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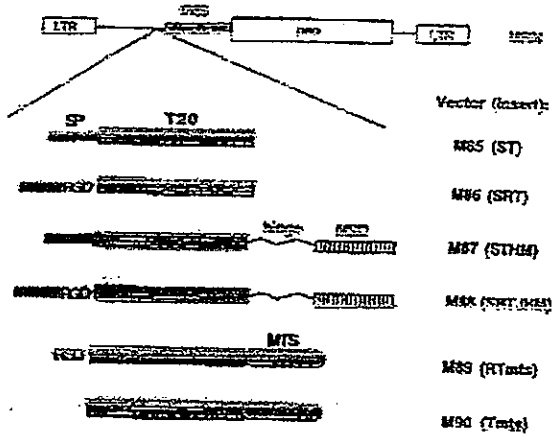
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(54) Title: GENE THERAPY OF HIV-POSITIVE PATIENTS BY THE EXPRESSION OF MEMBRANE-ANCHORED GP41 PEPTIDES



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to gene therapy of HIV infection by the expression of membrane-anchored gp41 peptides. With this treatment vectors are made available for the first time which code for a fusion protein that contains a peptide derived from gp41 of HIV and a carboxy terminal trans-membrane anchor connected to a flexible linker.

Gene therapy of HIV-positive patients by the expression of membrane-anchored gp41 peptides

The invention relates to the gene therapy of HIV infection by the expression of membrane-anchored gp41 peptides. With this treatment vectors are made available for the first time which code for a fusion protein that contains a peptide derived from gp41 of HIV and a carboxy terminal trans-membrane anchor connected by a flexible linker.

A very wide variety of therapeutic approaches have been proposed for the treatment of HIV infections. However, the active substances available have proved to be poorly tolerated by many patients. To improve AIDS therapy, new points of attack and active substances with different toxicity profiles are constantly being sought. In this context, various gene therapeutical approaches have already been proposed, to inhibit the different steps in HIV replication (cf. Sorg T. & Methali, M. *Transfus. Sci.* 18, 277-289 (1977)).

Wild et al. (Wild, C.T. Shugars, D.C. Greenwell, T.K. McDanal, C.B. & Matthews, T.J. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci U.S.A.* 91, 9770-9774 (1994)) have proposed a therapeutic approach based on the observation that peptides which are derived from the trans-membrane protein gp41 (cf. SEQ ID NO: 4 corresponding to the numeric code <400> in accordance with WIPO Standard ST. 25: 4) of HIV, such as, for example, the peptide T-20, formerly known as DP178, can effectively inhibit HIV fusion and entry into the cell. T-20 is a peptide which overlaps with the C-terminal heptad repeat, one of two domains (cf. positions 539-589 and 622-662 of SEQ ID NO: 4) in the ectodomain of the gp41, and can effectively inhibit the HIV infection in vitro (Weissenhborn, W., Dessen., A., Harrison, S.C. Skehel, J.J & Wiley, D.C. *Nature* 387, 426-430 (1997); Chan, D.C. Fass, D., Berger, J.M. & Kim, P.S. *Cell* 89. 263-273 (1997); Furuta, R.A., Wild, C.T., Weng Y & Weiss, C.D. *Nat. Struct. Biol.* 5, 276-279 (1998)).

Within the context of a clinical study (Kilby, J.M., Hopkins S., Venetta, T.M. et al. *Nat. Med.* 4, 1302-1307 (1998)), in the case of short-term administration T-20 proved to be safe and effectively inhibit HIV replication. As, however, very large quantities of the peptide are needed, to achieve an antiviral effect and as the peptides are not bio-available if administered orally, possess a very short half-life, and production on a large scale is still extremely expensive, the object of the invention is to make possible intracellular immunisation with peptides which are derived from gp41, via a gene therapeutical approach.

The inventors therefore first cloned the sequences coding for T-20 5' of the IRES-NEO-Cassette (IRES: Internal ribosomal entry site; NEO: Neomycin-resistance gene) of the retroviral vector MPIN (cf. Figure 1, Hildinger et al., *Hum. Gene Ther. 9* (1998) 33-42). To achieve the secretion of the T-20,

on the one hand the peptide was expressed directly behind the signal peptide of the human low affinity nerve growth factor receptor (LNGFR, Fehse et al., *Human Gene Therapy* 8 (1997) 1815) (Constructs M85 and M86), and on the other hand a construct was chosen, which contains the coding sequences for a membrane-translocation signal (mts) derived from Kaposi fibroblast growth factor (amino acid positions 43-58 in mts protein; Rojas, M., Donahue, J.P., Tan, Z., Lin, Y.Z. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 16, 370-375 (1998)) in frame with T20 (cf. constructs M89 and M90 in Figure 1). Using these constructs, retroviral vectors were produced by transfection of Phoenix packaging cells (Grignani, F., Kinsella, T., Mencarelli, A. et al., *Cancer Res.* 58, 14-19 (1998)), and the supernatants were used to infect the T-helper cell line PM-1 (Bou-Habib, D.C. et al., *J. Virol.* 68 6006-6013 (1994)). As a control, the MPIN vector was used, which exclusively contains the neomycin resistance gene as a foreign gene. After G418 selection, the mass cultures were infected with HIV-1, which was produced from the proviral clones NL4-3 (Adachi, A., Gendelman H.E., Koenig, S., Folks, T., Willey, R., Rabson, A. & Martin, M.A., *J. Virol.* 59 284-291 (1986)) or NL4-3/GFP (Welker, R., Harris, M., Cardel, B. & Krausslich, H.G. *J., Virol.* 72, 8833-8840 (1998)). These two clones differ in that, in the case of NL4-3/GFP, the green fluorescent protein (GFP) is expressed instead of the nef protein, so that the HIV-1 replication can be analyzed on the basis of the p24 antigen production and/or by flow cytometry. Contrary to all expectations, the expression of T-20 peptide using the abovementioned retroviral vector constructs however surprisingly led to no antiviral activity of any kind.

