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(54) Title: PEPTIDES THAT BIND TO THE ERYTHROPOIETIN RECEPTOR

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to peptide compounds that are agonists of the erythropoietin receptor (EPO-R). The invention also relates to therapeutic methods using such peptide compounds to treat disorders associated with insufficient or defective red blood cell production. Pharmaceutical compositions, which comprise the peptide compounds of the invention, are also provided. The peptides can be in monomeric or dimeric forms and are eventually conjugated to PEG. The peptides have from 1 to 40 residues and comprise the sequence: LYACHX$_0$GPITX$_1$VCQPLR, wherein X$_0$ is H or homoserine methylether; X$_1$ is W or 1-nal or 2-nal.

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