

Novel peptides and combination of peptides for use in immunotherapy against various cancers

The present invention relates to peptides, proteins, nucleic acids and cells for use in immunotherapeutic methods. In particular, the present invention relates to the immunotherapy of cancer. The present invention furthermore relates to tumor-associated T-cell peptide epitopes, alone or in combination with other tumor-associated peptides that can for example serve as active pharmaceutical ingredients of vaccine compositions that stimulate anti-tumor immune responses, or to stimulate T cells ex vivo and transfer into patients. Peptides bound to molecules of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC), or peptides as such, can also be targets of antibodies, soluble T-cell receptors, and other binding molecules.

The present invention relates to several novel peptide sequences and their variants derived from HLA class I molecules of human tumor cells that can be used in vaccine compositions for eliciting anti-tumor immune responses, or as targets for the development of pharmaceutically / immunologically active compounds and cells.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer ranged among the four major non-communicable deadly diseases worldwide in 2012. For the same year, colorectal cancer, breast cancer and respiratory tract cancers were listed within the top 10 causes of death in high income countries (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs310/en/>).

Epidemiology

In 2012, 14.1 million new cancer cases, 32.6 million patients suffering from cancer (within 5 years of diagnosis) and 8.2 million cancer deaths were estimated worldwide (Ferlay et al., 2013; Bray et al., 2013). Table 1 and Table 2 provide an overview of the

estimated incidence, 5 year prevalence and mortality in different cancer types relevant for the present intervention, worldwide and in selected regions, respectively.

Table 1: Estimated incidence, 5 year prevalence and mortality of different cancer types (adult population, both sexes) worldwide in 2012 (Ferlay et al., 2013; Bray et al., 2013).

Cancer	Incidence	Prevalence (5 year)	Mortality
Brain, nervous system	256213	342914	189382
Breast	1671149	6232108	521907
Colorectum	1360602	3543582	693933
Esophagus	455784	464063	400169
Kidney	337860	906746	143406
Leukemia	351965	500934	265471
Liver	782451	633170	745533
Lung	1824701	1893078	1589925
Melanoma	232130	869754	55488
Ovary	238719	586624	151917
Pancreas	337872	211544	330391
Prostate	1094916	3857500	307481
Stomach	951594	1538127	723073
Gallbladder	178101	205646	142823
Bladder	429793	1319749	165084
Corpus uteri	319605	1216504	76160
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	385741	832843	199670

Table 2: Estimated incidence, 5 year prevalence and mortality of different cancer types (adult population, both sexes) in the USA, EU-28, China and Japan in 2012 (Ferlay et al., 2013; Bray et al., 2013).

Cancer	Incidence	Prevalence (5 year)	Mortality
Brain, nervous system	135884	172497	100865
Breast	837245	3358034	197279
Colorectum	845797	2334303	396066
Esophagus	294734	323723	255752
Kidney	226733	631350	83741
Leukemia	178296	309154	129500
Liver	513172	441007	488485
Lung	1274568	1394735	1107546
Melanoma	163043	636364	32999
Ovary	108947	270204	65130
Pancreas	220842	134864	214886
Prostate	681069	2586710	136419
Stomach	615641	1076332	447735
Gallbladder	106202	118588	81391

Bladder	270335	879140	91553
Corpus uteri	199211	765101	41734
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	205955	515154	90092

Within the groups of brain cancer, leukemia and lung cancer the current invention specifically focuses on glioblastoma (GB), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML), non-small cell and small cell lung cancer (NSCLC and SCLC), respectively.

GB is the most common central nervous system malignancy with an age-adjusted incidence rate of 3.19 per 100,000 inhabitants within the United States. GB has a very poor prognosis with a 1-year survival rate of 35% and a 5-year survival rate lower than 5%. Male gender, older age and ethnicity appear to be risk factors for GB (Thakkar et al., 2014).

CLL is the most common leukemia in the Western world where it comprises about one third of all leukemia. Incidence rates are similar in the US and Europe, and estimated new cases are about 16,000 per year. CLL is more common in Caucasians than in Africans, rarer in Hispanics and Native Americans and seldom in Asians. In people of Asian origin, CLL incidence rates are 3 fold lower than in Caucasians (Gunawardana et al., 2008). The five-year overall survival for patients with CLL is about 79%.

AML is the second most common type of leukemia diagnosed in both adults and children. Estimated new cases in the United States are about 21,000 per year. The five-year survival rate of people with AML is approximately 25%.

Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer worldwide and the leading cause of death from cancer in many countries. Lung cancer is subdivided into small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. NSCLC includes the histological types adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and large cell carcinoma and accounts for 85% of all lung cancers in the United States. The incidence of NSCLC is closely correlated with smoking prevalence, including current and former smokers and the five

year survival rate was reported to be 15% (World Cancer Report, 2014; Molina et al., 2008).

Therapy

Breast cancer

Breast cancer is an immunogenic cancer entity and different types of infiltrating immune cells in primary tumors exhibit distinct prognostic and predictive significance. A large number of early phase immunotherapy trials have been conducted in breast cancer patients. Most of the completed vaccination studies targeted HER2 and carbohydrate antigens like MUC-1 and revealed rather disappointing results. Clinical data on the effects of immune checkpoint modulation with ipilimumab and other T cell-activating antibodies in breast cancer patients are emerging (Emens, 2012).

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

While CLL is not curable at present, many patients show only slow progression of the disease or worsening of symptoms. As patients do not benefit from an early onset of treatment, the initial approach is “watch and wait” (Richards et al., 1999). For patients with symptomatic or rapidly progressing disease, several treatment options are available. These include chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immune-based therapies like monoclonal antibodies, chimeric antigen-receptors (CARs) and active immunotherapy, and stem cell transplants.

Monoclonal antibodies are widely used in hematologic malignancies. This is due to the knowledge of suitable antigens based on the good characterization of immune cell surface molecules and the accessibility of tumor cells in blood or bone marrow. Common monoclonal antibodies used in CLL therapy target either CD20 or CD52. Rituximab, the first monoclonal anti-CD20 antibody originally approved by the FDA for treatment of NHLs, is now widely used in CLL therapy. Combinational treatment with rituximab/fludarabine/cyclophosphamide leads to higher CR rates and improved overall survival (OS) compared to the combination fludarabine/cyclophosphamide and has become the preferred treatment option (Hallek et al., 2008). Ofatumomab targets CD20

and is used for therapy of refractory CLL patients (Wierda et al., 2011). Obinutuzumab is another monoclonal anti-CD20 antibody used in first-line treatment in combination with chlorambucil (Goede et al., 2014).

Alemtuzumab is an anti-CD52 antibody used for treatment of patients with chemotherapy-resistant disease or patients with poor prognostic factors as del 17p or p53 mutations (Parikh et al., 2011). Novel monoclonal antibodies target CD37 (otlertuzumab, BI 836826, IMGN529 and (177)Lu-tetulumab) or CD40 (dacetuzumab and lucatumumab) and are tested in pre-clinical settings (Robak and Robak, 2014).

Several completed and ongoing trials are based on engineered autologous chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-modified T cells with CD19 specificity (Maus et al., 2014). So far, only the minority of patients showed detectable or persistent CARs. One partial response (PR) and two complete responses (CR) have been detected in the CAR T-cell trials by Porter et al. and Kalos et al. (Kalos et al., 2011; Porter et al., 2011).

Active immunotherapy includes the following strategies: gene therapy, whole modified tumor cell vaccines, DC-based vaccines and tumor associated antigen (TAA)-derived peptide vaccines.

Approaches in gene therapy make use of autologous genetically modified tumor cells. These B-CLL cells are transfected with immuno-(co-)stimulatory genes like IL-2, IL-12, TNF- α , GM-CSF, CD80, CD40L, LFA-3 and ICAM-1 to improve antigen presentation and T cell activation (Carballido et al., 2012). While specific T-cell responses and reduction in tumor cells are readily observed, immune responses are only transient.

Several studies have used autologous DCs as antigen presenting cells to elicit anti-tumor responses. DCs have been loaded ex vivo with tumor associated peptides, whole tumor cell lysate and tumor-derived RNA or DNA. Another strategy uses whole tumor cells for fusion with DCs and generation of DC-B-CLL-cell hybrids. Transfected DCs

initiated both CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell responses (Muller et al., 2004). Fusion hybrids and DCs loaded with tumor cell lysate or apoptotic bodies increased tumor-specific CD8+ T-cell responses. Patients that showed a clinical response had increased IL-12 serum levels and reduced numbers of Tregs (Palma et al., 2008).

Different approaches use altered tumor cells to initiate or increase CLL-specific immune responses. An example for this strategy is the generation of trioma cells: B-CLL cells are fused to anti-Fc receptor expressing hybridoma cells that have anti-APC specificity. Trioma cells induced CLL-specific T-cell responses *in vitro* (Kronenberger et al., 2008).

Another strategy makes use of irradiated autologous CLL cells with Bacillus Calmette-Guérin as an adjuvant as a vaccine. Several patients showed a reduction in leukocyte levels or stable disease (Hus et al., 2008).

Besides isolated CLL cells, whole blood from CLL patients has been used as a vaccine after preparation in a blood treatment unit. The vaccine elicited CLL-specific T-cell responses and led to partial clinical responses or stable disease in several patients (Spaner et al., 2005).

Several TAAs are over-expressed in CLL and are suitable for vaccinations. These include fibromodulin (Mayr et al., 2005), RHAMM/CD168 (Giannopoulos et al., 2006), MDM2 (Mayr et al., 2006), hTERT (Counter et al., 1995), the oncofetal antigen-immature laminin receptor protein (OFAiLRP) (Siegel et al., 2003), adipophilin (Schmidt et al., 2004), survivin (Granziero et al., 2001), KW1 to KW14 (Krackhardt et al., 2002) and the tumor-derived IgVHCDR3 region (Harig et al., 2001; Carballido et al., 2012). A phase I clinical trial was conducted using the RHAMM-derived R3 peptide as a vaccine. 5 of 6 patients had detectable R3-specific CD8+ T-cell responses (Giannopoulos et al., 2010).

Colorectal cancer

Depending on the colorectal cancer (CRC) stage, different standard therapies are available for colon and rectal cancer. Standard procedures include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and targeted therapy for CRC (Berman et al., 2015a; Berman et al., 2015b).

Removal of the tumor is essential for the treatment of CRC. For chemotherapeutic treatment, the drugs capecitabine or 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) are used. For combinational chemotherapy, a cocktail containing 5-FU, leucovorin and oxaliplatin (FOLFOX) is recommended (Stintzing, 2014; Berman et al., 2015b). In addition to chemotherapeutic drugs, several monoclonal antibodies targeting the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR, cetuximab, panitumumab) or the vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A, bevacizumab) are administered to patients with high stage disease. For second-line and later treatment the inhibitor for VEGF aflibercept, the tyrosine kinase inhibitor regorafenib and the thymidylate-synthetase inhibitor TAS-102 and the dUTPase inhibitor TAS-114 can be used (Stintzing, 2014; Wilson et al., 2014).

Latest clinical trials analyze active immunotherapy as a treatment option against CRC. Those strategies include the vaccination with peptides from tumor-associated antigens (TAAs), whole tumor cells, dendritic cell (DC) vaccines and viral vectors (Koido et al., 2013).

Peptide vaccines have so far been directed against carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), mucin 1, EGFR, squamous cell carcinoma antigen recognized by T cells 3 (SART3), beta-human chorionic gonadotropin (beta-hCG), Wilms' Tumor antigen 1 (WT1), Survivin-2B, MAGE3, p53, ring finger protein 43 and translocase of the outer mitochondrial membrane 34 (TOMM34), or mutated KRAS. In several phase I and II clinical trials patients showed antigen-specific CTL responses or antibody production. In contrast to immunological responses, many patients did not benefit from peptide vaccines on the clinical level (Koido et al., 2013; Miyagi et al., 2001; Moulton et al., 2002; Okuno et al., 2011).

Dendritic cell vaccines comprise DCs pulsed with either TAA-derived peptides, tumor cell lysates, apoptotic tumor cells, or tumor RNA or DC-tumor cell fusion products. While many patients in phase I/II trials showed specific immunological responses, only the minority had a clinical benefit (Koido et al., 2013).

Whole tumor cell vaccines consist of autologous tumor cells modified to secrete GM-CSF, modified by irradiation or virus-infected, irradiated cells. Most patients showed no clinical benefit in several phase II/ III trials (Koido et al., 2013).

Vaccinia virus or replication-defective avian poxvirus encoding CEA as well as B7.1, ICAM-1 and LFA-3 have been used as vehicles in viral vector vaccines in phase I clinical trials. A different study used non-replicating canary pox virus encoding CEA and B7.1. Besides the induction of CEA-specific T cell responses 40% of patients showed objective clinical responses (Horig et al., 2000; Kaufman et al., 2008).

Esophageal cancer

Immunotherapy may be a promising novel approach to treat advanced esophageal cancer. Several cancer-associated genes and cancer-testis antigens were shown to be over-expressed in esophageal cancer, including different MAGE genes, NY-ESO-1 and EpCAM (Kimura et al., 2007; Liang et al., 2005; Inoue et al., 1995; Bujas et al., 2011; Tanaka et al., 1997; Quillien et al., 1997). Those genes represent very interesting targets for immunotherapy and most of them are under investigation for the treatment of other malignancies (ClinicalTrials.gov, 2015). Furthermore, up-regulation of PD-L1 and PD-L2 was described in esophageal cancer, which correlated with poorer prognosis. Thus, esophageal cancer patients with PD-L1-positive tumors might benefit from anti-PD-L1 immunotherapy (Ohigashi et al., 2005).

Clinical data on immunotherapeutic approaches in esophageal cancer are still relatively scarce at present, as only a very limited number of early phase clinical trials have been completed. A vaccine consisting of three peptides derived from three different cancer-testis antigens (TTK protein kinase, lymphocyte antigen 6 complex locus K and insulin-

like growth factor (IGF)-II mRNA binding protein 3) was administered to patients with advanced esophageal cancer in a phase I trial with moderate results. Intra-tumoral injection of activated T cells after *in vitro* challenge with autologous malignant cells elicited complete or partial tumor responses in four of eleven patients in a phase I/II study (Toomey et al., 2013). A vaccine consisting of three peptides derived from three different cancer-testis antigens (TTK protein kinase, lymphocyte antigen 6 complex locus K and insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-II mRNA binding protein 3) was administered to patients with advanced esophageal cancer in a phase I trial with moderate results (Kono et al., 2009). Intra-tumoral injection of activated T cells after *in vitro* challenge with autologous malignant cells and interleukin 2 elicited complete or partial tumor responses in four of eleven patients in a phase I/II study (Toh et al., 2000; Toh et al., 2002). Further clinical trials are currently performed to evaluate the impact of different immunotherapies on esophageal cancer, including adoptive cellular therapy (NCT01691625, NCT01691664, NCT01795976, NCT02096614, NCT02457650) vaccination strategies (NCT01143545, NCT01522820) and anti-PD-L1 therapy (NCT02340975) (ClinicalTrials.gov, 2015).

Gastric cancer

The efficacy of current therapeutic regimens for advanced GC is poor, resulting in low 5-year survival rates. Immunotherapy might be an alternative approach to ameliorate the survival of GC patients. Adoptive transfer of tumor-associated lymphocytes and cytokine induced killer cells, peptide-based vaccines targeting HER2/neu, MAGE-3 or vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 1 and 2 and dendritic cell-based vaccines targeting HER2/neu showed promising results in clinical GC trials. Immune checkpoint inhibition and engineered T cells might represent additional therapeutic options, which is currently evaluated in pre-clinical and clinical studies (Matsueda and Graham, 2014).

