[00134] Embodiment 124 is a host cell comprising the nucleic acid of embodiment 121 or the vector of embodiment 122.

[00135] Embodiment 125 is a method of producing a protease-activated pro-cytokine, comprising culturing the host cell of embodiment 124 under conditions wherein the protease-activated pro-cytokine is produced.

[00136] Embodiment 126 is the method of the immediately preceding embodiment, further comprising isolating the protease-activated pro-cytokine.

[00137] Embodiment 127 is a method of boosting T regulatory cells and/or reducing inflammation or autoimmune activity, comprising administering the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of embodiments 1-110 to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation in the subject.

[00138] Embodiment 128 is a method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or disorder in a subject, comprising administering the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of embodiments 1-110 to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation or autoimmune activity in the subject.

[00138a] In another embodiment, there is provided a use of the protease-activated pro-cytokine as described herein in the manufacture of medicament for boosting T regulatory cells and/or reducing inflammation or autoimmune activity, wherein the protease-activated pro-cytokine is to be administered to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation in the subject.

[00138b] In another embodiment, there is provided a use of the protease-activated pro-cytokine as described herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or disorder in a subject, wherein the protease-activated pro-cytokine is to be administered to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation or autoimmune activity in the subject.

FIGURE LEGENDS

[00139] **FIG 1A** shows an illustration of an exemplary cytokine prodrug structure and an SDS-PAGE gel characterizing a purified cytokine prodrug (Construct B). Abbreviations: PM, pharmacokinetic modulator; HMW, high molecular weight.

[00140] **FIG 1B** shows an illustration of an exemplary cytokine prodrug structure comprising human IL-2 and IL-2Rα sequences and an MMP-cleavable linker, and an SDS-PAGE gel and Western blot characterizing a purified cytokine prodrug (Construct E). Abbreviations: Hu, human; MMP, matrix metalloprotease; other abbreviations are as above.

[00141] **FIG 1C** shows an illustration of an exemplary cytokine prodrug structure comprising murine IL-2 and IL-2Rα sequences, an MMP-cleavable linker, additional linkers that include a targeting sequence ("RET Linker"), and an SDS-PAGE gel characterizing the indicated purified cytokine prodrugs.

[00142] **FIG 1D** shows an illustration of an exemplary cytokine prodrug structure comprising human IL-2 and IL-2Rα sequences, an MMP-cleavable linker, additional linkers that include a targeting sequence ("RET Linker"), and an SDS-PAGE gel characterizing the indicated purified cytokine prodrugs.

[00143] **FIG 2A** illustrates a cleavage reaction of a cytokine prodrug by a protease and shows Western blot evidence of cleavage of Construct A by MMP-9 at time points of 1, 2,

We claim:

1. A protease-activated pro-cytokine comprising:

a cytokine polypeptide sequence;

a inhibitory polypeptide sequence capable of blocking an activity of the cytokine polypeptide sequence;

a linker between the cytokine polypeptide sequence and the inhibitory polypeptide sequence, the linker comprising a protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence; and

a targeting sequence, wherein the targeting sequence is configured to bind an extracellular matrix component, an integrin, or a syndecan; or is configured to bind, in a pH-sensitive manner, an extracellular matrix component, IgB (CD79b), an integrin, a cadherin, a heparan sulfate proteoglycan, a syndecan, or a fibronectin; or the targeting sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 180-662 or a variant having one or two mismatches relative to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 180-662.

2. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~the immediately preceding~~ claim 1, further comprising a pharmacokinetic modulator.

3. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~the immediately preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises an immunoglobulin constant domain; or

wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises an immunoglobulin Fc region; preferably,

wherein the immunoglobulin is a human immunoglobulin; preferably,

wherein the immunoglobulin of the immunoglobulin Fc region or the human immunoglobulin is IgG; preferably,

wherein the IgG is IgGl, IgG2, IgG3, or IgG4.

4. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 2, wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises an ~~immunoglobulin Fc region.~~

~~5. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the immunoglobulin is a human immunoglobulin.~~

~~6. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 4-5, wherein the immunoglobulin is IgG.~~

~~7. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the IgG is IgGl, IgG2, IgG3, or IgG4.~~

~~8. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 2, wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises an~~ albumin~~.~~; preferably,

~~9. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the albumin is a serum albumin~~.~~; preferably,

~~10. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 8-9,~~ wherein the albumin or the serum albumin is a human albumin~~.~~; or

~~11. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 2,~~ wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises PEG~~.~~; or

~~12. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 2,~~ wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises XTEN~~.~~; or

~~13. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 2,~~ wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator comprises CTP.

