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 50% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50% 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 nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ 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.

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

4. A nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein said nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide derives from or originates from

Leishmania major, Leishmania braziliensis, Leishmania infantum, Leishmania Mexicana or Leishmania donovani~~.~~.

~~5. A nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 , for use in preventing or treating an inflammatory disorder in an individual.~~

~~6~~5. A nucleic acid molecule according to claims 1, 2, or 4, ~~or 5,~~ 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.

~~7~~6. A polypeptide according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 5~~ or 4, 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.

~~8~~7. A protein fragment according to claim ~~7~~6, 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.

~~9. A nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide according to claim 5, 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, sarcoidosis, 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.~~

~~10~~8. A composition comprising at least a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of preceding claims, wherein the composition is preferably a pharmaceutical composition said pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, salt, diluent and/or excipient.

9. A composition according to claim 8, for use as a medicament.

~~11~~10. Use of a ~~nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 or of the~~ composition as defined in claims 8 or 9, or a nucleic acid molecule and/or a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating an inflammatory disorder in an individual.

~~12~~11. Use according to claim ~~11~~10, 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.

~~13. A method for alleviating one or more symptom(s) and/or characteristic(s) and/or for improving a parameter of an inflammatory disorder in an individual, the method comprising administering to said individual a nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptideas defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a composition as defined in claim 10.~~

~~14. A method according to claim 13, 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.