Into these constructs, a sequence coding for the integrin-binding RGD peptide in frame with the region coding for T-20 was cloned. The production of these constructs was based on the consideration that the RGD motif could hold the secreting peptides on the cell membrane. However, even with the RGD-

containing secreted T-20 peptide (cf. Figure 1, M86) a reproducible HIV-replication was still observed.

Within the context of the present invention, it has now surprisingly been ascertained that the production of p24 and the spread of NL4-3/GFP can be greatly reduced, if a fusion protein is expressed, which, in addition to an amino-terminal gp41 peptide, contains a trans-membrane anchor tagged thereto carboxyterminally via a flexible linker. In this context, the term "gp41 peptide" means a fragment of the gp41 protein of the HIV or a fragment, variant or mutant thereof.

It has, for example, been ascertained, that the p24 production can be reduced by more than 2 powers of ten, if PM-1 is transduced with a retroviral vector, which expresses a fusion protein in which T-20 is connected C-terminally via a flexible peptide linker with a trans-membrane peptide (membrane spanning domain, MSD) (cf. Figure 1, M87), wherein the fusion protein has the sequence indicated in SEQ ID NO: 2.

The subject of the present invention is therefore a nucleic acid sequence of the general formula

5' - SP - FI - Hinge - MSD - 3',

in which

"5'" denotes the 5'end of the nucleic acid sequence,

"3'" denotes the 3'end of the nucleic acid sequence,

"SP" codes for a signal peptide, which mediates the transfer of an expressed peptide into the endoplasmatic reticulum.

"FI" codes for a fragment of the gp41 protein of HIV (preferably HIV-1), which contains a section from a heptad repeat region,

"MSD" codes for a trans-membrane-anchor of a type-1 membrane protein and

"Hinge" codes for a protein sequence, which, as a flexible linker, connects the peptides encoded by "FI" and "MSD".

The sequence coding for the signal peptide is derived from human, non-immunogenic proteins, preferably selected from the group consisting of sequences which code for signal peptides of cellular membrane proteins, such as, for example of the (human) low affinity nerve growth factor receptor (LNGFR), of the interleukin-2-receptor (IL-2R) and of the granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor receptor (GM-CSFR).

As trans-membrane anchors of a type-1 membrane protein (i.e. of a membrane protein, whose N-terminus is located outside and whose C-terminus is located inside the cell), proteins are used, whose cytoplasmatic domain should be deleted, to avoid any undesired signal transduction through the protein. In preliminary tests, it can be clarified that no signal transduction effects emanate from the expressed regions, and they do not oligomerise with other, similar membrane proteins and in this way exert an indirect effect on the cell functions. Peptides from the group consisting of the trans-membrane region of the LNGFR or the CD34 are preferably considered. The nucleic acid sequence therefore preferably contains as MSD, a nucleic acid sequence coding for these trans-membrane anchors and/or a nucleic acid sequence coding for fragments with a deleted cytoplasmatic domain.

According to the invention, it is possible to use, as flexible linkers, all flexible peptides which enable a flexible connection between the gp41 peptide and the trans-membrane anchor, such as, for example, the hinge of immunoglobin G (IgG), the linker of the human P-Glycoprotein (C.A. Hrycyna et al., *Biochemistry* 37 13660-13673 (1998)), the C-terminal linker of the

Human Replication Protein A (hsRPA; cf. D.M. Jacobs et al., *J. Biomol. NMR* 14, 321-331 (1999)) and the linker of the parathyroid hormone-related protein (M. Weidler et al. *FEBS Lett.* 444, 239-244 (1999)). The linker preferably has a length of up to 30 amino acids. The nucleic acid sequence of the above formula according to the invention therefore contains a nucleic acid sequence section coding for such a linker, preferably the hinge of IgG corresponding to nucleotides 1636 to 1683 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

As already mentioned, FI codes for a peptide (designated as gp41 peptide) which corresponds to a sequence section of the HIV-gp41-protein (cf. SEQ ID NO: 4, including the gp41 protein of the HIV quasi-species (clades)), which is selected from a region which includes the two heptad repeat regions (cf. amino acid positions 539-589 and 622-662 in SEQ ID NO: 3 and 4). In this context "HIV" includes all HIV types, especially HIV-1. In this context it is, for example, to be expected that use of an HIV-2 gp41 peptide will result in cross-reactivity with HIV-1 and vice-versa.

The gp41 peptides encoded by FI preferably have a minimum length of 28 amino acids, so that FI includes at least 84 nucleotides. Within the context of the present invention, in particular a nucleic acid sequence coding for the amino acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 2 from Position 31 to 66 (corresponds to peptide T-20) is used as FI, preferably the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1528 to nucleotide 1635. According to a particular embodiment, the peptide encoded by FI has a maximum length of 40 amino acids, corresponding to a maximum length of 120 bases for the coding region FI.

According to a particular embodiment of the invention, the nucleic acid sequence of the general formula "SP-FI-Hinge-MSD" has the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1438 to nucleotide 1773, which codes for the fusion protein represented in SEQ ID NO: 2.

A further subject of the invention is the fusion protein encoded in each case by the abovementioned vectors/nucleic acid sequences, of the general formula

NH_2 - sp - fi - hinge - msd -COOH,

in which

"NH_2" denotes the amino-terminal end of the protein

"COOH" denotes the carboxy-terminal end of the protein

"sp" is a signal peptide, which enables the transfer of an expressed peptide into the endoplasmatic reticulum,

"fi" is a fragment of the gp41 protein of HIV, which contains a section from a heptad repeat region,

"msd" is a trans-membrane anchor of a type I membrane protein and

"hinge" is a protein sequence which connects the "fi" and "msd" peptides as a flexible linker.

With regard to the definitions of "sp", "fi", "hinge" and "msd", reference should be made to the above definitions of the sequence elements "SP", "FI, "Hinge" and "MSD", where the structural and functional characteristics of the fusion protein and/or the individual partial regions of the protein have already been mentioned.

According to a preferred embodiment, the fusion protein has the amino acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 2. The fusion protein ("fi-hinge-msd") obtained therefrom after the cleaving off of the signal peptide accordingly has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 from Position 31 to Position 111.

