used today is target amplification. Here, the target nucleic acid  
30 sequence is amplified with polymerases. One particularly preferred method using polymerase-driven amplification is the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The polymerase chain reaction and other polymerase-driven amplification assays can achieve over a million-fold increase in copy

number through the use of polymerase-driven amplification cycles. Once amplified, the resulting nucleic acid can be sequenced or used as a substrate for DNA probes.

When the probes are used to detect the presence of the target sequences the biological sample to be analyzed, such as blood or serum, may be treated, if desired, to extract the nucleic acids. The sample nucleic acid may be prepared in various ways to facilitate detection of the target sequence, e.g. denaturation, restriction digestion, electrophoresis or dot blotting. The targeted region of the analyte nucleic acid usually must be at least partially single-stranded to form hybrids with the targeting sequence of the probe. If the sequence is naturally single-stranded, denaturation will not be required. However, if the sequence is double-stranded, the sequence will probably need to be denatured. Denaturation can be carried out by various techniques known in the art.

Analyte nucleic acid and probe are incubated under conditions which promote stable hybrid formation of the target sequence in the probe with the putative targeted sequence in the analyte. The region of the probes which is used to bind to the analyte can be made completely complementary to the targeted region of human chromosome 20 for *KCNQ2* or to the targeted region of human chromosome 8 for *KCNQ3*. Therefore, high stringency conditions are desirable in order to prevent false positives. However, conditions of high stringency are used only if the probes are complementary to regions of the chromosome which are unique in the genome. The stringency of hybridization is determined by a number of factors during hybridization and during the washing procedure, including temperature, ionic strength, base composition, probe length, and concentration of formamide. These factors are outlined in, for example, Maniatis et al., 1982 and Sambrook et al., 1989. Under certain circumstances, the formation of higher order hybrids, such as triplexes, quadraplexes, etc., may be desired to provide the means of detecting target sequences.

Detection, if any, of the resulting hybrid is usually accomplished by the use of labeled probes. Alternatively, the probe may be unlabeled, but may be detectable by specific binding with a ligand which is labeled, either directly or indirectly. Suitable labels, and methods for labeling probes and ligands are known in the art, and include, for example, radioactive labels which may be incorporated by known methods (e.g., nick translation, random priming or kinasing), biotin, fluorescent groups, chemiluminescent groups (e.g., dioxetanes, particularly triggered dioxetanes), enzymes, antibodies, gold nanoparticles and the like. Variations of this basic scheme are known in the art, and include those variations that facilitate separation of the hybrids to be detected from extraneous materials and/or that amplify the signal from the labeled moiety. A number of these

variations are reviewed in, e.g., Matthews and Kricka, 1988; Landegren et al., 1988; Mifflin, 1989; U.S. Patent 4,868,105; and in EPO Publication No. 225,807.

As noted above, non-PCR based screening assays are also contemplated in this invention. This procedure hybridizes a nucleic acid probe (or an analog such as a methyl phosphonate backbone replacing the normal phosphodiester), to the low level DNA target. This probe may have an enzyme covalently linked to the probe, such that the covalent linkage does not interfere with the specificity of the hybridization. This enzyme-probe-conjugate-target nucleic acid complex can then be isolated away from the free probe enzyme conjugate and a substrate is added for enzyme detection. Enzymatic activity is observed as a change in color development or luminescent output resulting in a  $10^3$ - $10^6$  increase in sensitivity. For an example relating to the preparation of oligodeoxynucleotide-alkaline phosphatase conjugates and their use as hybridization probes, see Jablonski et al., 1986.

Two-step label amplification methodologies are known in the art. These assays work on the principle that a small ligand (such as digoxigenin, biotin, or the like) is attached to a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically binding *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. Allele specific probes are also contemplated within the scope of this example and exemplary allele specific probes include probes encompassing the predisposing mutations of this disclosure.

In one example, the small ligand attached to the nucleic acid probe is specifically recognized by an antibody-enzyme conjugate. In one embodiment of this example, digoxigenin is attached to the nucleic acid probe. Hybridization is detected by an antibody-alkaline phosphatase conjugate which turns over a chemiluminescent substrate. For methods for labeling nucleic acid probes according to this embodiment see Martin et al., 1990. In a second example, the small ligand is recognized by a second ligand-enzyme conjugate that is capable of specifically complexing to the first ligand. A well known embodiment of this example is the biotin-avidin type of interactions. For methods for labeling nucleic acid probes and their use in biotin-avidin based assays see Rigby et al., 1977 and Nguyen et al., 1992.

It is also contemplated within the scope of this invention that the nucleic acid probe assays of this invention will employ a cocktail of nucleic acid probes capable of detecting *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. Thus, in one example to detect the presence of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* in a cell sample, more than one probe complementary to the gene is employed and in particular the number of different probes is alternatively two, three, or five different nucleic acid probe sequences. In another example, to detect the presence of mutations in the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene sequence in a patient, more than one probe

complementary to these genes is employed where the cocktail includes probes capable of binding to the allele-specific mutations identified in populations of patients with alterations in *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. In this embodiment, any number of probes can be used, and will preferably include probes corresponding to the major gene mutations identified as predisposing an individual to BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME.

#### Methods of Use: Peptide Diagnosis and Diagnostic Kits

The presence of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME can also be detected on the basis of the alteration of wild-type *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide. Such alterations can be determined by sequence analysis in accordance with conventional techniques. More preferably, antibodies (polyclonal or monoclonal) are used to detect differences in, or the absence of *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* peptides. Techniques for raising and purifying antibodies are well known in the art and any such techniques may be chosen to achieve the preparations claimed in this invention. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, antibodies will immunoprecipitate *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* proteins from solution as well as react with these proteins on Western or immunoblots of polyacrylamide gels. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies will detect *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* proteins in paraffin or frozen tissue sections, using immunocytochemical techniques.

Preferred embodiments relating to methods for detecting *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* or their mutations include enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA), radioimmunoassays (RIA), immunoradiometric assays (IRMA) and immunoenzymatic assays (IEMA), including sandwich assays using monoclonal and/or polyclonal antibodies. Exemplary sandwich assays are described by David et al., in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,376,110 and 4,486,530.

#### Methods of Use: Rational Drug Design

The goal of rational drug design is to produce structural analogs of biologically active polypeptides of interest or of small molecules with which they interact (e.g., agonists, antagonists, inhibitors) in order to fashion drugs which are, for example, more active or stable forms of the polypeptide, or which, e.g., enhance or interfere with the function of a polypeptide *in vivo*. See, e.g., Hodgson, 1991. In one approach, one first determines the three-dimensional structure of a protein of interest (e.g., *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide) by x-ray crystallography, by computer modeling or most typically, by a combination of approaches. Less often, useful information regarding the structure of a polypeptide may be gained by modeling based on the structure of homologous

proteins. An example of rational drug design is the development of HIV protease inhibitors (Erickson et al., 1990). In addition, peptides (e.g., KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide) are analyzed by an alanine scan (Wells, 1991). In this technique, an amino acid residue is replaced by Ala, and its effect on the peptide's activity is determined. Each of the amino acid residues of the peptide is  
5 analyzed in this manner to determine the important regions of the peptide.

It is also possible to isolate a target-specific antibody, selected by a functional assay, and then to solve its crystal structure. In principle, this approach yields a pharmacore upon which subsequent drug design can be based. It is possible to bypass protein crystallography altogether by generating anti-idiotypic antibodies (anti-ids) to a functional, pharmacologically active antibody. As  
10 a mirror image of a mirror image, the binding site of the anti-ids would be expected to be an analog of the original receptor. The anti-id could then be used to identify and isolate peptides from banks of chemically or biologically produced banks of peptides. Selected peptides would then act as the pharmacore.

Thus, one may design drugs which have, e.g., improved KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide  
15 activity or stability or which act as inhibitors, agonists, antagonists, etc. of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 polypeptide activity. By virtue of the availability of cloned *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* sequences, sufficient amounts of the KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 polypeptides may be made available to perform such analytical studies as x-ray crystallography. In addition, the knowledge of the KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 protein sequences provided herein will guide those employing computer modeling techniques in  
20 place of, or in addition to x-ray crystallography.

#### Methods of Use: Gene Therapy

According to the present invention, a method is also provided of supplying wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 function to a cell which carries a mutant *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele, respectively.

25 Supplying such a function should allow normal functioning of the recipient cells. The wild-type gene or a part of the gene may be introduced into the cell in a vector such that the gene remains extrachromosomal. In such a situation, the gene will be expressed by the cell from the extrachromosomal location. More preferred is the situation where the wild-type gene or a part thereof is introduced into the mutant cell in such a way that it recombines with the endogenous  
30 mutant gene present in the cell. Such recombination requires a double recombination event which results in the correction of the gene mutation. Vectors for introduction of genes both for recombination and for extrachromosomal maintenance are known in the art, and any suitable vector

may be used. Methods for introducing DNA into cells such as electroporation, calcium phosphate co-precipitation and viral transduction are known in the art, and the choice of method is within the competence of the practitioner.

As generally discussed above, the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or fragment, where applicable, may be employed in gene therapy methods in order to increase the amount of the expression products of such gene in cells. It may also be useful to increase the level of expression of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene even in those persons in which the mutant gene is expressed at a normal level, but the gene product is not fully functional.

Gene therapy would be carried out according to generally accepted methods, for example, as described by Friedman (1991) or Culver (1996). Cells from a patient would be first analyzed by the diagnostic methods described above, to ascertain the production of *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* polypeptide in the cells. A virus or plasmid vector (see further details below), containing a copy of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene linked to expression control elements and capable of replicating inside the cells, is prepared. The vector may be capable of replicating inside the cells. Alternatively, the vector may be replication deficient and is replicated in helper cells for use in gene therapy. Suitable vectors are known, such as disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,252,479 and PCT published application WO 93/07282 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,691,198; 5,747,469; 5,436,146 and 5,753,500. The vector is then injected into the patient. If the transfected gene is not permanently incorporated into the genome of each of the targeted cells, the treatment may have to be repeated periodically.

Gene transfer systems known in the art may be useful in the practice of the gene therapy methods of the present invention. These include viral and nonviral transfer methods. A number of viruses have been used as gene transfer vectors or as the basis for repairing gene transfer vectors, including papovaviruses (e.g., SV40, Madzak et al., 1992), adenovirus (Berkner, 1992; Berkner et al., 1988; Gorziglia and Kapikian, 1992; Quantin et al., 1992; Rosenfeld et al., 1992; Wilkinson and Akrigg, 1992; Stratford-Perricaudet et al., 1990; Schneider et al., 1998), vaccinia virus (Moss, 1992; Moss, 1996), adeno-associated virus (Muzyczka, 1992; Ohi et al., 1990; Russell and Hirata, 1998), herpesviruses including HSV and EBV (Margolskee, 1992; Johnson et al., 1992; Fink et al., 1992; Breakefield and Geller, 1987; Freese et al., 1990; Fink et al., 1996), lentiviruses (Naldini et al., 1996), Sindbis and Semliki Forest virus (Berglund et al., 1993), and retroviruses of avian (Bandyopadhyay and Temin, 1984; Petropoulos et al., 1992), murine (Miller, 1992; Miller et al., 1985; Sorge et al., 1984; Mann and Baltimore, 1985; Miller et al., 1988), and human origin (Shimada et al., 1991; Helseth et al., 1990; Page et al., 1990; Buchschacher and Panganiban, 1992).

Most human gene therapy protocols have been based on disabled murine retroviruses, although adenovirus and adeno-associated virus are also being used.

Nonviral gene transfer methods known in the art include chemical techniques such as calcium phosphate coprecipitation (Graham and van der Eb, 1973; Pellicer et al., 1980); mechanical techniques, for example microinjection (Anderson et al., 1980; Gordon et al., 1980; Brinster et al., 1981; Costantini and Lacy, 1981); membrane fusion-mediated transfer via liposomes (Felgner et al., 1987; Wang and Huang, 1989; Kaneda et al., 1989; Stewart et al., 1992; Nabel et al., 1990; Lim et al., 1991); and direct DNA uptake and receptor-mediated DNA transfer (Wolff et al., 1990; Wu et al., 1991; Zenke et al., 1990; Wu et al., 1989; Wolff et al., 1991; Wagner et al., 1990; Wagner et al., 1991; Cotten et al., 1990; Curiel et al., 1992; Curiel et al., 1991). Viral-mediated gene transfer can be combined with direct *in vitro* gene transfer using liposome delivery, allowing one to direct the viral vectors to the tumor cells and not into the surrounding nondividing cells. Alternatively, the retroviral vector producer cell line can be injected into tumors (Culver et al., 1992). Injection of producer cells would then provide a continuous source of vector particles. This technique has been approved for use in humans with inoperable brain tumors.

In an approach which combines biological and physical gene transfer methods, plasmid DNA of any size is combined with a polylysine-conjugated antibody specific to the adenovirus hexon protein, and the resulting complex is bound to an adenovirus vector. The trimolecular complex is then used to infect cells. The adenovirus vector permits efficient binding, internalization, and degradation of the endosome before the coupled DNA is damaged. For other techniques for the delivery of adenovirus based vectors see Schneider et al. (1998) and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,691,198; 5,747,469; 5,436,146 and 5,753,500.

Liposome/DNA complexes have been shown to be capable of mediating direct *in vivo* gene transfer. While in standard liposome preparations the gene transfer process is nonspecific, localized *in vivo* uptake and expression have been reported in tumor deposits, for example, following direct *in situ* administration (Nabel, 1992).

Expression vectors in the context of gene therapy are meant to include those constructs containing sequences sufficient to express a polynucleotide that has been cloned therein. In viral expression vectors, the construct contains viral sequences sufficient to support packaging of the construct. If the polynucleotide encodes *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*, expression will produce *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*. If the polynucleotide encodes an antisense polynucleotide or a ribozyme, expression will produce the antisense polynucleotide or ribozyme. Thus in this context, expression does not require

that a protein product be synthesized. In addition to the polynucleotide cloned into the expression vector, the vector also contains a promoter functional in eukaryotic cells. The cloned polynucleotide sequence is under control of this promoter. Suitable eukaryotic promoters include those described above. The expression vector may also include sequences, such as selectable markers and other sequences described herein.

Gene transfer techniques which target DNA directly to brain tissue is preferred. Receptor-mediated gene transfer, for example, is accomplished by the conjugation of DNA (usually in the form of covalently closed supercoiled plasmid) to a protein ligand via polylysine. Ligands are chosen on the basis of the presence of the corresponding ligand receptors on the cell surface of the target cell/tissue type. These ligand-DNA conjugates can be injected directly into the blood if desired and are directed to the target tissue where receptor binding and internalization of the DNA-protein complex occurs. To overcome the problem of intracellular destruction of DNA, coinfection with adenovirus can be included to disrupt endosome function.

The therapy is as follows: patients who carry a *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* susceptibility allele are treated with a gene delivery vehicle such that some or all of their brain precursor cells receive at least one additional copy of a functional normal *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele, respectively. In this step, the treated individuals have reduced risk of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and/or JME to the extent that the effect of the susceptible allele has been countered by the presence of the normal allele.

#### Methods of Use: Peptide Therapy

Peptides which have *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* activity can be supplied to cells which carry mutant or missing *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* alleles, respectively. Protein can be produced by expression of the cDNA sequence in bacteria, for example, using known expression vectors. Alternatively, *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* polypeptide can be extracted from *KCNQ2*- or *KCNQ3*-producing mammalian cells. In addition, the techniques of synthetic chemistry can be employed to synthesize *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* protein. Any of such techniques can provide the preparation of the present invention which comprises the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* protein. The preparation is substantially free of other human proteins. This is most readily accomplished by synthesis in a microorganism or *in vitro*.

Active *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* molecules can be introduced into cells by microinjection or by use of liposomes, for example. Alternatively, some active molecules may be taken up by cells, actively or by diffusion. Supply of molecules with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* activity should lead to partial reversal of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and/or JME. Other molecules with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3*

activity (for example, peptides, drugs or organic compounds) may also be used to effect such a reversal. Modified polypeptides having substantially similar function are also used for peptide therapy.

## 5 Methods of Use: Transformed Hosts

Animals for testing therapeutic agents can be selected after mutagenesis of whole animals or after treatment of germline cells or zygotes. Such treatments include insertion of mutant *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* alleles, usually from a second animal species, as well as insertion of disrupted homologous genes. Alternatively, the endogenous *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene of the animals may be  
10 disrupted by insertion or deletion mutation or other genetic alterations using conventional techniques (Capecchi, 1989; Valancius and Smithies, 1991; Hasty et al., 1991; Shinkai et al., 1992; Mombaerts et al., 1992; Philpott et al., 1992; Snouwaert et al., 1992; Donehower et al., 1992). After test substances have been administered to the animals, the presence of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME must be assessed. If the test substance prevents or suppresses the appearance of BFNC, rolandic  
15 epilepsy or JME, then the test substance is a candidate therapeutic agent for treatment of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. These animal models provide an extremely important testing vehicle for potential therapeutic products.

The identification of the association between the *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* gene mutations and BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME permits the early presymptomatic screening of individuals to  
20 identify those at risk for developing BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME. To identify such individuals, *KCNQ2* and/or *KCNQ3* alleles are screened for mutations either directly or after cloning the alleles. The alleles are tested for the presence of nucleic acid sequence differences from the normal allele using any suitable technique, including but not limited to, one of the following methods: fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH), direct DNA sequencing, PFGE analysis, Southern blot analysis, single  
25 stranded conformation analysis (SSCP), linkage analysis, RNase protection assay, allele specific oligonucleotide (ASO), dot blot analysis and PCR-SSCP analysis. Also useful is the recently developed technique of DNA microchip technology. For example, either (1) the nucleotide sequence of both the cloned alleles and normal *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or appropriate fragment (coding sequence or genomic sequence) are determined and then compared, or (2) the RNA  
30 transcripts of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene or gene fragment are hybridized to single stranded whole genomic DNA from an individual to be tested, and the resulting heteroduplex is treated with

Ribonuclease A (RNase A) and run on a denaturing gel to detect the location of any mismatches. Two of these methods can be carried out according to the following procedures.

The alleles of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene in an individual to be tested are cloned using conventional techniques. For example, a blood sample is obtained from the individual. The genomic DNA isolated from the cells in this sample is partially digested to an average fragment size of approximately 20 kb. Fragments in the range from 18-21 kb are isolated. The resulting fragments are ligated into an appropriate vector. The sequences of the clones are then determined and compared to the normal *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene.

Alternatively, polymerase chain reactions (PCRs) are performed with primer pairs for the 5' region or the exons of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. PCRs can also be performed with primer pairs based on any sequence of the normal *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene. For example, primer pairs for one of the introns can be prepared and utilized. Finally, RT-PCR can also be performed on the mRNA. The amplified products are then analyzed by single stranded conformation polymorphisms (SSCP) using conventional techniques to identify any differences and these are then sequenced and compared to the normal gene sequence.

