What is claimed is:

1. Use of a peptide compound comprising the following sequence: (H- IEGPTLRQ(2-Nal)LAARX$_{10}$)$_2$-K(NH$_2$), wherein X$_{10}$ is sarcosine, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a patient suffering from thrombocytopenia.

2. Use of claim 1, wherein said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

3. Use of claim 2 , wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between about 500 to about 40,000 daltons.

4. Use of claim 3, wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between about 5,000 to about 20,000 daltons.

5. Use of claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

6. Use of claim 5, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

7. Use of claim 1, wherein said peptide compound is dimerized.

8. Use of claim 7, wherein each of the dimeric subunits of said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

9. Use of claim 8 wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

10. Use of claim 9, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG-NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

11. Use of claim 1, wherein said peptide compound has the following formula:

IEG P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R-(Sar)
\
K(NH2)
/
IEG P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R-(Sar)

wherein (2-Nal) is β-(2-naphthyl)alanine and (Sar) is sarcosine.

12. Use of claim 11, wherein said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

13. Use of claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

14. Use of claim 13, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

15. Use of claim 14, wherein said polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of between about 5,000 to about 20,000 daltons.

16. Use of claim 14, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol- succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG-

NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

17. Use of claim 12, wherein each of the dimeric subunits of said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

18. Use of claim 17, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

19. Use of claim 18, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

20. Use of claim 19, wherein said polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of between about 5,000 to about 20,000 daltons.

21. Use of claim 19, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol- succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG- NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

Claims

1. Use of a peptide compound comprising the following sequence: (H- IEGPTLRQ(2-Nal)LAARX$_{10}$)$_2$-K(NH$_2$), wherein X$_{10}$ is sarcosine, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a patient suffering from thrombocytopenia wherein said peptide compound is administered at a dose range of between 0.1 and 0.75 μg/kg.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

3. The use of claim 2 , wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between 500 to 40,000 daltons.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between 5,000 to 20,000 daltons.

5. The use of claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

7. The use of claim 2, wherein each of the dimeric subunits of said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

8. The use of claim 7, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG-NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

10. The use of claim 1, wherein said peptide compound has the following formula:

I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R –(Sar)

\

K(NH_2)

/

I E G P T L R Q (2-Nal) L A A R –(Sar)

wherein (2-Nal) is β-(2-naphthyl)alanine and (Sar) is sarcosine.

11. The use of claim 10, wherein said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

12. The use of claim 11, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

14. The use of claim 13, wherein said polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of between 5,000 to 20,000 daltons.

15. The use of claim 13, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG-NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

16. The use of claim 11, wherein each of the dimeric subunits of said peptide compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is polyethylene glycol.

19. The use of claim 18, wherein said polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of between 5,000 to 20,000 daltons.

20. The use of claim 18, wherein the polyethylene glycol is selected from the group consisting of monomethoxypolyethylene glycol (MePEG-OH), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinate (MePEG-S), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-succinimidyl succinate (MePEG-S-NHS), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-amine (MePEG-NH2), monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-tresylate (MePEG-TRES), and monomethoxypolyethylene glycol-imidazolyl-carbonyl (MePEG-IM).

21. The use of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein said peptide compound is administered at a dose range of 0.375 - 0.75 μg/kg.

22. The use of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein administration of said peptide compound results in a mean terminal half-life of said peptide compound of from 18 hours to 36 hours.

23. The use of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein administration of said peptide compound results in a median t_{max} of from 0.09 hours to 2 hours.

24. The use of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein administration of said peptide compound results in an increase in endogenous TPO levels.