ActRIIB-Fc fusion protein (STM 434) is set to be evaluated (Ph1 recruitment in progress) in patients with ovarian cancer or other advanced solid tumors (ClinicalTrials.gov).

[007] Despite these advancements, there clearly still exists a critical need to provide novel therapeutics, which are both highly effective and safe, for the treatment of muscle wasting diseases.

Summary

[007a] In one aspect, there is provided an isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least four of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least three of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least two of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is

capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least one of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated protein as disclosed herein in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein as disclosed herein for use in treating a myostatin-related or activin A-related disorder. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein as disclosed herein for use in treating a muscle wasting disorder selected from muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, myositis, ICU myopathy, drug-induced myopathy (e.g., corticosteroid myopathy and statin myopathy), androgen deprivation, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, cystic fibrosis, chronic heart failure, cardiac atrophy, cancer cachexia, renal failure, uremia, protein energy wasting, anorexia, malnutrition, sarcopenia, AIDS, sepsis, burn injury, diabetes, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, carpal tunnel syndrome, and muscle wasting due to prolonged bed rest, spinal cord injury, stroke, bone fracture, aging and exposure to microgravity. In another aspect, there is provided an isolated protein as disclosed herein for use in treating a disorder selected from cardiovascular disease, a metabolic disorder, a cancer, a renal disease, an inflammatory/autoimmune disease, a fibrosis, a bone disorder, anemia, pain, and aging.

Disclosure of the Disclosure

[008] In one aspect, the present disclosure provides isolated novel hybrid ActRIIB ligand trap proteins comprising novel hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptides which retain myostatin- and activin A-neutralizing activities, but demonstrate dramatically reduced BMP9-neutralization. In various embodiments, the hybrid ActRIIB ligand trap proteins comprise a

hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein at least one of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 is substituted with another amino acid, and wherein the hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In various embodiments, the hybrid ActRIIB ligand trap proteins comprise a hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein at least two of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 is substituted with another amino acid, and wherein the hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide. In various embodiments, the hybrid ActRIIB ligand trap proteins comprise a hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein at least three of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58,

1. An isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least four of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide.

2. An isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least three of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide.

3. An isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least two of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide.

4. An isolated protein comprising a hybrid soluble activin IIB receptor-extracellular domain (ActRIIB-ECD) polypeptide, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least one of amino acid residues R3, I6, Y7, Y8, L14, E15, S20, L22, R24, E26, E28, Q29, L33, L48, Y36, S38, R40, S42, T45, K51, F58, Q64, E65, A68, T69, E70, E71, N72, Q74, F84, R88, T90, H91, L92, E94, A95, G96, G97, P98, E99, V100, Y102, E103, P105, P106, T107, A108, or T110 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said hybrid ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is capable of binding myostatin and activin A, but demonstrates a decreased binding affinity for BMP9 relative to a wild-type ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide.

5. An isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 33, SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 36, SEQ ID NO: 37, SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 55, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 57, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 59, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 61, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 63, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 65, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 67, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 69, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 71, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 73, SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 75, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 77, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 79, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 85, SEQ ID NO: 86, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 88, SEQ ID NO: 89, SEQ ID NO: 90, SEQ ID NO: 91, SEQ ID NO: 92, SEQ ID NO: 93, SEQ ID NO: 94, SEQ ID NO: 95, SEQ ID NO: 96, SEQ ID NO: 97, SEQ ID NO: 98, SEQ ID NO: 99, SEQ ID NO: 100, SEQ ID NO: 101, SEQ ID NO: 102, SEQ ID NO: 103, SEQ ID NO: 104, SEQ ID NO: 110, SEQ ID NO: 111, SEQ ID NO: 112, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 114, SEQ ID NO: 115, SEQ ID NO: 116, and SEQ ID NO: 117.

6. An isolated protein according to claim 5, wherein said hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 3-37 and 51-117.

7. An isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide is fused to at least one heterologous protein, and wherein the heterologous protein comprises an Fc domain selected from the Fc domain of a human IgG1, the Fc domain of a human IgG2, or the Fc domain of a human IgG4.

8. An isolated protein according to claim 7, wherein the heterologous protein is fused to the hybrid soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide by a peptide linker sequence.

9. An isolated protein according to claim 8, wherein the hybrid ActRIIB ligand trap comprises a soluble ActRIIB-ECD polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 29, a linker having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, a linker having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118, and a human Fc domain having the amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID NO: 41, and SEQ ID NO: 43.

10. An isolated protein according to claim 9, further comprising a leader sequence having the amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO: 49 and SEQ ID NO: 50.

11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-10.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-10 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. An isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-10 for use in treating a myostatin-related or activin A-related disorder.

14. An isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-10 for use in treating a muscle wasting disorder selected from muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, myositis, ICU myopathy, drug-induced myopathy (e.g., corticosteroid myopathy and statin myopathy), androgen deprivation, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, cystic fibrosis, chronic heart failure, cardiac atrophy, cancer cachexia, renal failure, uremia, protein energy wasting, anorexia, malnutrition, sarcopenia, AIDS, sepsis, burn injury, diabetes, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, carpal tunnel syndrome, and muscle wasting due to prolonged bed rest, spinal cord injury, stroke, bone fracture, aging and exposure to microgravity.

15. An isolated protein according to any one of claims 1-10 for use in treating a disorder selected from cardiovascular disease, a metabolic disorder, a cancer, a renal disease, an inflammatory/autoimmune disease, a fibrosis, a bone disorder, anemia, pain, and aging.