Individuals can be quickly screened for common *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene variants by amplifying the individual's DNA using suitable primer pairs and analyzing the amplified product, e.g., by dot-blot hybridization using allele-specific oligonucleotide probes.

The second method employs RNase A to assist in the detection of differences between the normal *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene and defective genes. This comparison is performed in steps using small (~500 bp) restriction fragments of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene as the probe. First, the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene is digested with a restriction enzyme(s) that cuts the gene sequence into fragments of approximately 500 bp. These fragments are separated on an electrophoresis gel, purified from the gel and cloned individually, in both orientations, into an SP6 vector (e.g., pSP64 or pSP65). The SP6-based plasmids containing inserts of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene fragments are transcribed *in vitro* using the SP6 transcription system, well known in the art, in the presence of [ $\alpha$ -<sup>32</sup>P]GTP, generating radiolabeled RNA transcripts of both strands of the gene.

Individually, these RNA transcripts are used to form heteroduplexes with the allelic DNA using conventional techniques. Mismatches that occur in the RNA:DNA heteroduplex, owing to sequence differences between the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* fragment and the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* allele subclone from the individual, result in cleavage in the RNA strand when treated with RNase A. Such mismatches can be the result of point mutations or small deletions in the individual's allele.

Cleavage of the RNA strand yields two or more small RNA fragments, which run faster on the denaturing gel than the RNA probe itself.

Any differences which are found, will identify an individual as having a molecular variant of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene and the consequent presence of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME.

5 These variants can take a number of forms. The most severe forms would be frame shift mutations or large deletions which would cause the gene to code for an abnormal protein or one which would significantly alter protein expression. Less severe disruptive mutations would include small in-frame deletions and nonconservative base pair substitutions which would have a significant effect on the protein produced, such as changes to or from a cysteine residue, from a basic to an acidic amino  
10 acid or vice versa, from a hydrophobic to hydrophilic amino acid or vice versa, or other mutations which would affect secondary or tertiary protein structure. Silent mutations or those resulting in conservative amino acid substitutions would not generally be expected to disrupt protein function.

Genetic testing will enable practitioners to identify individuals at risk for BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME, at, or even before, birth. Presymptomatic diagnosis of these epilepsies will enable  
15 prevention of these disorders. Finally, this invention changes our understanding of the cause and treatment of BFNC, rolandic epilepsy and JME. It is possible, for example, that potassium channel opening agents will reduce the risk of seizures in patients with *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* mutations.

#### Pharmaceutical Compositions and Routes of Administration

20 The *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* polypeptides, antibodies, peptides and nucleic acids of the present invention can be formulated in pharmaceutical compositions, which are prepared according to conventional pharmaceutical compounding techniques. See, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA). The composition may contain the active agent or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the active agent. These  
25 compositions may comprise, in addition to one of the active substances, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier, buffer, stabilizer or other materials well known in the art. Such materials should be non-toxic and should not interfere with the efficacy of the active ingredient. The carrier may take a wide variety of forms depending on the form of preparation desired for administration, e.g., intravenous, oral, intrathecal, epineural or parenteral.

30 For oral administration, the compounds can be formulated into solid or liquid preparations such as capsules, pills, tablets, lozenges, melts, powders, suspensions or emulsions. In preparing the compositions in oral dosage form, any of the usual pharmaceutical media may be employed, such

as, for example, water, glycols, oils, alcohols, flavoring agents, preservatives, coloring agents, suspending agents, and the like in the case of oral liquid preparations (such as, for example, suspensions, elixirs and solutions); or carriers such as starches, sugars, diluents, granulating agents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents and the like in the case of oral solid preparations (such as, for example, powders, capsules and tablets). Because of their ease in administration, tablets and capsules represent the most advantageous oral dosage unit form, in which case solid pharmaceutical carriers are obviously employed. If desired, tablets may be sugar-coated or enteric-coated by standard techniques. The active agent can be encapsulated to make it stable to passage through the gastrointestinal tract while at the same time allowing for passage across the blood brain barrier. See for example, WO 96/11698.

For parenteral administration, the compound may be dissolved in a pharmaceutical carrier and administered as either a solution or a suspension. Illustrative of suitable carriers are water, saline, dextrose solutions, fructose solutions, ethanol, or oils of animal, vegetative or synthetic origin. The carrier may also contain other ingredients, for example, preservatives, suspending agents, solubilizing agents, buffers and the like. When the compounds are being administered intrathecally, they may also be dissolved in cerebrospinal fluid.

The active agent is preferably administered in a therapeutically effective amount. The actual amount administered, and the rate and time-course of administration, will depend on the nature and severity of the condition being treated. Prescription of treatment, e.g. decisions on dosage, timing, etc., is within the responsibility of general practitioners or specialists, and typically takes account of the disorder to be treated, the condition of the individual patient, the site of delivery, the method of administration and other factors known to practitioners. Examples of techniques and protocols can be found in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Alternatively, targeting therapies may be used to deliver the active agent more specifically to certain types of cell, by the use of targeting systems such as antibodies or cell specific ligands. Targeting may be desirable for a variety of reasons, e.g. if the agent is unacceptably toxic, or if it would otherwise require too high a dosage, or if it would not otherwise be able to enter the target cells.

Instead of administering these agents directly, they could be produced in the target cell, e.g. in a viral vector such as described above or in a cell based delivery system such as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,550,050 and published PCT application Nos. WO 92/19195, WO 94/25503, WO 95/01203, WO 95/05452, WO 96/02286, WO 96/02646, WO 96/40871, WO 96/40959 and WO

97/12635, designed for implantation in a patient. The vector could be targeted to the specific cells to be treated, or it could contain regulatory elements which are more tissue specific to the target cells. The cell based delivery system is designed to be implanted in a patient's body at the desired target site and contains a coding sequence for the active agent. Alternatively, the agent could be administered in a precursor form for conversion to the active form by an activating agent produced in, or targeted to, the cells to be treated. See for example, EP 425,731A and WO 90/07936.

The present invention is further detailed in the following Examples, which are offered by way of illustration and are not intended to limit the invention in any manner. Standard techniques well known in the art or the techniques specifically described below are utilized.

#### EXAMPLE 1 Southern Blot Analysis

Five micrograms of genomic DNA were cut with *Taq*I and transferred to a nylon membrane. Filters were hybridized overnight at 65EC in PEG hyb (7% PEG, 10% SDA, 50 mM sodium phosphate and 200 µg/ml total human DNA) with the D20S24 plasmid probe labeled by random priming (Stratagene). Filters were washed at 2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS twice at room temperature followed by one wash in 0.5 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65EC.

#### EXAMPLE 2 Fluorescence in situ Hybridization

Chromosomes from transformed lymphocytes were prepared using a 30 minute ethidium bromide treatment followed by 3 hours in colcemid. Cells were then pelleted and resuspended in hypotonic solution (0.75 M KCl) for 20 minutes followed by the addition of four to five drops of fresh fixative (3:1 methanol:acetic acid). Cells were again pelleted, vortexed then carefully resuspended in fixative. After three washes in fixative, metaphases were stored at 4EC. Four hundred ng probe was labeled with biotin and hybridized to slides of metaphase spreads using standard hybridization procedures. Probes were then fluorescently tagged with avidin-FITC (Vector) and the signal intensified using biotin-labeled anti-avidin followed by avidin-FITC. The chromosomes were then counterstained using DAPI and visualized using a Zeiss Axioplan Fluorescent microscope equipped with FITC, DAPI and triple band pass filter sets. Images were

captured by computer using Applied Imaging (Pittsburgh, PA) software Probevision and photographs printed on a Kodak XL 7700 color image printer.

### EXAMPLE 3

5

#### Localization of *KCNQ2*

Linkage analysis in a large kindred demonstrated that a gene responsible for BFNC maps to chromosome 20q13.3 close to the markers D20S20 and D20S19 (Leppert et al., 1989). Following the initial report, two centers confirmed linkage of BFNC to the same two genetic markers on chromosome 20, termed the EBN1 (epilepsy benign neonatal type 1) locus (Ryan et al., 1991; 10 Malafosse et al., 1992). A more distal marker, D20S24, shows complete co-segregation with the BFNC phenotype in chromosome 20 linked families. Finding a distal flanking marker for the BFNC locus has not been successful probably because of its proximity to the telomere. This telomeric region is characterized by a high recombination rate between markers when compared to the physical distance (Steinlein et al., 1992). In fact, Steinlein et al. have demonstrated that the three 15 markers D20S19, D20S20 and D20S24 are contained on the same 450 Mb Mlu I restriction fragment (Steinlein et al., 1992).

A second chromosomal locus, EBN2, has also been identified for BFNC. Lewis et al. (1993) demonstrated linkage to markers on chromosome 8q24 in a single Hispanic family affected with BFNC. Evidence for this second locus was also reported in a Caucasian pedigree (Steinlein et al., 20 1995). All of the families in the present study show linkage to chromosome 20q markers with LOD scores of greater than 3.0 or have probands with clinical manifestations consistent with BFNC (Leppert et al., 1993). To find the gene responsible for BFNC, we narrowed the BFNC region with a sub-microscopic deletion in a single family, identified candidate cDNAs in this deletion, and then searched for mutations in other BFNC families.

25 Evidence for a small deletion came first from a genotypic observation with a three allele, RFLP marker, D20S24. Analysis of one family, kindred 1547, revealed that a null allele occurred exclusively in those individuals with BFNC and in two individuals previously shown to be non-penetrant with the VNTR markers D20S20 and D20S19 (Figure 1). The existence of a deletion co-segregating with the BFNC phenotype in this family was confirmed by fluorescence in situ 30 hybridization (FISH) in cell lines of kindred 1547 individuals using as probes, the D20S24 plasmid and two genomic P1 clones containing this marker.

To confirm the presence of a deletion, two overlapping genomic P1 clones, P1-KO9-6b and P1-KO9-7, each of approximately 80 kb in size and each of which contains the D20S24 marker, were obtained and these were hybridized to cell lines of kindred 1547 BFNC affected individuals. When metaphase spread chromosomes are hybridized with P1-KO9-7 and P1-KO9-6b, both chromosome 20 homologs give signals on two sister chromatids. However when the 12 kb probe D20S24 is hybridized only signal from the one chromosome homolog is observed in 75% of metaphase spreads examined. The remaining minority of cells showed no hybridization for the 12 kb D20S24 probe (Figure 2). The plasmid containing the D20S24 marker was a kind gift from J. Weissenbach.

While the 12 kb D20S24 probe was deleted on one chromosome in affected individuals, the overlapping P1 clones of 80 kb in size, and which together span approximately 130 kb, showed a positive FISH signal indicating that the deletion is smaller than 130 kb (Figure 2).

#### EXAMPLE 4

##### Isolation and Characterization of *KCNQ2* Clones

Using the same probes as in Example 3, cDNAs in the region of the deletion were identified by screening a fetal brain cDNA library. Three of the cDNAs isolated showed significant homology to *KCNQ1*, the chromosome 11 potassium channel gene responsible for the Long QT syndrome and the Jervell and Lange-Nielsen cardioauditory syndrome (Wang et al., 1996; Altschul et al., 1990; Neyroud et al., 1997).

A fetal brain cDNA library (Stratagene) ( $10^6$  clones) was probed with inserts from P1-KO9-6b and P1-KO9-7 and the plasmid D20S24. Hybridizations were performed in 5 x SSC, 10 x Denhardt=s, 0.1 M sodium phosphate (pH 6.7), 100 µg/mL salmon sperm DNA, 0.1% SDS and 50% formamide. Blots were washed in 2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS twice at room temperature followed by one wash in 0.5 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 42EC.

A single cDNA isolated with D20S24, cIPK, showed 75% homology to amino acids 511-562 of *KCNQ1*; a second probing of the fetal brain cDNA library using the probe P1-KO9-6b resulted in the isolation of two additional cDNAs, c6b-6 and c6b-12, which showed significant homology with *KCNQ1* amino acids 398-406 and 354-378, respectively (Altschul et al., 1990; Wang et al., 1996; Neyroud et al., 1997).

Additional sequence encoding this BFNC gene, named *KVEBNI* (now *KCNQ2*) after the OMIM locus name, was obtained from RACE experiments using adaptor-ligated double-stranded

cDNA from fetal and adult brain tissue and from other cDNA clones isolated from a temporal cortex cDNA library.

To identify the full length gene, 5' and 3' RACE were performed on adaptor-ligated fetal and adult brain cDNA (Clontech) using primers within c6b-6 and cIPK and screening a temporal cortex cDNA library (Stratagene) with sequence flanking cIPK. Unprocessed cDNAs were repeatedly isolated from cDNA libraries and RACE experiments. The longest transcript isolated from brain was 1455 nucleotides long and was obtained using 5' RACE and extended from the S1 domain (amino acid 100) to the 3' conserved C-terminal domain (amino acid 585).

Composite clones encoding 872 amino acids of the KCNQ2 gene have been isolated (Figures 3A and 3B). The cDNA sequence for *KCNQ2* is shown as SEQ ID NO:1 and the amino acid sequence for KCNQ2 is shown as SEQ ID NO:2. The putative initiator methionine lies within a region similar to the Kozak consensus sequence (Kozak, 1987). KCNQ2 encodes a highly conserved six transmembrane motif as well as a pore region that are the hallmarks of a K<sup>+</sup> ion channel gene. The S2, S3 and S4 transmembrane regions also contain charged amino acids that are found in all members of the K<sup>+</sup> channel subfamilies, including *Shaker*, *Shab*, *Shaw* and *Shal*. A search of Genbank with KCNQ2 sequence shows identical nucleotide sequence to HNSPC (Accession # D82346), a 393 amino acid putative potassium channel cDNA isolated from a human neuroblastoma cell line (Yokoyama et al., 1996). However, the last 21 amino acids of HNSPC including a stop codon are encoded by a sequence that in *KCNQ2* is intronic. A search of the human expressed sequence tag database (dbest) shows seven different clones encoding portions of KCNQ2.

Wei et al. have identified a gene from *C. elegans*, *nKQT1*, that appears to be a homolog of *KCNQ2* (Wei et al., 1996). This group also described the human EST homolog of *nKQT1*, *hKQT2*, which is a partial clone of *KCNQ2* (Wei et al., 1996). In addition to the six transmembrane domains and the pore, a small region 5' of transmembrane domain S1 is also conserved between KCNQ2, KCNQ3, KCNQ1 and nKQT1. Unlike other K<sup>+</sup> channel subfamilies, the C-terminal domain appears to contain highly conserved residues as shown in Figures 3A and 3B for KCNQ2, KCNQ3, nKQT1 and KCNQ1. The poly A tail for *KCNQ2* has not been identified to date.

## EXAMPLE 5

### Northern Blot Analysis

The *KCNQ2* cDNA hybridizes to transcripts approximately 1.5, 3.8 and 9.5 kb in size on Northern blots made from brain. Multiple Tissue Northern (Clontech) of fetal and adult brain were

probed with a RACE product containing transmembrane domains S1 through S6 of KCNQ2. The 1.5 and 9.5 kb transcripts appear to be expressed in both adult and fetal brain. The 3.8 kb transcript is expressed in select areas from adult brain, particularly in the temporal lobe and the putamen.

5

## EXAMPLE 6

### Mutational Analysis of *KCNQ2*

Mutational analysis of *KCNQ2* was performed on one affected individual from each of our 12 BFNC families. Coding regions from S1 to S6 and conserved regions in the 3' end of *KCNQ2* were amplified by PCR using primers within introns and analyzed by SSCP (Novex) using 20% TBE gels run at 4EC. The exon-intron boundaries were identified by sequencing products obtained by exon-exon PCR on genomic P1 clones or directly from RACE products which contained unprocessed transcripts. PCR products showing variants seen on SSCP were either cloned and sequenced or reamplified with M13 reverse and M13 universal-tailed primers and sequenced directly on an ABI 373 or 377 using dye-primer chemistry.

In addition to the substantial deletion in kindred 1547, mutations were identified in five other BFNC families. Mutational analysis was carried out by first screening probands for SSCP variants and then sequencing each individual's DNA to determine the basis for the molecular variation. Mutations identified include two missense mutations, two frameshift mutations and one splice site mutation (Table 2). Later analyses resulted in the finding of four more BFNC families with mutations in *KCNQ2*. These include two nonsense mutations (families K1525 and K4443), an insertion resulting in a frameshift which results in readthrough beyond the normal stop codon (K3963), and a missense mutation (K4516). These latter 4 mutations are listed in Table 2.

The splice site variant occurs in an intron which occurs between two exons encoding amino acid residue 544. The first exon includes the TG at the start of codon 544 and the following exon includes the final T of codon 544. The sequence at the 3' end of the intron (shown in lower case letters) and continuing into the exon region (shown in upper case letters) encoding the end of codon 544 and codons 545-546 is: 5'-tgcagTGTCATG-3' (SEQ ID NO:5). The Ag@ at position 5 of SEQ ID NO:5 is mutated to an Aa@ in kindred K3933.

None of the mutations seen in the first six families identified was seen in SSCP analysis of our panel of 70 unrelated, unaffected individuals. Furthermore, mutations were shown to segregate completely with affection status in all of the BFNC families where mutations were identified. In the case of the splice site mutation in kindred 3933 only the proband was sampled. An example

30

Table 2Mutations in the *KCNQ2* Gene in BFNC Families

| Mutation at Amino Acid | Region        | Kindred | Controls | Nucleotide Change                                                               |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| large deletion         | not available | K1547   | 70       | not available                                                                   |
| frameshift at 283      | pore          | K1504   | 70       | insert GT between nucleotides 975 and 976 of SEQ ID NO:1                        |
| Y284C                  | pore          | K3904   | 70       | A6G at base 978 of SEQ ID NO:1                                                  |
| A306T                  | S6            | K1705   | 70       | G6A at base 1043 of SEQ ID NO:1                                                 |
| Q323Stop               | C-terminal    | K4443   | --       | C6T at base 1094 of SEQ ID NO:1                                                 |
| R333Q                  | C-terminal    | K4516   | --       | G6A at base 1125 of SEQ ID NO:1                                                 |
| R448Stop               | C-terminal    | K1525   | --       | C6T at base 1469 of SEQ ID NO:1                                                 |
| frameshift at 522      | C-terminal    | K3369   | 70       | delete bases 1691 through 1703 of SEQ ID NO:1                                   |
| splice site variant    | C-terminal    | K3933   | 70       | g6a at 3' end of intron which occurs between bases 1758 and 1759 of SEQ ID NO:1 |
| frameshift at 867      | C-terminal    | K3963   | 70       | insert GGGCC after base 2736 of SEQ ID NO:1                                     |

of this segregation is shown in Figure 4 for the two base-pair insertion identified in kindred 1504; all 11 affected members of the kindred have the SSCP variant and all seven unaffected individuals have wild type SSCP bands.

