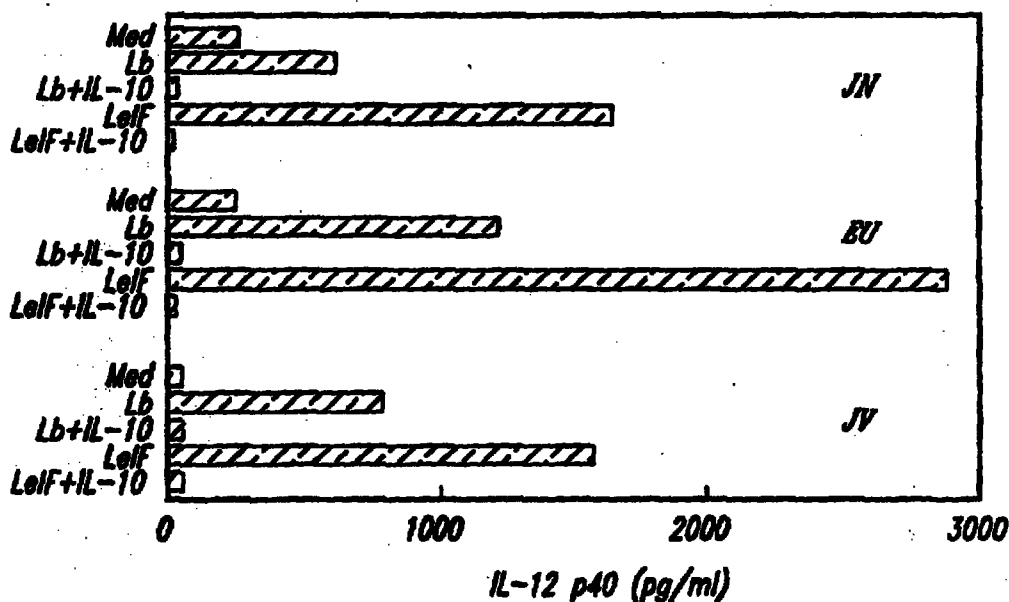




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(54) Title: COMPOUNDS AND METHODS FOR THE STIMULATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSES AND IL-12 PRODUCTION



(57) Abstract

Compounds and methods for stimulating and enhancing immune responses and for evaluating patient immune responses are disclosed. Disclosed compounds include polypeptides that contain at least a biologically active portion of a *Leshmania braziliensis* homolog of the eukaryotic initiation factor 4A, or a variant thereof. Such compounds are useful for stimulating a Th1 immune response and IL-12 production in patients, as well as in isolated cells and cell cultures. The polypeptides of this invention are further useful for the evaluation and treatment of patients, who may be afflicted with leishmaniasis or other disorders.

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