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(71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).

(72) Inventors: ISFORT, Robert, Joseph; 2395 Resor Road, Fairfield, OH 45014 (US). SHELDON, Russell, James; 5023 Winton Road, Fairfield, OH 45014 (US).

(74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).

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(54) Title: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING COMPOUNDS FOR REGULATING MUSCLE MASS OR FUNCTION USING CORTICOTROPIN RELEASING FACTOR RECEPTORS

(57) Abstract: Screening methods for identifying compounds that bind to or activate corticotropin releasing factor2 receptors (CRF2R) and regulate or potentially regulate skeletal muscle mass or function in vivo. Also disclosed are screening methods for identifying compounds that prolong or augment the activation of CRF2Rs or of CRF2R signal transduction pathways, increase CRF2R or increase CRF expression are provided. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising CRF2R agonists, antibodies to CRF2R and methods for increasing skeletal muscle mass or function or for the treatment of skeletal muscle atrophy using CRF2R as the target for intervention and methods for treatment of muscular dystrophies are described.

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