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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID EXPRESSED IN THE HYPOTHALAMUS OR MUSCLE TISSUE IN OBESE ANIMALS

(57) Abstract: An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding or complimentary to a sequence encoding a molecule or derivative or homologue thereof wherein said nucleic acid molecule is expressed in a larger amount in one or both hypothalamus tissue or muscle tissue of obese animals compared to lean animals or in fed animals compared to fasted animals. Nucleic acid sequences are disclosed. It is proposed to use the expression products of such nucleic acids as modulators and/or monitors of physiological processes associated with obesity, anorexia, weight maintenance, impaired muscle development, diabetes and/or metabolic energy levels.