Also included according to the invention are homologues and/or variants and fragments of the abovementioned fusion protein, which essentially have the same pharmacological and biological effectiveness and/or immunogenicity and

the nucleic acid sequences coding for these homologues and fragments. In this context, the terms "homologues" and "variants" mean sequences which differ from the natural sequences or sequence sections known hitherto, by the exchange, deletion or insertion of individual amino acids. In this context in particular homologues, variants and fragments of the protein represented in SEQ ID NO: 2 and the nucleic acid sequences encoding the same are included.

The invention further relates to a vector which contains one abovementioned nucleic acid sequence. The vector is preferably a retroviral vector.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the vector has the structure represented in Figure 1. The vector-insert of the general formula "SP-FI-Hinge-MSD", encoding the fusion protein according to the invention, preferably has the nucleic acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1. A sample of the last-mentioned vector was deposited with the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSMZ), Mascheroder Weg 1b, 38124 Brunswick, Germany, on 11.11.1999, under number DSM 13139 under the Budapest Treaty.

The abovementioned vector can be used for the *in vitro* transfection of T-lymphocytes and haematopoietic stem cells, whereby these transfected cells can be administered to HIV-infected patients for therapeutic treatment. The vectors according to the invention are especially suitable for use (i.e. for direct (*in vivo*) application) in gene therapeutical treatment of patients infected with HIV, in which case the vectors are preferably vectors with targeted tropism, i.e. with specificity towards HIV target cells (CD4+ cells). The invention further relates to a gene therapeutical medicament, which contains an abovementioned vector.

The invention is further explained below, with reference to examples.

Examples

Cells and Viruses

HeLa-, 293- and Phoenix-Ampho cells were cultivated in Dulbecco's Medium (Gibco, Paisley, Great Britain), which was supplemented with 10% foetal calf serum (FCS; Sigma, Deisenhofen, Germany). PM-1 was cultivated in RPMI with 10% FCS. The viral clones NL4-3/GFP, NL4-3env-GFP and pNL4-3 have already been described above. (NL4-3: Welker R., Harris, M., Cardel, B. & Krausslich, H.G. *J. Virol.* 72, 8833-8840 (1998); NL4-2env-GFP: He, J. Chen, Y., Farzan, M., et al. *Nature* 385, 645-649) (1997)). To pseudotype the env-deficient clone NL4-3env-GFP, the plasmids pSNJG, pSVIIIenvJRFL, pSVIIIenvYU2 and pSVIIIenvHXB2 (Welker, R., Harris, M., Cardel, B. & Krausslich, H.G. *J. Virol.* 72, 8833-8840 (1998); He, J. Chen, Y., Farzan, M., et al. *Nature* 385, 645-649) (1997); von Laer, D., Thomson, S., Vogt, B., et al., *J. Virol 72, 1424-1430* (1998)) were used. These plasmids contain the VSV G-cDNA or the cDNA of the HIV envelopes JR-FL, YU2 and HXB2.

Infectious replication-competent viruses were produced by transfection of NL4-3 or NL4-3/GFP-DNA in HeLa cells. Pseudotyped replication-incompetent HIV were produced by co-transfection of pNL4-3env-GFP and one of the envelope-expression plasmids in 293-cells. The retroviral vectors were packaged in Phoenix packaging cells as described above (Grignani, F., Kinsella, T., Mencarelli, A., et al., *Cancer Res.* 58, 14-19 (1998)).

Cloning of retroviral vectors

M85 and M86: The sequence coding for the signal peptide of the human low affinity nerve growth factor receptor (LNGFR) was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) starting from the vector dLN using the primers SPNot+ (Sequence ID NO: 5) and SPBgl2 (SEQ ID NO: 6), whereby a NotI cleavage site was inserted at the 5′ end and a BglII cleavage site was inserted at the 3′ end (dLN: Fehse et al., Human Gene Therapy 8 (1997) 1815). The sequence coding for the fusion-inhibiting peptide was amplified from NL4-3 using the primer T20Bgl+ (M85; SEQ ID NO: 7) or T20Bgl-RGD+ (M86; SEQ ID NO: 8) and T20Hind- (SEQ NO ID: 9), whereby a BglII cleavage site was inserted at the 5′ end and a HindIII cleavage site was inserted at the 3′ end. The fragments were ligated into the vector pBluescriptKS digested with NotI and HindIII.

M87 and M88: The trans-membrane domain of dLNGFR was amplified from dLN using a 5′ primer, which also contains that for the hinge-region of the murine IgG heavy chain and a BglII cleavage site (hingeTMBgl+; SEQ ID NO: 10), and a 3′ primer of the retroviral vector dLN (U3-; sequence ID NO: 11). This PCR product was inserted, together with the signal peptide PCR product (SPNot+/SPBgl-) into the vector pBluescriptKS (after digestion with NotI and HindIII), and the sequence for T20 (starting from NL4-3) was inserted subsequently as PCR product, which contains flanking BglII cleavage sites (by using the PCR primer T20Bgl+ corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 7 (see above) and T20Bgl- corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 12).

M89 and M90: The sequence coding for T20 with a membrane translocation signal (mts) was amplified from NL4-3 using the primer RGD-T20Not+ (M89; SEQ ID NO: 13) or T20Not+ (M90; SEQ ID NO: 14) and T20mtsHind- (SEQ ID NO: 15). In the 5′ primer, a NotI cleavage site is present, and in the 3′ primer there is a HindIII cleavage site. The membrane translocation signal (mts) was introduced

with the 3' primer. The product was inserted into the vector pBluescriptKS digested with NotI and HindIII.

The genes encoding the different T20-fusion proteins were then transferred as NotI x HindIII fragments together with the polio-IRES from SF1 MIN into the vector MP1N (Hildinger et al., Hum. Gene Ther. 9 (1998) 33-42).