Glioblastoma

The therapeutic options for glioblastoma (WHO grade IV) are very limited. Different immunotherapeutic approaches are investigated for the treatment of GB, including immune-checkpoint inhibition, vaccination and adoptive transfer of engineered T cells.

Antibodies directed against inhibitory T cell receptors or their ligands were shown to efficiently enhance T cell-mediated anti-tumor immune responses in different cancer types, including melanoma and bladder cancer. The effects of T cell activating antibodies like ipilimumab and nivolumab are therefore assessed in clinical GB trials, but preliminary data indicate autoimmune-related adverse events.

Different vaccination strategies for GB patients are currently investigated, including peptide-based vaccines, heat-shock protein vaccines, autologous tumor cell vaccines, dendritic cell-based vaccines and viral protein-based vaccines. In these approaches peptides derived from GB-associated proteins like epidermal growth factor receptor variant III (EGFRvIII) or heat shock proteins or dendritic cells pulsed with autologous tumor cell lysate or cytomegalo virus components are applied to induce an anti-tumor immune response in GB patients. Several of these studies reveal good safety and tolerability profiles as well as promising efficacy data.

Adoptive transfer of genetically modified T cells is an additional immunotherapeutic approach for the treatment of GB. Different clinical trials currently evaluate the safety and efficacy of chimeric antigen receptor bearing T cells directed against HER2, IL-13 receptor alpha 2 and EGFRvIII (Ampie et al., 2015).

Liver cancer

Therapeutic options in advanced non-resectable HCC are limited to Sorafenib, a multi-tyrosine kinase inhibitor (Chang et al., 2007; Wilhelm et al., 2004). Sorafenib is the only systemic drug confirmed to increase survival by about 3 months and currently represents the only experimental treatment option for such patients (Chapiro et al., 2014; Llovet et al., 2008). Lately, a limited number of immunotherapy trials for HCC have been conducted. Cytokines have been used to activate subsets of immune cells and/or increase the tumor immunogenicity (Reinisch et al., 2002; Sangro et al., 2004). Other trials have focused on the infusion of Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes or activated

peripheral blood lymphocytes (Shi et al., 2004; Takayama et al., 1991; Takayama et al., 2000).

So far, a small number of therapeutic vaccination trials have been executed. Butterfield et al. conducted two trials using peptides derived from alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) as a vaccine or DCs loaded with AFP peptides *ex vivo* (Butterfield et al., 2003; Butterfield et al., 2006). In two different studies, autologous dendritic cells (DCs) were pulsed *ex vivo* with autologous tumor lysate (Lee et al., 2005) or lysate of the hepatoblastoma cell line HepG2 (Palmer et al., 2009). So far, vaccination trials have only shown limited improvements in clinical outcomes.

Melanoma

Enhancing the anti-tumor immune responses appears to be a promising strategy for the treatment of advanced melanoma. In the United States the immune checkpoint inhibitor ipilimumab as well as the BRAF kinase inhibitors vemurafenib and dabrafenib and the MEK inhibitor trametinib are already approved for the treatment of advanced melanoma. Both approaches increase the patient's anti-tumor immunity - ipilimumab directly by reducing T cell inhibition and the kinase inhibitors indirectly by enhancing the expression of melanocyte differentiation antigens. Additional checkpoint inhibitors (nivolumab and pembrolizumab) are currently investigated in clinical studies with first encouraging results. Additionally, different combination therapies targeting the anti-tumor immune response are tested in clinical trials including ipilimumab plus nivolumab, ipilimumab plus a gp100-derived peptide vaccine, ipilimumab plus dacarbazine, ipilimumab plus IL-2 and ipilimumab plus GM-CSF (Srivastava and McDermott, 2014).

Several different vaccination approaches have already been evaluated in patients with advanced melanoma. So far, phase III trials revealed rather disappointing results and vaccination strategies clearly need to be improved. Therefore, new clinical trials, like the OncoVEX GM-CSF trial or the DERMA trial, aim at improving clinical efficacy without reducing tolerability (<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org>).

Adoptive T cell transfer shows great promise for the treatment of advanced stage melanoma. *In vitro* expanded autologous tumor infiltrating lymphocytes as well as T cells harboring a high affinity T cell receptor for the cancer-testis antigen NY-ESO-1 had significant beneficial and low toxic effects upon transfer into melanoma patients. Unfortunately, T cells with high affinity T cell receptors for the melanocyte specific antigens MART1 and gp100 and the cancer-testis antigen MAGEA3 induced considerable toxic effects in clinical trials. Thus, adoptive T cell transfer has high therapeutic potential, but safety and tolerability of these treatments needs to be further increased (Phan and Rosenberg, 2013; Hinrichs and Restifo, 2013).

Non-small cell lung cancer

Because the disease has usually spread by the time it is discovered, radiation therapy and chemotherapy are often used, sometimes in combination with surgery (S3-Leitlinie Lungenkarzinom, 2011). To expand the therapeutic options for NSCLC, different immunotherapeutic approaches have been studied or are still under investigation. While vaccination with L-BLP25 or MAGEA3 failed to demonstrate a vaccine-mediated survival advantage in NSCLC patients, an allogeneic cell line-derived vaccine showed promising results in clinical studies. Additionally, further vaccination trials targeting gangliosides, the epidermal growth factor receptor and several other antigens are currently ongoing. An alternative strategy to enhance the patient's anti-tumor T cell response consists of blocking inhibitory T cell receptors or their ligands with specific antibodies. The therapeutic potential of several of these antibodies, including ipilimumab, nivolumab, pembrolizumab, MPDL3280A and MEDI-4736, in NSCLC is currently evaluated in clinical trials (Reinmuth et al., 2015).

Ovarian cancer

Immunotherapy appears to be a promising strategy to ameliorate the treatment of ovarian cancer patients, as the presence of pro-inflammatory tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, especially CD8-positive T cells, correlates with good prognosis and T cells specific for tumor-associated antigens can be isolated from cancer tissue.

Therefore, a lot of scientific effort is put into the investigation of different immunotherapies in ovarian cancer. A considerable number of pre-clinical and clinical studies have already been performed and further studies are currently ongoing. Clinical data are available for cytokine therapy, vaccination, monoclonal antibody treatment, adoptive cell transfer and immunomodulation.

Cytokine therapy with interleukin-2, interferon-alpha, interferon-gamma or granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor aims at boosting the patient's own anti-tumor immune response and these treatments have already shown promising results in small study cohorts.

Phase I and II vaccination studies, using single or multiple peptides, derived from several tumor-associated proteins (Her2/neu, NY-ESO-1, p53, Wilms tumor-1) or whole tumor antigens, derived from autologous tumor cells revealed good safety and tolerability profiles, but only low to moderate clinical effects.

Monoclonal antibodies that specifically recognize tumor-associated proteins are thought to enhance immune cell-mediated killing of tumor cells. The anti-CA-125 antibodies oregovomab and abagovomab as well as the anti-EpCAM antibody catumaxomab achieved promising results in phase II and III studies. In contrast, the anti-MUC1 antibody HMFG1 failed to clearly enhance survival in a phase III study.

An alternative approach uses monoclonal antibodies to target and block growth factor and survival receptors on tumor cells. While administration of trastuzumab (anti-HER2/neu antibody) and MOv18 and MORAb-003 (anti-folate receptor alpha antibodies) only conferred limited clinical benefit to ovarian cancer patients, addition of bevacizumab (anti-VEGF antibody) to the standard chemotherapy in advanced ovarian cancer appears to be advantageous.

Adoptive transfer of immune cells achieved heterogeneous results in clinical trials. Adoptive transfer of autologous, *in vitro* expanded tumor infiltrating T cells was shown to

be a promising approach in a pilot trial. In contrast, transfer of T cells harboring a chimeric antigen receptor specific for folate receptor alpha did not induce a significant clinical response in a phase I trial. Dendritic cells pulsed with tumor cell lysate or tumor-associated proteins *in vitro* were shown to enhance the anti-tumor T cell response upon transfer, but the extent of T cell activation did not correlate with clinical effects. Transfer of natural killer cells caused significant toxicities in a phase II study.

Intrinsic anti-tumor immunity as well as immunotherapy are hampered by an immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment. To overcome this obstacle immunomodulatory drugs, like cyclophosphamide, anti-CD25 antibodies and pegylated liposomal doxorubicin are tested in combination with immunotherapy. Most reliable data are currently available for ipilimumab, an anti-CTLA4 antibody, which enhances T cell activity. Ipilimumab was shown to exert significant anti-tumor effects in ovarian cancer patients (Mantia-Smaldone et al., 2012).

Pancreatic cancer

Therapeutic options for pancreatic cancer patients are very limited. One major problem for effective treatment is the typically advanced tumor stage at diagnosis. Vaccination strategies are investigated as further innovative and promising alternative for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Peptide-based vaccines targeting KRAS mutations, reactive telomerase, gastrin, survivin, CEA and MUC1 have already been evaluated in clinical trials, partially with promising results. Furthermore, clinical trials for dendritic cell-based vaccines, allogeneic GM-CSF-secreting vaccines and algenpantucel-L in pancreatic cancer patients also revealed beneficial effects of immunotherapy. Additional clinical trials further investigating the efficiency of different vaccination protocols are currently ongoing (Salman et al., 2013).

Prostate cancer

The dendritic cell-based vaccine sipuleucel-T was the first anti-cancer vaccine to be approved by the FDA. Due to its positive effect on survival in patients with CRPC, much effort is put into the development of further immunotherapies. Regarding vaccination

strategies, the peptide vaccine prostate-specific antigen (PSA)-TRICOM, the personalized peptide vaccine PPV, the DNA vaccine pTVG-HP and the whole cell vaccine expressing GM-CSF GVAX showed promising results in different clinical trials. Furthermore, dendritic cell-based vaccines other than sipuleucel-T, namely BPX-101 and DCVAC/Pa were shown to elicit clinical responses in prostate cancer patients. Immune checkpoint inhibitors like ipilimumab and nivolumab are currently evaluated in clinical studies as monotherapy as well as in combination with other treatments, including androgen deprivation therapy, local radiation therapy, PSA-TRICOM and GVAX. The immunomodulatory substance tasquinimod, which significantly slowed progression and increased progression free survival in a phase II trial, is currently further investigated in a phase III trial. Lenalidomide, another immunomodulator, induced promising effects in early phase clinical studies, but failed to improve survival in a phase III trial. Despite these disappointing results further lenalidomide trials are ongoing (Quinn et al., 2015).

Renal cell carcinoma

The known immunogenicity of RCC has represented the basis supporting the use of immunotherapy and cancer vaccines in advanced RCC. The interesting correlation between lymphocytes PD-1 expression and RCC advanced stage, grade and prognosis, as well as the selective PD-L1 expression by RCC tumor cells and its potential association with worse clinical outcomes, have led to the development of new anti PD-1/PD-L1 agents, alone or in combination with anti-angiogenic drugs or other immunotherapeutic approaches, for the treatment of RCC (Massari et al., 2015). In advanced RCC, a phase III cancer vaccine trial called TRIST study evaluates whether TroVax (a vaccine using a tumor-associated antigen 5T4, with a pox virus vector), added to first-line standard of care therapy, prolongs survival of patients with locally advanced or mRCC. Median survival had not been reached in either group with 399 patients (54%) remaining on study however analysis of the data confirms prior clinical results, demonstrating that TroVax is both immunologically active and that there is a correlation between the strength of the 5T4-specific antibody response and improved

survival. Further there are several studies searching for peptide vaccines using epitopes being over-expressed in RCC.

Various approaches of tumor vaccines have been under investigation. Studies using whole-tumor approaches, including tumor cell lysates, fusions of dendritic cells with tumor cells, or whole-tumor RNA were done in RCC patients, and remissions of tumor lesions were reported in some of these trials (Avigan et al., 2004; Holtl et al., 2002; Marten et al., 2002; Su et al., 2003; Wittig et al., 2001).

Small cell lung cancer

Innovations occurred regarding detection, diagnosis and treatment of SCLC. It was shown that the usage of CT scans instead of x-rays for early cancer detection lowered the risk of death from lung cancer. Nowadays, the diagnosis of SCLC can be supported by fluorescence or virtual bronchoscopy; the real-time tumor imaging can be implemented by the radiation treatment. The novel anti-angiogenesis drugs like bevacizumab (Avastin), sunitinib (Sutent) and nintedanib (BIBF 1120) were shown to have therapeutically effects in treatment of SCLC (American Cancer Society, 2015). The immune therapy presents an excessively investigated field of cancer therapy. Various approaches are studied in the treatment of SCLC. One of the approaches targets the blocking of CTLA-4, a natural human immune suppressor. The inhibition of CTLA-4 intends to boost the immune system to combat the cancer. Recently, the development of promising immune check point inhibitors for treatment of SCLC has been started. Another approach is based on anti-cancer vaccines which is currently available for treatment of SCLC in clinical studies (American Cancer Society, 2015; National Cancer Institute (NCI), 2011).

Acute myeloid leukemia

One treatment option is targeting CD33 with antibody-drug conjugates (anti-CD33 + calechiamicin, SGN-CD33a, anti-CD33 + actinium-225), bispecific antibodies (recognition of CD33 + CD3 (AMG 330) or CD33 + CD16) and chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) (Estey, 2014).

Non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Treatment of NHL depends on the histologic type and stage (National Cancer Institute, 2015). Spontaneous tumor regression can be observed in lymphoma patients. Therefore, active immunotherapy is a therapy option (Palomba, 2012). An important vaccination option includes Id vaccines. B lymphocytes express surface immunoglobulins with a specific amino acid sequence in the variable regions of their heavy and light chains, unique to each cell clone (= idiotype, Id). The idiotype functions as a tumor associated antigen. Passive immunization includes the injection of recombinant murine anti-Id monoclonal antibodies alone or in combination with IFNalpha, IL2 or chlorambucil.

Active immunization includes the injection of recombinant protein (Id) conjugated to an adjuvant (KLH), given together with GM-CSF as an immune adjuvant. Tumor-specific Id is produced by hybridoma cultures or using recombinant DNA technology (plasmids) by bacterial, insect or mammalian cell culture. Three phase III clinical trials have been conducted (Biovest, Genitope, Favril). In two trials patients had received rituximab. GM-CSF was administered in all three trials. Biovest used hybridoma-produced protein, Genitope and Favril used recombinant protein. In all three trials Id was conjugated to KLH. Only Biovest had a significant result.

Vaccines other than Id include the cancer-testis antigens MAGE, NY-ESO1 and PASD-1, the B-cell antigen CD20 or cellular vaccines. The latest mentioned consist of DCs pulsed with apoptotic tumor cells, tumor cell lysate, DC-tumor cell fusion or DCs pulsed with tumor-derived RNA. In situ vaccination involves the vaccination with intra-tumoral CpG in combination with chemotherapy or irradiated tumor cells grown in the presence of GM-CSF and collection/ expansion/ re-infusion of T cells. Vaccination with antibodies that alter immunologic checkpoints are comprised of anti-CD40, anti-OX40, anti-41BB, anti-CD27, anti-GITR (agonist antibodies that directly enhance anti-tumor response) or anti-PD1, anti-CTLA-4 (blocking antibodies that inhibit the checkpoint that would hinder

the immune response). Examples are ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4) and CT-011 (anti-PD1) (Palomba, 2012).

