Claims

1. A controlled-release CNP agonist from which CNP agonist is released with a release half-life of at least 6 hours under physiological conditions and which controlled-release CNP agonist has an affinity, as defined by the IC_{50}, to the NPR-C receptor that is at least 5-fold higher than the affinity of the corresponding free CNP agonist.

2. The controlled-release CNP agonist of claim 1, wherein the affinity as defined by the IC_{50}, to the NPR-C receptor is at least 20-fold higher than the affinity of the corresponding free CNP agonist.

3. The controlled-release CNP agonist of claim 1 or 2, wherein the affinity as defined by the IC_{50}, to the NPR-C receptor is at least 50-fold higher than the affinity of the corresponding free CNP agonist.

4. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the CNP agonist is released with a release half-life of at least 24 hours under physiological conditions.

5. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the CNP agonist is released with a release half-life of at least 168 hours under physiological conditions.

6. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the controlled-release CNP agonist preferably comprises a CNP agonist selected from the group consisting of small molecules, natural products, oligonucleotides, polypeptides and proteins.

7. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the CNP agonist is a polypeptide.

8. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the CNP agonist is CNP.

9. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the controlled-release CNP agonist is water-insoluble.

10. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the controlled-release CNP agonist is selected from the group consisting of crystals, nanoparticles, microparticles, nanospheres and microspheres.

11. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the controlled-release agonist is a vesicle comprising at least one CNP agonist and wherein said vesicle is a micelle, liposome or polymersome.

12. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the controlled-release CNP agonist is water-soluble.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 12 and at least one excipient.

14. The controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 12 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 for use as a medicament.

15. The controlled-release CNP agonist or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, wherein the medicament is used in the treatment of achondroplasia.

16. Use of the controlled-release CNP agonist of any one of claims 1 to 12 or the pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease which can be treated with CNP.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of achondroplasia, hypochondroplasia, short stature, dwarfism, osteochondrodysplasias, thanatophoric dysplasia, osteogenesis imperfecta, achondrogenesis, chondrodysplasia punctata, homozygous achondroplasia, camptomelic dysplasia, congenital lethal hypophosphatasia, perinatal lethal type of osteogenesis imperfecta, short-rib polydactyly syndromes, rhizomelic type of chondrodysplasia punctata, Jansen-type metaphyseal dysplasia, spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita, atelosteogenesis, diastrophic dysplasia, congenital short femur, Langer-type mesomelic dysplasia, Nievergelt-type mesomelic dysplasia, Robinow syndrome, Reinhardt syndrome, acrodysostosis, peripheral dysostosis, Kniest dysplasia, fibrochondrogenesis, Roberts

syndrome, acromesomelic dysplasia, micromelia, Morquio syndrome, Kniest syndrome, metatrophic dysplasia, spondyloepimetaphyseal dysplasia, neurofibromatosis, Legius syndrome, LEOPARD syndrome, Noonan syndrome, hereditary gingival fibromatosis, neurofibromatosis type 1, Legius syndrome, cardiofaciocutaneous syndrome, Costello syndrome, SHOX deficiency, idiopathic short stature, growth hormone deficiency, osteoarthritis, cleidocranial dysostosis, craniosynostosis, dactyly, brachydactyly, camptodactyly, polydactyly, syndactyly, dyssegmental dysplasia, enchondromatosis, fibrous dysplasia, hereditary multiple exostoses, hypophosphatemic rickets, Jaffe-Lichtenstein syndrome, Marfan syndrome, McCune-Albright syndrome, osteopetrosis and osteopoikilosis.

18. The use of claim 16 or 17, wherein the disease is achondroplasia.