

CLAIMS

1. An isolated peptide comprising, consisting essentially of, or consisting of the amino acid sequence:
5 $^1X_n C ^2XD ^3XVYTCR ^4XGQTC C/A RGLHGYGC ^5X_m$ (SEQ ID NO:1) or an amino acid sequence at least 70% identical thereto.
2. The isolated peptide of Claim 1, wherein n is 0-10.
3. The isolated peptide of Claim 2, wherein when n is 1-10, ^1X is any amino acid.
- 10 4. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein when n is 3, $^1X = SPS$; or when n is 4, $^1X = RSPS$.
5. The isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-3, wherein when n is 11, $^1X = MDTLQPIRSPS$.
6. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein m is 0-4.
- 15 7. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein when m is 1-4, ^5X is any amino acid.
8. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein when m is 1, $^5X = C$ or A .
9. The isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-8, wherein when m is 4, $^5X =$
20 APMD or CPMD.
10. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein each of $^2X ^3X ^4X = P$ or A .
11. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein at least two, or each of $^2X ^3X ^4X = P$.
- 25 12. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim, wherein one of $^2X ^3X ^4X = A$.
13. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim which comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOS:2-10 or an amino acid sequence at least 70% identical thereto.
14. The isolated peptide of any preceding claim which comprises two or three
30 intrachain disulphide bonds.
15. An isolated polypeptide comprising the isolated peptide of any preceding claim.
16. A method of modifying a peptide with an amino acid sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOS:1-11, or an amino acid sequence at least 70%

identical thereto, including the step of incorporating one or more amino acid insertions, deletions, or substitutions into the amino acid sequence of the peptide.

- 5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein modifying the peptide results in one or more increased or enhanced biological activities of the peptide.
18. An isolated nucleic acid encoding the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14 or the isolated polypeptide of Claim 15.
19. A genetic construct comprising the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 18.
20. A host cell comprising the genetic construct of Claim 19.
- 10 21. A method of producing an agent that promotes cell proliferation, migration and/or heals wounds, said method including the step of identifying, engineering, screening or designing an analogue, mimetic or agonist of the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14 that promotes cell proliferation, migration and/or heals wounds.
- 15 22. An agent produced according to the method of Claim 21.
23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14, the isolated polypeptide of Claim 15, the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 18 or the agent of Claim 22, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.
- 20 24. A method of promoting cell proliferation and/or migration, said method including the step of contacting one or more cells with the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14, the isolated polypeptide of Claim 15, the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 18, the agent of Claim 22 or the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 23, to thereby initiate, stimulate or facilitate
- 25 proliferation and/or migration of the one or more cells.
25. A method of healing a wound, said method including the step of contacting the wound with the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14, the isolated polypeptide of Claim 15, the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 18, the agent of Claim 22 or the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 23 to thereby at least
- 30 partly heal the wound.
26. An antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds the isolated peptide of any one of Claims 1-14.