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(54) Title: TARGETED CYTOKINES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

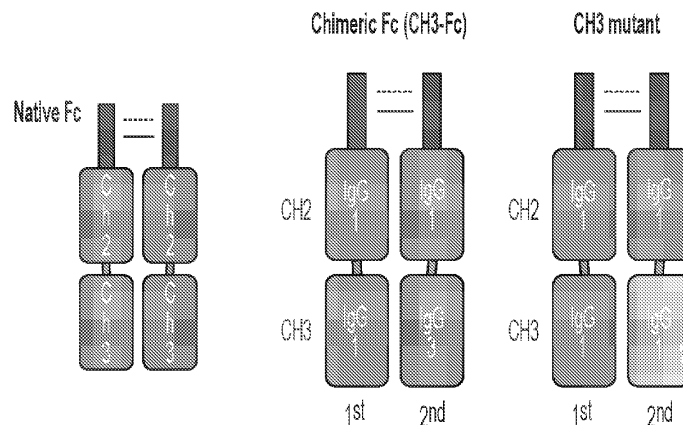


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to targeted, masked cytokines, comprising a cytokine or functional fragment thereof, a masking moiety, a targeting moiety and a proteolytically cleavable linker. The targeting moiety comprises an antigen-binding moiety that specifically binds to an antigen expressed on the surface of a target cell. The masking moiety masks the cytokine or functional fragment thereof thereby reducing or preventing binding of the cytokine or functional fragment thereof to its cognate receptor, but upon proteolytic cleavage of the cleavable linker at a target site, the cytokine or functional fragment thereof becomes activated, which renders it capable or more capable of binding to its cognate receptor.

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