Of the four families (K1525, K3963, K4443 and K4516) which have been more recently found to have *KCNQ2* mutations, three (K11525, K4443 and K4516) were found through direct sequencing and the mutation co-segregated in the family when other affected members were available for study. The mutation in K3963 was found via SSCP screening and this mutation was not detected in a panel of 70 normal, i.e., non BFNC, individuals. This mutation was found to co-segregate with affected individuals in family K3963. The wild-type gene includes two sets of GGGCC at bases 2727-2736 of SEQ ID NO:1. The sequence found in K3963 is three sets of GGGCC as a result of an insertion of GGGCC into this region. This results in the gene encoding the first 870 amino acids of the wild-type followed by an additional 60 amino acids of new sequence (amino acid residues 871 and 872 of the wild-type being replaced by the first 2 of the 60 additional amino acid residues). The gene including the 5 base insertion is shown as SEQ ID NO:95 and the protein encoded by this mutated gene is shown as SEQ ID NO:96.

Family K4443 has 6 BFNC affected individuals and two of these individuals have in addition seizures later in childhood that are classified as benign epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes (BERS), or rolandic epilepsy. The DNA of two affected individuals in this family was examined. The Q323Stop mutation is found in one of the affected individuals that expresses BFNC only and in one individual which has both BFNC and BERS or rolandic epilepsy, which developed later in childhood after the newborn seizures. This finding directly implicates the *KCNQ2* gene on chromosome 20 in causing rolandic epilepsy. Rolandic epilepsy, or BERS, is a common childhood epilepsy and may account for 25% of all school age epilepsy. This is a genetic disorder that inherits as an autosomal dominant with reduced penetrance. It is possible that several genes may cause the rolandic phenotype, but this finding strongly suggests that at least some of the rolandic epilepsies will be caused by defects in *KCNQ2*, a potentially important finding.

Two neutral polymorphisms were identified in the *KCNQ2* gene. One polymorphism is in codon 304 (TTC to TTT) in the S6 transmembrane domain and was seen in 10 of 71 controls who were each heterozygous (allelic frequency of 7.0%). The second polymorphism is in codon 573 (GCC to GCT) in the 3' region and was observed in 1 of 87 controls individuals as a heterozygote (allelic frequency of 0.57%).

It is predicted that the splice site mutation in the conserved 3' region of *KCNQ2* and the two frameshift mutations, one in the pore region and one before the highly conserved 3' region, lead to altered protein products. In the case of the 283insGT pore mutation a predicted stop codon is found 36 amino acids downstream and in the case of the 522del13 3' mutation a predicted stop codon is found two amino acids downstream. Also, the two bp insertion mutation, 283insGT, would lead to a completely altered S6 transmembrane domain. While the breakpoints of the kindred 1547 deletion have not been determined, it is known that the 12 kb plasmid which includes the RFLP marker locus, D20S24, contains 80 codons (residues 509 to 588 of *KCNQ2*) of sequence from the highly conserved 3' region of the *KCNQ2* gene, indicating that at least this portion of the gene is deleted in kindred 1547 affected individuals. The two missense mutations in families K3904 and K1705 change amino acid residues in key functional domains, the pore and S6 domain.

Ten unique mutations have been identified in *KCNQ2* to date. The mutation defined by a 13 base pair deletion at amino acid 522 in kindred 3369 is of interest in that there is a greater variation in the reported clinical ages of onset within this family when compared to typical BFNC families. In kindred 3369, three individuals had onset of seizures within the first 2 weeks of life, while three individuals had initial onset of seizures at 3, 4, and 5 months of age.

The mutation in the BFNC kindred 1705 is an alanine to threonine substitution in the S6 transmembrane segment. This alanine residue is conserved in all members of the *Shaker*, *Shab*, *Shaw* and *Shal* subfamilies of potassium channels identified to date (Lopez et al., 1994; Nakamura et al., 1997; Tytgat, 1994). The *KCNQ1* gene, which the *KCNQ2* ion channel gene is most closely related to, also contains an alanine in this position. In six unrelated LQT1 families, the disease-causing mutation occurs at this same position where the alanine is changed to a valine (Wang et al., 1996; Russell et al., 1996). This S6 transmembrane domain has been shown to be involved in K<sup>+</sup> ion permeation in the *Shaker* subtype (Lopez et al., 1994) and may serve a similar function in *KCNQ2*. The C-terminal region appears to be important for gene function because a 13 bp deletion, a splice site mutation, a missense mutation, a nonsense mutation, and an insertion all produce an epileptic phenotype in separate BFNC families (see Table 2 and Figures 3A and 3B). Interestingly, this same region is known to have a deletion-insertion mutation in *KCNQ1* in individuals with the Jervell and Lange-Nielsen recessive form of LQT and associated deafness (Neyroud et al., 1997). Disease-causing mutations in the C-terminal region further argue for a functional protein encoded by the *KCNQ2* gene rather than the shorter HNSPC clone.

The pore region of  $K^+$  ion channels belonging to the same structural class have been characterized extensively by mutational analysis. The two base-pair insertion observed in kindred 1504 occurs immediately after the universally conserved GYG motif. An insertion here not only alters the length of the pore that is believed to be crucial for function (Nakamura et al., 1997; Tytgat, 5 1994) but also modifies the signature sequence of the pore and produces a truncated protein.

In infants of families that have been linked to the chromosome 20 form of BFNC, EEG recordings show initial suppression of activity throughout the brain followed by generalized discharges of spikes and slow waves (Ronen et al., 1993; Plouin, 1994; Hauser and Kurland, 1975). It is therefore not surprising to find that the *KCNQ2* gene is expressed in multiple brain areas in 10 adults. Cortical regions as well as sub-cortical areas, such as the thalamus and caudate nucleus, contain multiple size transcripts of *KCNQ2* (data not shown). It is possible that this expression pattern is also the same in the newborn infant.

The close homology (60% identity and 70% similarity of amino acids) of *KCNQ2* to *KCNQ1* and to the *C. elegans nKQT1* gene and the reduced homology of these channels to the *Shaker*, *Shab*, 15 *Shaw* and *Shal* subfamilies imply that they belong to a unique family of  $K^+$  ion channels, called KQT-like (Wei et al., 1996). A new  $K^+$  ion channel now known to be expressed in the brain raises the question of whether additional, undiscovered members of this gene family may be responsible for other forms of idiopathic, generalized epilepsies with tonic-clonic convulsions. A similar idiopathic seizure disorder seen early in development is Benign Familial Infantile Convulsions 20 (BFIC). In BFIC the seizures begin at four to eight months of age and remit after several years. BFIC maps to chromosome 19q in five Italian families (Guipponi et al., 1997). It is reasonable to hypothesize that BFIC is also caused by mutations in as yet unidentified members of the KQT-like family of  $K^+$  ion channels or by minK-like proteins.

## EXAMPLE 7

### Somatic Cell Hybrid Panel Genotyping

Exploiting the putative conservation of intron-exon boundaries between *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3* in the highly homologous transmembrane domains, a primer pair was designed from the available EST sequences (primer A: 5'-TTCCTGATTGTCCTGGGGTGCT-3' (SEQ ID NO:8), 30 primer B: 5'-TTCATCTTTGGAGCCGAGTTTGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9)) to cross an intron. The amplified fragment contains an intron in human (1.8 kb) as well as in rodent (800 bp) genomic DNA. This primer was used to amplify the Coriell panel. The reactions were performed in a 25  $\mu$ L volume using 50 ng of template DNA and 1 unit of Taq DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer), 10 pmol

of each primer, 3 nmol of each deoxyribonucleotide in a 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> buffer. Cycling conditions were 94EC for 4 minutes, then 30 cycles of: denaturation at 94EC for 30 seconds, annealing at 58EC for 30 seconds and elongation at 72EC for 1.5 minutes, followed by a final elongation at 72EC for 10 minutes. The PCR products were electrophoresed in a 1.5% agarose gel.

5

#### EXAMPLE 8

##### Chromosome 8 Radiation Hybrids Panel

An HSA8 radiation hybrid panel (Lewis et al., 1995) was genotyped with specific human intronic primers (primer D: 5'-TCCATGTGGTACTCCATGTCTGAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), primer  
10 E: 5'-GCACGTCACATTGGGGATGTCAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:11)). The length of the PCR product is 190 bp. The reactions were performed in a 25 µL volume using 100 ng of template DNA and 1 unit of Taq polymerase (Perkin Elmer), 10 pmol of each primer, 3 nmol of each deoxyribonucleotide in a 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> buffer. Cycling conditions were 94EC for 4 minutes, then 30 cycles of: denaturation at 94EC for 30 seconds, annealing at 62EC for 30 seconds and elongation at 72EC for 30 seconds,  
15 followed by a final elongation at 72EC for 10 minutes. The PCR products were electrophoresed in a 2% agarose gel. The genotyping data was analyzed by the RHMAP V2.01 program (Boehnke et al., 1991).

#### EXAMPLE 9

##### Full Length cDNA

20 To identify the full length *KCNQ3* cDNA, 5' and 3' RACE were performed on adaptor-ligated fetal and adult brain cDNA (Clontech) using primers from the available EST sequences. The primers used for RACE experiments are given in Table 3. PCR products were subcloned (T/A cloning<sup>7</sup> Kit, Invitrogen) and both strands were sequenced on an ABI 377 instrument.

25

#### EXAMPLE 10

##### Genomic Organization/Intron-Exon Boundaries

A BAC genomic library was screened by PCR (as described for the Coriell panel) and three overlapping genomic clones were isolated. The intron/exon boundaries were identified by cloning  
30 (T/A cloning<sup>7</sup> Kit, Invitrogen) and sequencing (ABI 377) products obtained by exon-exon PCR on genomic human DNA and/or on BAC genomic clones containing the *KCNQ3* gene.

Table 3  
RACE Primers

5' RACE

|   |                                           |                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | KV1b: 5'-TGTGTTTTTGGCGTGGAGGGAGGTC-3'     | (SEQ ID NO:12)        |
|   | KV2b: 5'-CAGTAACAGAAGCCAGTCTCC-3'         | (SEQ ID NO:13)        |
|   | KV3b: 5'-GCAAACCTCGGCTCCAAAGATGAA-3'      | (SEQ ID NO:14)        |
|   | <u>KV4b: 5'-CACCAACGCGTGGTAAAGCAGC-3'</u> | <u>(SEQ ID NO:15)</u> |

10

3' RACE

|  |                                            |                       |
|--|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | KV1a: 5'-TTCCTGATTGTCCTGGGGTGCT-3'         | (SEQ ID NO:16)        |
|  | <u>KV2a: 5'-AGTATCTGCCGGGCATCTCGACA-3'</u> | <u>(SEQ ID NO:17)</u> |

## EXAMPLE 11

SSCP Analysis and Characterization of Mutant and Polymorphic Alleles

Sixty percent of the coding region of *KCNQ3* was amplified by PCR using primers within introns when available and analyzed by SSCP (Novex) using 20% TBE gels run at 4EC as described in Novex ThermoflowJ protocols (Novex, San Diego, CA). The PCR products presenting an SSCP polymorphism were cloned (T/A cloning<sup>7</sup> Kit, Invitrogen), nine clones were sequenced on an ABI 373 or 377 using dye-primer chemistry and analyzed with the SequencherJ 3.0 program.

## EXAMPLE 12

Characterization of the KCNQ3 Gene

The KQT-like family is a recently characterized family of voltage-gated potassium channels (Wei et al., 1996). Until now, only *KCNQ2* (described in this disclosure) which is the gene mutated in the chromosome 20 BFNC disorder and *KCNQ1*, which is the chromosome 11 gene responsible for Long QT syndrome and the Jervell and Lange-Nielsen cardioauditory syndrome (Neyroud et al., 1997), were known to belong to this family. In order to identify new members of that family, possibly involved in other types of IGEs, a tBLASTx (Altschul et al., 1990) search was started with the *KCNQ2* full length cDNA against the Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs) database. Five human EST clones were identified that presented significant homologies with *KCNQ2* (clone ID: 1-362079, 2-222324, 3-363215, 4-38822, 5-45636; Hillier et al., unpublished data). Interestingly, these clones come from two different cDNA libraries: retina (1-3) and infant brain (4-5) (Soares et al., 1994) and can be organized in two nonoverlapping contigs (1-3) and (4-5). It is demonstrated here that the two contigs belong to the same gene, *KCNQ3*.

The first step in the characterization of the new gene was genomic localization of the ESTs. Using a commercial somatic cell hybrid panel (Coriell panel (Drwinga et al., 1993)), *KCNQ3* was mapped on HSA8. In order to refine that assignment, a panel of 97 radiation hybrids previously constructed for determining the linear order and intermarker distance of chromosome 8 loci (Lewis et al., 1995) was genotyped. Specific human intronic primers were used and each RH was scored by PCR for the presence or absence of the locus. The data were analyzed using RHMAP V2.01 against results collected for other chromosome 8 markers. The retention frequency for *KCNQ3* in the RH panel was 11.7%. Tight linkage of *KCNQ3* locus was observed with markers previously mapped to chromosome band 8q24. The tightest linkage was seen with marker D8S558 (LOD 13.87,  $\theta$  of 0.047  $R_{5000}$ ). The resulting RH map is shown in Figure 5. The position of the *KCNQ3* locus is localized to the interval defined by the markers previously linked to a chromosome 8 BFNC family

(Lewis et al., 1993), making *KCNQ3* a very strong positional candidate for the chromosome 8 BFNC locus. A second Caucasian family also demonstrates suggestive linkage to the same markers (Steinlein et al., 1995).

A partial cDNA sequence was obtained by a series of rapid amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) experiments. 5' and 3' RACE were performed by amplifying adult and fetal brain Marathon-Ready cDNAs (Clontech) using primers derived from the two EST contigs previously identified. The primer pairs are shown in Table 3. This was used to purify a mouse genomic homolog of *KCNQ3*. After determining the mouse sequence including intron/exon junctions, primers based upon the mouse sequence were used to clone the remainder of the human cDNA for *KCNQ3*. The primers used to amplify the 5' end of the human gene were CGCGGATCATGGCATTGGAGTTC (SEQ ID NO:93) and AAGCCCCAGAGACTTCTCAGCTC (SEQ ID NO:94). The complete *KCNQ3* cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) encodes an 872 amino acid protein (SEQ ID NO:7) with six putative transmembrane domains, a pore region, a stop codon, and the 3' untranslated region containing the poly A<sup>+</sup> tail. This protein presents 58% similarity and 46% identity (calculated using BLAST) in the region from amino acid 101 to the stop codon with *KCNQ2* and is also highly conserved with *KCNQ1* (Yang et al., 1997) as well as with the *C. elegans* homologue nKQT1 (Wei et al., 1996). A comparison of sequences is shown in Figures 3A and 3B. The two EST contigs are identical to amino acids 86-265 and 477-575 of *KCNQ3*, respectively (see Figures 3A and 3B).

To test whether or not *KCNQ3* is the gene responsible for the chromosome 8 BFNC phenotype, mutations were looked for in one affected individual of a phenotypically well characterized three-generation Mexican-American BFNC family (Ryan et al., 1991) (see Figure 6). That family has been mapped by multipoint linkage analysis on chromosome 8q24 (Z=4.43) within the interval spanned by markers D8S198 (proximal to D8S284) and D8S274 (distal to D8S256) (see Figure 5) (Lewis et al., 1993; Dib et al., 1996). It is here shown that this chromosomal region contains the *KCNQ3* locus. So far, using intronic primers, 60% of the coding region of *KCNQ3*, containing the six transmembrane domains as well as the pore region, has been screened by a cold SSCP method. One SSCP variant was identified in a PCR fragment of 187 bp containing the transmembrane domain S5 and half of the pore. The primers used to prepare this fragment are: Ret.6a 5'-CATCACGGCCTGGTACATCGGTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:18) (corresponding to nucleotides 801-823 of SEQ ID NO:6) and Hebn2.3b 5'-AATCTCACAGAATTGGCCTCCAAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:19). The Ret.6a primer is from coding region and the Hebn2.3b primer is from intronic region.

This SSCP variant is in perfect cosegregation with the BFNC phenotype and it is also present in a single non-penetrant individual carrying the disease-marker haplotype (Figure 6). Furthermore, this SSCP variant is absent from a panel of 72 Caucasian and 60 Mexican-American (264 chromosomes) unrelated individuals used as the control group. To characterize the nucleotide change of this variant, the PCR product of one affected individual was cloned and nine clones were sequenced on both strands. Four clones contained the wild-type allele and five the mutated allele. The mutation is a single missense mutation Gly (GGC) to Val (GTC) in position 310 of the highly conserved pore region (the mutation occurring at base 947 of SEQ ID NO:6). In addition, a silent polymorphism (frequency of 0.4%) was found in one Mexican-American control in the transmembrane region S5 at L278 (CTT 6 CTC) (the polymorphism is at base 852 of SEQ ID NO:6). Four other polymorphisms in KCNQ3 have been seen. These are at N220 (AAC or AAT), Gly244 (GGT or GGC), L357 (CTG or CTC) and I860 (ATT or ATC). These polymorphisms are at base numbers 678, 750, 1089 and 2598 of SEQ ID NO:6, respectively.

In addition, some individual probands with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy were screened with SSCP. JME is an inherited childhood seizure disorder. KCNQ3 was mutated in one individual who was tested. The mutation was found in an alternatively spliced exon that lies in an intron which splits codon 412. This alternatively spliced exon was found in adult brain after RACE experiments. This exon is SEQ ID NO:92. The exon was seen in an adult brain cDNA clone obtained from Clontech. This exon is 130 nucleotides long which is not a multiple of 3. Therefore the presence of this exon results not only in the addition of extra amino acid sequence but causes a frameshift (1 extra base) which results in a stop codon within the normal coding region of the gene. The mutation found in the JME proband is a 1 base pair deletion in the alternatively spliced exon (the loss of the G at base 118 of SEQ ID NO:92) that results in the frameshift from the alternative exon going back into frame resulting in a KCNQ3 with an additional 43 amino acid residues between amino acid residues 412 and 413 of the wild-type, and thus alters the protein in the brain cells of the JME proband. The patient with this deletion has a mother who has epilepsy, however this particular mutation is from the father, not from the mother. JME is a common, inherited childhood epilepsy and most likely is caused by defects not only in KCNQ3 but also in other genes.

This finding brings to three the number of human members of the KQT-like family, two of which are expressed in brain and one in heart. Defects in all three K<sup>+</sup> channel genes cause human diseases associated with altered regulation of excitability. Taking all these findings together, there is strong evidence that *KCNQ2* and *KCNQ3*, as well as undiscovered genes of the same family or

genes belonging to the same pathway, are involved in IGEs. Screening these KQT-like K<sup>+</sup> channel genes as well as other K<sup>+</sup> channel genes belonging to different families (Wei et al., 1996) for mutations in individuals with common types of IGEs will be a powerful alternative for identifying disease-causing genes. This is especially true given the difficult and controversial tentative linkages described in IGE disease pedigrees (Leppert et al., 1993).