Infection with HIV

PM-1-cells ($5x10^4$ in 0.5 ml) were infected with 3000 to 6000 TCID50 (tissue culture infectious dose 50%) replication-competent HIV. For analysis of the p24 production the medium was changed on day 5, the cells were incubated overnight, and the cell-free residues were examined using a p24 ELISA as described above (Konvalinka, J., Litterst., M.A., Welker, R., et al. *J. Virol.* 69, 7180-7186 (1995)). The results are represented in Fig. 2.

Infection with NL4-3/GFP was further monitored at the moments indicated by means of flow cytometry analysis with a FACScalibur (Beckton Dickinson, Heidelberg, Germany). For this purpose, PM-1 (with and without the vectors MP1N and M85 to M87) were infected with a moi of 0.01 (moi: multiplicity of infection; describes the number of virus particles with which a cell is infected) with NL-4/GFP and analysed by flow cytometry on days 4, 7 and 10. The percentage of EGFP-positive and thus HIV-infected cells is shown in Fig. 3 in course for the various cultures. The detection threshold is approx. 0.1% positive cells.

Examination of the mechanism of action

To determine at which stage the HIV replication is inhibited, "single round" infections were carried out with the clone NL4-3env-GFP. The clone NL4-3env-GFP, due to a mutation in the env-gene is replication-defective and expresses GFP instead of nef. To produce infectious virions, the vector was pseudotyped with the envelopes of three different HIV clones (HXB, YU2 and JR-FL) and with the G protein of the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV G). HXB is classified as T-tropic, with use of the co-receptor CXCR4, whilst YU2 and JR-FL are M-tropic and use CCR-5. The env-genes of the last two clones mentioned were cloned directly from primary HIV isolates (He, J., Chen, Y., Farzan, M. et al. *Nature* 385, 645-649 (1997). These HIV pseudotypes are capable of "single round" infections, but do not spread throughout the whole culture. In PM1/M87 cells (i.e. in cells which are transfected with the vector according to the invention, encoding the membrane-anchored T-20 fusion protein) the infection was more strongly inhibited via the three different HIV envelopes, by a factor of 15 to 30, than in the case of the VSV-G pseudotypes, in which no significant inhibition was observed (cf. Figure 4). Just like the free T-20 peptide (cf. Wild C.T. et al. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91, 9770-9774), the genetically expressed membrane-anchored T-20 fusion protein also inhibits entry mediated via the envelopes of the different HIV variants. These results clearly show that the virus is inhibited at the stage of virus entry mediated via HIV-env, in which it is very probably a matter of membrane fusion. All HIV-replication steps following the virus entry were not influenced.

These investigations show that membrane-anchored gp41 peptide effectively inhibits HIV replication, whilst secreted pure gp41 peptide is not effective.

HEINRICH-PETTE-I. HAMBURG

BUDAPESTER VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ANERKENNUNG DER HINTERLEGUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN FÜR DIE ZWECKE VON PATENTVERFAHREN

INTERNATIONALES FORMBLATT

Heinrich-Pette-Institut
Martinistr. 52

20251 Hamburg

EMPFANGSBESTÄTIGUNG BEI ERSTHINTERLEGUNG, ausgestellt gemäß Regel 7.1 von der unten angegebenen INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE

I. KENNZEICHNUNG DES MIKROORGANISMUS	
Vom HINTERLEGER zugeteiltes Bezugszeichen: M87	Von der INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE zugeteilte EINGANGSNUMMER: DSM 13139

II. WISSENSCHAFTLICHE BESCHREIBUNG UND/ODER VORGESCHLAGENE TAXONOMISCHE BEZEICHNUNG

Mit dem unter I. bezeichneten Mikroorganismus wurde

(X) eine wissenschaftliche Beschreibung
( ) eine vorgeschlagene taxonomische Bezeichnung

eingereicht.
(Zutreffendes ankreuzen).

III. EINGANG UND ANNAHME

Diese internationale Hinterlegungsstelle nimmt den unter I bezeichneten Mikroorganismus an, der bei ihr am 1999-11-11 (Datum der Ersthinterlegung)[1] eingegangen ist.

IV. EINGANG DES ANTRAGS AUF UMWANDLUNG

Der unter I bezeichnete Mikroorganismus ist bei dieser internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle am eingegangen (Datum der Ersthinterlegung) und ein Antrag auf Umwandlung dieser Ersthinterlegung in eine Hinterlegung gemäß Budapester Vertrag ist am eingegangen (Datum des Eingangs des Antrags auf Umwandlung).

V. INTERNATIONALE HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE

Name: DSMZ-DEUTSCHE SAMMLUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN UND ZELLKULTUREN GmbH Anschrift: Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124 Braunschweig	Unterschrift(en) der zur Vertretung der internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle befugten Person(en) oder des (der) von ihr ermächtigten Bediensteten: U. Weiko Datum: 1999-11-15

[1] Falls Regel 6.4 Buchstabe d zutrifft, ist dies der Zeitpunkt, zu dem der Status einer internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle erworben worden ist.

Formblatt DSMZ-BP/4 (einzige Seite) 0196

HEINRICH-PETTE-I. HAMBURG

BUDAPESTER VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ANERKENNUNG DER HINTERLEGUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN FÜR DIE ZWECKE VON PATENTVERFAHREN

INTERNATIONALES FORMBLATT

Heinrich-Pette-Institut
Martinistr. 52

20251 Hamburg

LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSBESCHEINIGUNG
ausgestellt gemäß Regel 10.2 von der unten angegebenen INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE

I. HINTERLEGER	II. KENNZEICHNUNG DES MIKROORGANISMUS
Name: Heinrich-Pette-Institut Martinistr. 52 Anschrift: 20251 Hamburg	Von der INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE zugeteilte EINGANGSNUMMER: DSM 13139 Datum der Hinterlegung oder Weiterleitung[1]: 1999-11-11
III. LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSBESCHEINIGUNG	
Die Lebensfähigkeit des unter II genannten Mikroorganismus ist am 1999-11-12 [2] geprüft worden. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war der Mikroorganismus (X)[3] lebensfähig ( )[3] nicht mehr lebensfähig	
IV. BEDINGUNGEN, UNTER DENEN DIE LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSPRÜFUNG DURCHGEFÜHRT WORDEN IST[4]	
V. INTERNATIONALE HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE	
Name: DSMZ-DEUTSCHE SAMMLUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN UND ZELLKULTUREN GmbH Anschrift: Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124 Braunschweig	Unterschrift(en) der zur Vertretung der internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle befugten Person(en) oder des (der) von ihr ermächtigten Bediensteten: U. Weiß Datum: 1999-11-15

