Claims

1. Compound with formula structure Ac - Nle - Glu - His- D-Phe - X - Trp - NH_2, wherein X is homoArg or norArg, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. Compound according to claim 1 wherein X is homoArg.

3. Compound according to claim 1 wherein X is norArg.

4. The compound according to claims 1-3 for use in therapy.

5. Use of a compound according to claims 1-3, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of pigmentation disorders.

6. Use of a compound according to claims 1-3, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypopigmentation disorders, photodermatoses, skin cancer, and/or for the repair of DNA in skin cells.

7. Use of a compound according to claims 1-3, in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of skin cancer and/or for the medical treatment of UV irradiation-induced DNA damage.

8. Method of treating vitiligo by applying a compound according to claims 1-3.

9. The use according to claims 5-7, wherein the medicament is to be applied topically to the skin.

10. Use of a compound according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicine.

11. Method of preparing compound Ac - Nle - Glu - His – D-Phe - X - Trp - NH_2, wherein X is homoArg or norArg, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, by
- providing tripeptide D-Phe – X – Trp (4-6);
- coupling tripeptide (4-6) D-Phe – X – Trp with histidine (3); and
- coupling dipeptide Nle-Glu (1-2) with tetrapeptide His - D-Phe – X – Trp (3-6).

12. Method according to claim 11, wherein tripeptide D-Phe - homoArg - Trp (4-6) is prepared from tripeptide D-Phe - Lys - Trp by converting the free amino function of the Lysine side chain with guanylating reagent benzotriazole-1-carboxamidinium tosylate (BCAT).

13. Method of preparing an alpha-MSH analogue comprising tripeptide D-Phe - homoArg – Trp with a homoArg group by first introducing a Lysine group as a tripeptide D-Phe - Lys - Trp during the preparation of the analogue, then converting the free amino function of the Lysine side chain with guanylating reagent benzotriazole-1-carboxamidinium tosylate (BCAT) to generate a homoArg group and subsequently using the tripeptide D-Phe - homoArg – Trp to prepare the alpha-MSH analogue, wherein the alpha-MSH analogue is a derivative of alpha- MSH which exhibits agonist activity for the melanocortin-1 receptor (MC1R), the receptor to which alpha-MSH binds to initiate the production of melanin within a melanocyte.

14. Method according to claim 13, wherein the alpha-MSH analogue is a hexapeptide.

15. Method according to claims 13-14, wherein the alpha-MSH analogue is according to claim 1.