~~14~~5. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 2-~~13~~4, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is between the cytokine polypeptide sequence and the pharmacokinetic modulator~~.~~; or

~~15. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 2-13,~~ wherein the pharmacokinetic modulator is between the cytokine polypeptide sequence and the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence.

~~16~~6. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-5, comprising a plurality of protease-cleavable polypeptide sequences~~.~~; preferably,

~~17. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is flanked by protease cleavable polypeptide sequences~~.~~; preferably,

~~18. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ having the structure PM-CL-CY-CL-IN (from N- to C-terminus or from C- to N-terminus), where PM is the pharmacokinetic modulator, each CL independently is a protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence, CY is the cytokine polypeptide sequence, and IN is the inhibitory polypeptide sequence.

~~19~~7. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 6, comprising the targeting sequence, wherein the targeting sequence is between the cytokine polypeptide sequence and the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence or one of the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequences~~.~~; and/or

~~20. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence comprises a modification to prevent disulfide bond formation, and optionally otherwise comprises wild-type sequence~~.~~; and/or

~~21. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence has at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of a wild-type cytokine polypeptide sequence or to a cytokine polypeptide sequence in Table 1~~.~~; and/or

~~22. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is a wild-type cytokine polypeptide sequence~~.~~; and/or

~~23. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is a monomeric cytokine, or wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is a dimeric cytokine polypeptide sequence comprising monomers that are associated covalently ~~(~~, optionally via a polypeptide linker~~)~~, or noncovalently~~.~~; and/or

~~24. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the inhibitory polypeptide sequence comprises a cytokine-binding domain~~.~~; preferably,

~~25. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the cytokine-binding domain is a cytokine-binding domain of a cytokine receptor or a cytokine-binding domain of a fibronectin~~.~~; or

~~26. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 24,~~ wherein the cytokine-binding domain is an immunoglobulin cytokine-binding domain~~.~~; preferably,

~~27. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the immunoglobulin cytokine-binding domain comprises a light chain variable domain and a heavy chain variable domain that bind the cytokine~~.~~; preferably,

~~28. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 26-27,~~ wherein the immunoglobulin cytokine-binding domain or the immunoglobulin cytokine-binding domain comprising the light chain variable domain and the heavy chain variable domain that binds the cytokine is an scFv, Fab, or VHH.

~~29~~8. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-7, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by a metalloprotease, a serine protease, a cysteine protease, an aspartate protease, a threonine protease, a glutamate protease, a gelatinase, an asparagine peptide lyase, a cathepsin, a kallikrein, a plasmin, a collagenase, a hKl, a hK10, a hK15, a stromelysin, a Factor Xa, a chymotrypsin-like protease, a trypsin-like protease, a elastase-like protease, a ~~subtili sin~~subtilisin-like protease, an actinidain, a bromelain, a calpain, a caspase, a Mir 1-CP, a papain, a HIV-1 protease, a HSV protease, a CMV protease, a chymosin, a renin, a pepsin, a matriptase, a legumain, a plasmepsin, a nepenthesin, a metalloexopeptidase, a metalloendopeptidase, an ADAM 10, an AD AMI 7, an ADAM 12, an urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA), an enterokinase, a prostate-specific target (PSA, hK3), an interleukin- lb converting enzyme, a thrombin, a FAP (FAP-a), a dipeptidyl peptidase, or dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPPIV/CD26), a type II transmembrane serine protease (TTSP), a neutrophil elastase, a proteinase 3, a mast cell chymase, a mast cell tryptase, or a dipeptidyl peptidase~~.~~; and/or

~~30. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 700-741, or a variant having one or two mismatches relative to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 700-741~~.~~; and/or

~~31. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by a matrix metalloprotease~~.~~; and/or

~~32. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by MMP-1~~.~~

~~33. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-2~~.~~

~~34. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-3~~.~~

~~35. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-7~~.~~

~~36. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-8~~.~~

~~37. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-9~~.~~

~~38. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-12~~.~~

~~39. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-13~~.~~

~~40. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by~~ or MMP-14.

~~41~~9. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-8, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by more than one MMP~~.~~; and/or

~~42. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence is recognized by two, three, four, five, six, or seven of MMP-2, MMP-7, MMP-8, MMP-9, MMP-12, MMP-13, and MMP-14.

~~43~~10. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-9, wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 80-94 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 80-90~~.~~; and/or

~~44. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 80 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~45. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 81 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~46. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 82 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~47. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 83 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~48. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 84 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~49. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 85 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~50. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 86 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~51. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~52. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 88 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~53. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 89 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~54. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 90 or a variant sequence having one or two mismatches relative thereto~~.~~; and/or

~~55. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 80-89 or 90~~.~~; and/or

~~56. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 91~~.~~; and/or

~~57. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 92~~.~~; and/or

~~58. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 93~~.~~; and/or

~~59. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-43,~~ wherein the protease-cleavable polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 94.