### EXAMPLE 13

#### Generation of Polyclonal Antibody against KCNQ2 or KCNQ3

Segments of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 coding sequence are expressed as fusion protein in *E. coli*.  
 10 The overexpressed protein is purified by gel elution and used to immunize rabbits and mice using a procedure similar to the one described by Harlow and Lane, 1988. This procedure has been shown to generate Abs against various other proteins (for example, see Kraemer et al., 1993).

Briefly, a stretch of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 coding sequence is cloned as a fusion protein in plasmid PET5A (Novagen, Inc., Madison, WI). After induction with IPTG, the overexpression of a  
 15 fusion protein with the expected molecular weight is verified by SDS/PAGE. Fusion protein is purified from the gel by electroelution. Identification of the protein as the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 fusion product is verified by protein sequencing at the N-terminus. Next, the purified protein is used as immunogen in rabbits. Rabbits are immunized with 100 Φg of the protein in complete Freund's adjuvant and boosted twice in 3 week intervals, first with 100 Φg of immunogen in incomplete  
 20 Freund's adjuvant followed by 100 Φg of immunogen in PBS. Antibody containing serum is collected two weeks thereafter.

This procedure is repeated to generate antibodies against the mutant forms of the *KCNQ2* or *KCNQ3* gene product. These antibodies, in conjunction with antibodies to wild type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3, are used to detect the presence and the relative level of the mutant forms in various tissues  
 25 and biological fluids.

### EXAMPLE 14

#### Generation of Monoclonal Antibodies Specific for KCNQ2 or KCNQ3

Monoclonal antibodies are generated according to the following protocol. Mice are  
 30 immunized with immunogen comprising intact KCNQ2, intact KCNQ3, KCNQ2 peptides or KCNQ3 peptides (wild type or mutant) conjugated to keyhole limpet hemocyanin using glutaraldehyde or EDC as is well known.

The immunogen is mixed with an adjuvant. Each mouse receives four injections of 10 to 100  $\Phi$ g of immunogen and after the fourth injection blood samples are taken from the mice to determine if the serum contains antibody to the immunogen. Serum titer is determined by ELISA or RIA. Mice with sera indicating the presence of antibody to the immunogen are selected for hybridoma production.

Spleens are removed from immune mice and a single cell suspension is prepared (see Harlow and Lane, 1988). Cell fusions are performed essentially as described by Kohler and Milstein, 1975. Briefly, P3.65.3 myeloma cells (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD) are fused with immune spleen cells using polyethylene glycol as described by Harlow and Lane, 1988. Cells are plated at a density of  $2 \times 10^5$  cells/well in 96 well tissue culture plates. Individual wells are examined for growth and the supernatants of wells with growth are tested for the presence of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 specific antibodies by ELISA or RIA using wild type or mutant KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 target protein. Cells in positive wells are expanded and subcloned to establish and confirm monoclonality.

Clones with the desired specificities are expanded and grown as ascites in mice or in a hollow fiber system to produce sufficient quantities of antibody for characterization and assay development.

### EXAMPLE 15

#### Sandwich Assay for KCNQ2 or KCNQ3

Monoclonal antibody is attached to a solid surface such as a plate, tube, bead or particle. Preferably, the antibody is attached to the well surface of a 96-well ELISA plate. 100  $\Phi$ L sample (e.g., serum, urine, tissue cytosol) containing the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 peptide/protein (wild-type or mutants) is added to the solid phase antibody. The sample is incubated for 2 hrs at room temperature. Next the sample fluid is decanted, and the solid phase is washed with buffer to remove unbound material. 100  $\Phi$ L of a second monoclonal antibody (to a different determinant on the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 peptide/protein) is added to the solid phase. This antibody is labeled with a detector molecule (e.g.,  $^{125}$ I, enzyme, fluorophore, or a chromophore) and the solid phase with the second antibody is incubated for two hrs at room temperature. The second antibody is decanted and the solid phase is washed with buffer to remove unbound material.

The amount of bound label, which is proportional to the amount of KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 peptide/protein present in the sample, is quantified. Separate assays are performed using

monoclonal antibodies which are specific for the wild-type KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 as well as monoclonal antibodies specific for each of the mutations identified in KCNQ2 or KCNQ3.

#### EXAMPLE 16

##### 5        Assay to Screen Drugs Affecting the KCNQ2 or KCNQ3 K<sup>+</sup> Channel

With the knowledge that KCNQ2 and KCNQ3 each forms a potassium channel, it is now possible to devise an assay to screen for drugs which will have an effect on one or both of these channels. The gene is transfected into oocytes or mammalian cells and expressed as described above. When the gene used for transfection contains a mutation which causes BFNC, rolandic  
10       epilepsy or JME, a change in the induced current is seen as compared to transfection with wild-type gene only. A drug candidate is added to the bathing solution of the transfected cells to test the effects of the drug candidates upon the induced current. A drug candidate which alters the induced current such that it is closer to the current seen with cells cotransfected with wild-type *KCNQ2* or wild-type *KCNQ3* is useful for treating BFNC, rolandic epilepsy or JME.

15

#### EXAMPLE 17

##### PRIMER PAIRS FOR SCREENING EACH EXON OF *KCNQ2* FOR MUTATION

The genomic *KCNQ2* has been sequenced in the intron/exon borders and primer pairs useful for amplifying each exon have been developed. These primer pairs are shown in Table 4. For exons  
20       13 and 17 primers within the exons are also utilized. Some exon/intron sequence is shown in Figures 7A-O.

#### EXAMPLE 18

##### INTRON SEQUENCE OF *KCNQ3* AND PRIMER PAIRS FOR AMPLIFYING THE EXONS OF *KCNQ3*

25       Although the complete cDNA for *KCNQ3* has been obtained and sequenced, the complete genomic DNA has not yet been sequenced. However, much of the intron DNA has been sequenced and this sequence information has been utilized to develop primer pairs which are useful for amplifying each exon. The intron/exon sequence is shown in Figures 8A-O. Some useful primer pairs for amplifying each exon are shown in Table 5 although one of skill in the art can easily  
30       develop other primer pairs using the intron sequence shown in Figures 8A-O.

Table 4

| Exon | Domain                            | Primer Sequence (SEQ ID NO:)                                                                                                                                         |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | met + SI                          |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2    | SI + SII                          | TTCCTCCTGGTTTTCTCCTGCCT (SEQ ID NO:22)<br>AAGACAGACGCCCAGGCAGCT (SEQ ID NO:23)                                                                                       |
| 3    | SII + SIII                        | AGGCCTCAAGGTGGCCTCAGCTTT (SEQ ID NO:24)<br>CTGGCCCTGATTCTAGCAATAC (SEQ ID NO:25)                                                                                     |
| 4    | SIII + SIV                        | ACATCATGGTGCTCATCGCCTCC (SEQ ID NO:97)<br>TGTGGGCATAGACCACAGAGCC (SEQ ID NO:26)                                                                                      |
| 5    | SV + pore                         | TGGTCACTGCCTGGTACATCGG (SEQ ID NO:27)<br>ATGGAGCAGGCTCAGCCAGTGAGA (SEQ ID NO:28)                                                                                     |
| 6    | pore + SVI                        | GCAGGCCCTTCGTGTGACTAGA (SEQ ID NO:29)<br>ACCTAGGGAAGTGTGCCCAGG (SEQ ID NO:30)                                                                                        |
| 7    | SVI                               | ATGGTCTGACCCTGATGAATTGG (SEQ ID NO:31)<br>GCGGCCTCCACTCCTCAACAA (SEQ ID NO:32)                                                                                       |
| 8    | C-term                            |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9    | C-term                            |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10   | variable                          | CCGCCGGGCACCTGCCACCAA (SEQ ID NO:33)<br>GCTTGCACAGCTCCATGGGCAG (SEQ ID NO:34)                                                                                        |
| 11   | C-term                            | GCTGTGCAAGCAGAGGGAGGTG (SEQ ID NO:98)<br>CTGTCCTGGCGTGTCTTCTGTG (SEQ ID NO:99)                                                                                       |
| 12   | variable<br>cysteine<br>insertion | CCCAGGACTAACTGTGCTCTCC (SEQ ID NO:35)<br>CCGTGCAGCAGCCGTCAGTCC (SEQ ID NO:36)                                                                                        |
| 13   | C-term                            | GCAGAGTGACTTCTCTCCCTGTT (SEQ ID NO:37)<br>GTCCCCGAAGCTCCAGCTCTT (SEQ ID NO:38)<br><br>AAGATCGTGTCTTCTCCAGCCC (SEQ ID NO:39)<br>GATGGACCAGGAGAGGATGCGG (SEQ ID NO:40) |
| 14   | C-term                            | CCCTCACGGCATGTGTCCTTCC (SEQ ID NO:41)<br>AGCGGGAGGCCCTCCTCACT (SEQ ID NO:42)                                                                                         |
| 15   | C-term                            | GGTCTCTGGCCCAGGGCTCACA (SEQ ID NO:43)<br>CTTGTCCCCTGCTGGACAGGCA (SEQ ID NO:44)                                                                                       |
| 16   | C-term                            | TTGACGGCAGGCACCACAGCC (SEQ ID NO:45)                                                                                                                                 |

| Exon | Domain | Primer Sequence (SEQ ID NO:)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17   | C-term | CCCAGCCCAGCAGCCCCTTTT (SEQ ID NO:46)<br>AGGTGGAGGGCGGACACTGGA (SEQ ID NO:47)<br><br>CTCCACGGGCCAGAAGAACTTC (SEQ ID NO:48)<br>GATGGAGATGGACGTGTCGCTGT (SEQ ID NO:49)<br><br>TGGAGTTCCTGCGGCAGGAGGACAC (SEQ ID NO:50)<br>GGTGTCTGACTCTCCCTCCGCAA (SEQ ID NO:51)<br><br>GTGGCGCCTTGTGCCAAAGTCA (SEQ ID NO:52)<br>ACCTCGGAGGCACCGTGCTGA (SEQ ID NO:53) |

Table 5

| Pair | Sequence 5'□3' (SEQ ID NO:)                                     | Size | Temp | Part of the gene                      |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | GCGACGTGGAGCAAGTACCTTG (54)<br>CACCAACGCGTGGTAAAGCAGC (55)      | 245  | 62   | before S1                             |
| 2    | ATGACTCAAAGGTTCTTAGTCCA (56)<br>GAAGCCCAACCAGAAGCATTTAC (57)    | 174  | 62   | S1 to beginning of S2                 |
| 3    | TCAGTGCCTCTCCATATGCTCTT (58)<br>ACTGAGGAGGCTGGGAGGCTC (59)      | 194  | 62   | end of S2 to beginning of S3          |
| 4    | GATGACGCCATTGCTTTCGCATGA (60)<br>GTGGGAAGCCCATGTGGTCCTG (61)    | 298  | 65   | end of S3 to S4                       |
| 5    | CATCCACTCAACGACTCCCCAG (62)<br>AATCTCACAGAATTGGCCTCCAAG (63)    | 249  | 65   | S5 to beginning of the pore           |
| 6    | TCCATGTGGTACTCCATGTCTGAA (64)<br>GCACGTCACATTGGGGATGTCAT (65)   | 190  | 58   | end of the pore to beginning of S6    |
| 7    | GGAATGCTGGGACAGTCTAGCTG (66)<br>TACATATGCATGGATCTTAATCCCAT(67)  | 203  | 58   | end of S6 to start of C-terminal part |
| 8    | AAAGTTTCAGGTGGTGCCCACTCA (68)<br>GAGGCCACAGACACGAATACAGAC (69)  | 230  | 65   | C- terminal                           |
| 9    | TGGGTAAACCCGCCTCCTTCATTG (70)<br>ACTCTATCTTGGGACCAGCATGAC (71)  | 306  | 65   | C- terminal                           |
| 10   | TAAGAGCCTGCACTGAAGGAGGA (72)<br>GGGGAGGAAGAAGTGGAAGAGAC (73)    | 302  | 65   | C- terminal                           |
| 11   | CAGGTCTGTGGCCTGCCGTTTCAT (74)<br>CCTTCCTGTGGGAGTTGAGCTGG (75)   | 233  | 65   | C- terminal                           |
| 12   | GTTTGCTAGCCTTCTGTTATAGCT (76)<br>GGGAGCGCAGTCCCTCCAGAT (77)     | 239  | 62   | C- terminal                           |
| 13   | CTTATATATTCCAAACCCTTATCTCA (78)<br>GGTGGGGATCGTTGCTATTGGTT (79) | 277  | 62   | C- terminal                           |
| 14   | AACCAATAGCAACGATCCCCACC (80)<br>CTGACTTTGTCAATGGTCACCTGG (81)   | 303  | 65   | C- terminal after last intron         |
| 15   | CGGAACCACCCTACAGCTTCCA (82)<br>GGGAGTGGCAGCTCACTCGGGA (83)      | 210  | 65   | C- terminal after last intron         |
| 16   | AGGCCCACGGTCCTGCCTATCT (84)<br>CCATTGGGGCCGAACACATAATC (85)     | 236  | 65   | C- terminal after last intron         |
| 17   | CTTCAGCATCTCCCAGGACAGAG (86)<br>AAGGAGGGGTCAGCCAGTGACCT (87)    | 228  | 65   | C- terminal after the STOP codon      |

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various other changes and modifications can be made. The scope of the claims should not be limited by the preferred embodiments set forth in the examples, but should be given the broadest interpretation consistent with the description as a whole.

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Altschul SF, et al. (1990). *J. Mol. Biol.* 251:403-410.
- Altschul SF, et al. (1997). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402.
- Anand, R (1992). Techniques for the Analysis of Complex Genomes, (Academic Press).
- Anderson WF, et al. (1980). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77:5399-5403.
- Ausubel FM, et al. (1992). Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, (John Wiley and Sons, New York, New York).
- Bandyopadhyay PK and Temin HM (1984). *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 4:749-754.
- Bartel PL, et al. (1993). "Using the 2-hybrid system to detect protein-protein interactions." In Cellular Interactions in Development: A Practical Approach, Oxford University Press, pp. 153-179.
- Beaucage SL and Caruthers MH (1981). *Tetra. Letts.* 22:1859-1862.
- Berglund P, et al. (1993). *Biotechnology* 11:916-920.
- Berkner KL, et al. (1988). *BioTechniques* 6:616-629.
- Berkner KL (1992). *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 158:39-66.
- Biervert C, et al. (1998). *Science* 279:403-406.
- Boehnke M, et al. (1991). *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 49:1174-1188.
- Borman S (1996). *Chemical & Engineering News*, December 9 issue, pp. 42-43.
- Breakefield XO and Geller AI (1987). *Mol. Neurobiol.* 1:337-371.
- Brinster RL, et al. (1981). *Cell* 27:223-231.
- Browne DL, et al. (1994). *Nature Genetics* 8:136-140.
- Buchsacher GL and Panganiban AT (1992). *J. Virol.* 66:2731-2739.
- Capecchi MR (1989). *Science* 244:1288-1292.
- Cariello NF (1988). *Am. J. Human Genetics* 42:726-734.
- Chandy KG and Gutman GA (1995). Handbook of Receptors and Channels: Ligand and Voltage-Gated Ion Channels (CRC Press, Ann Arbor, MI), pp. 1-71.
- Chee M, et al. (1996). *Science* 274:610-614.

- Chevray PM and Nathans DN (1992). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:5789-5793.
- Compton J (1991). *Nature* 350:91-92.
- Conner BJ, et al. (1983). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 80:278-282.
- Costantini F and Lacy E (1981). *Nature* 294:92-94.
- Cotten M, et al. (1990). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:4033-4037.
- Cotton RG, et al. (1988). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:4397-4401.
- Culver KW, et al. (1992). *Science* 256:1550-1552.
- Culver K (1996). Gene Therapy: A Primer for Physicians, 2nd Ed., Mary Ann Liebert.
- Curiel DT, et al. (1991). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:8850-8854.
- Curiel DT, et al. (1992). *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3:147-154.
- DeRisi J, et al. (1996). *Nat. Genet.* 14:457-460.
- Deutscher M (1990). *Meth. Enzymology* 182:83-89 (Academic Press, San Diego, Cal.).
- Dib C, et al. (1996). *Nature* 380:152-154.
- Donehower LA, et al. (1992). *Nature* 356:215-221.
- Drwinga HL et al. (1993). *Genomics* 16:311-314.
- Dworetzky SI, et al. (1998). *Society for Neuroscience Abstracts* 24(part 2):813.1 (28th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, Calif., November 7-12, 1998).
- Editorial (1996). *Nature Genetics* 14:367-370.
- Elghanian R, et al. (1997). *Science* 277:1078-1081.
- Enhancers and Eukaryotic Gene Expression, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1983).
- Erickson J, et al. (1990). *Science* 249:527-533.
- Fahy E, et al. (1991). *PCR Methods Appl.* 1:25-33.
- Felgner PL, et al. (1987). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:7413-7417.
- Fields S and Song O-K (1989). *Nature* 340:245-246.

- Fiers W, et al. (1978). *Nature* 273:113-120.
- Fink DJ, et al. (1992). *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3:11-19.
- Fink DJ, et al. (1996). *Ann. Rev. Neurosci.* 19:265-287.
- Finkelstein J, et al. (1990). *Genomics* 7:167-172.
- Fodor SPA (1997). *Science* 277:393-395.
- Freese A, et al. (1990). *Biochem. Pharmacol.* 40:2189-2199.
- Friedman T (1991). In Therapy for Genetic Diseases, T. Friedman, ed., Oxford University Press, pp. 105-121.
- Glover D (1985). DNA Cloning, I and II (Oxford Press).
- Goding (1986). Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice, 2d ed. (Academic Press, N.Y.).
- Godowski PJ, et al. (1988). *Science* 241:812-816.
- Gordon JW, et al. (1980). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77:7380-7384.
- Gorziglia M and Kapikian AZ (1992). *J. Virol.* 66:4407-4412.
- Graham FL and van der Eb AJ (1973). *Virology* 52:456-467.
- Gribkoff VK, et al. (1998). *Society for Neuroscience Abstracts* 24(part 2):813.10 (28th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, Calif., November 7-12, 1998).
- Grompe M (1993). *Nature Genetics* 5:111-117.
- Grompe M, et al. (1989). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:5855-5892.
- Guipponi M, et al. (1997). *Hum. Molec. Genet.* 6:473-477.
- Guthrie G and Fink GR (1991). Guide to Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology (Academic Press).
- Hacia JG, et al. (1996). *Nature Genetics* 14:441-447.
- Harlow E and Lane D (1988). Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York).
- Hasty P, et al. (1991). *Nature* 350:243-246.
- Hauser WA and Kurland LT (1975). *Epilepsia* 16:1-66.
- Helseth E, et al. (1990). *J. Virol.* 64:2416-2420.

Hodgson J (1991). *Bio/Technology* 9:19-21.

Huse WD, et al. (1989). *Science* 246:1275-1281.

Iannotti C, et al. (1998). *Society for Neuroscience Abstracts* 24(part 1):330.14 (28th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, Calif., November 7-12, 1998).

Innis MA, et al. (1990). PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Academic Press, San Diego).

