Claims

1. A nucleic acid molecule for use as a medicament, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that is able to induce an anti-inflammatory response, and wherein said nucleic acid molecule is represented by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

i. nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 70% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

iii. nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii) and

iv. nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

2. A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as identified in claim 1 for use as a medicament.

3. A nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide derives from or originates from *Leishmania major, Leishmania braziliensis, Leishmania infantum, Leishmania Mexicana or Leishmania donovani.*

4. A nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an oligonucleotide comprising at least 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 or more contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

5. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 2 or 3, wherein the polypeptide is a protein fragment comprising at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 265, or 267 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. A protein fragment according to claim 5, comprising at least 14 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1 and comprising SEQ ID NO: 31, 32, 55, 42, 43, 44, 56, 53, 54 and/or 57.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of preceding claims, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, salt, diluent and/or excipient.

8. A pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 7 for use as a medicament.

9. Use of a composition as defined in claim 7 or 8, or of a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament, wherein the medicament is for preventing or treating an inflammatory disorder in an individual.

10. Use according to claim 9, wherein the inflammatory disorder is rheumatoid arthritis (RA), juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, inflammatory bowel disease including Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, hepatitis, sepsis, alcoholic liver disease, and non-alcoholic steatosis autoimmune diabetes, diabetes mellitus, uveitis, multiple sclerosis, Controlling Allograft Rejection after organ transplantation, graft versus host disease (GVHD), inflammatory lung diseases including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (2), cancer (4) systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE, sarcoidosis, atopic dermatitis and cancer.

Claims

1. A nucleic acid molecule for use as a medicament, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that is able to induce an anti-inflammatory response, wherein said polypeptide is able to induce the detectable production of an anti-inflammatory compound and/or is able to induce a decrease of the production of an inflammatory compound and wherein said nucleic acid molecule is represented by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

i. nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 78% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 78% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

iii. nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii) and

iv. nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

2. A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule as identified in claim 1 for use as a medicament.

3. A nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide derives from or originates from Leishmania major, Leishmania braziliensis, Leishmania infantum, Leishmania Mexicana or Leishmania donovani.

4. A nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an oligonucleotide comprising at least 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 or more contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

5. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 2 or 3, wherein the polypeptide is a protein fragment comprising at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 265, or 267 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. A protein fragment according to claim 5, comprising at least 14 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1 and comprising SEQ ID NO: 31, 32, 55, 42, 43, 44, 56, 53, 54 and/or 57.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a medicament comprising at least a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of preceding claims, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, salt, diluent and/or excipient.

8. Use of a composition as defined in claim 7, or of a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament, wherein the medicament is for preventing or treating an inflammatory disorder in an individual.

9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the inflammatory disorder is rheumatoid arthritis (RA), juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, inflammatory bowel disease including Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, hepatitis, sepsis, alcoholic liver disease, and non-alcoholic steatosis autoimmune diabetes, diabetes mellitus, uveitis, multiple sclerosis, Controlling Allograft Rejection after organ transplantation, graft versus host disease (GVHD), inflammatory lung diseases including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (2), cancer (4) systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE, sarcoidosis, atopic dermatitis and cancer.