Uterine cancer

There are also some immunotherapeutic approaches that are currently being tested. In a Phase I/II Clinical Trial patients suffering from uterine cancer were vaccinated with autologous dendritic cells (DCs) electroporated with Wilms' tumor gene 1 (WT1) mRNA. Besides one case of local allergic reaction to the adjuvant, no adverse side effects were observed and 3 out of 6 patients showed an immunological response (Coosemans et al., 2013).

As stated above, HPV infections provoke lesions that may ultimately lead to cervical cancer. Therefore, the HPV viral oncoproteins E6 and E7 that are constitutively expressed in high-grade lesions and cancer and are required for the onset and maintenance of the malignant phenotype are considered promising targets for immunotherapeutic approaches (Hung et al., 2008; Vici et al., 2014). One study performed Adoptive T-cell therapy (ACT) in patients with metastatic cervical cancer. Patients receive an infusion with E6 and E7 reactive tumor-infiltrating T cells (TILs) resulting in complete regression in 2 and a partial response in 1 out of 9 patients (Stevanovic et al., 2015). Furthermore, an intracellular antibody targeting E7 was reported to block tumor growth in mice (Accardi et al., 2014). Also peptide, DNA and DC-based vaccines targeting HPV E6 and E7 are in clinical trials (Vici et al., 2014).

Gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma

Cholangiocarcinoma (CCC) is mostly identified in advanced stages because it is difficult to diagnose. Gallbladder cancer (GBC) is the most common and aggressive malignancy of the biliary tract worldwide. As for GBC only 10% of tumors are resectable and even with surgery most progress to metastatic disease, prognosis is even worse than for CCC with a 5-year survival of less than 5%. Although most tumors are unresectable there is still no effective adjuvant therapy (Rakic et al., 2014). Some studies showed that combination of chemotherapeutic drugs or combination of targeted therapy (anti-

VEGFR/EGFR) with chemotherapy led to an increased overall survival and might be promising treatment options for the future (Kanthan et al., 2015). Due to the rarity of carcinomas of the biliary tract in general there are only a few GBC or CCC specific studies, while most of them include all biliary tract cancers. This is the reason why treatment did not improve during the last decades and R0 resection still is the only curative treatment option.

Urinary bladder cancer

The standard treatment for bladder cancer includes surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

An effective immunotherapeutic approach is established in the treatment of aggressive non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC). Thereby, a weakened form of the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* (*bacillus Calmette-Guérin* = BCG) is applied as an intravesical solution. The major effect of BCG treatment is a significant long-term (up to 10 years) protection from cancer recurrence and reduced progression rate. In principle, the treatment with BCG induces a local inflammatory response which stimulates the cellular immune response. The immune response to BCG is based on the following key steps: infection of urothelial and bladder cancer cells by BCG, followed by increased expression of antigen-presenting molecules, induction of immune response mediated via cytokine release, induction of antitumor activity via involvement of various immune cells (thereunder cytotoxic T lymphocytes, neutrophils, natural killer cells, and macrophages) (Fuge et al., 2015; Gandhi et al., 2013).

BCG treatment is in general well tolerated by patients but can be fatal especially by the immunocompromised patients. BCG refractory is observed in about 30-40% of patients (Fuge et al., 2015; Steinberg et al., 2016a). The treatment of patients who failed the BCG therapy is challenging. The patients who failed the BCG treatment are at high risk for developing of muscle-invasive disease. Radical cystectomy is the preferable treatment option for non-responders (Steinberg et al., 2016b; von Rundstedt and Lerner, 2015). The FDA approved second line therapy of BCG-failed NMIBC for patients who desire the bladder preservation is the chemotherapeutic treatment with valrubicin.

A number of other second line therapies are available or being currently under investigation as well, thereunder immunotherapeutic approaches like combined BCG-interferon or BCG-check point inhibitor treatments, pre-BCG transdermal vaccination, treatment with *Mycobacterium phlei* cell wall-nucleic acid (MCNA) complex, mono- or combination chemotherapy with various agents like mitomycin C, gemcitabine, docetaxel, nab-paclitaxel, epirubicin, mitomycin/gemcitabine, gemcitabine/docetaxel, and device-assisted chemotherapies like thermochemo-, radiochemo-, electromotive or photodynamic therapies (Fuge et al., 2015; Steinberg et al., 2016b; von Rundstedt and Lerner, 2015). Further evaluation of available therapies in clinical trials is still required.

The alternative treatment options for advanced bladder cancer are being investigated in ongoing clinical trials. The current clinical trials focused on the development of molecularly targeted therapies and immunotherapies. The targeted therapies investigate the effects of cancerogenesis related pathway inhibitors (i.e. mTOR, vascular endothelial, fibroblast, or epidermal growth factor receptors, anti-angiogenesis or cell cycle inhibitors) in the treatment of bladder cancer. The development of molecularly targeted therapies remains challenging due to high degree of genetic diversity of bladder cancer. The main focus of the current immunotherapy is the development of checkpoint blockage agents like anti-PD1 monoclonal antibody and adoptive T-cell transfer (Knollman et al., 2015; Grivas et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2016; Rouanne et al., 2016).

Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

Head and neck squamous cell carcinomas (HNSCC) are heterogeneous tumors with differences in epidemiology, etiology and treatment (Economopoulou et al., 2016). Treatment for early HNSCC involves single-modality therapy with either surgery or radiation (World Health Organization, 2014). Advanced cancers are treated by a combination of chemotherapy with surgery and/or radiation therapy.

HNSCC is considered an immunosuppressive disease, characterized by the dysregulation of immunocompetent cells and impaired cytokine secretion

(Economopoulou et al., 2016). Immunotherapeutic strategies differ between HPV-negative and HPV-positive tumors.

In HPV-positive tumors, the viral oncoproteins E6 and E7 represent good targets, as they are continuously expressed by tumor cells and are essential to maintain the transformation status of HPV-positive cancer cells. Several vaccination therapies are currently under investigation in HPV-positive HNSCC, including DNA vaccines, peptide vaccines and vaccines involving dendritic cells (DCs). Additionally, an ongoing phase II clinical trial investigates the efficacy of lymphodepletion followed by autologous infusion of TILs in patients with HPV-positive tumors (Economopoulou et al., 2016).

In HPV-negative tumors, several immunotherapeutic strategies are currently used and under investigation. The chimeric IgG1 anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody cetuximab has been approved by the FDA in combination with chemotherapy as standard first line treatment for recurring/metastatic HNSCC. Other anti-EGFR monoclonal antibodies, including panitumumab, nimotuzumab and zalutumumab, are evaluated in HNSCC. Several immune checkpoint inhibitors are investigated in clinical trials for their use in HNSCC. They include the following antibodies: Ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4), tremelimumab (anti-CTLA-4), pembrolizumab (anti-PD-1), nivolumab (anti-PD-1), durvalumab (anti-PD-1), anti-KIR, urelumab (anti-CD137), and anti-LAG-3.

Two clinical studies with HNSCC patients evaluated the use of DCs loaded with p53 peptides or apoptotic tumor cells. The immunological responses were satisfactory and side effects were acceptable. Several studies have been conducted using adoptive T cell therapy (ACT). T cells were induced against either irradiated autologous tumor cells or EBV. Results in disease control and overall survival were promising (Economopoulou et al., 2016).

Considering the severe side-effects and expense associated with treating cancer, there is a need to identify factors that can be used in the treatment of cancer in general and glioblastoma (GB), breast cancer (BRCA), colorectal cancer (CRC), renal cell

carcinoma (RCC), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), non-small cell and small cell lung cancer (NSCLC, SCLC), Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), ovarian cancer (OC), pancreatic cancer (PC), prostate cancer (PCA), esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction (OSCAR), gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma (GBC, CCC), melanoma (MEL), gastric cancer (GC), urinary bladder cancer (UBC), head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), and uterine cancer (UEC) in particular. There is also a need to identify factors representing biomarkers for cancer in general and the above-mentioned cancer types in particular, leading to better diagnosis of cancer, assessment of prognosis, and prediction of treatment success.

Immunotherapy of cancer represents an option of specific targeting of cancer cells while minimizing side effects. Cancer immunotherapy makes use of the existence of tumor associated antigens.

The current classification of tumor associated antigens (TAAs) comprises the following major groups:

a) Cancer-testis antigens: The first TAAs ever identified that can be recognized by T cells belong to this class, which was originally called cancer-testis (CT) antigens because of the expression of its members in histologically different human tumors and, among normal tissues, only in spermatocytes/spermatogonia of testis and, occasionally, in placenta. Since the cells of testis do not express class I and II HLA molecules, these antigens cannot be recognized by T cells in normal tissues and can therefore be considered as immunologically tumor-specific. Well-known examples for CT antigens are the MAGE family members and NY-ESO-1.

b) Differentiation antigens: These TAAs are shared between tumors and the normal tissue from which the tumor arose. Most of the known differentiation antigens are found in melanomas and normal melanocytes. Many of these melanocyte lineage-related proteins are involved in biosynthesis of melanin and are therefore not tumor specific but nevertheless are widely used for cancer immunotherapy. Examples include, but are not limited to, tyrosinase and Melan-A/MART-1 for melanoma or PSA for prostate cancer.

c) Over-expressed TAAs: Genes encoding widely expressed TAAs have been detected in histologically different types of tumors as well as in many normal tissues, generally with lower expression levels. It is possible that many of the epitopes processed and potentially presented by normal tissues are below the threshold level for T-cell recognition, while their over-expression in tumor cells can trigger an anticancer response by breaking previously established tolerance. Prominent examples for this class of TAAs are Her-2/neu, survivin, telomerase, or WT1.

d) Tumor-specific antigens: These unique TAAs arise from mutations of normal genes (such as β -catenin, CDK4, etc.). Some of these molecular changes are associated with neoplastic transformation and/or progression. Tumor-specific antigens are generally able to induce strong immune responses without bearing the risk for autoimmune reactions against normal tissues. On the other hand, these TAAs are in most cases only relevant to the exact tumor on which they were identified and are usually not shared between many individual tumors. Tumor-specificity (or -association) of a peptide may also arise if the peptide originates from a tumor- (-associated) exon in case of proteins with tumor-specific (-associated) isoforms.

e) TAAs arising from abnormal post-translational modifications: Such TAAs may arise from proteins which are neither specific nor overexpressed in tumors but nevertheless become tumor associated by posttranslational processes primarily active in tumors. Examples for this class arise from altered glycosylation patterns leading to novel epitopes in tumors as for MUC1 or events like protein splicing during degradation which may or may not be tumor specific.

f) Oncoviral proteins: These TAAs are viral proteins that may play a critical role in the oncogenic process and, because they are foreign (not of human origin), they can evoke a T-cell response. Examples of such proteins are the human papilloma type 16 virus proteins, E6 and E7, which are expressed in cervical carcinoma.

T-cell based immunotherapy targets peptide epitopes derived from tumor-associated or tumor-specific proteins, which are presented by molecules of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC). The antigens that are recognized by the tumor specific T lymphocytes, that is, the epitopes thereof, can be molecules derived from all

protein classes, such as enzymes, receptors, transcription factors, etc. which are expressed and, as compared to unaltered cells of the same origin, usually up-regulated in cells of the respective tumor.

There are two classes of MHC-molecules, MHC class I and MHC class II. MHC class I molecules are composed of an alpha heavy chain and beta-2-microglobulin, MHC class II molecules of an alpha and a beta chain. Their three-dimensional conformation results in a binding groove, which is used for non-covalent interaction with peptides.

MHC class I molecules can be found on most nucleated cells. They present peptides that result from proteolytic cleavage of predominantly endogenous proteins, defective ribosomal products (DRIPs) and larger peptides. However, peptides derived from endosomal compartments or exogenous sources are also frequently found on MHC class I molecules. This non-classical way of class I presentation is referred to as cross-presentation in the literature (Brossart and Bevan, 1997; Rock et al., 1990). MHC class II molecules can be found predominantly on professional antigen presenting cells (APCs), and primarily present peptides of exogenous or transmembrane proteins that are taken up by APCs e.g. during endocytosis, and are subsequently processed.

Complexes of peptide and MHC class I are recognized by CD8-positive T cells bearing the appropriate T-cell receptor (TCR), whereas complexes of peptide and MHC class II molecules are recognized by CD4-positive-helper-T cells bearing the appropriate TCR. It is well known that the TCR, the peptide and the MHC are thereby present in a stoichiometric amount of 1:1:1.

CD4-positive helper T cells play an important role in inducing and sustaining effective responses by CD8-positive cytotoxic T cells. The identification of CD4-positive T-cell epitopes derived from tumor associated antigens (TAA) is of great importance for the development of pharmaceutical products for triggering anti-tumor immune responses (Gnjatic et al., 2003). At the tumor site, T helper cells, support a cytotoxic T cell- (CTL-)

friendly cytokine milieu (Mortara et al., 2006) and attract effector cells, e.g. CTLs, natural killer (NK) cells, macrophages, and granulocytes (Hwang et al., 2007).

In the absence of inflammation, expression of MHC class II molecules is mainly restricted to cells of the immune system, especially professional antigen-presenting cells (APC), e.g., monocytes, monocyte-derived cells, macrophages, dendritic cells. In cancer patients, cells of the tumor have been found to express MHC class II molecules (Dengjel et al., 2006).

Elongated (longer) peptides of the invention can act as MHC class II active epitopes.

T-helper cells, activated by MHC class II epitopes, play an important role in orchestrating the effector function of CTLs in anti-tumor immunity. T-helper cell epitopes that trigger a T-helper cell response of the TH1 type support effector functions of CD8-positive killer T cells, which include cytotoxic functions directed against tumor cells displaying tumor-associated peptide/MHC complexes on their cell surfaces. In this way tumor-associated T-helper cell peptide epitopes, alone or in combination with other tumor-associated peptides, can serve as active pharmaceutical ingredients of vaccine compositions that stimulate anti-tumor immune responses.

It was shown in mammalian animal models, e.g., mice, that even in the absence of CD8-positive T lymphocytes, CD4-positive T cells are sufficient for inhibiting manifestation of tumors via inhibition of angiogenesis by secretion of interferon-gamma (IFN γ) (Beatty and Paterson, 2001; Mumberg et al., 1999). There is evidence for CD4 T cells as direct anti-tumor effectors (Braumuller et al., 2013; Tran et al., 2014).

Since the constitutive expression of HLA class II molecules is usually limited to immune cells, the possibility of isolating class II peptides directly from primary tumors was previously not considered possible. However, Dengjel et al. were successful in identifying a number of MHC Class II epitopes directly from tumors (WO 2007/028574, EP 1 760 088 B1).

Since both types of response, CD8 and CD4 dependent, contribute jointly and synergistically to the anti-tumor effect, the identification and characterization of tumor-associated antigens recognized by either CD8+ T cells (ligand: MHC class I molecule + peptide epitope) or by CD4-positive T-helper cells (ligand: MHC class II molecule + peptide epitope) is important in the development of tumor vaccines.

For an MHC class I peptide to trigger (elicit) a cellular immune response, it also must bind to an MHC-molecule. This process is dependent on the allele of the MHC-molecule and specific polymorphisms of the amino acid sequence of the peptide. MHC-class-I-binding peptides are usually 8-12 amino acid residues in length and usually contain two conserved residues ("anchors") in their sequence that interact with the corresponding binding groove of the MHC-molecule. In this way each MHC allele has a "binding motif" determining which peptides can bind specifically to the binding groove.

