

CLAIMS

1. Use of a CD24 protein in the manufacture of a medicament for increasing circulating leptin levels in the bloodstream of a subject, wherein the CD24 protein comprises (a) a mature human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 1; and, (b) a Fc region of a human IgG protein, wherein the Fc region is fused to the C-terminus of the CD24 protein.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the subject has reduced leptin.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the subject has lipodystrophy.

4. The use of claim 2, wherein the subject has HIV.

5. The use of claim 2, wherein the subject has received anti-viral therapy.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the Fc region comprises a hinge region and CH2 and CH3 domains of the human IgG protein.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the human IgG protein is selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4.

8. Use of a CD24 protein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing lipodystrophy syndrome in a subject, wherein the CD24 protein comprises (a) a mature human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 1; and, (b) a Fc region of a human IgG protein, wherein the Fc region is fused to the C-terminus of the CD24 protein.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the subject has HIV.

10. The use of claim 8, wherein the subject has received antiviral therapy.

11. The use of claim 8, wherein the Fc region comprises a hinge region and CH2 and CH3 domains of the human IgG protein.

12. The use of claim 11, wherein the human IgG protein is selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4.

13. The use of any of the preceding claims, wherein the mature human CD24 polypeptide comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the CD24 protein does not comprise an alanine or valine immediately C-terminal to SEQ ID NO: 2.

14. The use of any of claims 1-12, wherein the CD24 protein comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, 11 or 12.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence of the CD24 protein consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, 11 or 12.

16. The use of any of the preceding claims, wherein the CD24 protein is soluble.

17. The use of any of the preceding claims, wherein the CD24 protein is glycosylated.