Angabe des Datums der Ersthinterlegung. Wenn eine erneute Hinterlegung oder eine Weiterleitung vorgenommen worden ist, Angabe des Datums der jeweils letzten erneuten Hinterlegung oder Weiterleitung.
In den in Regel 10.2 Buchstabe a Ziffer ii und iii vorgesehenen Fällen Angabe der letzten Lebensfähigkeitsprüfung.
Zutreffendes ankreuzen.
Ausfüllen, wenn die Angaben beantragt worden sind und wenn die Ergebnisse der Prüfung negativ waren.

Claims

1. Nucleic acid sequence, characterised by the general formula

SP - FI - hinge - MSD,

in which

"SP" codes for a signal peptide, which mediates the transfer of an expressed peptide into the endoplasmatic reticulum.

"FI" codes for a fragment of the gp41 protein of HIV, which contains a section from a heptad repeat region,

"MSD" codes for a trans-membrane-anchor of a type-1 membrane protein and

"Hinge" codes for a protein sequence, which connects the peptides encoded by "FI" and "MSD" as a flexible linker.

2. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 1, characterised in that SP is a sequence, which encodes a signal peptide of the low affinity nerve growth factor receptor (LNGFR), of the interleukin-2-receptor (IL-2R) or of the granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor receptor (GM-CSFR).

3. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that MSD is a sequence which encodes a trans-membrane anchor of the LNGFR or of the CD34 or a fragment thereof.

4. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that hinge is a sequence which encodes the linker of immunoglobulin G (IgG), of the human P-glycoprotein, of the human replication protein A and of parathyroid hormone-related protein.

5. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that FI encodes the amino acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 2 from position 31 to position 66.

6. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 5, characterised in that it has the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1528 to nucleotide 1635.

7. Nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that it has the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1528 to nucleotide 1773.

8. Vector, characterised in that it contains a nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 7.

9. Vector according to Claim 8, characterised in that it is a retroviral vector.

10. Vector according to Claim 9, characterised in that it has the structure represented in Figure 1.

11. Vector according to Claim 10, characterised in that it contains the nucleic acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. Vector according to Claim 11 with the deposit number DSM 13139.

13. Use of a vector according to Claims 8 to 12 for *in vitro* transfection of T-lymphocytes and haematopoietic stem cells.

14. Use of a vector according to Claims 8 to 12 for gene therapeutical treatment of patients infected with HIV.

15. Use of T-lymphocytes or haematopoietic stem cells which are transfected with a vector according to Claims 8 to 12 for gene therapy treatment of patients infected with HIV.

16. Gene therapeutical medicament containing a vector according to Claims 8 to 12.

17. Gene therapeutical medicament containing T-lymphocytes or haematopoietic stem cells which are transfected with a vector according to Claims 8 to 12.

18. Protein of the general formula "sp-fi-hinge-msd" which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 7, in which "sp", "fi", "hinge" and "msd" have the meaning indicated in Claim 1.

19. Protein according to Claim 18, characterised in that it has the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 2.

20. Protein of the general formula "fi-hinge-msd", which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence according to Claims 1 to 7, in which "fi", "hinge" and "msd" have the meaning indicated in Claim 1.

21. Protein according to Claim 20, characterised in that it has the sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 2 from position 31 to position 111.

22. Protein characterised in that it is a mutant, variant or derivative of the protein according to Claims 18 to 21.

23. Nucleic acid sequence characterised in that it encodes a protein according to Claim 22.

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Heinrich-Pette-Institut

<120> Gene therapy of HIV-positive patients by expression of membrane-anchored gp41 peptides

<130> P055363

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<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0

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tccagggtgc cccaaggacc tgaaaatgac cctgtgcctt atttgaacta accaatcagt 300

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tcctcccttt atccagccct cactccttct ctaggcgcca ccgcggtggc ggccgcc    1437

atg ggg gca ggt gcc acc ggc cgc gcc atg gac ggg ccg cgc ctg ctg   1485
Met Gly Ala Gly Ala Thr Gly Arg Ala Met Asp Gly Pro Arg Leu Leu
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ctg ttg ctg ctt ctg ggg gtg tcc ctt gga ggt gcc aga tct tac act   1533
Leu Leu Leu Leu Leu Gly Val Ser Leu Gly Gly Ala Arg Ser Tyr Thr
            20                  25                  30

agc tta ata cac tcc tta att gaa gaa tcg caa aac cag caa gaa aag   1581
Ser Leu Ile His Ser Leu Ile Glu Glu Ser Gln Asn Gln Gln Glu Lys
        35                  40                  45

aat gaa caa gaa tta ttg gaa tta gat aaa tgg gca agt ttg tgg aat   1629
Asn Glu Gln Glu Leu Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn
    50                  55                  60

tgg ttt aga tct gtt cca aga gac tgt gga tgc aaa ccc tgt ata tgt   1677
Trp Phe Arg Ser Val Pro Arg Asp Cys Gly Cys Lys Pro Cys Ile Cys
65                  70                  75                  80

acc ctc atc cct gtc tat tgc tcc atc ctg gct gct gtg gtt gtg ggc   1725
Thr Leu Ile Pro Val Tyr Cys Ser Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Val Val Gly
                85                  90                  95

ctt gtg gcc tac ata gcc ttc aag agg tgg aac agg ggg atc ctc tag   1773
Leu Val Ala Tyr Ile Ala Phe Lys Arg Trp Asn Arg Gly Ile Leu
            100                 105                 110