In the MHC class I dependent immune reaction, peptides not only have to be able to bind to certain MHC class I molecules expressed by tumor cells, they subsequently also have to be recognized by T cells bearing specific T cell receptors (TCR).

For proteins to be recognized by T-lymphocytes as tumor-specific or -associated antigens, and to be used in a therapy, particular prerequisites must be fulfilled. The antigen should be expressed mainly by tumor cells and not, or in comparably small amounts, by normal healthy tissues. In a preferred embodiment, the peptide should be over-presented by tumor cells as compared to normal healthy tissues. It is furthermore desirable that the respective antigen is not only present in a type of tumor, but also in high concentrations (i.e. copy numbers of the respective peptide per cell). Tumor-specific and tumor-associated antigens are often derived from proteins directly involved in transformation of a normal cell to a tumor cell due to their function, e.g. in cell cycle control or suppression of apoptosis. Additionally, downstream targets of the proteins directly causative for a transformation may be up-regulated and thus may be indirectly tumor-associated. Such indirect tumor-associated antigens may also be targets of a

vaccination approach (Singh-Jasuja et al., 2004). It is essential that epitopes are present in the amino acid sequence of the antigen, in order to ensure that such a peptide ("immunogenic peptide"), being derived from a tumor associated antigen, and leads to an *in vitro* or *in vivo* T-cell-response.

Basically, any peptide able to bind an MHC molecule may function as a T-cell epitope. A prerequisite for the induction of an *in vitro* or *in vivo* T-cell-response is the presence of a T cell having a corresponding TCR and the absence of immunological tolerance for this particular epitope.

Therefore, TAAs are a starting point for the development of a T cell based therapy including but not limited to tumor vaccines. The methods for identifying and characterizing the TAAs are usually based on the use of T-cells that can be isolated from patients or healthy subjects, or they are based on the generation of differential transcription profiles or differential peptide expression patterns between tumors and normal tissues. However, the identification of genes over-expressed in tumor tissues or human tumor cell lines, or selectively expressed in such tissues or cell lines, does not provide precise information as to the use of the antigens being transcribed from these genes in an immune therapy. This is because only an individual subpopulation of epitopes of these antigens are suitable for such an application since a T cell with a corresponding TCR has to be present and the immunological tolerance for this particular epitope needs to be absent or minimal. In a very preferred embodiment of the invention it is therefore important to select only those over- or selectively presented peptides against which a functional and/or a proliferating T cell can be found. Such a functional T cell is defined as a T cell, which upon stimulation with a specific antigen can be clonally expanded and is able to execute effector functions ("effector T cell").

In case of targeting peptide-MHC by specific TCRs (e.g. soluble TCRs) and antibodies or other binding molecules (scaffolds) according to the invention, the immunogenicity of the underlying peptides is secondary. In these cases, the presentation is the determining factor.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a first aspect of the present invention, the present invention relates to a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306 or a variant sequence thereof which is at least 77%, preferably at least 88%, homologous (preferably at least 77% or at least 88% identical) to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306, wherein said variant binds to MHC and/or induces T cells cross-reacting with said peptide, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, wherein said peptide is not the underlying full-length polypeptide.

While the most important criterion for a peptide to function as cancer therapy target is its over-presentation on primary tumor tissues as compared to normal tissues, also the RNA expression profile of the corresponding gene or exon can help to select appropriate peptides. Particularly, some peptides are hard to detect by mass spectrometry, either due to their chemical properties or to their low copy numbers on cells, and a screening approach focusing on detection of peptide presentation may fail to identify these targets. However, these targets may be detected by an alternative approach starting with analysis of gene and exon expression in tumor tissues and in normal tissues and secondarily assessing peptide presentation in tumors. This approach was realized in this invention using two mRNA databases (TCGA Research Network: <http://cancergenome.nih.gov/> for tumor samples and GTEX database (Lonsdale, 2013) for normal tissue samples), as well as peptide presentation data. If the mRNA of a gene or exon is over-expressed in tumor tissues compared to normal tissues, it is considered as tumor associated. Such peptides, even if identified on only a small percentage of tumor tissues, represent interesting targets. Routine mass spectrometry analysis is not sensitive enough to assess target coverage on the peptide level. Rather, tumor mRNA expression can be used to assess coverage. For detection of the peptide itself, a targeted mass spectrometry approach with higher sensitivity than in the routine screening may be necessary and may lead to a better estimation of coverage on the level of peptide presentation.

The present invention further relates to a peptide of the present invention comprising a sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306 or a variant thereof, which is at least 77%, preferably at least 88%, homologous (preferably at least 77% or at least 88% identical) to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306, wherein said peptide or variant thereof has an overall length of between 8 and 100, preferably between 8 and 30, and most preferred of between 8 and 14 amino acids.

The present invention further relates to a peptide of the present invention consisting of a sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 24, 32, 39, 64, 72, 106, 149, 251, 305, and 306.

The following tables show the peptides according to the present invention, their respective SEQ ID NOs, and the prospective source (underlying) genes for these peptides. All peptides in Table 3, Table 5 and Table 7 (A+B) bind to HLA-A*02. All peptides in Table 4, Table 6 and Table 8 bind to HLA-A*24. The peptides in Table 5 and Table 6 have been disclosed before in large listings as results of high-throughput screenings with high error rates or calculated using algorithms, but have not been associated with cancer at all before. The peptides in Table 7 (A+B) and Table 8 are additional peptides that may be useful in combination with the other peptides of the invention.

Table 3: Peptides according to the present invention, HLA-A*02-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
1	LLYPEPWSV	220382	FAM181B
2	GLIAGVVS	4233	MET
3	KLEENGDLYL	55255	WDR41
4	KLMPGTYTL	2201	FBN2
5	GIVAHIQEV	440193	CCDC88C
6	ALFDSLRLHV	220382	FAM181B
7	ILDHEVPSL	199990	C1orf86
8	SIYQFLIAV	2237	FEN1

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
9	FLVDGSYSI	1303	COL12A1
10	GIAGSLKTV	3720	JARID2
11	ALSPSYLTV	57674	RNF213
12	GLLPLLHRA	100529261, 2342, 91612	CHURC1-FNTB, FNTB, CHURC1
13	ALMAMLVYV	91319	DERL3
14	ILAKDLFEI	83990	BRIP1
15	YLDLSHNQL	10333, 79883	PODNL1, TLR6
16	YTLDIPVLFGV	29028	ATAD2
17	AVFPDDMPTL	4297	MLL
18	ILLDLTDNRL	135228	CD109
19	SISDNVWEV	55589	BMP2K
20	GLSQITNQL	9736	USP34
21	AIQDEIRSV	4085	MAD2L1
22	FVDPNTQEKV	83481	EPPK1
23	SLFSDEFKV	102	ADAM10
24	TLDEKVAEL	51438	MAGEC2
25	TMDSVLVTV	94025	MUC16
26	ALQEELTEL	22995	CEP152
27	RLMEENWNA	7784	ZP3
28	SLPNGKPVSV	23682	RAB38
29	YLLDPSITL	10102	TSFM
30	AMIEEVFEA	221443	OARD1
31	TITETTVEV	7143	TNR
32	VQLDSIEDLEV	23532	PRAME
33	YIKTELISV	6772	STAT1
34	FLLATEVVTV	10075	HUWE1
35	FLLPFSTVYL	9204	ZMYM6
36	SLADTNSLAVV	6490	PMEL
37	ILAPFSVDL	85413	SLC22A16
38	FLGPRIIGL	202309	GAPT
39	HLLEGSGGV	85320	ABCC11
40	VLIDPQWVLTA	3003	GZMK
41	ALFENTPKA	5260	PHKG1
42	LLDSVSRL	3918	LAMC2
43	KAIEVLLTL	57650	KIAA1524
44	SLFETAWEA	9735	KNTC1
45	SLTEVSLPL	580	BARD1
46	SQFPLPLAV	80055	PGAP1
47	ALLERGELFV	79050	NOC4L

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
48	QVIEDSTGV	64778	FNDC3B
49	ALNIATHVL	24140	FTSJ1
50	ILFHGVFYA	55744	COA1
51	LLFSRLCGA	25945	PVRL3
52	RLAVLFSGA	968	CD68
53	KMVGLVVAI	80324	PUS1
54	VLNPLITAV	10827	FAM114A2
55	SLATKIVEA	152110	NEK10
56	FLHDEKEGIYI	10225	CD96
57	TVFTDHMLTV	586	BCAT1
58	YLLPLLAL	338645	LUZP2
59	KLLDPQEFTL	3371	TNC
60	ALFAPLVHL	26251	KCNG2
61	AIVKEIVNI	4436	MSH2
62	ALNPELVQA	4233	MET
63	SQIPAQPSV	23215	PRRC2C
64	SLFPDSLIV	261729	STEAP2
65	SVVPDVRSV	6605	SMARCE1
66	KLIFSVEAV	65985	AACS
67	TLLQRLTEV	11064	CNTRL
68	SLSNRLYYL	9271	PIWIL1
69	FLAVGLVDV	28559	TRBV28
70	LLLGDSALYL	28609, 28610	TRBV5-6, TRBV5-5
71	VLHSKFWVV	122618	PLD4
72	FLTAINYLL	440712	C1orf186
73	YTLREVDTV	4521	NUDT1
74	TLFGYSVVL	3676	ITGA4
75	AVIKFLELL	4436	MSH2
76	AVGPVHNSV	57448	BIRC6
77	TLIDEQDIPLV	116225	ZMYND19
78	TVVTRLDEI	9459	ARHGEF6
79	VTFKEYVTV	8535	CBX4
80	KLYEADFVL	55501	CHST12
81	NALDKVLSV	79053	ALG8
82	FIFDEAEKL	64222	TOR3A
83	GQASYFYVA	4486	MST1R
84	ALCPRIHEV	1762	DMWD
85	VLNDILVRA	5016	OVGP1
86	SVDSHFQEV	4968	OGG1

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
87	TIYKDFVYI	79786	KLHL36
88	AQADHLPQL	64689	GORASP1
89	QLAPVFQRV	84342	COG8
90	FLQDLEQRL	128272	ARHGEF19
91	KLFDESILI	8295	TRRAP
92	GLLFSLRSV	79064	TMEM223
93	QVLELDVADI	9675	TTI1
94	LLPAPVPVGA	1953	MEGF6
95	GLLGSLFFL	91319	DERL3
96	LLVSHLYLV	84885	ZDHHC12
97	STLPKSLSL	4605	MYBL2
98	RLFPDFFTRVAL	5657	PRTN3
99	YLLQSVNQLLL	23347	SMCHD1
100	ALLGMIIVGV	6571	SLC18A2
101	ALADFMLSL	2854	GPR32
102	VLLDIQEVFQI	201305	SPNS3
103	YLVSEIFKA	6005	RHAG
104	ALISWQPPRA	7143	TNR
105	ALLGTKILL	147945	NLRP4
106	FINDSIVYL	89766	UMODL1
107	LLVPTSGIYFV	4049	LTA
108	ILLKNLVTI	129868, 653192	TRIM43, TRIM43B
109	SLDPSVTHL	250, 251	ALPPL2, ALPP
110	FLLGVSKEV	23251	KIAA1024
111	AIVDLIHD	23225	NUP210
112	SLGKFTFDV	6676	SPAG4
113	FLERGLESA	10535	RNASEH2A
114	QLIQT LHAV	1004	CDH6
115	SLDPDTLPAV	352954, 389523, 729438	GATSL2, GATS, GATSL1
116	TIDESGSIL	29127	RACGAP1
117	KMPDVELFV	79070	KDELC1
118	QLWQFLVTL	2119	ETV5
119	FIIQGLRSVGA	3117, 3118	HLA-DQA2, HLA-DQA1
120	VTPVTVSAV	3054	HCFC1
121	FTIFRTISV	83743	GRWD1
122	GVVDPVHGV	83481	EPPK1
123	VLDPALPALV	4486	MST1R
124	KVMATIEKV	9274	BCL7C
125	SLADYEHFV	357	SHROOM2

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
126	QMFQYFITV	51290	ERGIC2
127	KLDGNELDL	55379	LRRC59
128	TQSPATLSV	28299, 28875, 28902, 28913, 3514, 50802	IGKV1-5, IGKV3-15, IGKV3D-15, IGKC, IGKV1D-13, IGK@
129	RLQDILWFL	150771	ITPRIPL1
130	SLLGGTFVGI	55266	TMEM19
131	VTSNSGILGV	22828	SCAF8
132	ILGEVLAQL	124044	SPATA2L
133	ALLPRLHQL	85414	SLC45A3
134	GLAVPTPSV	647024	C6orf132
135	HLSTIIHEA	1147	CHUK
136	FLFGGVLMTL	91319	DERL3
137	EIASITEQL	55183	RIF1
138	ALLAKILQI	5591	PRKDC
139	FLLPTGAEA	1511	CTSG
140	VLLEELEAL	10142	AKAP9
141	FLDKVLVAA	54497	HEATR5B
142	ILVEGISTV	1462	VCAN
143	ALLPELREV	1140	CHRNA1
144	ALLAFFPGL	80267	EDEM3
145	YLWATIQRI	2650	GCNT1
146	ALHFSEDEI	6097	RORC
147	YLMDDTVEI	114327	EFHC1
148	MLAGIAITV	63826	SRR
149	ILNTHITEL	131578	LRRC15
150	VLYDRPLKI	64783	RBM15
151	SVLDSTAKV	54885	TBC1D8B
152	MMVGDLLEV	5927	KDM5A
153	FISERVEVV	128869	PIGU
154	RLLGTEFQV	51151	SLC45A2
155	LLNPVVEFV	5591	PRKDC
156	ILGDLSHLL	11015	KDEL3
157	TLTSLLAQA	83481	EPPK1

Table 4: Peptides according to the present invention, HLA-A*24-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
158	HYSQEISLLYL	5591	PRKDC
159	LYNKGFIYL	157769	FAM91A1

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
160	VYTL DIPVL	29028	ATAD2
161	IYLV SIPEL	23545	ATP6V0A2
162	VFTRV SSFL	1511	CTSG
163	DYLGKGLASF	1130	LYST
164	KFSSFSLFF	3003	GZMK
165	DYTTWTALL	10615	SPAG5
166	YYVESGKLF	23279	NUP160
167	NYINRILKL	51691	NAA38
168	KYQDILETI	79730	NSUN7
169	AYTLIAPNI	94240	EPSTI1
170	VYEDQVGKF	23065	EMC1
171	LFIPSSKLLFL	101060416, 101060589, 23049, 440345, 440354, 552900, 641298	LOC101060416, SMG1, BOLA2, 61E3.4, LOC101060589, SMG1P1, LOC440354
172	TYTTVPRVAF	10882	C1QL1
173	IYSWILDHF	3344	FOXN2
174	VYVGGGQIIHL	151354	FAM84A
175	YYEVHKELF	9055	PRC1
176	EYNQWFTKL	55604	LRRRC16A
177	VYPWLGALL	54905	CYP2W1
178	IFIEVFSHF	284293	HMSD
179	MYDSYWRQF	143686	SESN3
180	IYDDSFIRPVTF	56886	UGGT1
181	LYLDIINLF	51643	TMBIM4
182	IYQLDTASI	55003	PAK1IP1
183	VFTSTARAF	10225	CD96
184	VFQNFPLLF	56890	MDM1
185	IYKVGAPTI	10978	CLP1
186	IFPQFLYQF	23250	ATP11A
187	TYLRDQHFL	898	CCNE1
188	RYFKGLVF	166614	DCLK2
189	WYVNGVNYP	79054	TRPM8
190	GFFIFNERF	10206	TRIM13
191	VFKASKITF	5803	PTPRZ1
192	SYALLTYMI	7298	TYMS
193	RFHPTPLLL	51605	TRMT6
194	EFGSLHLEFL	57134	MAN1C1
195	TYSVSFPMF	257202, 2882	GPX6, GPX7
196	LYIDRPLPYL	253725, 387680, 55747	FAM21C, FAM21B,