Jablonski E, et al. (1986). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 14:6115-6128.

Jakoby WB and Pastan IH (eds.) (1979). Cell Culture. Methods in Enzymology volume 58 (Academic Press, Inc., Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (New York)).

Johnson PA, et al. (1992). *J. Virol.* 66:2952-2965.

Johnson, et al. (1993). A Peptide Turn Mimetics@ in Biotechnology and Pharmacy, Pezzuto et al., eds., Chapman and Hall, New York.

Kaneda Y, et al. (1989). *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:12126-12129.

Kanehisa M (1984). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 12:203-213.

Keating MT and Sanguinetti MC (1996). *Curr. Opinion Genet. Dev.* 6:326-333.

Kinszler KW, et al. (1991). *Science* 251:1366-1370.

Kohler G and Milstein C (1975). *Nature* 256:495-497.

Kozak M (1987). *J. Mol. Biol.* 196:947-950.

Kraemer FB, et al. (1993). *J. Lipid Res.* 34:663-672.

Kubo T, et al. (1988). *FEBS Lett.* 241:119-125.

Kyte J and Doolittle RF (1982). *J. Mol. Biol.* 157:105-132.

Landegren U, et al. (1988). *Science* 242:229-237.

Lee JE, et al. (1995). *Science* 268:836-844.

Leppert M, et al. (1989). *Nature* 337:647-648.

Leppert M, et al. (1993). *Brain Pathology* 3:357-369.

Letts VA, et al. (1997). *Genomics* 43:62-68.

- Lewis TB, et al. (1993). *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 53:670-675.
- Lewis TB, et al. (1995). *Genome Res.* 5:334-341.
- Lim CS, et al. (1991). *Circulation* 83:2007-2011.
- Lipshutz RJ, et al. (1995). *BioTechniques* 19:442-447.
- Lockhart DJ, et al. (1996). *Nature Biotechnology* 14:1675-1680.
- Lopez GA, et al. (1994). *Nature* 367:179-182.
- Madzak C, et al. (1992). *J. Gen. Virol.* 73:1533-1536.
- Malafosse A, et al. (1992). *Hum. Genet.* 89:54-58.
- Maniatis T, et al. (1982). Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York).
- Mann R and Baltimore D (1985). *J. Virol.* 54:401-407.
- Margolskee RF (1992). *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 158:67-95.
- Martin R, et al. (1990). *BioTechniques* 9:762-768.
- Matteucci MD and Caruthers MH (1981). *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 103:3185.
- Matthews JA and Kricka LJ (1988). *Anal. Biochem.* 169:1.
- McNamara JO (1994). *J. Neurosci.* 14:3413-3425.
- Meldrum BS (1995). *Epilepsia* 36:S30-S35.
- Merrifield B (1963). *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2156.
- Metzger D, et al. (1988). *Nature* 334:31-36.
- Mifflin TE (1989). *Clinical Chem.* 35:1819-1825.
- Miller AD (1992). *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 158:1-24.
- Miller AD, et al. (1985). *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 5:431-437.
- Miller AD, et al. (1988). *J. Virol.* 62:4337-4345.
- Modrich P (1991). *Ann. Rev. Genet.* 25:229-253.
- Mombaerts P, et al. (1992). *Cell* 68:869-877.

- Moss B (1992). *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 158:25-38.
- Moss B (1996). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 93:11341-11348.
- Muzyczka N (1992). *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 158:97-129.
- Nabel EG, et al. (1990). *Science* 249:1285-1288.
- Nabel (1992). *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3:399-410.
- Nakamura RL, et al. (1997). *J. Biol. Chem.* 272:1011-1018.
- Naldini L, et al. (1996). *Science* 272:263-267.
- Newton CR, et al. (1989). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 17:2503-2516.
- Neyroud N, et al. (1997). *Nat. Genet.* 15:186-189.
- Nguyen Q, et al. (1992). *BioTechniques* 13:116-123.
- Noebels JL, et al. (1990). *Epilepsy Res.* 7:129-135.
- Novack DF, et al. (1986). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 83:586-590.
- Ohi S, et al. (1990). *Gene* 89:279-282.
- Orita M, et al. (1989). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:2766-2770.
- Page KA, et al. (1990). *J. Virol.* 64:5270-5276.
- Patil N, et al. (1995). *Nature Genetics* 11:126-129.
- Pellicer A, et al. (1980). *Science* 209:1414-1422.
- Petropoulos CJ, et al. (1992). *J. Virol.* 66:3391-3397.
- Philpott KL, et al. (1992). *Science* 256:1448-1452.
- Plouin P (1994). Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsies: Clinical, Experimental and Genetic Aspects (John Libbey and Company Ltd., London), pp. 39-44.
- Ptacek LJ (1997). *Neuromuscular Disorders* 7: 250-255.
- Quantin B, et al. (1992). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:2581-2584.
- Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA).
- Reutens DC and Berkovic SF (1995). *Neurology* 45:1469-1476.

- Rigby PWJ, et al. (1977). *J. Mol. Biol.* 113:237-251.
- Ronen GM, et al. (1993). *Neurology* 43:1355-1360.
- Rosenfeld MA, et al. (1992). *Cell* 68:143-155.
- Ruano G and Kidd KK (1989). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 17:8392.
- Russell D and Hirata R (1998). *Nature Genetics* 18:323-328.
- Russell MW, et al. (1996). *Hum. Molec. Genet.* 5:1319-1324.
- Ryan SG, et al. (1991). *Ann. Neurol.* 29:469-473.
- Sambrook J, et al. (1989). Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed. (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York).
- Sanguinetti MC, et al. (1996). *Nature* 384:80-83.
- Scharf SJ, et al. (1986). *Science* 233:1076-1078.
- Schneider G, et al. (1998). *Nature Genetics* 18:180-183.
- Scopes R (1982). Protein Purification: Principles and Practice, (Springer-Verlag, N.Y.).
- Sheffield VC, et al. (1989). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:232-236.
- Sheffield VC, et al. (1991). *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 49:699-706.
- Shenk TE, et al. (1975). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 72:989-993.
- Shimada T, et al. (1991). *J. Clin. Invest.* 88:1043-1047.
- Shinkai Y, et al. (1992). *Cell* 68:855-867.
- Shoemaker DD, et al. (1996). *Nature Genetics* 14:450-456.
- Signorini S, et al. (1997). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 94:923-927.
- Snouwaert JN, et al. (1992). *Science* 257:1083-1088.
- Soares MB, et al. (1994). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 91, 9228-9232.
- Sorge J, et al. (1984). *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 4:1730-1737.
- Spargo CA, et al. (1996). *Mol. Cell. Probes* 10:247-256.
- Steinlein O, et al. (1992). *Hum. Molec. Genet.* 1:325-329.

- Steinlein O, et al. (1995). *Hum. Genet.* 95:411-415.
- Steinlein O, et al. (1997). *Am. J. Med. Genet.* 74:445-449.
- Sternberg N (1990). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:103-107.
- Stewart MJ, et al. (1992). *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3:267-275.
- Stratford-Perricaudet LD, et al. (1990). *Hum. Gene Ther.* 1:241-256.
- Tytgat J (1994). *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 203:513-518.
- Valancius V and Smithies O (1991). *Mol. Cell Biol.* 11:1402-1408.
- Wagner E, et al. (1991). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:4255-4259.
- Wagner E, et al. (1990). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:3410-3414.
- Walker GT, et al., (1992). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 20:1691-1696.
- Wang CY and Huang L (1989). *Biochemistry* 28:9508-9514.
- Wang Q, et al. (1996). *Nat. Genet.* 12:17-23.
- Wartell RM, et al. (1990). *Nucl. Acids Res.* 18:2699-2705.
- Wei A, et al. (1996). *Neuropharmacology* 35:805-829.
- Wells JA (1991). *Methods Enzymol.* 202:390-411.
- Wetmur JG and Davidson N (1968). *J. Mol. Biol.* 31:349-370.
- White MB, et al. (1992). *Genomics* 12:301-306.
- White R and Lalouel JM (1988). *Annu. Rev. Genet.* 22:259-279.
- Wilkinson GW and Akrigg A (1992). *Nucleic Acids Res.* 20:2233-2239.
- Wolff JA, et al. (1990). *Science* 247:1465-1468.
- Wolff JA, et al. (1991). *BioTechniques* 11:474-485.
- Wu DY and Wallace RB (1989). *Genomics* 4:560-569.
- Wu CH, et al. (1989). *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:16985-16987.
- Wu GY, et al. (1991). *J. Biol. Chem.* 266:14338-14342.

Yang WP, et al. (1997). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94:4017-4021.

Yang WP, et al. (1998). *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:19419-19423.

Yokoyama M, et al. (1996). *DNA Res.* 3:311-320.

Zara F, et al. (1995). *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 4:1201-1207.

Zenke M, et al. (1990). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:3655-3659.

Patents and Patent Applications:

European Patent Application Publication No. 0332435.

EPO Publication No. 225,807.

Hitzeman et al., EP 73,675A.

EP 425,731A.

WO 84/03564.

WO 90/07936.

WO 92/19195.

WO 93/07282.

WO 94/25503.

WO 95/01203.

WO 95/05452.

WO 96/02286.

WO 96/02646.

WO 96/11698.

WO 96/40871.

WO 96/40959.

WO 97/02048.

WO 97/12635.

U.S. Patent 3,817,837.

U.S. Patent 3,850,752.

U.S. Patent 3,939,350.

U.S. Patent 3,996,345.

U.S. Patent 4,275,149.

U.S. Patent 4,277,437.

U.S. Patent 4,366,241.

U.S. Patent 4,376,110.

U.S. Patent 4,486,530.

U.S. Patent 4,554,101.

U.S. Patent 4,683,195.

U.S. Patent 4,683,202.

U.S. Patent 4,816,567.

U.S. Patent 4,868,105.

U.S. Patent 5,252,479.

U.S. Patent 5,270,184.

U.S. Patent 5,409,818.

U.S. Patent 5,436,146.

U.S. Patent 5,455,166.

U.S. Patent 5,550,050.

U.S. Patent 5,691,198.

U.S. Patent 5,735,500.

U.S. Patent 5,747,469.

Claims:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid encoding a KCNQ3 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a complement of said isolated nucleic acid, wherein said isolated nucleic acid comprises a mutation which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy, and wherein said mutation is selected from the group consisting of: a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 and the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid coding for a mutant human KCNQ3 polypeptide which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy, or a complement of said isolated nucleic acid, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO:7.
3. A nucleic acid probe comprising a fragment of a nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 2 or a complement thereof, wherein the nucleic acid probe hybridizes specifically under stringent hybridization conditions to a region of a nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 2 or a complement thereof comprising at least 8 nucleotides, wherein the region corresponds to a mutation selected from the group consisting of: a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO: 6, an alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3, and a mutation that encodes a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO: 7, wherein the nucleic acid probe does not hybridize to a nucleic acid defined by SEQ ID NO: 6 or the complement thereof under stringent hybridization conditions, and wherein the stringent hybridization conditions comprise hybridization at 65° C in 7% PEG, 10% SDA, and 50 mM sodium phosphate.
4. A method for detecting a mutation which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy, wherein said method comprises hybridizing a probe of claim 3 to a patient's sample of DNA or RNA under high stringency hybridization conditions which allow hybridization of said probe to all, or a portion of, a nucleic acid comprising said mutation but prevent hybridization of said probe to wild-type human KCNQ3, wherein the presence of a hybridization signal indicates the presence of said mutation, wherein said mutation is selected from the group consisting of: the presence of a T at

nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6, the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3, and a mutation that encodes a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO: 7, and wherein the high stringency hybridization conditions comprise hybridization at 65° C in 7% PEG, 10% SDA, and 50 mM sodium phosphate.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the patient's DNA or RNA has been amplified and said amplified DNA or RNA is hybridized to said probe.
6. A method according to claim 4 wherein hybridization is performed in situ.
7. A method for detecting the presence of a mutation in human KCNQ3 which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy wherein said method is performed by means which identify the presence of said mutation, wherein said means comprises using a single-stranded conformation polymorphism technique to assay for said mutation, wherein said mutation is the presence of a T at 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 or the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said mutation is a T at 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 and further wherein said single-stranded conformation polymorphism technique uses amplified nucleic acid wherein said amplified nucleic acid was prepared using primers of SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19.
9. A method for detecting the presence of a mutation in human KCNQ3 which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy wherein said method is performed by means which identify the presence of said mutation, wherein said means comprises sequencing all, or at least 8 nucleotides of, human KCNQ3, wherein said mutation is the presence of a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 or the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3.
10. A method for detecting the presence of a mutation in human KCNQ3 which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy wherein said method is performed by means which identify the presence of said mutation, wherein said means comprises performing an RNase assay, wherein said mutation is

the presence of a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 or the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3.

11. An antibody which binds specifically to an antigen comprising all, or a portion of, a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:7 comprising the amino acid residue corresponding to position 310 of SEQ ID NO:7.

12. An antibody which binds to a mutant polypeptide which comprises a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO:7.

13. A method for diagnosing benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy in a human patient, said method comprising an assay for the presence of mutant KCNQ3 polypeptide in said patient by reacting a sample comprising protein from said patient with an antibody of claim 12, wherein the presence of a positive reaction is indicative of BFNC, JME, or rolandic epilepsy, wherein said mutant KCNQ3 comprises a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO:7.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

15. An isolated human KCNQ3 polypeptide comprising a mutation which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy, wherein said mutation is a valine at amino acid residue 310 of SEQ ID NO:7.

16. A method for diagnosing benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy in a person wherein said method comprises sequencing all, or a portion of, KCNQ3 polypeptide from said person or sequencing KCNQ3 polypeptide synthesized from nucleic acid derived from said person wherein the presence of a valine at amino acid residue 310 of KCNQ3 is indicative of BFNC, JME or rolandic epilepsy.

17. A pair of single-stranded DNA primers for determination of a nucleotide sequence of KCNQ3 by a polymerase chain reaction, the sequence of said primers being derived from human chromosome 8q24, wherein the use of said primers in a polymerase chain reaction results in the synthesis of DNA having all or part of the sequence of KCNQ3, wherein the pair of single-stranded DNA primers is selected from:

(a) SEQ ID NO:54 and SEQ ID NO:55,

- (b) SEQ ID NO:56 and SEQ ID NO:57,
- (c) SEQ ID NO:58 and SEQ ID NO:59,
- (d) SEQ ID NO:60 and SEQ ID NO:61,
- (e) SEQ ID NO:62 and SEQ ID NO:63,
- (f) SEQ ID NO:64 and SEQ ID NO:65,
- (g) SEQ ID NO:66 and SEQ ID NO:67,
- (h) SEQ ID NO:68 and SEQ ID NO:69,
- (i) SEQ ID NO:70 and SEQ ID NO:71,
- (j) SEQ ID NO:72 and SEQ ID NO:73,
- (k) SEQ ID NO:74 and SEQ ID NO:75,
- (l) SEQ ID NO:76 and SEQ ID NO:77,
- (m) SEQ ID NO:78 and SEQ ID NO:79,
- (n) SEQ ID NO:80 and SEQ ID NO:81,
- (o) SEQ ID NO:82 and SEQ ID NO:83,
- (p) SEQ ID NO:84 and SEQ ID NO:85, and
- (q) SEQ ID NO:86 and SEQ ID NO:87.

18. A method of detecting the presence of a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence of a KCNQ3 gene which causes benign familial neonatal convulsions (BFNC), juvenile myoclonic epilepsy (JME), or rolandic epilepsy, comprising:

- (a) analyzing a test sample containing a KCNQ3 nucleic acid for the sequence of the test KCNQ3 nucleic acid; and
- (b) identifying the presence of a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 or the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO: 92 in mRNA of KCNQ3, wherein identifying the presence of a T at nucleotide 947 of SEQ ID NO:6 or the presence of alternative exon of SEQ ID NO:92 in mRNA of KCNQ3 is indicative of a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence of a KCNQ3 gene.