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gcggctaatc ccaaccctcg gagcaggtgg tcacaaacca gtgattggcc tgtcgtaacg 2313
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35 40 45

Asn Glu Gln Glu Leu Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn
50 55 60

Trp Phe Arg Ser Val Pro Arg Asp Cys Gly Cys Lys Pro Cys Ile Cys
65 70 75 80

Thr Leu Ile Pro Val Tyr Cys Ser Ile Leu Ala Ala Val Val Val Gly
85 90 95

Leu Val Ala Tyr Ile Ala Phe Lys Arg Trp Asn Arg Gly Ile Leu
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1 5 10 15

tgg ggc acc atg ctc ctt ggg ata ttg atg atc tgt agt gct aca gaa 96
Trp Gly Thr Met Leu Leu Gly Ile Leu Met Ile Cys Ser Ala Thr Glu
20 25 30

aaa ttg tgg gtc aca gtc tat tat ggg gta cct gtg tgg aag gaa gca 144
Lys Leu Trp Val Thr Val Tyr Tyr Gly Val Pro Val Trp Lys Glu Ala
35 40 45

acc acc act cta ttt tgt gca tca gat gct aaa gca tat gat aca gag 192
Thr Thr Thr Leu Phe Cys Ala Ser Asp Ala Lys Ala Tyr Asp Thr Glu
50 55 60

gta cat aat gtt tgg gcc aca cat gcc tgt gta ccc aca gac ccc aac 240
Val His Asn Val Trp Ala Thr His Ala Cys Val Pro Thr Asp Pro Asn
65 70 75 80

cca caa gaa gta gta ttg gta aat gtg aca gaa aat ttt aac atg tgg 288
Pro Gln Glu Val Val Leu Val Asn Val Thr Glu Asn Phe Asn Met Trp
85 90 95

aaa aat gac atg gta gaa cag atg cat gag gat ata atc agt tta tgg 336
Lys Asn Asp Met Val Glu Gln Met His Glu Asp Ile Ile Ser Leu Trp
100 105 110

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gat caa agc cta aag cca tgt gta aaa tta acc cca ctc tgt gtt agt   384
Asp Gln Ser Leu Lys Pro Cys Val Lys Leu Thr Pro Leu Cys Val Ser
        115                 120                 125

tta aag tgc act gat ttg aag aat gat act aat acc aat agt agt agc   432
Leu Lys Cys Thr Asp Leu Lys Asn Asp Thr Asn Thr Asn Ser Ser Ser
    130                 135                 140

ggg aga atg ata atg gag aaa gga gag ata aaa aac tgc tct ttc aat   480
Gly Arg Met Ile Met Glu Lys Gly Glu Ile Lys Asn Cys Ser Phe Asn
145                 150                 155                 160

atc agc aca agc ata aga gat aag gtg cag aaa gaa tat gca ttc ttt   528
Ile Ser Thr Ser Ile Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Lys Glu Tyr Ala Phe Phe
                165                 170                 175

tat aaa ctt gat ata gta cca ata gat aat acc agc tat agg ttg ata   576
Tyr Lys Leu Asp Ile Val Pro Ile Asp Asn Thr Ser Tyr Arg Leu Ile
            180                 185                 190

agt tgt aac acc tca gtc att aca cag gcc tgt cca aag gta tcc ttt   624
Ser Cys Asn Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Gln Ala Cys Pro Lys Val Ser Phe
        195                 200                 205

gag cca att ccc ata cat tat tgt gcc ccg gct ggt ttt gcg att cta   672
Glu Pro Ile Pro Ile His Tyr Cys Ala Pro Ala Gly Phe Ala Ile Leu
    210                 215                 220

aaa tgt aat aat aag acg ttc aat gga aca gga cca tgt aca aat gtc   720
Lys Cys Asn Asn Lys Thr Phe Asn Gly Thr Gly Pro Cys Thr Asn Val
225                 230                 235                 240

agc aca gta caa tgt aca cat gga atc agg cca gta gta tca act caa   768
Ser Thr Val Gln Cys Thr His Gly Ile Arg Pro Val Val Ser Thr Gln
                245                 250                 255

ctg ctg tta aat ggc agt cta gca gaa gaa gat gta gta att aga tct   816
Leu Leu Leu Asn Gly Ser Leu Ala Glu Glu Asp Val Val Ile Arg Ser
            260                 265                 270

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Ala Asn Phe Thr Asp Asn Ala Lys Thr Ile Ile Val Gln Leu Asn Thr
        275                 280                 285

tct gta gaa att aat tgt aca aga ccc aac aac aat aca aga aaa agt   912
Ser Val Glu Ile Asn Cys Thr Arg Pro Asn Asn Asn Thr Arg Lys Ser
    290                 295                 300

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Ile Arg Ile Gln Arg Gly Pro Gly Arg Ala Phe Val Thr Ile Gly Lys
305                 310                 315                 320

ata gga aat atg aga caa gca cat tgt aac att agt aga gca aaa tgg   1008
Ile Gly Asn Met Arg Gln Ala His Cys Asn Ile Ser Arg Ala Lys Trp
                325                 330                 335

aat gcc act tta aaa cag ata gct agc aaa tta aga gaa caa ttt gga   1056
Asn Ala Thr Leu Lys Gln Ile Ala Ser Lys Leu Arg Glu Gln Phe Gly
            340                 345                 350

aat aat aaa aca ata atc ttt aag caa tcc tca gga ggg gac cca gaa   1104
Asn Asn Lys Thr Ile Ile Phe Lys Gln Ser Ser Gly Gly Asp Pro Glu
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att gta acg cac agt ttt aat tgt gga ggg gaa ttt ttc tac tgt aat   1152
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tca aca caa ctg ttt aat agt act tgg ttt aat agt act tgg agt act   1200
Ser Thr Gln Leu Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Ser Thr
385                 390                 395                 400

gaa ggg tca aat aac act gaa gga agt gac aca atc aca ctc cca tgc   1248
Glu Gly Ser Asn Asn Thr Glu Gly Ser Asp Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Cys
                405                 410                 415

