

NEUTRALIZING EPITOPE-BASED GROWTH ENHANCING VACCINE**ABSTRACT**

The invention provides new, specific peptides, fusion proteins, and nucleic acids encoding antigenic peptides from the protein GDF8. The invention also provides nucleic acids encoding fusion proteins comprising the new peptides, immunogens and vaccines based on the peptides, fusion proteins, and nucleic acids encoding new peptides and/or fusion proteins, antibodies that specifically bind to the new peptides of GDF8, and methods of treating animals in order to modulate the activity of GDF8, employing vaccines or antibodies according to the invention.

- No Figures