WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence:

   HX2QGTFTSDX10SX12X13LX15X16X17X18AX20X21FX23X24WLX27X28GX30 (SEQ ID NO: 4)

   wherein

   (1) X2 is S, X10 is Y, X12 is K, X13 is K, X15 is D, X16 is S, X17 is E, X18 is R, X20 is R, X21 is D, X23 is V, X24 is A, X27 is V, X28 is A, and X30 is G (SEQ ID NO: 16);

   (2) X2 is S, X10 is K, X12 is E, X13 is Y, X15 is D, X16 is S, X17 is E, X18 is R, X20 is R, X21 is D, X23 is V, X24 is A, X27 is V, X28 is A, and X30 is G (SEQ ID NO: 17);

   (3) X2 is S, X10 is K, X12 is K, X13 is Y, X15 is E, X16 is G, X17 is Q, X18 is A, X20 is K, X21 is E, X23 is I, X24 is A, X27 is E, X28 is K, and X30 is R (SEQ ID NO: 22);

   (4) X2 is S, X10 is K, X12 is S, X13 is Y, X15 is D, X16 is S, X17 is R, X18 is S, X20 is R, X21 is D, X23 is V, X24 is A, X27 is E, X28 is A, and X30 is G (SEQ ID NO: 20);

   (5) X2 is S, X10 is K, X12 is E, X13 is Y, X15 is D, X16 is S, X17 is E, X18 is R, X20 is R, X21 is D, X23 is V, X24 is A, X27 is V, X28 is A, and X30 is G (SEQ ID NO: 12); and

   (6) X2 is S, X10 is K, X12 is S, X13 is Y, X15 is D, X16 is S, X17 is R, X18 is R, X20 is R, X21 is D, X23 is V, X24 is A, X27 is E, X28 is A, and X30 is G (SEQ ID NO:21).

2. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence:

   HSQGTFTSDKSEYLDSERARDFVAWLEAGG (SEQ ID NO: 12).

3. The peptide of claim 2, wherein the carboxyl group of the terminal glycine is the unmodified acid.

4. The peptide of claim 3, further comprising a modification to an amino acid.

5. The peptide of claim 4, wherein the modification is the addition of an acyl moiety.

6. The peptide of claim 5, wherein the modification is a palmitoyl moiety on the N(epsilon) group of a lysine residue.

7. The peptide of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous moiety associated with the peptide.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 1, and a carrier.

9. A kit comprising the composition of claim 8.

10. The peptide of claim 6, wherein the palmitoyl group is linked to the lysine via a linker.

11. The peptide of claim 10, wherein the linker is gamma glutamic acid.

12. The peptide of claim 11, wherein the peptide is

    HSQGTFTSDK(gammaE-palmitoyl)SEYLDSERARDFVAWLEAGG-acid.

13. The peptide of claim 1, further comprising a modification to an amino acid.

14. The peptide of claim 13, wherein the modification is the addition of an acyl moiety.

15. The peptide of claim 14, wherein the modification is a palmitoyl moiety on the N(epsilon) group of a lysine residue.

16. The peptide of claim 15, wherein the palmitoyl group is linked to the lysine via a linker.

17. The peptide of claim 16, wherein the linker is gamma glutamic acid.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 2, and a carrier.

19. A kit comprising the composition of claim 18.