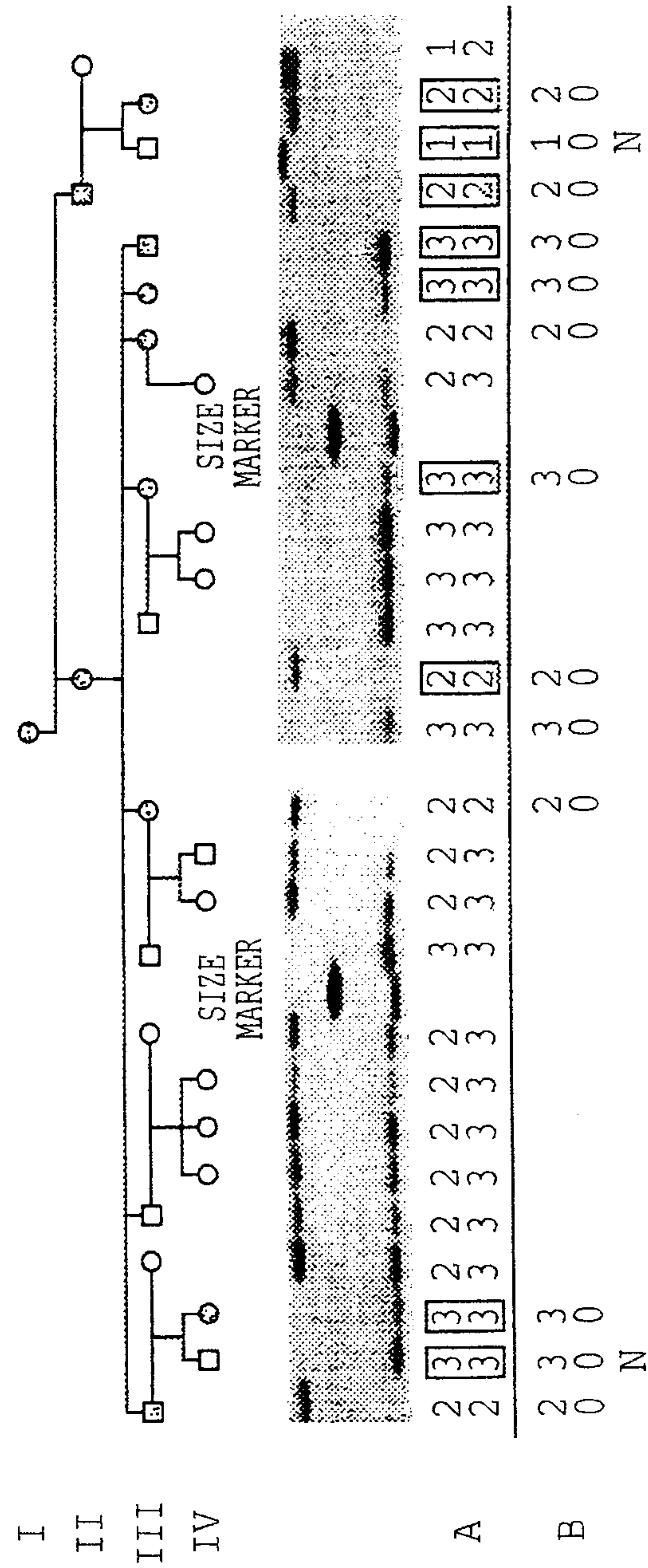


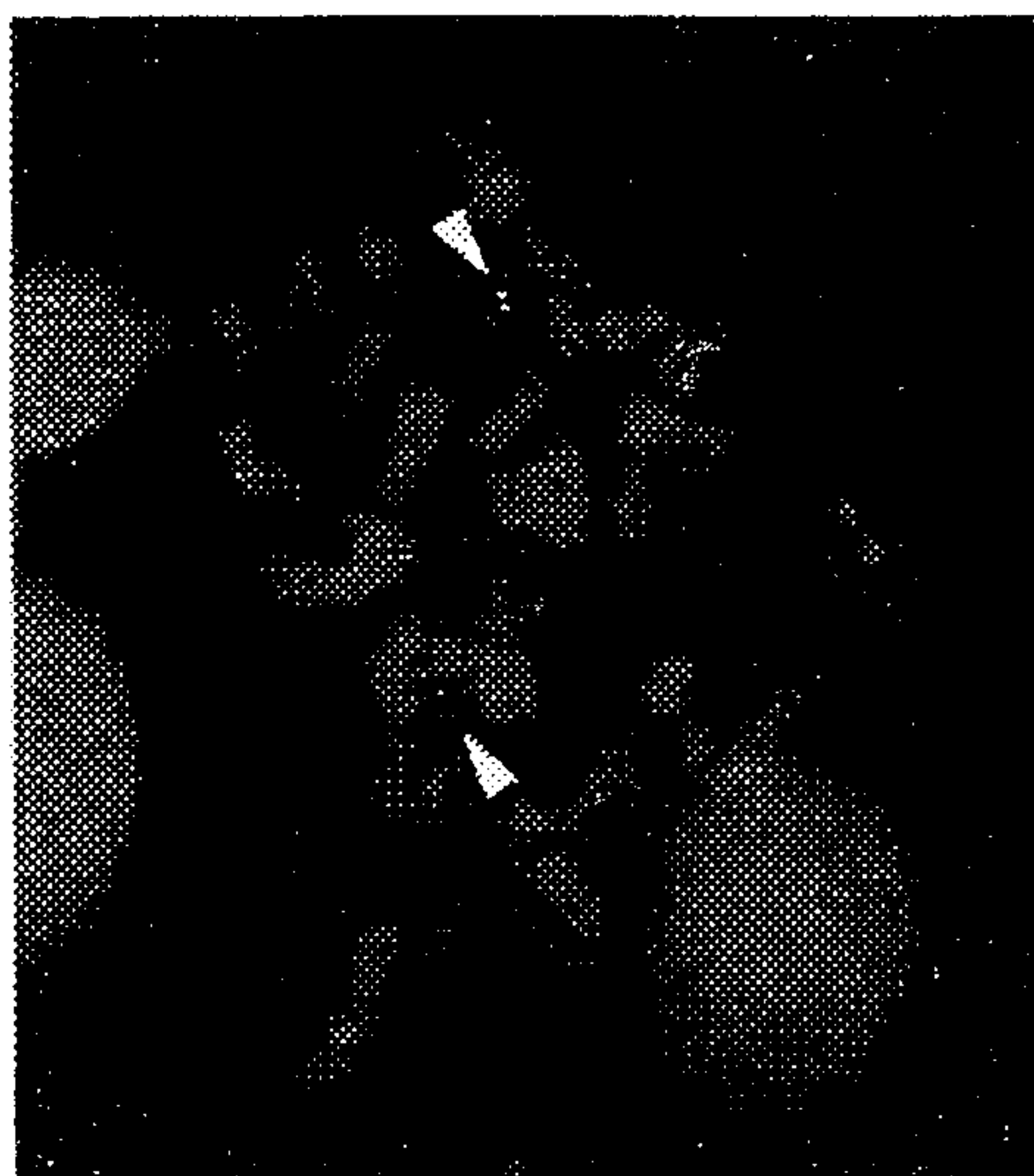
FIG. 1

2/16



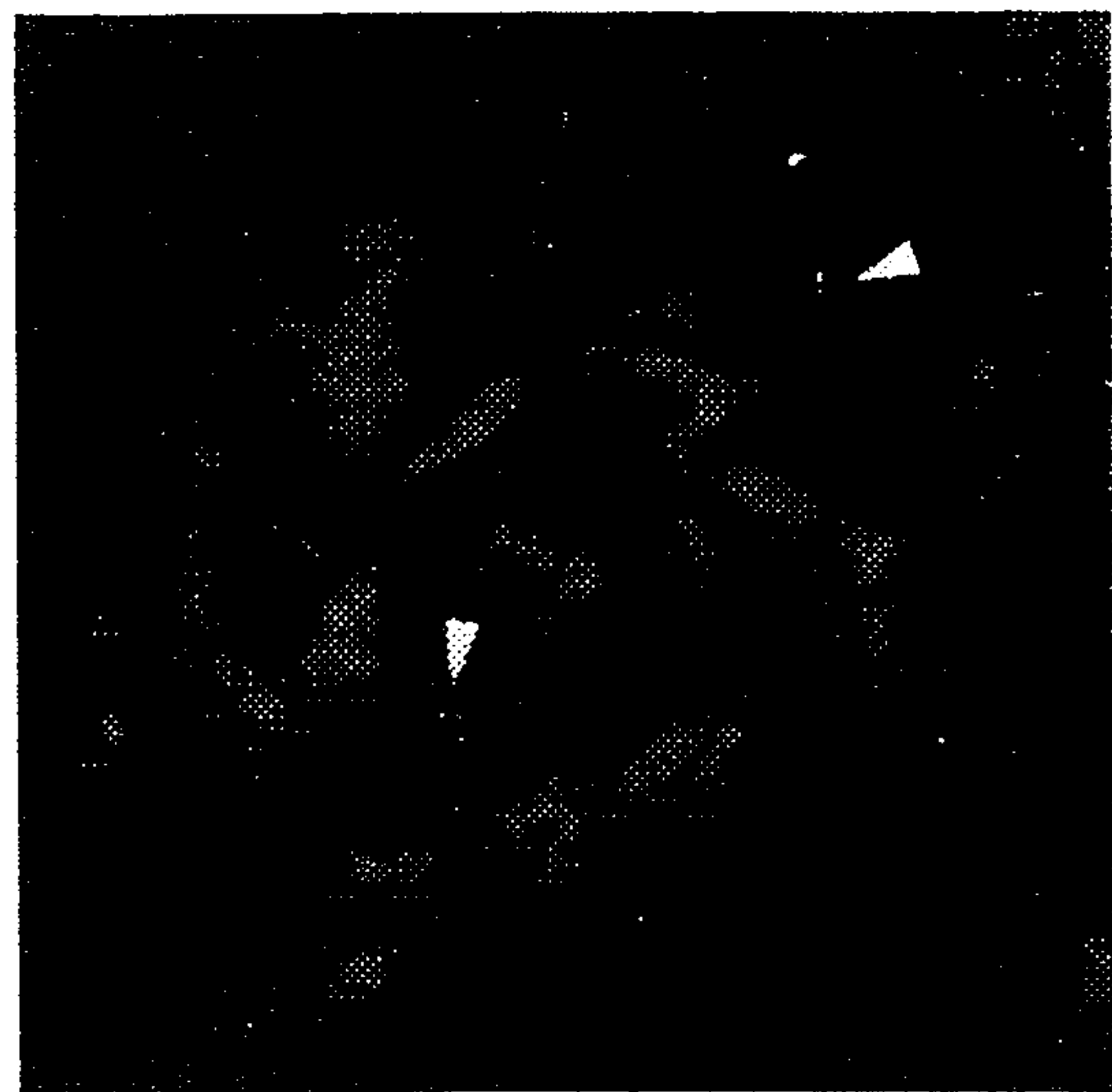
D20S24

FIG. 2A



P1-K09-6b

FIG. 2B



P1-K09-7

FIG. 2C

1

|       |       |                                                        |    |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| KCNQ3 | ..... | MGLKARRAAGAGGGGGGGAANPAGDAAAGDEERKVG LAPGDVEQVT        | 54 |
| KCNQ2 | ..... | .....MVQKSRNGGVYPGPSSGEKKLVGF                          | 24 |
| KCNQ1 | ..... | MAAASSPPRAERKRWGRLPGARRGSGAGLAKKCPFSLELAEGGPAGGALYAP   |    |
| nQT1  | ..... | MDEESGSSVSMWLTMRKLSPVAMVSRSQKTTDQAAPSDEQQEAGSSSAIGQESR |    |

S1

|       |                                                                                               |     |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | LALGAGADKDGTLLEGGGRDEGQRTPOGIGLLAKTPLSRPVKRNNAKYRRIQTLIYDALERPRGW. ALLYHALVFLIVLGLCLILAVLT    | 143 |
| KCNQ2 | VGLDPGAPDSTRDGCALLIAGSEAPKRGISILSKPRAGGAGAGKPPKRNAFYRKLLQNFLYNVLERPRGW. AFYHAYVFLLVFSCLVLSVFS | 113 |
| KCNQ1 | IAPGAPGPAPPASPAPAAPVASDLGPRPPVSDLPVSIYSTRRPVLARTHVQGRVYNFLEPRPTGKCFVYHFAVFLIVLCLIFSLS         |     |
| nQT1  | KTVVFQEPDIGFPSEHDQLTTLHDSEEGNRKMSLVGKPLTYKNYRTDQFRFRMKNMHNFLERPRGWKAATYHLLAVLFMVLMLCLALSDFS   |     |

S2

S3

S4

|       |                                                                                            |     |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | TFKEYETVSGDWLLETFEAFIFGAEFALRIWAAGCCCRYKGWRGLKFARKPLCMLDIEFVLIASVPVAVGNQGNVLATS. LRS LRFL  | 232 |
| KCNQ2 | TIKEYKSSEGALYILEIVTIVFGVEYFVRIWAAGCCCRYRGWRGLKFARKPFCVIDIMVLIASIAVLAAGSQGNVFATSALRSLRFL    | 203 |
| KCNQ1 | TIEQYAALATGTLFWMEIVLVVFFGTEYVVRWSAGCRSKYVGLWGLRFRFARKPISIIDLIVVASMVVLCVSGSKQVFATS AIRGIRFL |     |
| nQT1  | TMPDFFEVNATIVLYLEIVFVIWLATEYICRVWSAGCRSRYRGISGRIRFATSAYCVIDIIVILASITVLCIGATGQVFAASAIRGLRFF |     |

S5

P

E3

3/16

|       |                                                                                          |     |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | QILRMLRMDRRGGTWKLLGSAICAHSKELITAWYIGFLTILSSFLVYLVEKDVPEVDAQGEEMKEEFETYADALWGLITLATIGYGDK | 322 |
| KCNQ2 | QILRMIRMDRRGGTWKLLGSVVYAHSKELVTAWYIGFLCLILASFLVYLAEK.....GENDHFDTYADALWGLITLTITIGYGDK    | 283 |
| KCNQ1 | QILRMLHVDROGGTWRLLGSSVFIHRQELITLYIGFLGLIFSSYFVYLAEKDAVNES.....GRVEFGSYADALWGLVTVTTIGYGDK |     |
| nQT1  | QILRMLRIDRRAGTWKLLGSSVVAHRQELLTTVYIGFLGLIFSSFLVYLCEK.....NTNDKYQTFADALWGLVITLSTVGYGDK    |     |

S6

|       |                                                                                              |     |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | TPKTWEGRLLAATFSLIGVSFFALPAGILGSGLALKVQEQHRQKHFEKRRKPAAELIQAAWRYATNPNRIDL VATWRFYESVVSFFFF    | 411 |
| KCNQ2 | YPQTNWGRLLAATFTLIGVSFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQEQHRQKHFEKRRNPAAGLIQSAWRFYATNLSRTDLHSTWQYYERTTVTPMY    | 372 |
| KCNQ1 | VPQTWVGKTIASCSFVSFAISFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQEQHRQKHFNRIIPAAASLIQTAWRCYAA..ENPDS. STWKIYIRKAPRSHT  |     |
| nQT1  | TPETWPGKIIA AFCALLGISFFALPAGILGSGFALKVQEQHRQKH LIRRRVPAAKLIQCLWRHYSAAPESTSL. ATWKIHLARELPPIV |     |

|       |                                                                                            |     |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | .....RKEQLEAASSQKLGLLDRVRLSNPRGSNTKGK                                                      | 443 |
| KCNQ2 | SSQTQTYGASRLIPPLNQLELLRNL.....KKSGLAFRKDPPPEPSPSKGSPCRGPLCGCCPGRSSQKVS LKDRVF. SSPRGVAAKGK | 457 |
| KCNQ1 | .....LLSPSPKPKKSVVK.....KKFKLDKDN...GVTPGEKMLTVPHI.....TCDPPEERRLDH..FSVD....              |     |
| nQT1  | .....KLTPLGSN NATGLINRLRQSTKRTPNLNNQNLAVNSQATSKNLSVPRVRVHDTISLSTSDISEIEQLGALGFSLGWKSK      |     |

FIG. 3A

|       |                                 |     |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----|
| KCNQ3 | .....LFTPLNVD                   | 472 |
| KCNQ2 | AEESPSKEPKPVGLNNKERF            |     |
| KCNQ1 | GSPQQAQTVRRRSPSADQ              | 492 |
| nKQT1 | LEDSPSKVPKSWSGDRSRA             |     |
|       | .GYDSSVRKS.....PTLLEVSM         |     |
|       | PHF.....MRTNSFAEDLDLEGETLL..TPI |     |
|       | SKYGGSKKATDDSVLQSRMLAP          |     |
|       | SNAHLDMMRRRSRRSASL              |     |
|       | CRVVNTGQHLRPLQPRSTLSD           |     |
|       | SDVIGDYSLMMAPIYQWCEQ            |     |
|       | MVQRNSTPG                       |     |
| KCNQ3 | RTAFRMKAYAFWQSE.DAGT            | 557 |
| KCNQ2 | GDPMAEDRGYGNDEPI....            |     |
| KCNQ1 | EDMIPTLKAIRAVRILQ               | 578 |
| nKQT1 | RLYKKKFKETLRPYDVKD              |     |
|       | VIEQYSAGHLDM                    |     |
|       | RQAFRIKGAASRQNSEE               |     |
|       | ASLPGEDIVDDKSCPC                |     |
|       | EFVT....EDLTPGLK                |     |
|       | VSIRAVCMRFLVSKRK                |     |
|       | FKESLRPYDVM                     |     |
|       | DVIEQYSAGHLDM                   |     |
|       | .....THISQL.....                |     |
|       | REHH.....RATIKVIRRM             |     |
|       | QYFVAKKKFQQA                    |     |
|       | RKPYPYDVRD                      |     |
|       | VIEQYSQGH                       |     |
|       | HLNL                            |     |
|       | EDGVWSQLSQLTTC                  |     |
|       | ATRRTEDISDGDEE                  |     |
|       | AVGYQPQTIEE                     |     |
|       | FTPALKN                         |     |
|       | CVRAIRRIQLLV                    |     |
|       | ARKKFEAL                        |     |
|       | KPKYPYDV                        |     |
|       | KDVIEQYS                        |     |
|       | AGHV                            |     |
|       | VDL                             |     |
| KCNQ3 | LSRIKYLQTRIDMIFT                | 647 |
| KCNQ2 | PGPSTPKHKKSQK                   |     |
| KCNQ1 | GSAAFTFPSQQ                     | 648 |
| nKQT1 | SPRNEPYVARPSTSEIEDQ             |     |
|       | SMMGKFVKVERQ                    |     |
|       | QVQDMGKKL                       |     |
|       | DFLVD                           |     |
|       | MHM                             |     |
|       | QHM                             |     |
|       | LSRIKLSQSRVDQ                   |     |
|       | IVGRGPAITDK.....                |     |
|       | DRTKGPAEAE                      |     |
|       | LPEDPSMM                        |     |
|       | GRLGKVEK                        |     |
|       | QVLSMEK                         |     |
|       | KLDFL                           |     |
|       | VNI                             |     |
|       | YMQRM                           |     |
|       | MVRIKELQRRLDQ                   |     |
|       | SIGKPSLFISVSEK                  |     |
|       | .....KDRGSNT                    |     |
|       | IGARLNR                         |     |
|       | VEDKVTQLD                       |     |
|       | QRLALIT                         |     |
|       | DMLHQLL                         |     |
|       | QSRVKT                          |     |
|       | VQAKLDFICG                      |     |
|       | KNIEKIEPKI.....                 |     |
|       | SMFTRIATLET                     |     |
|       | TVGKMDKKL                       |     |
|       | DL                              |     |
|       | DM                              |     |
|       | VEM                             |     |
|       | LM                              |     |
|       | CRQ                             |     |
| KCNQ3 | ERLQVQVTEYYPTKGT                | 737 |
| KCNQ2 | SSPAEAEKKEDNR                   |     |
| KCNQ1 | YSDLKTIICNYSET                  | 738 |
| nKQT1 | GPPEPPYSFHQVTID                 |     |
|       | KVSPYGF                         |     |
|       | FAHDPVNL                        |     |
|       | PRGGPSS                         |     |
|       | GKVQA                           |     |
|       | TPPSS                           |     |
|       | GIPPTETEAFGAK                   |     |
|       | EPAPPYHSPEDS                    |     |
|       | REHVDRHGCIVK                    |     |
|       | IVRSSSTGQKN                     |     |
|       | FSAPPA                          |     |
|       | APPVQC                          |     |
|       | PPSTSWQ                         |     |
|       | PQSHPRQ                         |     |
|       | HGTS                            |     |
|       | SPVGDHGS                        |     |
|       | SLHGGSTPGSGGPP                  |     |
|       | REGGAHITQPCG                    |     |
|       | SGSVDP                          |     |
|       | PELFLPSNT                       |     |
|       | LP                              |     |
|       | TYEQLTV                         |     |
|       | PRRG                            |     |
|       | PDEGS.                          |     |
|       | ASQRVFSQNTS                     |     |
|       | PRGEFSEPT                       |     |
|       | SARQDL                          |     |
|       | TRSRSMV                         |     |
|       | STDM                            |     |
|       | MYTARSH                         |     |
|       | SPGYHGDARPI                     |     |
|       | IAQIDADD                        |     |
|       | DDDE                            |     |
|       | ENVFDD                          |     |
|       | STPLN                           |     |
|       | NGPGTSSC.                       |     |
| KCNQ3 | ATTYVERPTVLPILT                 | 824 |
| KCNQ2 | LDSRVSCHSQADLQ                  |     |
|       | GPYSDRIS                        |     |
|       | PRQRRSIT                        |     |
|       | TRDSDT                          |     |
|       | PLSLMSV                         |     |
|       | NHEELERS                        |     |
|       | SPSGFSISQ...                    |     |
|       | DRDDYV                          |     |
|       | FGPNGGS                         |     |
|       | LVRIPPPPAHERS                   |     |
|       | LSAYGGN                         |     |
|       | RASMEFLRQ                       |     |
|       | EDTPGCR                         |     |
|       | PPEGNL...RDS                    |     |
|       | DT                              |     |
|       | SISIP                           |     |
|       | SV                              |     |
|       | DHEELERS                        |     |
|       | FSFGFSISQ                       |     |
|       | SKENL                           |     |
|       | DALNSC                          |     |
|       | YAAVA                           |     |
| KCNQ3 | SWMREKRYLAEGE                   | 872 |
| KCNQ2 | TDTDPPTPSGSMPL                  |     |
|       | SS                              |     |
|       | SGDG.ISDSV                      |     |
|       | WTPSNKPI.                       |     |
|       | PCAKVRPYIAEGE                   |     |
|       | SDTSDLC                         |     |
|       | TPCGPP                          |     |
|       | PR                              |     |
|       | SATGE                           |     |
|       | PGF                             |     |
|       | GDV                             |     |
|       | GWAGPRK.                        |     |
|       | 872                             |     |