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
			FAM21A
197	EYSLFPGQVVI	23649	POLA2
198	LYLDKATLI	55916	NXT2
199	RYAEEVGIF	54187	NANS
200	YYGPSLFLL	10075	HUWE1
201	IYATEAHVF	55706	TMEM48
202	VYWDSAGAAHF	55501	CHST12
203	FYSRLLQKF	55055	ZWILCH
204	TYELRYFQI	200916	RPL22L1
205	VHIPEVYLI	57705	WDFY4
206	EYQENFLSF	441027	TMEM150C
207	AYVVFVSTL	25938	HEATR5A
208	TYTQDFNKF	796	CALCA
209	TYKDEGNDYF	7268	TTC4
210	IYTMIRNL	4193	MDM2
211	YYLEVGTKLI	80267	EDEM3
212	YYTFHFLYF	26273	FBXO3
213	IFDEAEKL	64222	TOR3A
214	LYLKLWNLI	11274, 373856	USP18, USP41
215	YFDKVVTL	374654	KIF7
216	QYSSVFKSL	25938	HEATR5A
217	FFPPTRQMGLLF	85415	RHPN2
218	YYKSTSSAF	79690	GAL3ST4
219	EYPLVINTL	100129460, 23333	DPY19L1P1, DPY19L1
220	GYIDNVTLI	3918	LAMC2
221	RYSTGLAGNLL	54921	CHTF8
222	TFSVSSHFLF	90874	ZNF697
223	KYIPYKYVI	57674	RNF213
224	QYLENLEKL	101060589, 23049, 440345, 641298	61E3.4, SMG1P1, SMG1, LOC101060589
225	YYVYIMNHL	10655	DMRT2
226	VYRDETGELF	84455	EFCAB7
227	IFLDYEAGTLSF	202658, 56658	TRIM39, TRIM39-RPP21
228	KYTSWYVAL	2247	FGF2

Table 5: Additional peptides according to the present invention with no prior known cancer association, HLA-A*02-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
229	AILAHLNTV	8914	TIMELESS

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
230	KLQNIMMLL	3070	HELLS
231	MLDKYSHYL	139818	DOCK11
232	KIFPAALQLV	2618	GART
233	HLFDAFVSV	55789	DEPDC1B
234	LLSPHPAL	10884	MRPS30
235	KIIDFLSAL	2956	MSH6
236	STIAILNSV	23310	NCAPD3
237	ALAPHLDDA	54919	HEATR2
238	GLYERPTAA	2672	GFI1
239	KMNESTRSV	4173	MCM4
240	YMGECKLIASV	23404	EXOSC2
241	KTIQQLETV	55127	HEATR1
242	WLYGEDHQI	586	BCAT1
243	FMADDIFSV	50615	IL21R
244	YLLEKNRVV	4651	MYO10
245	SLLDLPLSL	9487	PIGL
246	TVSDVLNSV	22796	COG2
247	ALYEGYATV	10072, 582	DPP3, BBS1
248	YLDRFLAGV	894	CCND2
249	GLCERLVSL	5591	PRKDC
250	SLAPATPEV	9308	CD83
251	ALSVLRLAL	6691	SPINK2
252	RLMEICESL	1063	CENPF
253	ALAEIDNSL	23347	SMCHD1
254	KLQGKLPEL	5198	PFAS
255	SLLHFTENL	157570	ESCO2
256	SLGEEQFSV	157570	ESCO2
257	GLYTDPCGV	55007	FAM118A
258	LLSERFINV	56647	BCCIP
259	ILLPRIIEA	83959	SLC4A11
260	ILLEKILSL	9373	PLAA
261	QLQDRVYAL	55374	TMCO6
262	FMVDKAIYL	55068	ENOX1
263	VLLSEQGDVKL	10494, 51765, 6788	STK25, MST4, STK3
264	KLFPQETLFL	11124	FAF1
265	NTCPYVHNI	51728	POLR3K
266	YAIGLVMRL	401494	PTPLAD2

Table 6: Additional peptides according to the present invention with no prior known cancer association, HLA-A*24-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
267	KYMVYPQTF	10884	MRPS30
268	QYLGQIQHI	7298	TYMS
269	YFIDSTNLKTHF	51042	ZNF593
270	NYEYVHKELF	9055	PRC1
271	LYHDIFSRL	9603	NFE2L3
272	QYLQDAYSF	9918	NCAPD2
273	TYIKPISKL	4644	MYO5A
274	AYLHSHALI	51347	TAOK3
275	EYINQGDLHEF	4919	ROR1
276	VYGFQWRHF	7298	TYMS
277	VYQGHTALL	5754	PTK7
278	RYISDQLFTNF	23268	DNMBP
279	TYIESASEL	79623	GALNT14
280	RYPDNLKHLYL	29080	CCDC59
281	PYRLIFEKF	5591	PRKDC
282	KFVDSTFYL	9688	NUP93
283	TYGDAGLTYTF	121642	ALKBH2
284	RYLNKAFHI	23310	NCAPD3
285	HYPPVQVLF	2956	MSH6
286	RYPDNLKHL	29080	CCDC59
287	LYITEPKTI	11219, 55559	TREX2, HAUS7
288	VYVSDIQEL	23225, 255330	NUP210P1, NUP210
289	KYPVEWAKF	51101	ZC2HC1A

Table 7A: Peptides useful for e.g. personalized cancer therapies, HLA-A*02-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
290	KIVDFSYSV	701	BUB1B
291	KLDETGNLSL	7153	TOP2A
292	GMMTAILGV	79939	SLC35E1
293	FLVDGSWSI	57642	COL20A1
294	GLMKYIGEV	79054	TRPM8

Table 7B: Peptides useful for e.g. personalized cancer therapies, HLA-A*02-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
305	KLFTSVFGV	1791	DNTT
306	ALLSSLNEL	367	AR

Table 8: Peptides useful for e.g. personalized cancer therapies, HLA-A*24-binding.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	GeneID(s)	Official Gene Symbol(s)
295	YYPGVILGF	55026	TMEM255A
296	TYVDSSHTI	1462	VCAN
297	PFLQASPHF	84985	FAM83A
298	RYLEGTSCI	83481	EPPK1
299	VYFVAPAKF	3918	LAMC2
300	AYVLRLETL	10687	PNMA2
301	AYKPGALTF	84883	AIFM2
302	RYMPPAHRNF	3620	IDO1

The present invention furthermore generally relates to the peptides according to the present invention for use in the treatment of proliferative diseases, such as, for example, glioblastoma (GB), breast cancer (BRCA), colorectal cancer (CRC), renal cell carcinoma (RCC), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), non-small cell and small cell lung cancer (NSCLC, SCLC), Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), ovarian cancer (OC), pancreatic cancer (PC), prostate cancer (PCA), esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction (OSCAR), gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma (GBC, CCC), melanoma (MEL), gastric cancer (GC), urinary bladder cancer (UBC), head-and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), and uterine cancer (UEC).

Particularly preferred are the peptides – alone or in combination - according to the present invention selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306. More preferred are the peptides – alone or in combination - selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 149 (see Table 3), SEQ ID NO: 158 to SEQ ID NO: 213 (see Table 4), and SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306, in particular consisting of a sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 24, 32, 39, 64, 72, 106, 149, 251, 305, and 306, and their uses in the immunotherapy of glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia,

ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head-and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), or uterine cancer.

As shown in Example 1, many of the peptides according to the present invention are found on various tumor types and can, thus, be used in the immunotherapy of other indications. Over-expression of the underlying polypeptides in a variety of cancers, as shown in Example 2, hints towards the usefulness of these peptides in various other oncological indications.

Thus, another aspect of the present invention relates to the use of the peptides according to the present invention for the - preferably combined - treatment of a proliferative disease selected from the group of glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head-and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer.

The present invention furthermore relates to peptides according to the present invention that have the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class-I or - in an elongated form, such as a length-variant - MHC class -II.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the present invention wherein said peptides (each) consist or consist essentially of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the present invention, wherein said peptide is modified and/or includes non-peptide bonds.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the present invention, wherein said peptide is part of a fusion protein, in particular fused to the N-terminal amino acids of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (Ii), or fused to (or into the sequence of) an antibody, such as, for example, an antibody that is specific for dendritic cells.

The present invention further relates to a nucleic acid, encoding the peptides according to the present invention. The present invention further relates to the nucleic acid according to the present invention that is DNA, cDNA, PNA, RNA or combinations thereof.

The present invention further relates to an expression vector capable of expressing and/or expressing a nucleic acid according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to a peptide according to the present invention, a nucleic acid according to the present invention or an expression vector according to the present invention for use in the treatment of diseases and in medicine, in particular in the treatment of cancer.

The present invention further relates to antibodies that are specific against the peptides according to the present invention or complexes of said peptides according to the present invention with MHC, and methods of making these.

The present invention further relates to T-cell receptors (TCRs), in particular soluble TCR (sTCRs) and cloned TCRs engineered into autologous or allogeneic T cells, and methods of making these, as well as NK cells or other cells bearing said TCR or cross-reacting with said TCRs.

The antibodies and TCRs are additional embodiments of the immunotherapeutic use of the peptides according to the invention at hand.

The present invention further relates to a host cell comprising a nucleic acid according to the present invention or an expression vector as described before. The present invention further relates to the host cell according to the present invention that is an antigen presenting cell, and preferably is a dendritic cell.

The present invention further relates to a method for producing a peptide according to the present invention, said method comprising culturing the host cell according to the present invention, and isolating the peptide from said host cell or its culture medium.

The present invention further relates to said method according to the present invention, wherein the antigen is loaded onto class I or II MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell or artificial antigen-presenting cell by contacting a sufficient amount of the antigen with an antigen-presenting cell.

The present invention further relates to the method according to the present invention, wherein the antigen-presenting cell comprises an expression vector capable of expressing or expressing said peptide containing SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No.: 289, preferably containing SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 149, SEQ ID NO: 158 to SEQ ID NO: 213, or a variant amino acid sequence.

The present invention further relates to activated T cells, produced by the method according to the present invention, wherein said T cell selectively recognizes a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to a method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising any amino acid sequence according to the present invention, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective number of T cells as produced according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to the use of any peptide as described, the nucleic acid according to the present invention, the expression vector according to the present invention, the cell according to the present invention, the activated T lymphocyte, the T cell receptor or the antibody or other peptide- and/or peptide-MHC-binding molecules according to the present invention as a medicament or in the manufacture of a medicament. Preferably, said medicament is active against cancer.

Preferably, said medicament is a cellular therapy, a vaccine or a protein based on a soluble TCR or antibody.

The present invention further relates to a use according to the present invention, wherein said cancer cells are glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head-and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer cells.

The present invention further relates to biomarkers based on the peptides according to the present invention, herein called "targets", that can be used in the diagnosis of cancer, preferably glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head-and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer. The marker can be over-presentation of the peptide(s) themselves, or over-expression of the corresponding gene(s). The markers may also be used to predict the probability of success of a treatment, preferably an immunotherapy, and most preferred an immunotherapy targeting the same target that is identified by the biomarker. For

example, an antibody or soluble TCR can be used to stain sections of the tumor to detect the presence of a peptide of interest in complex with MHC.

Optionally the antibody carries a further effector function such as an immune stimulating domain or toxin.

The present invention also relates to the use of these targets in the context of cancer treatment.

A single nucleotide polymorphism of ABCC11 was shown to be associated with a shorter relapse-free survival in patients with non-small cell lung cancer who were treated with S-1 adjuvant chemotherapy (Tsuchiya et al., 2016). ABCC11 was described as a promoter of a multi-drug resistance phenotype in breast cancer. Furthermore, high expression of ABCC11 in breast tumors was shown to be associated with aggressive subtypes and low disease-free survival (Honorat et al., 2013; Yamada et al., 2013). ABCC11 transcript levels in colorectal cancer patients were shown to be significantly lower in non-responders to palliative chemotherapy in comparison with responders which associated with significantly shorter disease-free intervals (Hlavata et al., 2012). ABCC11 was described as a potential biomarker for pemetrexed (MTA) treatment in lung adenocarcinomas (Uemura et al., 2010). ABCC11 up-regulation in acute myeloid leukemia was shown to be associated with a low probability of overall survival assessed over 4 years and may serve as a predictive marker (Guo et al., 2009). ABCC11 was shown to be up-regulated in hepatocellular carcinoma (Borel et al., 2012).

AR encodes for the androgen receptor gene which is more than 90 kb long and codes for a protein that has 3 major functional domains: the N-terminal domain, DNA-binding domain, and androgen-binding domain. The protein functions as a steroid-hormone activated transcription factor. Upon binding the hormone ligand, the receptor dissociates from accessory proteins, translocates into the nucleus, dimerizes, and then stimulates transcription of androgen responsive genes. This gene contains 2 polymorphic trinucleotide repeat segments that encode polyglutamine and polyglycine tracts in the

N-terminal transactivation domain of its protein. Expansion of the polyglutamine tract from the normal 9-34 repeats to the pathogenic 38-62 repeats causes spinal bulbar muscular atrophy (Kennedy disease). Mutations in this gene are also associated with complete androgen insensitivity (CAIS). Two alternatively spliced variants encoding distinct isoforms have been described. US20150306197 A1 discloses SQ ID NO. 305 as an AR LBD (ligand-binding domain) peptide epitope that was identified by scanning the protein sequence of the AR LBD for 9-mer or 10-mer peptides that fit the HLA-A2 consensus binding sequence and by their predicted binding affinity to HLA-A2. The peptide is exclusively proposed for a prostate cancer vaccine.

C1orf186 encodes chromosome 1 open reading frame 186 and is located on chromosome 1q32.1 (RefSeq, 2002). Krüppel-like factor 9 inhibits C1orf186 expression in endometrial carcinoma cells (Simmen et al., 2008). C1orf186 is associated with ER-positive breast cancer (Triulzi et al., 2015).

DNTT encodes for DNA nucleotidylexotransferase. In vivo, the encoded protein is expressed in a restricted population of normal and malignant pre-B and pre-T lymphocytes during early differentiation, where it generates antigen receptor diversity by synthesizing non-germ line elements (N-regions) at the junctions of rearranged Ig heavy chain and T cell receptor gene segments. Alternatively spliced transcript variants encoding different isoforms of this gene have been described. US20110142842 A1 predicts the peptide of SEQ ID NO. 305 as binding to HLA-A*0201 as a sequences of hematopoietic cell-specific proteins. The peptide is not tested further, and the publication speculates about the treatment of many different types of cancer including leukemia, lymphomas such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

LRRC15 encodes leucine rich repeat containing 15 and is located on chromosome 3q29 (RefSeq, 2002). EWSR1-WT1 is an oncogenic transcription factor that was shown to affect the expression of LRRC15 (Cliteur et al., 2012; Reynolds et al., 2003). LRRC15 is a tumor antigen which is over-expressed in a variety of entities (O'Prey et al., 2008).