aga ata aaa caa ttt ata aac atg tgg cag gaa gta gga aaa gca atg   1296
Arg Ile Lys Gln Phe Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met
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tat gcc cct ccc atc agt gga caa att aga tgt tca tca aat att act   1344
Tyr Ala Pro Pro Ile Ser Gly Gln Ile Arg Cys Ser Ser Asn Ile Thr
        435                 440                 445

ggg ctg cta tta aca aga gat ggt ggt aat aac aac aat ggg tcc gag   1392
Gly Leu Leu Leu Thr Arg Asp Gly Gly Asn Asn Asn Asn Gly Ser Glu
    450                 455                 460

atc ttc aga cct gga gga ggc gat atg agg gac aat tgg aga agt gaa   1440
Ile Phe Arg Pro Gly Gly Gly Asp Met Arg Asp Asn Trp Arg Ser Glu
465                 470                 475                 480

tta tat aaa tat aaa gta gta aaa att gaa cca tta gga gta gca ccc   1488
Leu Tyr Lys Tyr Lys Val Val Lys Ile Glu Pro Leu Gly Val Ala Pro
                485                 490                 495

acc aag gca aag aga aga gtg gtg cag aga gaa aaa aga gca gtg gga   1536
Thr Lys Ala Lys Arg Arg Val Val Gln Arg Glu Lys Arg Ala Val Gly
            500                 505                 510

ata gga gct ttg ttc ctt ggg ttc ttg gga gca gca gga agc act atg   1584
Ile Gly Ala Leu Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Ser Thr Met
        515                 520                 525

ggc tgc acg tca atg acg ctg acg gta cag gcc aga caa tta ttg tct   1632
Gly Cys Thr Ser Met Thr Leu Thr Val Gln Ala Arg Gln Leu Leu Ser
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gat ata gtg cag cag cag aac aat ttg ctg agg gct att gag gcg caa   1680
Asp Ile Val Gln Gln Gln Asn Asn Leu Leu Arg Ala Ile Glu Ala Gln
545                 550                 555                 560

cag cat ctg ttg caa ctc aca gtc tgg ggc atc aaa cag ctc cag gca   1728
Gln His Leu Leu Gln Leu Thr Val Trp Gly Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala
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aga atc ctg gct gtg gaa aga tac cta aag gat caa cag ctc ctg ggg   1776
Arg Ile Leu Ala Val Glu Arg Tyr Leu Lys Asp Gln Gln Leu Leu Gly
            580                 585                 590

att tgg ggt tgc tct gga aaa ctc att tgc acc act gct gtg cct tgg   1824
Ile Trp Gly Cys Ser Gly Lys Leu Ile Cys Thr Thr Ala Val Pro Trp
        595                 600                 605

aat gct agt tgg agt aat aaa tct ctg gaa cag att tgg aat aac atg   1872
Asn Ala Ser Trp Ser Asn Lys Ser Leu Glu Gln Ile Trp Asn Asn Met
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acc tgg atg gag tgg gac aga gaa att aac aat tac aca agc tta ata   1920
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His Ser Leu Ile Glu Glu Ser Gln Asn Gln Gln Glu Lys Asn Glu Gln
                645                 650                 655

gaa tta ttg gaa tta gat aaa tgg gca agt ttg tgg aat tgg ttt aac   2016
Glu Leu Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn Trp Phe Asn
            660                 665                 670

ata aca aat tgg ctg tgg tat ata aaa tta ttc ata atg ata gta gga   2064
Ile Thr Asn Trp Leu Trp Tyr Ile Lys Leu Phe Ile Met Ile Val Gly
        675                 680                 685

ggc ttg gta ggt tta aga ata gtt ttt gct gta ctt tct ata gtg aat   2112
Gly Leu Val Gly Leu Arg Ile Val Phe Ala Val Leu Ser Ile Val Asn
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Arg Val Arg Gln Gly Tyr Ser Pro Leu Ser Phe Gln Thr His Leu Pro
705                 710                 715                 720

atc ccg agg gga ccc gac agg ccc gaa gga ata gaa gaa gaa ggt gga   2208
Ile Pro Arg Gly Pro Asp Arg Pro Glu Gly Ile Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly
                725                 730                 735

gag aga gac aga gac aga tcc att cga tta gtg aac gga tcc tta gca   2256
Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Val Asn Gly Ser Leu Ala
            740                 745                 750

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Leu Ile Trp Asp Asp Leu Arg Ser Leu Cys Leu Phe Ser Tyr His Arg
        755                 760                 765

ttg aga gac tta ctc ttg att gta acg agg att gtg gaa ctt ctg gga   2352
Leu Arg Asp Leu Leu Leu Ile Val Thr Arg Ile Val Glu Leu Leu Gly
    770                 775                 780

cgc agg ggg tgg gaa gcc ctc aaa tat tgg tgg aat ctc cta cag tat   2400
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785                 790                 795                 800

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gca gct tat aga gct att cgc cac ata cct aga aga ata aga cag ggc   2544
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        835                 840                 845

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Leu Glu Arg Ile Leu Leu
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Lys Leu Trp Val Thr Val Tyr Tyr Gly Val Pro Val Trp Lys Glu Ala
        35                  40                  45

Thr Thr Thr Leu Phe Cys Ala Ser Asp Ala Lys Ala Tyr Asp Thr Glu
    50                  55                  60

Val His Asn Val Trp Ala Thr His Ala Cys Val Pro Thr Asp Pro Asn
65                  70                  75                  80

Pro Gln Glu Val Val Leu Val Asn Val Thr Glu Asn Phe Asn Met Trp
                85                  90                  95

Lys Asn Asp Met Val Glu Gln Met His Glu Asp Ile Ile Ser Leu Trp
            100                 105                 110

Asp Gln Ser Leu Lys Pro Cys Val Lys Leu Thr Pro Leu Cys Val Ser
        115                 120                 125

Leu Lys Cys Thr Asp Leu Lys Asn Asp Thr Asn Thr Asn Ser Ser Ser
    130                 135                 140

