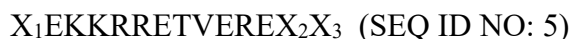


CLAIMS

1. A peptide comprising an amino acid sequence of general formula (I)



in which each of X_1 , X_2 and X_3 represent a non-polar amino acid residue and in which the amino acid sequence is 14 to 25 residues in length .

2. A peptide according to Claim 1, in which the non-polar amino acid is independently selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, methionine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, and/or combinations thereof.

3. A peptide according to Claim 1 or 2, in which X_1 X_2 and/or X_3 is glycine.

4. A peptide according to Claim 3, in which the amino acid sequence is GEKKRRETVEREGG (SEQ ID NO: 1).

5. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an effective amount of a peptide according to any preceding claim, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or filler.

6. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5, further comprising an effective amount of the peptide according to SEQ ID NO: 2 (TEKKRRETVEREKE).

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5, further comprising an effective amount of the peptide according to the SEQ ID NO: 3 (TEKKR).

8. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5, further comprising an effective amount of the peptide according to the SEQ ID NO: 4 (RETVEREKE).

9. A peptide according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutical composition according to any of Claims 5 to 8, for use in stimulating an immune response in a subject.

10. A peptide according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutical composition according to any of Claims 5 to 8, for use in the treatment or prevention of a viral, bacterial or fungal infection.

11. A peptide according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutical composition according to any of Claims 5 to 8, for use in the treatment or prevention of ulceration of the mucous membranes of the gut.

12. A peptide or pharmaceutical composition for use according to Claim 11, in which the ulceration of the mucous membrane of the gut is a stomach ulcer, large intestine ulcer, duodenal ulcer, or an ulcer of the small intestine.
13. A peptide according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutical composition according
5 to any of Claims 5 to 8, for use in the treatment or prevention of an inflammatory bowel disease or a disease or disorder associated with inflammatory bowel disease.
14. A peptide or pharmaceutical composition for use according to Claim 13, in which the disease or disorder associated with inflammatory bowel disease is selected from the group consisting of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.