LRRC15 is associated with breast cancer invasion (Schuetz et al., 2006). LRRC15 is associated with aggressive behavior of androgen-independent metastatic prostate tumors (Stanbrough et al., 2006). Autoantibodies against LRRC15 are inversely correlated with breast cancer (Evans et al., 2014).

MAGEC2 encodes MAGE family member C2, a gene clustered on chromosome Xq26-q27 like the other MAGEC genes (RefSeq, 2002). Over-expression of MAGEC2 increases the level of cyclin E and promotes G1-S transition and cell proliferation (Hao et al., 2015). MAGEC2 promotes proliferation and resistance to apoptosis in Multiple Myeloma suggesting that MAGEC2-specific immunotherapies have the potential to eradicate the most malignant cells (Lajmi et al., 2015). MAGEC2, an epithelial-mesenchymal transition inducer, is associated with breast cancer metastasis. Multivariate analyses showed that MAGEC2 expression was an independent risk factor for patient overall survival and metastasis-free survival (Yang et al., 2014).

MET encodes the hepatocyte growth factor receptor and encodes tyrosine-kinase activity (RefSeq, 2002). MET was shown to be up-regulated in dedifferentiated liposarcoma and is associated with melanocytic tumors, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, hereditary papillary kidney cancers and gastric adenocarcinomas (Petrini, 2015; Finocchiaro et al., 2015; Steinway et al., 2015; Bill et al., 2015; Yeh et al., 2015).

PRAME encodes an antigen that is preferentially expressed in human melanomas and acts as a repressor of retinoic acid receptor, likely conferring a growth advantage to cancer cell via this function (RefSeq, 2002). PRAME was shown to be up-regulated in multiple myeloma, clear cell renal cell carcinoma, breast cancer, acute myeloid leukemia, melanoma, chronic myeloid leukemia, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma and osteosarcoma cell lines (Dannenmann et al., 2013; Yao et al., 2014; Zou et al., 2012; Szczepanski and Whiteside, 2013; Zhang et al., 2013; Beard et al., 2013; Abdelmalak et al., 2014; Qin et al., 2014). PRAME is associated with myxoid and round-cell liposarcoma (Hemminger et al., 2014). PRAME is associated with shorter

progression-free survival and chemotherapeutic response in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma treated with R-CHOP, markers of poor prognosis in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, poor response to chemotherapy in urothelial carcinoma and poor prognosis and lung metastasis in osteosarcoma (Tan et al., 2012; Dyrskjot et al., 2012; Szczepanski et al., 2013; Mitsuhashi et al., 2014). PRAME is associated with lower relapse, lower mortality and overall survival in acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Abdelmalak et al., 2014). PRAME may be a prognostic marker for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma treated with R-CHOP therapy (Mitsuhashi et al., 2014).

SPINK2 encodes a member of the family of serine protease inhibitors of the Kazal type which acts as a trypsin and acrosin inhibitor in the genital tract and is localized in the spermatozoa (RefSeq, 2002). SPINK2 was shown to be significantly up-regulated in most leukemia cell lines except B-lymphoblast TK-6 cells, and was suggested to play an important role in tumor progression and response to treatment (Chen et al., 2009).

STEAP2 encodes STEAP2 metalloredutase which encodes a multi-pass membrane protein that localizes to the Golgi complex, the plasma membrane, and the vesicular tubular structures in the cytosol. Increased transcriptional expression of the human gene is associated with prostate cancer progression (RefSeq, 2002). STEAP2 is induced upon TNF-alpha and repressed upon NF-kappaB treatment. Silencing of NF-kappaB leads to an over-expression of the anti-apoptotic protein STEAP2 which subsequently represses p53 (Gonen-Korkmaz et al., 2014). STEAP2 is over-expressed in many cancer entities like prostate, bladder, colon, pancreas, ovary, testis, breast, cervix, and Ewing sarcoma (Wang et al., 2010; Gomes et al., 2012; Grunewald et al., 2012). STEAP2 may drive prostate cancer cell migration and invasion. Over-expression of STEAP2 is associated with locally advanced disease state (Whiteland et al., 2014). STEAP2 has a greater proportion of unspliced RNA in castration-resistant prostate cancer (Sowalsky et al., 2015). STEAP2 can be used as biomarker for prostate cancer (Edwards et al., 2005). STEAP2 is associated with simvastatin and lovastatin resistance (Savas et al., 2011).

UMODL1 encodes uromodulin like 1 and is located on chromosome 21q22.3 (RefSeq, 2002). UMODL1 may drive lung adenocarcinoma metastasis (Tan et al., 2016). A long non-coding RNA chimera, UMODL1-AS1, can be used as prognostic factor for breast cancer recurrence (Liu et al., 2016).

Stimulation of an immune response is dependent upon the presence of antigens recognized as foreign by the host immune system. The discovery of the existence of tumor associated antigens has raised the possibility of using a host's immune system to intervene in tumor growth. Various mechanisms of harnessing both the humoral and cellular arms of the immune system are currently being explored for cancer immunotherapy.

Specific elements of the cellular immune response are capable of specifically recognizing and destroying tumor cells. The isolation of T-cells from tumor-infiltrating cell populations or from peripheral blood suggests that such cells play an important role in natural immune defense against cancer. CD8-positive T-cells in particular, which recognize class I molecules of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC)-bearing peptides of usually 8 to 10 amino acid residues derived from proteins or defect ribosomal products (DRIPS) located in the cytosol, play an important role in this response. The MHC-molecules of the human are also designated as human leukocyte-antigens (HLA).

As used herein and except as noted otherwise all terms are defined as given below.

The term "T-cell response" means the specific proliferation and activation of effector functions induced by a peptide *in vitro* or *in vivo*. For MHC class I restricted cytotoxic T cells, effector functions may be lysis of peptide-pulsed, peptide-precursor pulsed or naturally peptide-presenting target cells, secretion of cytokines, preferably Interferon-gamma, TNF-alpha, or IL-2 induced by peptide, secretion of effector molecules, preferably granzymes or perforins induced by peptide, or degranulation.

The term "peptide" is used herein to designate a series of amino acid residues, connected one to the other typically by peptide bonds between the alpha-amino and carbonyl groups of the adjacent amino acids. The peptides are preferably 9 amino acids in length, but can be as short as 8 amino acids in length, and as long as 10, 11, or 12 or longer, and in case of MHC class II peptides (elongated variants of the peptides of the invention) they can be as long as 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 or more amino acids in length.

Furthermore, the term "peptide" shall include salts of a series of amino acid residues, connected one to the other typically by peptide bonds between the alpha-amino and carbonyl groups of the adjacent amino acids. Preferably, the salts are pharmaceutical acceptable salts of the peptides, such as, for example, the chloride or acetate (trifluoroacetate) salts. It has to be noted that the salts of the peptides according to the present invention differ substantially from the peptides in their state(s) *in vivo*, as the peptides are not salts *in vivo*.

The term "peptide" shall also include "oligopeptide". The term "oligopeptide" is used herein to designate a series of amino acid residues, connected one to the other typically by peptide bonds between the alpha-amino and carbonyl groups of the adjacent amino acids. The length of the oligopeptide is not critical to the invention, as long as the correct epitope or epitopes are maintained therein. The oligopeptides are typically less than about 30 amino acid residues in length, and greater than about 15 amino acids in length.

The term "polypeptide" designates a series of amino acid residues, connected one to the other typically by peptide bonds between the alpha-amino and carbonyl groups of the adjacent amino acids. The length of the polypeptide is not critical to the invention as long as the correct epitopes are maintained. In contrast to the terms peptide or oligopeptide, the term polypeptide is meant to refer to molecules containing more than about 30 amino acid residues.

A peptide, oligopeptide, protein or polynucleotide coding for such a molecule is “immunogenic” (and thus is an “immunogen” within the present invention), if it is capable of inducing an immune response. In the case of the present invention, immunogenicity is more specifically defined as the ability to induce a T-cell response. Thus, an “immunogen” would be a molecule that is capable of inducing an immune response, and in the case of the present invention, a molecule capable of inducing a T-cell response. In another aspect, the immunogen can be the peptide, the complex of the peptide with MHC, oligopeptide, and/or protein that is used to raise specific antibodies or TCRs against it.

A class I T cell “epitope” requires a short peptide that is bound to a class I MHC receptor, forming a ternary complex (MHC class I alpha chain, beta-2-microglobulin, and peptide) that can be recognized by a T cell bearing a matching T-cell receptor binding to the MHC/peptide complex with appropriate affinity. Peptides binding to MHC class I molecules are typically 8-14 amino acids in length, and most typically 9 amino acids in length.

In humans there are three different genetic loci that encode MHC class I molecules (the MHC-molecules of the human are also designated human leukocyte antigens (HLA)): HLA-A, HLA-B, and HLA-C. HLA-A*01, HLA-A*02, and HLA-B*07 are examples of different MHC class I alleles that can be expressed from these loci.

Table 9: Expression frequencies F of HLA-A*02 and HLA-A*24 and the most frequent HLA-DR serotypes. Frequencies are deduced from haplotype frequencies Gf within the American population adapted from Mori et al. (Mori et al., 1997) employing the Hardy-Weinberg formula $F = 1 - (1 - Gf)^2$. Combinations of A*02 or A*24 with certain HLA-DR alleles might be enriched or less frequent than expected from their single frequencies due to linkage disequilibrium. For details refer to Chanock et al. (Chanock et al., 2004).

Allele	Population	Calculated phenotype from allele frequency
A*02	Caucasian (North America)	49.1%
A*02	African American (North America)	34.1%

Allele	Population	Calculated phenotype from allele frequency
A*02	Asian American (North America)	43.2%
A*02	Latin American (North American)	48.3%
DR1	Caucasian (North America)	19.4%
DR2	Caucasian (North America)	28.2%
DR3	Caucasian (North America)	20.6%
DR4	Caucasian (North America)	30.7%
DR5	Caucasian (North America)	23.3%
DR6	Caucasian (North America)	26.7%
DR7	Caucasian (North America)	24.8%
DR8	Caucasian (North America)	5.7%
DR9	Caucasian (North America)	2.1%
DR1	African (North) American	13.20%
DR2	African (North) American	29.80%
DR3	African (North) American	24.80%
DR4	African (North) American	11.10%
DR5	African (North) American	31.10%
DR6	African (North) American	33.70%
DR7	African (North) American	19.20%
DR8	African (North) American	12.10%
DR9	African (North) American	5.80%
DR1	Asian (North) American	6.80%
DR2	Asian (North) American	33.80%
DR3	Asian (North) American	9.20%
DR4	Asian (North) American	28.60%
DR5	Asian (North) American	30.00%
DR6	Asian (North) American	25.10%
DR7	Asian (North) American	13.40%
DR8	Asian (North) American	12.70%
DR9	Asian (North) American	18.60%
DR1	Latin (North) American	15.30%
DR2	Latin (North) American	21.20%
DR3	Latin (North) American	15.20%
DR4	Latin (North) American	36.80%
DR5	Latin (North) American	20.00%
DR6	Latin (North) American	31.10%
DR7	Latin (North) American	20.20%
DR8	Latin (North) American	18.60%
DR9	Latin (North) American	2.10%

Allele	Population	Calculated phenotype from allele frequency
A*24	Philippines	65%
A*24	Russia Nenets	61%
A*24:02	Japan	59%
A*24	Malaysia	58%
A*24:02	Philippines	54%
A*24	India	47%
A*24	South Korea	40%
A*24	Sri Lanka	37%
A*24	China	32%
A*24:02	India	29%
A*24	Australia West	22%
A*24	USA	22%
A*24	Russia Samara	20%
A*24	South America	20%
A*24	Europe	18%

The peptides of the invention, preferably when included into a vaccine of the invention as described herein bind to A*02 or A*24. A vaccine may also include pan-binding MHC class II peptides. Therefore, the vaccine of the invention can be used to treat cancer in patients that are A*02 or A*24 positive, whereas no selection for MHC class II allotypes is necessary due to the pan-binding nature of these peptides.

If A*02 peptides of the invention are combined with peptides binding to another allele, for example A*24, a higher percentage of any patient population can be treated compared with addressing either MHC class I allele alone. While in most populations less than 50% of patients could be addressed by either allele alone, a vaccine comprising HLA-A*24 and HLA-A*02 epitopes can treat at least 60% of patients in any relevant population. Specifically, the following percentages of patients will be positive for at least one of these alleles in various regions: USA 61%, Western Europe 62%, China 75%, South Korea 77%, Japan 86%.

In a preferred embodiment, the term “nucleotide sequence” refers to a heteropolymer of deoxyribonucleotides.

The nucleotide sequence coding for a particular peptide, oligopeptide, or polypeptide may be naturally occurring or they may be synthetically constructed. Generally, DNA segments encoding the peptides, polypeptides, and proteins of this invention are assembled from cDNA fragments and short oligonucleotide linkers, or from a series of oligonucleotides, to provide a synthetic gene that is capable of being expressed in a recombinant transcriptional unit comprising regulatory elements derived from a microbial or viral operon.

As used herein the term “a nucleotide coding for (or encoding) a peptide” refers to a nucleotide sequence coding for the peptide including artificial (man-made) start and stop codons compatible for the biological system the sequence is to be expressed by, for example, a dendritic cell or another cell system useful for the production of TCRs.

As used herein, reference to a nucleic acid sequence includes both single stranded and double stranded nucleic acid. Thus, for example for DNA, the specific sequence, unless the context indicates otherwise, refers to the single strand DNA of such sequence, the duplex of such sequence with its complement (double stranded DNA) and the complement of such sequence.

The term “coding region” refers to that portion of a gene which either naturally or normally codes for the expression product of that gene in its natural genomic environment, i.e., the region coding *in vivo* for the native expression product of the gene.

The coding region can be derived from a non-mutated (“normal”), mutated or altered gene, or can even be derived from a DNA sequence, or gene, wholly synthesized in the laboratory using methods well known to those of skill in the art of DNA synthesis.

The term “expression product” means the polypeptide or protein that is the natural translation product of the gene and any nucleic acid sequence coding equivalents resulting from genetic code degeneracy and thus coding for the same amino acid(s).

The term “fragment”, when referring to a coding sequence, means a portion of DNA comprising less than the complete coding region, whose expression product retains essentially the same biological function or activity as the expression product of the complete coding region.

The term “DNA segment” refers to a DNA polymer, in the form of a separate fragment or as a component of a larger DNA construct, which has been derived from DNA isolated at least once in substantially pure form, i.e., free of contaminating endogenous materials and in a quantity or concentration enabling identification, manipulation, and recovery of the segment and its component nucleotide sequences by standard biochemical methods, for example, by using a cloning vector. Such segments are provided in the form of an open reading frame uninterrupted by internal non-translated sequences, or introns, which are typically present in eukaryotic genes. Sequences of non-translated DNA may be present downstream from the open reading frame, where the same do not interfere with manipulation or expression of the coding regions.

The term “primer” means a short nucleic acid sequence that can be paired with one strand of DNA and provides a free 3'-OH end at which a DNA polymerase starts synthesis of a deoxyribonucleotide chain.

The term “promoter” means a region of DNA involved in binding of RNA polymerase to initiate transcription.