Gly Arg Met Ile Met Glu Lys Gly Glu Ile Lys Asn Cys Ser Phe Asn
145                 150                 155                 160

Ile Ser Thr Ser Ile Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Lys Glu Tyr Ala Phe Phe
                165                 170                 175

Tyr Lys Leu Asp Ile Val Pro Ile Asp Asn Thr Ser Tyr Arg Leu Ile
            180                 185                 190

Ser Cys Asn Thr Ser Val Ile Thr Gln Ala Cys Pro Lys Val Ser Phe
        195                 200                 205

Glu Pro Ile Pro Ile His Tyr Cys Ala Pro Ala Gly Phe Ala Ile Leu
    210                 215                 220

Lys Cys Asn Asn Lys Thr Phe Asn Gly Thr Gly Pro Cys Thr Asn Val
225                 230                 235                 240

Ser Thr Val Gln Cys Thr His Gly Ile Arg Pro Val Val Ser Thr Gln
                245                 250                 255

Leu Leu Leu Asn Gly Ser Leu Ala Glu Glu Asp Val Val Ile Arg Ser
            260                 265                 270

Ala Asn Phe Thr Asp Asn Ala Lys Thr Ile Ile Val Gln Leu Asn Thr
        275                 280                 285

Ser Val Glu Ile Asn Cys Thr Arg Pro Asn Asn Asn Thr Arg Lys Ser
    290                 295                 300

Ile Arg Ile Gln Arg Gly Pro Gly Arg Ala Phe Val Thr Ile Gly Lys
305                 310                 315                 320

Ile Gly Asn Met Arg Gln Ala His Cys Asn Ile Ser Arg Ala Lys Trp
                325                 330                 335

Asn Ala Thr Leu Lys Gln Ile Ala Ser Lys Leu Arg Glu Gln Phe Gly
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                340                 345                 350

Asn Asn Lys Thr Ile Ile Phe Lys Gln Ser Ser Gly Gly Asp Pro Glu
        355                 360                 365

Ile Val Thr His Ser Phe Asn Cys Gly Gly Glu Phe Phe Tyr Cys Asn
    370                 375                 380
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Ser Thr Gln Leu Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Phe Asn Ser Thr Trp Ser Thr
385                 390                 395                 400

Glu Gly Ser Asn Asn Thr Glu Gly Ser Asp Thr Ile Thr Leu Pro Cys
                405                 410                 415

Arg Ile Lys Gln Phe Ile Asn Met Trp Gln Glu Val Gly Lys Ala Met
            420                 425                 430

Tyr Ala Pro Pro Ile Ser Gly Gln Ile Arg Cys Ser Ser Asn Ile Thr
        435                 440                 445

Gly Leu Leu Leu Thr Arg Asp Gly Gly Asn Asn Asn Asn Gly Ser Glu
    450                 455                 460

Ile Phe Arg Pro Gly Gly Gly Asp Met Arg Asp Asn Trp Arg Ser Glu
465                 470                 475                 480

Leu Tyr Lys Tyr Lys Val Val Lys Ile Glu Pro Leu Gly Val Ala Pro
                485                 490                 495

Thr Lys Ala Lys Arg Arg Val Val Gln Arg Glu Lys Arg Ala Val Gly
            500                 505                 510

Ile Gly Ala Leu Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Ser Thr Met
        515                 520                 525

Gly Cys Thr Ser Met Thr Leu Thr Val Gln Ala Arg Gln Leu Leu Ser
    530                 535                 540

Asp Ile Val Gln Gln Gln Asn Asn Leu Leu Arg Ala Ile Glu Ala Gln
545                 550                 555                 560

Gln His Leu Leu Gln Leu Thr Val Trp Gly Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Ala
                565                 570                 575

Arg Ile Leu Ala Val Glu Arg Tyr Leu Lys Asp Gln Gln Leu Leu Gly
            580                 585                 590

Ile Trp Gly Cys Ser Gly Lys Leu Ile Cys Thr Thr Ala Val Pro Trp
        595                 600                 605

Asn Ala Ser Trp Ser Asn Lys Ser Leu Glu Gln Ile Trp Asn Asn Met
    610                 615                 620

Thr Trp Met Glu Trp Asp Arg Glu Ile Asn Asn Tyr Thr Ser Leu Ile
625                 630                 635                 640

His Ser Leu Ile Glu Glu Ser Gln Asn Gln Gln Glu Lys Asn Glu Gln
                645                 650                 655

Glu Leu Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys Trp Ala Ser Leu Trp Asn Trp Phe Asn
            660                 665                 670

Ile Thr Asn Trp Leu Trp Tyr Ile Lys Leu Phe Ile Met Ile Val Gly
        675                 680                 685

Gly Leu Val Gly Leu Arg Ile Val Phe Ala Val Leu Ser Ile Val Asn
    690                 695                 700

Arg Val Arg Gln Gly Tyr Ser Pro Leu Ser Phe Gln Thr His Leu Pro
705                 710                 715                 720
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Ile Pro Arg Gly Pro Asp Arg Pro Glu Gly Ile Glu Glu Glu Gly Gly
725 730 735

Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Arg Ser Ile Arg Leu Val Asn Gly Ser Leu Ala
740 745 750

Leu Ile Trp Asp Asp Leu Arg Ser Leu Cys Leu Phe Ser Tyr His Arg
755 760 765

Leu Arg Asp Leu Leu Leu Ile Val Thr Arg Ile Val Glu Leu Leu Gly
770 775 780

Arg Arg Gly Trp Glu Ala Leu Lys Tyr Trp Trp Asn Leu Leu Gln Tyr
785 790 795 800

Trp Ser Gln Glu Leu Lys Asn Ser Ala Val Asn Leu Leu Asn Ala Thr
805 810 815

Ala Ile Ala Val Ala Glu Gly Thr Asp Arg Val Ile Glu Val Leu Gln
820 825 830

Ala Ala Tyr Arg Ala Ile Arg His Ile Pro Arg Arg Ile Arg Gln Gly
835 840 845

Leu Glu Arg Ile Leu Leu
850

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<400> 14
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T20mtsHind-

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