

We Claim:

1. A modified lectin protein, wherein the modified lectin protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from any one of:
 - i) SEQ ID NO. 1; or
 - ii) an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity to i),wherein the amino acid sequence of i) or ii) is selected from SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:41; SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:56, SEQ ID NO:59; SEQ ID NO:62; SEQ ID NO:65, SEQ ID NO:68, SEQ ID NO:71, SEQ ID NO:74, SEQ ID NO:80, SEQ ID NO:83, SEQ ID NO:86, SEQ ID NO:92, SEQ ID NO:95, SEQ ID NO:101, SEQ ID NO:104, SEQ ID NO:107, SEQ ID NO:110, SEQ ID NO:116, SEQ ID NO:119, and SEQ ID NO:134.
2. The modified lectin protein as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modified lectin protein is soluble, partially soluble or insoluble and/or has cytotoxicity.
3. The modified lectin protein as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the modified lectin protein has a cytotoxicity that is at least 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, or 90% of a control.
4. The modified lectin protein as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the modified lectin protein has a percentage cytotoxicity that is less than 10% of a control, or is absent of cytotoxicity.
5. The modified lectin protein as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the modified lectin protein has a percentage cytotoxicity that is at least a 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 100% increase compared with that of a control.
6. The modified lectin protein as claimed in anyone claims 1 to 5, wherein the modified lectin protein is equal to or less than 500, 400, 300, 250, 200, or 150 amino acids in length.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a modified lectin protein as claimed in claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient and optionally a further therapeutic ingredient.

8. A modified lectin protein as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in the treatment of cancer.
9. The modified lectin protein as claimed in claim 1 to 6 for use in the detection of a cancer cell, cancer diagnosis and/or cancer therapy.
10. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a modified lectin protein as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 6.
11. A recombinant vector comprising an insert of a nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 10.
12. The recombinant vector as claimed in claim 11 comprising operatively linked in a 5' to 3' direction: a promoter which functions in a host cell; a nucleotide sequence according to claim 10 encoding a modified lectin protein; and a termination signal.
13. The recombinant vector as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the recombinant vector is capable of being replicated, transcribed, translated and/or expressed in a unicellular organism.
14. A transformed host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 or the recombinant vector as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13.
15. The transformed host cell as claimed in claim 14, wherein the host cell is an *Escherichia coli* bacterium or a yeast cell.
16. A method for producing a recombinant *Sclerotium rolfsii* lectin protein comprising:
 - i) culturing a host cell containing the recombinant vector as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 coding for a recombinant lectin protein;
 - ii) expressing the recombinant lectin protein;
 - iii) isolating a crude recombinant lectin protein from the culture.
17. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7, for use in the treatment of cancer.
18. The pharmaceutical compositions as claimed in claim 7, for use in the detection of a cancer cell, cancer diagnosis and/or cancer therapy.