~~60~~11. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-10, wherein the targeting sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 180-662, or a variant having one or two mismatches relative to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 180-662~~.~~; preferably,

~~61. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the targeting sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 180-662.

~~62~~12. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-11, wherein the targeting sequence binds to denatured collagen.

~~63~~13. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-~~61~~11, wherein the targeting sequence binds to collagen.

~~64~~14. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~any one of claims 62-63~~claim 12 or 13, wherein the collagen is collagen I~~.~~

~~65. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 62-63, wherein the collagen is~~ or collagen II~~.~~

~~66. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 62-63, wherein the collagen is~~ or collagen III~~.~~

~~67. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 62-63, wherein the collagen is~~ or collagen IV.

~~68~~15. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-~~61~~11, wherein the targeting sequence binds to integrin~~.~~; preferably,

~~69. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the integrin is one or more of α1β1 integrin, α2β1 integrin, α3β1 integrin, α4β1 integrin, α5β1 integrin, α6β1 integrin, α7β1 integrin, α9β1 integrin, α4β7 integrin, αvβ3 integrin, αvβ5 integrin, αIIbβ3 integrin, αIIIbβ3 integrin, αMβ2 integrin, or αIIbβ3 integrin~~.~~; or

~~70. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61,~~ wherein the targeting sequence binds to von Willebrand factor~~.~~

~~71. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or IgB~~.~~

~~72. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or heparin~~.~~; preferably,

~~73. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the targeting sequence binds to heparin and a syndecan, a heparan sulfate proteoglycan, or an integrin, optionally wherein the integrin is one or more of α1β1 integrin, α2β1 integrin, α3β1 integrin, α4β1 integrin, α5β1 integrin, α6β1 integrin, α7β1 integrin, α9β1 integrin, α4β7 integrin, αvβ3 integrin, αvβ5 integrin, αIIbβ3 integrin, αIIIbβ3 integrin, αMβ2 integrin, or αIIbβ3 integrin~~.~~; preferably,

~~74. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 72-73,~~ wherein the syndecan is one of more of syndecan-1, syndecan-4, and syndecan-2(w~~).~~); or

~~75. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61,~~ wherein the targeting sequence binds to a heparan sulfate proteoglycan~~.~~

~~76. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or a sulfated glycoprotein~~.~~

~~77. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or hyaluronic acid~~.~~

~~78. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or fibronectin~~.~~

~~79. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-61, wherein the targeting sequence binds to~~ or cadherin.

~~80~~16. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-15, wherein the targeting sequence is configured to bind its target in a pH-sensitive manner~~.~~; preferably,

~~81. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the targeting sequence has a higher affinity for its target at a pH below normal physiological pH than at normal physiological pH, optionally wherein the pH below normal physiological pH is below 7, or below 6~~.~~; preferably,

~~82. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the targeting sequence has a higher affinity for its target at a pH in the range of 5-7, e.g., 5-5.5, 5.5-6, 6-6.5, or 6.5-7, than at normal physiological pH.

~~83~~17. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-16, wherein the targeting sequence comprises one or more histidines, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 histidines~~.~~; and/or

~~84. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the targeting sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 641-662, or a variant having one or two mismatches relative to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 641-662~~.~~; preferably,

~~85. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the targeting sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 641-662.

~~86~~18. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~any one of claims 80-86~~claim 16 or 17, wherein the targeting sequence is configured to bind, in a pH-sensitive manner, an extracellular matrix component, IgB (CD79b), an integrin, a cadherin, a heparan sulfate proteoglycan, a syndecan, or a fibronectin~~.~~; preferably,

~~87. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the extracellular matrix component is hyaluronic acid, heparin, heparan sulfate, or a sulfated glycoprotein~~.~~; or

~~88. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 86,~~ wherein the targeting sequence is configured to bind a fibronectin in a pH-sensitive manner.

~~89~~19. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-18, wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is an interleukin polypeptide sequence~~.~~; and/or

~~90. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is capable of binding a receptor comprising CD132~~.~~

~~91. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is capable of binding a receptor~~ or comprising CD122~~.~~

92. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is capable of binding a receptor or comprising CD25.

9320. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of the preceding claims 1-19, wherein the cytokine polypeptide sequence is an IL-2 polypeptide sequence.; preferably,

94. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the IL-2 polypeptide sequence has at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-4.; preferably,

95. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the IL-2 polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-4.