The term “isolated” means that the material is removed from its original environment (e.g., the natural environment, if it is naturally occurring). For example, a naturally-occurring polynucleotide or polypeptide present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide, separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system, is isolated. Such polynucleotides could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotides or polypeptides could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

The polynucleotides, and recombinant or immunogenic polypeptides, disclosed in accordance with the present invention may also be in "purified" form. The term "purified" does not require absolute purity; rather, it is intended as a relative definition, and can include preparations that are highly purified or preparations that are only partially purified, as those terms are understood by those of skill in the relevant art. For example, individual clones isolated from a cDNA library have been conventionally purified to electrophoretic homogeneity. Purification of starting material or natural material to at least one order of magnitude, preferably two or three orders, and more preferably four or five orders of magnitude is expressly contemplated. Furthermore, a claimed polypeptide which has a purity of preferably 99.999%, or at least 99.99% or 99.9%; and even desirably 99% by weight or greater is expressly encompassed.

The nucleic acids and polypeptide expression products disclosed according to the present invention, as well as expression vectors containing such nucleic acids and/or such polypeptides, may be in "enriched form". As used herein, the term "enriched" means that the concentration of the material is at least about 2, 5, 10, 100, or 1000 times its natural concentration (for example), advantageously 0.01%, by weight, preferably at least about 0.1% by weight. Enriched preparations of about 0.5%, 1%, 5%, 10%, and 20% by weight are also contemplated. The sequences, constructs, vectors, clones, and other materials comprising the present invention can advantageously be in enriched or isolated form. The term "active fragment" means a fragment, usually of a peptide, polypeptide or nucleic acid sequence, that generates an immune response (i.e., has immunogenic activity) when administered, alone or optionally with a suitable adjuvant or in a vector, to an animal, such as a mammal, for example, a rabbit or a mouse, and also including a human, such immune response taking the form of stimulating a T-cell response within the recipient animal, such as a human. Alternatively, the "active fragment" may also be used to induce a T-cell response *in vitro*.

As used herein, the terms "portion", "segment" and "fragment", when used in relation to polypeptides, refer to a continuous sequence of residues, such as amino acid residues,

which sequence forms a subset of a larger sequence. For example, if a polypeptide were subjected to treatment with any of the common endopeptidases, such as trypsin or chymotrypsin, the oligopeptides resulting from such treatment would represent portions, segments or fragments of the starting polypeptide. When used in relation to polynucleotides, these terms refer to the products produced by treatment of said polynucleotides with any of the endonucleases.

In accordance with the present invention, the term “percent identity” or “percent identical”, when referring to a sequence, means that a sequence is compared to a claimed or described sequence after alignment of the sequence to be compared (the “Compared Sequence”) with the described or claimed sequence (the “Reference Sequence”). The percent identity is then determined according to the following formula:

$$\text{percent identity} = 100 [1 - (C/R)]$$

wherein C is the number of differences between the Reference Sequence and the Compared Sequence over the length of alignment between the Reference Sequence and the Compared Sequence, wherein

- (i) each base or amino acid in the Reference Sequence that does not have a corresponding aligned base or amino acid in the Compared Sequence and
- (ii) each gap in the Reference Sequence and
- (iii) each aligned base or amino acid in the Reference Sequence that is different from an aligned base or amino acid in the Compared Sequence, constitutes a difference and
- (iiii) the alignment has to start at position 1 of the aligned sequences;

and R is the number of bases or amino acids in the Reference Sequence over the length of the alignment with the Compared Sequence with any gap created in the Reference Sequence also being counted as a base or amino acid.

If an alignment exists between the Compared Sequence and the Reference Sequence for which the percent identity as calculated above is about equal to or greater than a specified minimum Percent Identity then the Compared Sequence has the specified minimum percent identity to the Reference Sequence even though alignments may exist

in which the herein above calculated percent identity is less than the specified percent identity.

As mentioned above, the present invention thus provides a peptide comprising a sequence that is selected from the group of consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289 or a variant thereof which is 88% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, or a variant thereof that will induce T cells cross-reacting with said peptide. The peptides of the invention have the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class-I or elongated versions of said peptides to class II.

In the present invention, the term "homologous" refers to the degree of identity (see percent identity above) between sequences of two amino acid sequences, i.e. peptide or polypeptide sequences. The aforementioned "homology" is determined by comparing two sequences aligned under optimal conditions over the sequences to be compared. Such a sequence homology can be calculated by creating an alignment using, for example, the ClustalW algorithm. Commonly available sequence analysis software, more specifically, Vector NTI, GENETYX or other tools are provided by public databases.

A person skilled in the art will be able to assess, whether T cells induced by a variant of a specific peptide will be able to cross-react with the peptide itself (Appay et al., 2006; Colombetti et al., 2006; Fong et al., 2001; Zaremba et al., 1997).

By a "variant" of the given amino acid sequence the inventors mean that the side chains of, for example, one or two of the amino acid residues are altered (for example by replacing them with the side chain of another naturally occurring amino acid residue or some other side chain) such that the peptide is still able to bind to an HLA molecule in substantially the same way as a peptide consisting of the given amino acid sequence in consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289. For example, a peptide may be modified so that it at least maintains, if not improves, the ability to interact with and bind

to the binding groove of a suitable MHC molecule, such as HLA-A*02 or -DR, and in that way it at least maintains, if not improves, the ability to bind to the TCR of activated T cells.

These T cells can subsequently cross-react with cells and kill cells that express a polypeptide that contains the natural amino acid sequence of the cognate peptide as defined in the aspects of the invention. As can be derived from the scientific literature and databases (Rammensee et al., 1999; Godkin et al., 1997), certain positions of HLA binding peptides are typically anchor residues forming a core sequence fitting to the binding motif of the HLA receptor, which is defined by polar, electrophysical, hydrophobic and spatial properties of the polypeptide chains constituting the binding groove. Thus, one skilled in the art would be able to modify the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306, by maintaining the known anchor residues, and would be able to determine whether such variants maintain the ability to bind MHC class I or II molecules. The variants of the present invention retain the ability to bind to the TCR of activated T cells, which can subsequently cross-react with and kill cells that express a polypeptide containing the natural amino acid sequence of the cognate peptide as defined in the aspects of the invention.

The original (unmodified) peptides as disclosed herein can be modified by the substitution of one or more residues at different, possibly selective, sites within the peptide chain, if not otherwise stated. Preferably those substitutions are located at the end of the amino acid chain. Such substitutions may be of a conservative nature, for example, where one amino acid is replaced by an amino acid of similar structure and characteristics, such as where a hydrophobic amino acid is replaced by another hydrophobic amino acid. Even more conservative would be replacement of amino acids of the same or similar size and chemical nature, such as where leucine is replaced by isoleucine. In studies of sequence variations in families of naturally occurring homologous proteins, certain amino acid substitutions are more often tolerated than others, and these are often show correlation with similarities in size, charge, polarity,

and hydrophobicity between the original amino acid and its replacement, and such is the basis for defining "conservative substitutions."

Conservative substitutions are herein defined as exchanges within one of the following five groups: Group 1-small aliphatic, nonpolar or slightly polar residues (Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly); Group 2-polar, negatively charged residues and their amides (Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln); Group 3-polar, positively charged residues (His, Arg, Lys); Group 4-large, aliphatic, nonpolar residues (Met, Leu, Ile, Val, Cys); and Group 5-large, aromatic residues (Phe, Tyr, Trp).

Less conservative substitutions might involve the replacement of one amino acid by another that has similar characteristics but is somewhat different in size, such as replacement of an alanine by an isoleucine residue. Highly non-conservative replacements might involve substituting an acidic amino acid for one that is polar, or even for one that is basic in character. Such "radical" substitutions cannot, however, be dismissed as potentially ineffective since chemical effects are not totally predictable and radical substitutions might well give rise to serendipitous effects not otherwise predictable from simple chemical principles.

Of course, such substitutions may involve structures other than the common L-amino acids. Thus, D-amino acids might be substituted for the L-amino acids commonly found in the antigenic peptides of the invention and yet still be encompassed by the disclosure herein. In addition, non-standard amino acids (i.e., other than the common naturally occurring proteinogenic amino acids) may also be used for substitution purposes to produce immunogens and immunogenic polypeptides according to the present invention.

If substitutions at more than one position are found to result in a peptide with substantially equivalent or greater antigenic activity as defined below, then combinations of those substitutions will be tested to determine if the combined

substitutions result in additive or synergistic effects on the antigenicity of the peptide. At most, no more than 4 positions within the peptide would be simultaneously substituted.

A peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence as indicated herein can have one or two non-anchor amino acids (see below regarding the anchor motif) exchanged without that the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class-I or –II is substantially changed or is negatively affected, when compared to the non-modified peptide. In another embodiment, in a peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence as indicated herein, one or two amino acids can be exchanged with their conservative exchange partners (see herein below) without that the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class-I or –II is substantially changed, or is negatively affected, when compared to the non-modified peptide.

The amino acid residues that do not substantially contribute to interactions with the T-cell receptor can be modified by replacement with other amino acids whose incorporation do not substantially affect T-cell reactivity and does not eliminate binding to the relevant MHC. Thus, apart from the proviso given, the peptide of the invention may be any peptide (by which term the inventors include oligopeptide or polypeptide), which includes the amino acid sequences or a portion or variant thereof as given.

Table 10: Variants and motif of the HLA-A*02-binding peptides according to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, and 3.

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SEQ ID NO. 1	L	L	Y	P	E	P	W	S	V	
Variant									I	
									L	
									A	
		M								
		M							I	
		M							L	
		M							A	
		A								
		A							I	

		A							L	
		A							A	
		V								
		V							I	
		V							L	
		V							A	
		T								
		T							I	
		T							L	
		T							A	
		Q								
		Q							I	
		Q							L	
		Q							A	
Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SEQ ID NO. 2	G	L	I	A	G	V	V	S	I	
Variant									V	
									L	
									A	
		M							V	
		M								
		M							L	
		M							A	
		A							V	
		A								
		A							L	
		A							A	
		V							V	
		V								
		V							L	
		V							A	
		T							V	
		T								
		T							L	
		T							A	
		Q							V	
		Q								
		Q							L	
		Q							A	
Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SEQ ID NO. 3	K	L	E	E	N	G	D	L	Y	L

		F									
		F							F		
Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SEQ ID NO. 160	V	Y	T	L	D	I	P	V	L		
Variant									I		
									F		
		F							I		
		F									
		F							F		

Longer (elongated) peptides may also be suitable. It is possible that MHC class I epitopes, although usually between 8 and 11 amino acids long, are generated by peptide processing from longer peptides or proteins that include the actual epitope. It is preferred that the residues that flank the actual epitope are residues that do not substantially affect proteolytic cleavage necessary to expose the actual epitope during processing.

The peptides of the invention can be elongated by up to four amino acids, that is 1, 2, 3 or 4 amino acids can be added to either end in any combination between 4:0 and 0:4. Combinations of the elongations according to the invention can be found in Table 12.

Table 12: Combinations of the elongations of peptides of the invention

C-terminus	N-terminus
4	0
3	0 or 1
2	0 or 1 or 2
1	0 or 1 or 2 or 3
0	0 or 1 or 2 or 3 or 4
N-terminus	C-terminus
4	0
3	0 or 1
2	0 or 1 or 2
1	0 or 1 or 2 or 3
0	0 or 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

The amino acids for the elongation/extension can be the peptides of the original sequence of the protein or any other amino acid(s). The elongation can be used to enhance the stability or solubility of the peptides.

Thus, the epitopes of the present invention may be identical to naturally occurring tumor-associated or tumor-specific epitopes or may include epitopes that differ by no more than four residues from the reference peptide, as long as they have substantially identical antigenic activity.

In an alternative embodiment, the peptide is elongated on either or both sides by more than 4 amino acids, preferably to a total length of up to 30 amino acids. This may lead to MHC class II binding peptides. Binding to MHC class II can be tested by methods known in the art.

Accordingly, the present invention provides peptides and variants of MHC class I epitopes, wherein the peptide or variant has an overall length of between 8 and 100, preferably between 8 and 30, and most preferred between 8 and 14, namely 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 amino acids, in case of the elongated class II binding peptides the length can also be 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 or 22 amino acids.

Of course, the peptide or variant according to the present invention will have the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I or II. Binding of a peptide or a variant to a MHC complex may be tested by methods known in the art.

Preferably, when the T cells specific for a peptide according to the present invention are tested against the substituted peptides, the peptide concentration at which the substituted peptides achieve half the maximal increase in lysis relative to background is no more than about 1 mM, preferably no more than about 1 μ M, more preferably no more than about 1 nM, and still more preferably no more than about 100 pM, and most preferably no more than about 10 pM. It is also preferred that the substituted peptide be

recognized by T cells from more than one individual, at least two, and more preferably three individuals.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention the peptide consists or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306.

“Consisting essentially of” shall mean that a peptide according to the present invention, in addition to the sequence according to any of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306 or a variant thereof contains additional N- and/or C-terminally located stretches of amino acids that are not necessarily forming part of the peptide that functions as an epitope for MHC molecules epitope.

Nevertheless, these stretches can be important to provide an efficient introduction of the peptide according to the present invention into the cells. In one embodiment of the present invention, the peptide is part of a fusion protein which comprises, for example, the 80 N-terminal amino acids of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (p33, in the following “Ii”) as derived from the NCBI, GenBank Accession number X00497. In other fusions, the peptides of the present invention can be fused to an antibody as described herein, or a functional part thereof, in particular into a sequence of an antibody, so as to be specifically targeted by said antibody, or, for example, to or into an antibody that is specific for dendritic cells as described herein.

In addition, the peptide or variant may be modified further to improve stability and/or binding to MHC molecules in order to elicit a stronger immune response. Methods for such an optimization of a peptide sequence are well known in the art and include, for example, the introduction of reverse peptide bonds or non-peptide bonds.

In a reverse peptide bond amino acid residues are not joined by peptide (-CO-NH-) linkages but the peptide bond is reversed. Such retro-inverso peptidomimetics may be made using methods known in the art, for example such as those described in Meziere

et al (1997) (Meziere et al., 1997), incorporated herein by reference. This approach involves making pseudopeptides containing changes involving the backbone, and not the orientation of side chains. Meziere et al. (Meziere et al., 1997) show that for MHC binding and T helper cell responses, these pseudopeptides are useful. Retro-inverse peptides, which contain NH-CO bonds instead of CO-NH peptide bonds, are much more resistant to proteolysis.

A non-peptide bond is, for example, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-NH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{CH=CH-}$, $-\text{COCH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{CH(OH)CH}_2\text{-}$, and $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO-}$. US 4,897,445 provides a method for the solid phase synthesis of non-peptide bonds ($-\text{CH}_2\text{-NH}$) in polypeptide chains which involves polypeptides synthesized by standard procedures and the non-peptide bond synthesized by reacting an amino aldehyde and an amino acid in the presence of NaCNBH_3 .

Peptides comprising the sequences described above may be synthesized with additional chemical groups present at their amino and/or carboxy termini, to enhance the stability, bioavailability, and/or affinity of the peptides. For example, hydrophobic groups such as carbobenzoxy, dansyl, or t-butyloxycarbonyl groups may be added to the peptides' amino termini. Likewise, an acetyl group or a 9-fluorenylmethoxy-carbonyl group may be placed at the peptides' amino termini. Additionally, the hydrophobic group, t-butyloxycarbonyl, or an amido group may be added to the peptides' carboxy termini.

Further, the peptides of the invention may be synthesized to alter their steric configuration. For example, the D-isomer of one or more of the amino acid residues of the peptide may be used, rather than the usual L-isomer. Still further, at least one of the amino acid residues of the peptides of the invention may be substituted by one of the well-known non-naturally occurring amino acid residues. Alterations such as these may serve to increase the stability, bioavailability and/or binding action of the peptides of the invention.

