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(57) Abstract

This invention relates to a polypeptide other than human interleukin (10) which has at least one of the following properties: a) induces inhibition of spontaneous IL-8 production by human monocytes, b) induces inhibition of IL-1β induced IL-8 production by human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), c) induces production of interleukin-1 receptor antagonistic protein (IRAP) by human monocytes, d) induces chemotactic migration of CD8+ human T lymphocytes *in vitro*, e) desensitizes human CD8+ T cells resulting in an unresponsiveness towards rhIL-10, f) suppresses the chemotactic response of CD4+ T human lymphocytes towards IL-8, g) suppresses the chemotactic response of human monocytes towards MCAF/MCP-1, h) does not inhibit class II MHC molecule expression on human monocytes, in contrast to human IL-10, i) induces the production of IL-4 by cultured normal human CD4+ T cells, j) reduces the TNFα production in human mixed leukocyte reaction. In particular, the invention relates to the nonapeptide Ala-Tyr-Met-Thr-Met-Lys-Ile-Arg-Asn and analogues and variants thereof.

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