9621. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 93-95claim 20, wherein the IL-2 polypeptide sequence is a human IL-2 polypeptide sequence.; preferably,

97. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the IL-2 polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.; or

98. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 93-95, wherein the IL-2 polypeptide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

9922. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 93-98claim 20 or 21, wherein the inhibitory polypeptide sequence comprises an IL-2 binding domain of an IL-2 receptor (IL-2R).); preferably,

100. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, wherein the inhibitory polypeptide sequence comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 10-19.; preferably,

wherein the IL-2R is a human IL-2R.

10123. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim, 20 or 21wherein the IL-2R is a human IL-2R.

~~102. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 93-98~~, wherein the inhibitory polypeptide sequence comprises an IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain~~.~~; preferably,

~~103. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 93-98,~~ wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain is a human IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain~~.~~; preferably,

~~104. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain comprises a VL region comprising hypervariable regions (HVRs) HVR-1, HVR-2, and HVR-3 having the sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 33, 34, and 35, respectively, and a VH region comprising HVR-1, HVR-2, and HVR-3 having the sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 36, 37, and 38, respectively.

~~105~~24. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~any one of claims 102-104~~claim 23, wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain comprises a VL region comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 and a VH region comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33~~.~~; preferably,

~~106. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain comprises a VL region comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 and a VH region comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33.

~~107~~25. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of ~~any one of claims 102-104~~claim 23, wherein the IL-2 -binding immunoglobulin domain is an scFv~~.~~; preferably,

~~108. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99 percent identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30 or 31~~.~~; preferably,

~~109. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the IL-2-binding immunoglobulin domain comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30 or 31.

~~110~~26. The protease-activated pro-cytokine of claim 1, comprising the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 803-852.

~~111~~27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of ~~the preceding~~ claims 1-26.

~~112~~28. The protease-activated pro-cytokine ~~or~~ of any of claims 1-26 or the pharmaceutical composition of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 27, for use in therapy.

29. ~~113.~~ Use of ~~The~~the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any of claims 1-26 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 27 in the manufacture of a medicament ~~of any one of the preceding claims,~~ for ~~use in~~ treating a cancer~~.~~; preferably,

~~114. A method of treating a cancer, comprising administering the protease-activated pro-cytokine or pharmaceutical composition of any one of the preceding claims to a subject in need thereof.~~

~~115. Use of the protease-activated pro-cytokine or pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1-110 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer.~~

~~116. The method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for use of any one of claims 113-115,~~ wherein the cancer is a solid tumor~~.~~; preferably,

~~117. The method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for use of the immediately preceding claim,~~ wherein the solid tumor is metastatic and/or unresectable.

~~118~~30. The ~~method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for~~ use of ~~any one of claims 113-117~~ claim 29, wherein the cancer is a PD-L1-expressing cancer~~.~~; preferably,

~~119. The method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for use of any one of claims 113-118,~~ wherein the cancer is a melanoma, a colorectal cancer, a breast cancer, a pancreatic cancer, a lung cancer, a prostate cancer, an ovarian cancer, a cervical cancer, a gastric or gastrointestinal cancer, a lymphoma, a colon or colorectal cancer, an endometrial cancer, a thyroid cancer, or a bladder cancer~~.~~; preferably,

~~120. The method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for use of any one of claims 113-119,~~ wherein the cancer is a microsatellite instability-high cancer~~.~~; preferably,

~~121. The method, use, or protease-activated pro-cytokine for use of any one of claims 113-120,~~ wherein the cancer is mismatch repair deficient.

~~122~~31. A nucleic acid encoding the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-~~110~~26.

~~123~~32. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim ~~121~~31.

~~124~~33. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim ~~121~~31 or the expression vector of claim ~~122~~32.

~~125~~34. A method of producing a protease-activated pro-cytokine, comprising culturing the host cell of claim ~~124~~33 under conditions wherein the protease-activated procytokine is produced~~.~~; preferably,

~~126. The method of the immediately preceding claim,~~ further comprising isolating the protease-activated pro-cytokine.

~~127. A method of~~35. Use of the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-26 in the manufacture of medicament for boosting T regulatory cells and/or reducing inflammation or autoimmune activity, ~~comprising administering~~ wherein the protease-activated pro-cytokine is to be administered ~~of any one of claims 1-110~~ to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation in the subject.

~~128. A method of~~36. Use of the protease-activated pro-cytokine of any one of claims 1-26 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or disorder in a subject, wherein ~~comprising administering~~ the protease-activated pro-cytokine ~~of any one of claims 1-110~~ is to be administered to an area of interest in a subject, e.g., an area of inflammation or autoimmune activity in the subject.