FIG. 3B

5/16

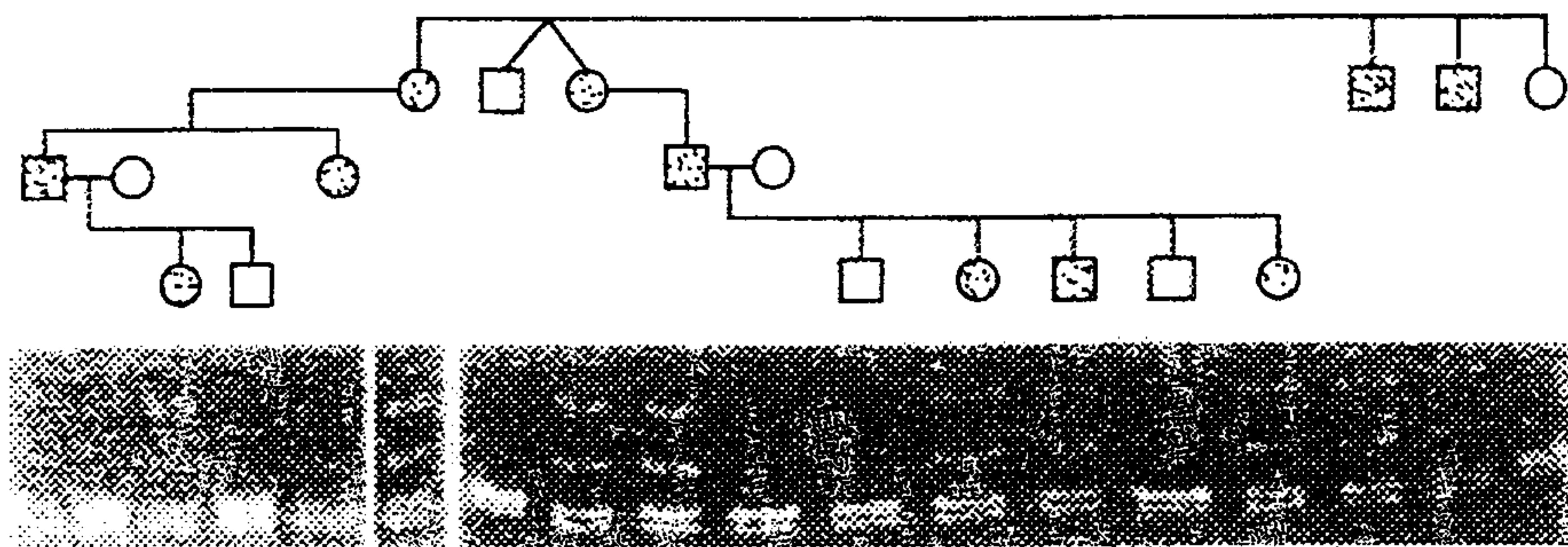


FIG. 4

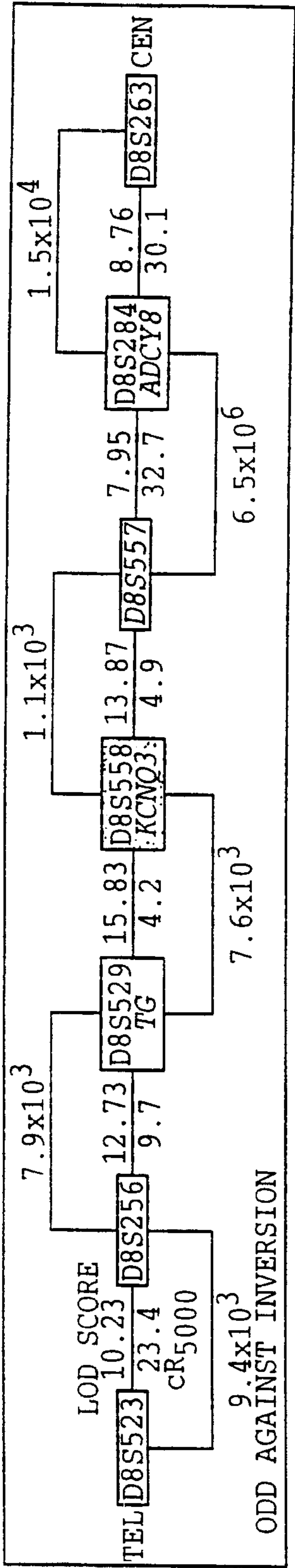
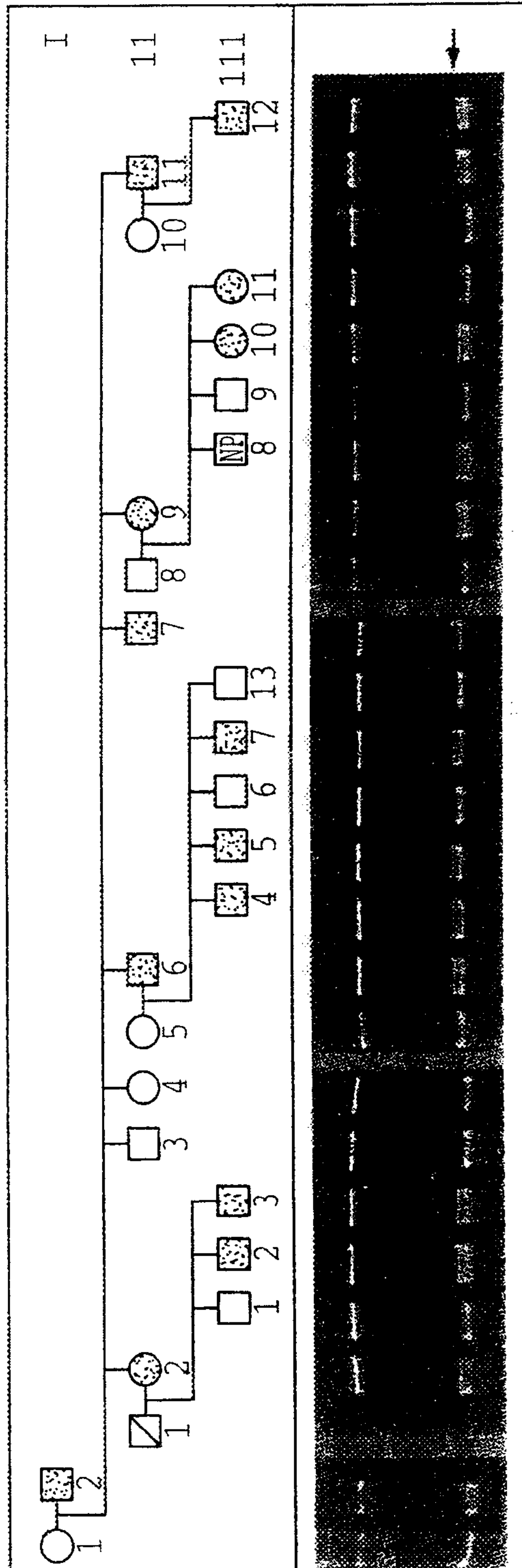


FIG. 5



616

8/16

**GTTCTCTCTGGTTTTCTCCTGCCTCGTGCTGTCTGTGTTTTCCACCATCAAGGAGTATGAGA  
AGAGCTCGGAGGGGGCCCTCTACATCCTGGTGAGCCCCGAGGGAGGGCGGGGGCTGGAAGTG  
CCCAGGAAGGAGCTGGAGCTGCCTGGGCGTCTGTCTT**

**FIG. 7A**

**AGGCCTCAAGGTGGCCTCAGCTTTCCTCCCCTGCAGGAAATCGTGACTATCGTGGTGTGTTGG  
CGTGGAGTACTTCGTGCGGATCTGGGCCCGCAGGCTGCTGCTGCCGGTACCGTGGCTGGAGGG  
GGCGGCTCAAGTTTGCCCCGGAACCGTTCTGTGTGATTGGTGAGGCCTGGTGGGGGTGGTAT  
TGCTAGAATCAGGGCCAG**

**FIG. 7B**

**ACATCATGGTGCTCATCGCCTCCATTGCGGTGCTGGCCGCCGGCTCCCAGGGCAACGTCTTT  
GCCACATCTGCGCTCCGGAGCCTGCGCTTCCTGCAGATTCTGCGGATGATCCGCATGGACCG  
GCGGGGAGGCACCTGGAAGCTGCTGGGCTCTGTGGTCTATGCCACA**

**FIG. 7C**

**TGGTCACTGCCTGGTACATCGGCTTCCTTTGTCTCATCCTGGCCTCGTTCCTGGTGTACTTG  
GCAGAGAAGGGGGAGAACGACCACCTTGACACCTACGCGGATGCACTCTGGTGGGGCCTGGT  
GAGTTGTGGTCATTGTGGTTTTCCCTTTCCCTGCTGATACACCCCTGTCCCTGTGCTGGGAC  
CAGGCTCTCACTGGCTGAGCCTGCTCCAT**

**FIG. 7D**

**GCAGGCCCTTCGTGTGACTAGAGCCTGCGGTCCCACAGATCACGCTGACCACCATTGGCTAC  
GGGACAAGTACCCCCAGACCTGGAACGGCAGGCTCCTTGCGGCAACCTTCACCCTCATCGG  
TGTCTCCTTCTTCGCGCTGCCTGCAGTAAGTCCAGCTGCCCCCTGCCTGCCTTGAGGGGGAC  
GAGGTCTTGTAGGCTCCCGAGGTGACCACAGGCCCTGGGCACAGTTCCCTAGGT**

**FIG. 7E**

**ATGGTCTGACCCTGATGAATTGGGGTGTGGGGGGTCCCTGGGGTGTGACCTGACCCTGATGA  
ATTGCAGGGCATCTTGGGGTCTGGGTTTGCCCTGAAGGTTCAAGGAGCAGCACAGGCAGAAGC  
ACTTTGAGAAGAGGCGGAACCCGGCAGCAGGCCTGATCCAGGTGAGTCCAGGTGTCCCCCGG  
GGACCAGCACAGCCCTTGTCCTGGTCCCACCTTGTTGAGGAGTGAGGGCCGC**

**FIG. 7F**

9/16

AGCTGTGCAAGCAGAGGGAGGTGTCCCAGGACTCGGGAGGGTGAGACGCTCACTCCCCCTCTC  
CTTCTCTTGCCCCAGACTTATCCCCCGCTGAACCAGCTGGAGCTGCTGAGGAACCTCAAGA  
GTAAATCTGGACTCGCTTTCAGGTCAGCTGGGGAGCTCCAGGTGGGGCGGGTGGGCGTCTCA  
GTCTCCTGGGGGCCCCAGCTGCCACAGAAGACACGCCAGGACAG

FIG. 7G

CCCAGGACTAACTGTGCTCTCCTCATTTCCAGTAAAGGCAGCCCGTGCAGAGGGCCCCCTGTG  
TGGATGCTGCCCCGGACGCTCTAGGTACNRCGGAACACRMSACGGACTGACGGCTGCTGC  
ACGG

FIG. 7H

GCAGAGTGACTTCTCTCCCTGTTTTTCTGTCTGTCTGTCTGTCTGTCTGCGTTCCCGTGGGAGC  
AGCCAGAAGGTCAGTTTGAAAGATCGTGTCTTCTCCAGCCCCGAGGCGTGGCTGCCAAGGG  
GAAGGGGTCCCCGCAGGCCCAGACTGTGAGGCGGTCACCCAGCGCCGACCAGAGCCTCGAGG  
ACAGCCCCAGCAAGGTGCCCAAGAGCTGGAGCTTCGGGGACCGCAGCCGGGCACGCCAGGCT  
TTCCGCATCAAGGGTGCCGCGTCACGGCAGAACTCAGAAGGGGTGTGGCCGCATCCTCTCCT  
GGTCCATC

FIG. 7I

CCCTCACGGCATGTGTCCTTCCCCCAGAAGCAAGCCTCCCCGGAGAGGACATTGTGGATGA  
CAAGAGCTGCCCCCTGCGAGTTTGTGACCGAGGACCTGACCCCGGGCCTCAAAGTCAGCATCA  
GAGCCGTGTGGTGAGGCCCTGCCAGCCGGGAGCCTGGGGGAGTGAGGAGGGGCCTCCCGC  
T

FIG. 7J

GGTCTCTGGCCCAGGGCTCACAGCCCCACCCACCCCCCTGCAGTGTCATGCGGTTCCCTGGTG  
TCCAAGCGGAAGTTCAAGGAGAGCCTGCGGCCCTACGACGTGATGGACGTCATCGAGCAGTA  
CTCAGCCGGCCACCTGGACATGCTGTCCCGAATTAAGAGCCTGCAGTCCAGGCAAGAGCCCC  
GCCTGCCTGTCCAGCAGGGGACAAG

FIG. 7K

CCCAGCCCAGCAGCCCCTTTTGCAGGTCTTGTCCATGGAGAAGAAGCTGGACTTCCTGGTGA  
ATATCTACATGCAGCGGATGGGCATCCCCCGACAGAGACCGAGGCCTACTTTGGGGCCAAA  
GAGCCGGAGCCGGCGCCGCGGTACCACAGCCCGGAAGACAGCCGGGAGCATGTCGACAGGCA  
CGGCTGCATTGTCAAGATCGTGCGCTCCAGCAGCTCCACGGGCCAGAAGAACTTCTCGGCGC  
CCCCGGCCGCGCCCCCTGTCCAGTGTCCGCCCTCCACCT

FIG. 7L

10/16

**CTCCACGGGCCAGAAGAACTTCTCGGCGCCCCCGGCCGCGCCCCCTGTCCAGTGTCCGCCCT  
CCACCTCCTGGCAGCCACAGAGCCACCCGCGCCAGGGCCACGGCACCTCCCCCGTGGGGGAC  
CACGGCTCCCTGGTGC GCATCCCGCCGCCGCTGCCACGAGCGGTGCTGTCCGCTACGG  
CGGGGGCAACCGCGCCAGCATGGAGTTCCTGCGGCAGGAGGACACCCCGGGCTGCAGGCCCC  
CCGAGGGGAACCTGCGGGACAGCGACACGTCCATCTCCATC**

**FIG. 7M**

**TGGAGTTCCTGCGGCAGGAGGACACCCCGAGCTGCAGGCCCCCCGAGGGGACCCTGCGGGAC  
AGCGACACGTCCATCTCCATCCCGTCCGTGGACCACGAGGAGCTGGAGCGTTCCTTCAGCGG  
CTTCAGCATCTCCAGTCCAAGGAGAACCTGGATGCTCTCAACAGCTGCTACGCGGCCGTGG  
CGCCTTGTGCCAAAGTCAGGCCCTACATTGCGGAGGGAGAGTCAGACACC**

**FIG. 7N**

**GTGGCGCCTTGTGCCAAAGTCAGGCCCTACATTGCGGAGGGAGAGTCAGACACCGACTCCGA  
CCTCTGTACCCCGTGC GGGCCCCCGCCACGCTCGGCCACCGGCGAGGGTCCCTTTGGTGACG  
TGGGCTGGGCCGGGCCAGGAAGTGAGGCGGCGCTGGGCCAGTGGACCCGCCCGCGGCCCTC  
CTCAGCACGGTGCCTCCGAGGTTTTGAGGCGGGAACCCTCTGGGGCCCTTTTCTTACAGTAA  
CTGAGTGTGGCGGGAAGGGTGGGCCCTGGAGGGGCCATGTGGGCTGAAGGATGGGGGCTCC  
TGGCAGTGACCTTTTACAAAAGTTATTTTCCAACAGGGGCTGGAGGGCTGGGCAGGGCCTGT  
GGCTCCAGGAGCAGCGTGCAGGAGCAAGGCTGCCCTGTCCACTCTGCTCAAGGCCGCGGCCG  
ACATCAGCCCGGTGTGAAGAGGGGCGGAGTGATGACGGGTGTTGCAACCTGGCAACAAGCNG  
GGGGTTGNCCAGCCGANCCAAGGGAAGCACANAAGGAAGCTGTNCCCTAAGACCTNCCCNAA  
AGGCGGCCTGTTTGGTAAGACTGCGCCTTGGTCCGGTGGGTTCGGGCAGCAAAAGCGGGTTT  
TGCCGCCCTGTCTGTG**

**FIG. 7O**

11/16

GGCGACGTGGAGCAAGTCACCTTGGCGCTCGGGGCCGGAGCCGACAAAGACGGGACCCTGCT  
 GCTGGAGGGCGGGCGGCCGCGACGAGGGGCAGCGGAGGACCCCGCAGGGCATCGGGCTCCTGG  
 CCAAGACCCCGCTGAGCCGCCAGTCAAGAGAAACAACGCCAAGTACCGGCGCATCCAAACT  
 TTGATCTACGACGCCCTGGAGAGACCGCGGGGCTGGGCGCTGCTTTACCACGCGTTGGT

**FIG. 8A**

aacttctctcacattggttttatttaactgggatgattgtttccgcctgccttgcaggtttgt  
 cgtgaagattgaatgggatagcatataaagcacatgtcaatgtccagcagaagttgcagcct  
 catcctggaagacacctttcccatcttagcctcaaagcaagccatgactcaaaggttcctt  
 agtccatttctttcttccctcttagGTTCTGATTGTCCTGGGGTGCTTGATTCTGGCTGTC  
 CTGACCACATTCAAGGAGTATGAGACTGTCTCGGGAGACTGGCTTCTGTTACTGgtaagatt  
 gcattctggggtaaatgcttctggttgggcttccagagtgatgaaaaggaggttgccttgg  
 gtgcactcctccctgactgggttgcagccttcttgtagtctccagtcaagtcaggcccaagga  
 aaagcaaagcctccattactyggatggcccgccatgggcacatgtggggtgaagaatggca  
 ttcttggtaaaagcctttgctattccacattagagagaaggggaaataaagtcaaagcaaaaac  
 caatgcatgttattaaattataaaaatacagcttcccaatcctctgaaaggtaacacaaaggc  
 atgtttcattctaaaacctgtctctgctttttcttccctgggatcctacaatctaaactcaa  
 ggatctctcattctctccaaggccaggtacagaattccattttatacacgaaacctctaaatc  
 tccctcctggggcctgcatttgttttctctctgtcctccatcaggtggtgtgatggaaa  
 cagagcaggattagaattcctgggcaagtcagcta

**FIG. 8B**

agggctgcctggcccaggagccaggcctttataaccattagccacaattagcaatgccagggt  
 acaggcactgggtggaatttacagattgtgtttcactcatatctctcttttcaacccaactg  
 cacttcttgggggcttttcttctttaaagggacttttaaagctgacctattggaacaaaaa  
 catagaaaaaagaacgagtaatcactgtgccagggtttaacagcattaaggacaattagcaca  
 tcagaatgaagatgggaggcctccaaactgaatggcggtgatggacctgttctcccggttcc  
 ccttccccacccccatccccagccatccctgccaaccagacaaccagcaacagcacaataatg  
 gagttcttcagaacttccgaatagaaatcaccagctcccgacaagtggatctcggttaatca  
 gtgcctctccatagctcttccatgcagGAGACATTTGCTATTTTCATCTTTGGAGCCGAGT  
 TTGCTTTGAGGATCTGGGCTGCTGGATGTTGCTGCCGATACAAAGGCTGGCGGGGCCGACTG  
 AAGTTTGCCAGGAAGCCCCTGTGCATGTTGGgtaagtcctgacctgagcctcccagcctcc  
 tcagttcccttcttttggggcattgtttctctgagaaaagtttaagcagctattctgggaaa  
 tcacgcggcactgtggaggccagctcagcccctgacgctgcctcgatgagaagggacatgtc  
 aaccttctgggtcctcaaattcctccttctgtgactggtccttataaggactgcacaggaca  
 gggattcttatttggcagggttagggtgtcactcttggcaattggggtgtggag

**FIG. 8C**

gggggccttggtaaatgctgctctggagccagcattaaagtgtggtaggcctatgctactt  
 ctggccagggtggccttggaaagtcactcaggctcagagcttcagtttccctcatcagtcattg  
 gagaataatcccacttaccatgtgttgttgggtggcaagattcaacagcagtgctcagattgt  
 cccactgcttggcacatgctgatctgccagcaaacagcacctatgatgacgccattgctttc  
 gcatgaccttcccttccctcttccctccactctgtctgtcctctctcccagACATCTTTGT  
 GCTGATTGCCTCTGTGCCAGTGGTTGCTGTGGGAAACCAAGGCAATGTTCTGGCCACCTCCC  
 TGCGAAGCCTGCGCTTCCTGCAGATCCTGCGCATGCTGCGGATGGACCGGAGAGGTGGCACC  
 TGGAAGCTTCTGGGCTCAGCCATCTGTGCCACAGCAAAGtaagtgtggtggagaaactgca  
 ggaccacatgggcttcccacccacctatgcccttccatgacatcccttcccttgcagtgctc  
 ccagaaggcagtcattctgccacccttgatgataacgacaaaagaggaagaggaggaggagaa  
 acaggaagtgcgggggctgggggtagggc

**FIG. 8D**

FIG. 81

13/16

acgcaagtcctggaatagacccaaagtttcctgagtcctgagccttgtattagaagaaggag  
ccacttcctcctgccttcttgccttcctctgaagcctccttgagctgtgatattgaagtggcc  
ctaagctagaaatcttcctctcctcctggagccatacactttttctggtaaattaatgaatg  
aaataactaccatgttaatgatcccatTTTTacagtgatggaagatgaagatcagagaagggtg  
agtgatttgaccacagtcacagagctggtaaacttggactctaactctgggtgtgtctggctc  
cagcatccactcaacgactccccagtgaccacttttcatgtccactgttcattctttcagGA  
ACTCATCACGGCCTGOTACATCGGTTTCCTGACACTCATCCTTTCTTCATTTCTTGCTACC  
TGGTTGAGAAAGACGTCCCAGAGGTGGATGCACAAGGAGAGGAGATGAAAGAGGAGTTTGAG  
ACCTATGCAGATGCCCTGTGGTGGGGCCTGgtgagtcactaccttggaggccaattctgtga  
gattgatgggtcaagagtcagagagagggtggagggcatcacatgagcatgttcagccaggcag  
ctgcattctgcagtcagaggtaagctctagaccaatttcagctcagaacctgctgacagaag  
accctccttcaagggtgggcacttgggaattgacttttctctagcgtttataagaagccagggc  
ttggaacagcctgggttgcattggtcgtttatggacttagccttattagtcataggctattttc  
agccaagccatgcatgtgcaaacaacccagtgacagatacacatgtgtgctcacacagacc  
tgtgtgtgcacaacctacaccacacaaggacacacagtactaaagctggcattcactgaagg  
ctttctttgctccagagcatctctctgggtgctttactttcact

FIG. 8E

gaacagatacatgcacagacattagacatacacacatatatacacatacatatacaaatatac  
tcacaagcacacatatattcacaacatggctataaataaaatcacaattcacaatatatac  
acacacatgaatgctcgtgtacatacacatttgcaattgctgaaatatttggttgactgacta  
aggtaggaaacccttaacttatcaacaagtctcaaggcatccatataagtttagtaggtactt  
gggtgtcttttctcctaagggaaccttggttatgaatgggagcattgccaagctgatggagag  
gcttacaggtagagctcagttaacacggttcctgatattcctctccatgtgggtactccatgtc  
tgaactcttctctcttcagATCACACTGGCCACCATTGGCTATGGAGACAAGACACCCAAAA  
CGTGGGAAGGCCGTCTGATTGCCGCCACCTTTTCCTTAATTGGCGTCTCCTTTTTTGCCCTT  
CCAGCGgtaagtacctttgatatatgacatccccaatgtgacgtgcaggaccccttaccgcc  
tggtgccagctcaactttccagtgctcatcttctatcctcttataccctaccaactccctagc  
cattcccttaagcatgatgatcctgcctttttgccacaggccctgctgcttttctctgccaa  
agatttcttcacacatcaactcctctttcaatgctgccttctttaggctgagctagtcgctc  
tgggcataactctgggaataattctgttaaaggagtttctggccctatgctaggattacacat  
ttctagatctgccttccccagaggactgtgaattccttgggttctgggattatattttcat  
tcatgcatttcccagtgcccttgcacggagcaggtccttcatttatgtagttcccttctcttg  
tcctgttaentactggcttatgtaaaaatacatgtctctcaagaataagtctgacctatga  
tagagtaactnccccaacgccagtggtccaggtacgtaataataatgaaagcagattgcatt  
tggttgaactcactgtggcctgaatcatgccaaaagggtttaccacacatcatctcatttaatc  
t

FIG. 8F

14/16

tacaatgtgatccacgtaataatgacagagtaccattccacttgtgaggggatttgctcagt  
 gtagaccttgggcaattgaataagaacccctaggagggcccttgagggtgtacataaaggat  
 gagtaggcctgttccaagcagggaaaagaggaagggagttccaggcagaaggagagcctgag  
 aaaaggcttggagtcataatgtgtgaaagcacgggctgggtgcacctcccagttaggagtg  
 agggctccagagccagatcacctgggtttggatcctgactttgctgcctcctaactgtgagc  
 ccttgagcaattcatttaatccctctgtgcctcaattttctcctcagggaaatgggatgata  
 atagtacttcatagggttggttatgaggattaattgagtttaagacaatgttcgctatgatgac  
 aatggtagtgacaaagttatgggggtgtgtgactgctacattatgacattcctgggtttcctg  
 gtctgtctccaccaccaaataaatttcctgagctcaacatgagagctggggcagagtaagtg  
 ctcagcaaccattttctggatgaataaatgaatgaatgagtggctgaaaagagccctgaaaa  
 cctcagagccaacgggagtagcatgggctggggtctggatgggttaaaccgcctccttcatt  
 ggttccctccacactgaccatcctgtcctagagctcaactctgctccatcatcttcagagag  
 aagctttgcagcaatctttcgaggaaggatacagctgtttcacgtaatttatgctttattct  
 ttctccctcttctctttcttagGAAAGAACAGCTGGAGGCAGCATCCAGgtaagtttctgatt  
 atgaattcccttcttcacatctctgtgtcaagacagagcatcctgctccatatgggtgtaggg  
 ccccatgggaggtcatgctgggtcccaagatagagtctttggggtcacactgttgctgaccac  
 catagtccctctgcttgggttcccttctgggtgatctgagggaaacttaataggaatcatggca  
 gcagcctcttattgaggggtctgggttctgtgtcaggagttctgcatatgttatctcatttgg  
 tcttcacaaccacaatgtaacgataggccctaataatcatcccttgtggatgaggagattgtg  
 gctcagagaggttgggttgagattgagtggcaacaaccaaattcatagccagg

## FIG. 8J

aagaagtgttgctttacgtccatttgtgtggccagtttcttttcaaggaggaatcctttgat  
 aaggatttgtctgtctaaatcactatctgggtaccatgggatgatacacaggaaaggcagga  
 agttattgatgcaggaaatgggcatgggaaagatgaatctctgcagcatactaggatgagct  
 aggcaatttatagcgggcacctcatgtaagctacatttaatcgatatgggaaaattgacattc  
 agagaagtcttgcccaggggtataagagctagcaggctgtggagctaggatttgaaccacgcc  
 ctgtccgattccaagctgctgagtcagattcagcactgtgaaatgcacgggtccccatttctc  
 cttggaggagaatgtgtgagtcctttatggagggatgggaaatttttaagagcctgcactgaag  
 gaggaaaattgttcacttttgcttatttttgagCCAAAAGCTGGGTCTCTTGGATCGGGTTCC  
 CCTTAATCCTCGTGGTAGCAATACTAAAGGAAAGCTATTTACCCCTCTGAATGTAGATGCCA  
 TAGAAGAAAGTCCTTCTAAAGAACCAGCCTGTTGGCTTAAACAATAAAGAGCGTTTCCGC  
 ACGGCCTTCCGCATGAAAGCCTACGCTTCTGGCAGAGTTCTGAAGgtaatgcctttttatc  
 tcctccctgtctcttccacttcttcctccccaagtccacttccctcctcacctctccctt  
 tgcccacttaagaacctttgactccacaaggtaactctctcccttccctcgacaagccaact  
 tcttgcttccctaactcctcctgtcccttgggctgaggcattgtgatgtattcccaggagtc  
 tagggctgcaggctcccaagttaggagcctggaaacctgtcaccttgggtttctgaggggtccg  
 ccccgaccccccgcccatgattggattgttatggaggtcaacttgaaggatggggcggtgc  
 caggtgcaaagcaatttagagaccagggcacgggaagagtggcagaaaagcgccctctggag  
 gctgtaggagtcattggcctcatgtgcctcttttacttatgcaaaggaggacatgcagaaaa  
 gcctgtttcctcagtgtctgagcccaccagggcctcaatcctcattgtatcattca

## FIG. 8K

15/16

kttctctcmaaggcctctngatgtgtgsggctcagaaagtgacktctccaaggtcaccagga  
 tagagacttgasagagcaaawakcccagctgaggsctgcacagtgkgtgktgkttgctggst  
 tcwgtgtcsttttgstggctkytggctctggggggccaytctggaactgsggagctcacttctc  
 ctccctgctagccttttccctcactaccagtcagtgagtgcgacacttttgacttggacttc  
 tgggtaatagaatgaggggtgccaagaaaggctgaacagcatcacagcttgagaataccgtgg  
 agtcttgcaacgtggaaataaagactctggggattgacacatccagaggcgtggaaggcttt  
 gaccgaacagtgggggtccccaagccttttccaggtctgtggcctgccgttcatatgtgtgtc  
 tccctcccagATGCCGGGACAGGTGACCCCATGGCGGAAGACAGGGGCTATGGGAATGACTT  
 CCCCATCGAAGACATGATCCCCACCCTGAAGGCCGCCATCCGAGCCgtcaggtaatgcccc  
 acgggtcccacctgtgcctgtgtgcctcccccgctccagctcaactcccacaggaaggggctt  
 ataaaattatcttgcactttgggaagggggaagagaagccccctccactaaccctgagttagg  
 tccctgaagtatgtaaatactgtatgctgccccagaaaaaatgatccagacgttagcaagtc  
 atgatgggtgactcgtaggtgcctgccttggtataaacacgccccacagccctcctgacagt  
 atttccacctgctatgttctgctctgtctgttaactaccatgtatttttaaaggggtgtcagagt  
 ggaggggttttcttccctgtagaggcttcttgctcaaaatgggttttcttctgcctaacttcat  
 ccatatagtttgttttaattagttcgcatttttaacaagataataaattatagratTTTTTT  
 gtctgtatcagcagagaccataatccattctaccta

## FIG. 8L

agcagtgtgacagtgattaagagcaccagccttgtcagcaccctgtctgggtttgaggacca  
 gctcagcccttattagctatatggccctgggatgatgctgaagggtcaaattccacaatcaca  
 tcatctataaatggatctgttatccaggattgttcataaagcattaattaagctcatgggtct  
 ggcatacagtgaatgctcaataaatgttagctcttattaataactatgattttacttattatc  
 aaatgattgaagggagtaatcctgatggagatgtactaactctgtgtgttccaaggggtaga  
 accagaaccaaacgttggaagttcttccagcaagctcttttatctttgggttcttttctccc  
 ctgccctggagtttgctagccttctgttatagctccccgcactctccacatgggatgcacaa  
 atgcctctactttgccttgcagAATTCTACAATTCCGTCTCTATAAAAAAAAAAATTCAGGAG  
 ACTTTGAGGCCTTACGATGTGAAGGATGTGATTGAGCAGTATTCTGCCGGGCATCTCGACAT  
 GCTTTCAGGATAAAGTACCTTCAGACGAGgtgagacagtcacatctggaggggactgcgctc  
 ccctcaaagccctatgaaccttagagtttaaggtgagaggtattcagaaataattcaaatg  
 cagggagagattttaagaagacaaatatccacgaagccttgtggatgtctaggccaacaaag  
 caccagatcggacagactgtgaaatagctgtatgacattgccatggccaaggtcagcaccct  
 gatcaggcctgtcagagaggagaaagcacacatttaaattggcttctgactgtgatgctttcg  
 atgttgccaacaaaacaggatcatccgaattaaaccgaatccagctgcctaattaattctca  
 atacaattctttaccatatttaaaaatgttcatcagggtattacttataatagttgaaagata  
 tggaaatagcatcaatgcctaataa

## FIG. 8M

ccaagatgcagccgtcacctctctcagtggtttgtctgcctccctctctcctgggatagaaagatgctt  
tcagtatcaccagatcaaaacaagcggaagaatataccgagggttatagggttctctctgggtctgtcttt  
ctctctgtagctagtatgcactctctcttttctctcctctcctccccctctcctctcctcacttctcctc  
tcctccccctctcctctcctcacttctcctctcctctcctctcctctcttcttataatccaaacccttatctc  
attctagagagaatagaatgatttgttttcctgtcaaaacaaagctctgtgtgaatttaatccctgctct  
gtttgttttctttcagAATAGATATGATTTTCACCCCTGGACCTCCCTCCACGCCAAAACACAAGAAGTC  
TCAGAAAGGGTCAGCATTACCTTCCCATCCCAGCAATCTCCCAGGAATGAACCATATGTAGCCAGACC  
ATCCACATCAGAAATCGAAGACCAAAGCATGATGGGGAAGTTTGTAAGGTTGAAAGACAGgtaagtct  
tttcttcctctcaccaaaaactggatctgtgacattttattttcaaagtccattttcttttttttctttct  
ttcctttttttttttaagacgaagggttcNactctgttgcccagggtggagtgcgaatggcgcgatcttga  
ctcactgcaacctctgcctcccagggtcaagtgattctcctgcctcagcctcctnaggagctgagatta  
caggcgctgccatcatgccagctaatttttgatttntagtagagatgggggtttcaccatggtggcc  
aggctggtctcgaactcctgacctcaggtgatctgcccactcggcctaccaaagtgctgggattacag  
acatgagccactgtgcccagtcctccaccattgtttttcaaagggagataagatacttgagtactactac  
ctaccattcaaaaaagatatggnaatcaaatcactgatttagcatttactgag

FIG. 8N

cgggtgcctgtaatcccagctacttgggaggctgaggcatagcactgcntgaaccgaggcggaagt  
agcaatgagcccagatcgcgccactgcactccagcctgggtgacagaactgagcttcgtctcaaaaaa  
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagaatatctcctcccaaccaatagcaacgatccccaccctcagagaaagt  
gtaattcacagctcctttgattttccagGTTCAGGACATCCGGAAGAAGCTGGACTTCCTCGTGGATAT  
GCACATGCAACACATGGAACGGTTGCAGGTGCAGGTACGGAGTATTACCAACCAAGGGCACCTCCTC  
GCCAGCTGAAGCAGAGAAGAAGGAGGACAACAGGTATTCCGATTTGAAAACCATCATCTGCAACTATTC  
TGAGACAGGCCCCCGGAACCACCCTACAGCTTCCACCAGGTGACCATTGACAAAGTCAGCCCCTATGG  
GTTTTTTGCACATGACCCTGTGAACCTGCCCCGAGGGGGACCCAGTTCTGGAAAGGTTCAAGGCAACTCC  
TCCTTCCTCAGCAACAACGTATGTGGAGAGGCCACGGTCCTGCCTATCTTGACTCTTCTCGACTCCCG  
AGTGAGCTGCCACTCCCAGGCTGACCTGCAGGGCCCCCTACTCGGACCGAATCTCCCCCGGCAGAGACG  
TAGCATCACGCGAGACAGTGACACACCTCTGTCCCTGATGTCGGTCAACCACGAGGAGCTGGAGAGGTC  
TCAAGTGGCTTCAGCATCTCCCAGGACAGAGATGATTATGTGTTCCGGCCCCAATGGGGGGTCGAGCTGG  
ATGAGGGAGAAGCGGTACCTCGCCGAGGGTGAGACGGACACAGACACGGACCCCTTCACGCCAGCGGC  
TCCATGCCTCTGTCTGTCACAGGGGATGGGATTTCTGATTCAGTATGGACCCCTTCCAATAAGCCCAT  
TAAaagaggtcactggctgaccctccttgtaatgtagacagactttgtatagttcacttactcttaca  
cccgacgcttAccagcggggacaccaatggctgcatcaaatgcatgcgtgtgcgtgggtggccccacca  
ggcaggggcttcccacaGcctcttcctcccatgtcaccacaacaaagtgcttccttttcagcatggnt  
tgcatgactttacactatataaatGgttccgctaattctcttctaggatacacatttatctgctgttctt  
acttttattcacgattggaccagtacaggggGaaattactgatgagccatgctatttgtctgtttgggt  
ggctggtatgggttttgggttggtaagcaa

FIG. 80