Similarly, a peptide or variant of the invention may be modified chemically by reacting specific amino acids either before or after synthesis of the peptide. Examples for such modifications are well known in the art and are summarized e.g. in R. Lundblad, *Chemical Reagents for Protein Modification*, 3rd ed. CRC Press, 2004 (Lundblad, 2004), which is incorporated herein by reference. Chemical modification of amino acids includes but is not limited to, modification by acylation, amidination, pyridoxylation of lysine, reductive alkylation, trinitrobenzylation of amino groups with 2,4,6-trinitrobenzene sulphonic acid (TNBS), amide modification of carboxyl groups and sulphydryl modification by performic acid oxidation of cysteine to cysteic acid, formation of mercurial derivatives, formation of mixed disulphides with other thiol compounds, reaction with maleimide, carboxymethylation with iodoacetic acid or iodoacetamide and carbamoylation with cyanate at alkaline pH, although without limitation thereto. In this regard, the skilled person is referred to Chapter 15 of *Current Protocols In Protein Science*, Eds. Coligan et al. (John Wiley and Sons NY 1995-2000) (Coligan et al., 1995) for more extensive methodology relating to chemical modification of proteins.

Briefly, modification of e.g. arginyl residues in proteins is often based on the reaction of vicinal dicarbonyl compounds such as phenylglyoxal, 2,3-butanedione, and 1,2-cyclohexanedione to form an adduct. Another example is the reaction of methylglyoxal with arginine residues. Cysteine can be modified without concomitant modification of other nucleophilic sites such as lysine and histidine. As a result, a large number of reagents are available for the modification of cysteine. The websites of companies such as Sigma-Aldrich (<http://www.sigma-aldrich.com>) provide information on specific reagents.

Selective reduction of disulfide bonds in proteins is also common. Disulfide bonds can be formed and oxidized during the heat treatment of biopharmaceuticals. Woodward's Reagent K may be used to modify specific glutamic acid residues. N-(3-(dimethylamino)propyl)-N'-ethylcarbodiimide can be used to form intra-molecular crosslinks between a lysine residue and a glutamic acid residue. For example, diethylpyrocarbonate is a reagent for the modification of histidyl residues in proteins.

Histidine can also be modified using 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal. The reaction of lysine residues and other α -amino groups is, for example, useful in binding of peptides to surfaces or the cross-linking of proteins/peptides. Lysine is the site of attachment of poly(ethylene)glycol and the major site of modification in the glycosylation of proteins. Methionine residues in proteins can be modified with e.g. iodoacetamide, bromoethylamine, and chloramine T.

Tetranitromethane and N-acetylimidazole can be used for the modification of tyrosyl residues. Cross-linking via the formation of dityrosine can be accomplished with hydrogen peroxide/copper ions.

Recent studies on the modification of tryptophan have used N-bromosuccinimide, 2-hydroxy-5-nitrobenzyl bromide or 3-bromo-3-methyl-2-(2-nitrophenylmercapto)-3H-indole (BPNS-skatole).

Successful modification of therapeutic proteins and peptides with PEG is often associated with an extension of circulatory half-life while cross-linking of proteins with glutaraldehyde, polyethylene glycol diacrylate and formaldehyde is used for the preparation of hydrogels. Chemical modification of allergens for immunotherapy is often achieved by carbamylation with potassium cyanate.

A peptide or variant, wherein the peptide is modified or includes non-peptide bonds is a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a non-naturally occurring peptide wherein said peptide consists or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID No: 289, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306 and has been synthetically produced (e.g. synthesized) as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. Methods to synthetically produce peptides are well known in the art. The salts of the peptides according to the present invention differ substantially from the peptides in their state(s) *in vivo*, as the peptides as generated *in vivo* are no salts. The

non-natural salt form of the peptide mediates the solubility of the peptide, in particular in the context of pharmaceutical compositions comprising the peptides, e.g. the peptide vaccines as disclosed herein. A sufficient and at least substantial solubility of the peptide(s) is required in order to efficiently provide the peptides to the subject to be treated. Preferably, the salts are pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the peptides. These salts according to the invention include alkaline and earth alkaline salts such as salts of the Hofmeister series comprising as anions PO_4^{3-} , SO_4^{2-} , CH_3COO^- , Cl^- , Br^- , NO_3^- , ClO_4^- , I^- , SCN^- and as cations NH_4^+ , Rb^+ , K^+ , Na^+ , Cs^+ , Li^+ , Zn^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Ba^{2+} . Particularly salts are selected from $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{PO}_4$, $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$, $(\text{NH}_4)\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$, $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, $\text{NH}_4\text{CH}_3\text{COO}$, NH_4Cl , NH_4Br , NH_4NO_3 , NH_4ClO_4 , NH_4I , NH_4SCN , Rb_3PO_4 , Rb_2HPO_4 , RbH_2PO_4 , Rb_2SO_4 , $\text{Rb}_4\text{CH}_3\text{COO}$, Rb_4Cl , Rb_4Br , Rb_4NO_3 , Rb_4ClO_4 , Rb_4I , Rb_4SCN , K_3PO_4 , K_2HPO_4 , KH_2PO_4 , K_2SO_4 , KCH_3COO , KCl , KBr , KNO_3 , KClO_4 , KI , KSCN , Na_3PO_4 , Na_2HPO_4 , NaH_2PO_4 , Na_2SO_4 , NaCH_3COO , NaCl , NaBr , NaNO_3 , NaClO_4 , NaI , NaSCN , ZnCl_2 , Cs_3PO_4 , Cs_2HPO_4 , CsH_2PO_4 , Cs_2SO_4 , CsCH_3COO , CsCl , CsBr , CsNO_3 , CsClO_4 , CsI , CsSCN , Li_3PO_4 , Li_2HPO_4 , LiH_2PO_4 , Li_2SO_4 , LiCH_3COO , LiCl , LiBr , LiNO_3 , LiClO_4 , LiI , LiSCN , Cu_2SO_4 , $\text{Mg}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$, Mg_2HPO_4 , $\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2$, Mg_2SO_4 , $\text{Mg}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$, MgCl_2 , MgBr_2 , $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, MgI_2 , $\text{Mg}(\text{SCN})_2$, MnCl_2 , $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$, Ca_2HPO_4 , $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2$, CaSO_4 , $\text{Ca}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$, CaCl_2 , CaBr_2 , $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, CaI_2 , $\text{Ca}(\text{SCN})_2$, $\text{Ba}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$, Ba_2HPO_4 , $\text{Ba}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2$, BaSO_4 , $\text{Ba}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$, BaCl_2 , BaBr_2 , $\text{Ba}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, $\text{Ba}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, BaI_2 , and $\text{Ba}(\text{SCN})_2$. Particularly preferred are NH acetate, MgCl_2 , KH_2PO_4 , Na_2SO_4 , KCl , NaCl , and CaCl_2 , such as, for example, the chloride or acetate (trifluoroacetate) salts.

Generally, peptides and variants (at least those containing peptide linkages between amino acid residues) may be synthesized by the Fmoc-polyamide mode of solid-phase peptide synthesis as disclosed by Lukas et al. (Lukas et al., 1981) and by references as cited therein. Temporary N-amino group protection is afforded by the 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc) group. Repetitive cleavage of this highly base-labile protecting group is done using 20% piperidine in N, N-dimethylformamide. Side-chain functionalities may be protected as their butyl ethers (in the case of serine threonine and tyrosine), butyl esters (in the case of glutamic acid and aspartic acid),

butyloxycarbonyl derivative (in the case of lysine and histidine), trityl derivative (in the case of cysteine) and 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethylbenzenesulphonyl derivative (in the case of arginine). Where glutamine or asparagine are C-terminal residues, use is made of the 4,4'-dimethoxybenzhydryl group for protection of the side chain amido functionalities. The solid-phase support is based on a polydimethyl-acrylamide polymer constituted from the three monomers dimethylacrylamide (backbone-monomer), bisacryloylethylene diamine (cross linker) and acryloylsarcosine methyl ester (functionalizing agent). The peptide-to-resin cleavable linked agent used is the acid-labile 4-hydroxymethyl-phenoxyacetic acid derivative. All amino acid derivatives are added as their preformed symmetrical anhydride derivatives with the exception of asparagine and glutamine, which are added using a reversed N,N-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide/1hydroxybenzotriazole mediated coupling procedure. All coupling and deprotection reactions are monitored using ninhydrin, trinitrobenzene sulphonic acid or isotin test procedures. Upon completion of synthesis, peptides are cleaved from the resin support with concomitant removal of side-chain protecting groups by treatment with 95% trifluoroacetic acid containing a 50 % scavenger mix. Scavengers commonly used include ethanedithiol, phenol, anisole and water, the exact choice depending on the constituent amino acids of the peptide being synthesized. Also a combination of solid phase and solution phase methodologies for the synthesis of peptides is possible (see, for example, (Bruckdorfer et al., 2004), and the references as cited therein).

Trifluoroacetic acid is removed by evaporation in vacuo, with subsequent trituration with diethyl ether affording the crude peptide. Any scavengers present are removed by a simple extraction procedure which on lyophilization of the aqueous phase affords the crude peptide free of scavengers. Reagents for peptide synthesis are generally available from e.g. Calbiochem-Novabiochem (Nottingham, UK).

Purification may be performed by any one, or a combination of, techniques such as re-crystallization, size exclusion chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography and (usually) reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography using e.g. acetonitrile/water gradient separation.

Analysis of peptides may be carried out using thin layer chromatography, electrophoresis, in particular capillary electrophoresis, solid phase extraction (CSPE), reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography, amino-acid analysis after acid hydrolysis and by fast atom bombardment (FAB) mass spectrometric analysis, as well as MALDI and ESI-Q-TOF mass spectrometric analysis.

For the identification of peptides of the present invention, two databases of RNA expression data were compared together: RNASeq tumor data generated by the TCGA Research Network (<http://cancergenome.nih.gov/>) and RNASeq data (GTEx) covering around 3000 normal (healthy) tissue samples (Lonsdale, 2013). Genes were screened, with were over-expressed in tumor tissues samples compared with the normal (healthy) tissue samples. Then, cancer-associated peptides derived from the protein products of these genes were identified by mass spectrometry using the XPRESIDENT™ platform as described herein.

In order to select over-presented peptides, a presentation profile is calculated showing the median sample presentation as well as replicate variation. The profile juxtaposes samples of the tumor entity of interest to a baseline of normal tissue samples. Each of these profiles can then be consolidated into an over-presentation score by calculating the p-value of a Linear Mixed-Effects Model (Pinheiro et al., 2015) adjusting for multiple testing by False Discovery Rate (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) (cf. Example 1, Figure 1).

For the identification and relative quantitation of HLA ligands by mass spectrometry, HLA molecules from shock-frozen tissue samples were purified and HLA-associated peptides were isolated. The isolated peptides were separated and sequences were identified by online nano-electrospray-ionization (nanoESI) liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) experiments. The resulting peptide sequences were verified by comparison of the fragmentation pattern of natural tumor-associated peptides (TUMAPs) recorded from cancer samples (N = 450 A*02-positive samples, N = 211

A*24-positive samples) with the fragmentation patterns of corresponding synthetic reference peptides of identical sequences. Since the peptides were directly identified as ligands of HLA molecules of primary tumors, these results provide direct evidence for the natural processing and presentation of the identified peptides on primary cancer tissue obtained from A*02 and/or A*24-positive cancer patients.

The discovery pipeline XPRESIDENT® v2.1 (see, for example, US 2013-0096016, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety) allows the identification and selection of relevant over-presented peptide vaccine candidates based on direct relative quantitation of HLA-restricted peptide levels on cancer tissues in comparison to several different non-cancerous tissues and organs. This was achieved by the development of label-free differential quantitation using the acquired LC-MS data processed by a proprietary data analysis pipeline, combining algorithms for sequence identification, spectral clustering, ion counting, retention time alignment, charge state deconvolution and normalization.

Presentation levels including error estimates for each peptide and sample were established. Peptides exclusively presented on tumor tissue and peptides over-presented in tumor versus non-cancerous tissues and organs have been identified.

HLA-peptide complexes from tissue samples were purified and HLA-associated peptides were isolated and analyzed by LC-MS (see examples). All TUMAPs contained in the present application were identified with this approach on primary cancer samples confirming their presentation on primary glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, or uterine cancer.

TUMAPs identified on multiple cancer and normal tissues were quantified using ion-counting of label-free LC-MS data. The method assumes that LC-MS signal areas of a peptide correlate with its abundance in the sample. All quantitative signals of a peptide in various LC-MS experiments were normalized based on central tendency, averaged per sample and merged into a bar plot, called presentation profile. The presentation profile consolidates different analysis methods like protein database search, spectral clustering, charge state deconvolution (decharging) and retention time alignment and normalization.

Furthermore, the discovery pipeline XPRESIDENT® v2.1 allows the direct absolute quantitation of MHC-, preferably HLA-restricted, peptide levels on cancer or other infected tissues. Briefly, the total cell count was calculated from the total DNA content of the analyzed tissue sample. The total peptide amount for a TUMAP in a tissue sample was measured by nanoLC-MS/MS as the ratio of the natural TUMAP and a known amount of an isotope-labelled version of the TUMAP, the so-called internal standard. The efficiency of TUMAP isolation was determined by spiking peptide:MHC complexes of all selected TUMAPs into the tissue lysate at the earliest possible point of the TUMAP isolation procedure and their detection by nanoLC-MS/MS following completion of the peptide isolation procedure. The total cell count and the amount of total peptide were calculated from triplicate measurements per tissue sample. The peptide-specific isolation efficiencies were calculated as an average from 10 spike experiments each measured as a triplicate (see Example 6 and Table 22)

This combined analysis of RNA expression and mass spectrometry data resulted in the 289 peptides of the present invention.

Besides over-presentation of the peptide, mRNA expression of the underlying gene was tested. mRNA data were obtained via RNASeq analyses of normal tissues and cancer tissues (cf. Example 2, Figure 2). An additional source of normal tissue data was a database of publicly available RNA expression data from around 3000 normal tissue samples (Lonsdale, 2013). Peptides which are derived from proteins whose coding

mRNA is highly expressed in cancer tissue, but very low or absent in vital normal tissues, were preferably included in the present invention.

The present invention provides peptides that are useful in treating cancers/tumors, preferably glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, and uterine cancer that over- or exclusively present the peptides of the invention. These peptides were shown by mass spectrometry to be naturally presented by HLA molecules on primary human cancer samples.

Many of the source gene/proteins (also designated “full-length proteins” or “underlying proteins”) from which the peptides are derived were shown to be highly over-expressed in cancer compared with normal tissues – “normal tissues” in relation to this invention shall mean either healthy cells or tissue derived from the same organ as the tumor, or other normal tissue cells, demonstrating a high degree of tumor association of the source genes (see Example 2). Moreover, the peptides themselves are strongly over-presented on tumor tissue – “tumor tissue” in relation to this invention shall mean a sample from a patient suffering from cancer, but not on normal tissues (see Example 1).

HLA-bound peptides can be recognized by the immune system, specifically T lymphocytes. T cells can destroy the cells presenting the recognized HLA/peptide complex, e.g. glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, or uterine cancer cells presenting the derived peptides.

The peptides of the present invention have been shown to be capable of stimulating T cell responses and/or are over-presented and thus can be used for the production of antibodies and/or TCRs, such as soluble TCRs, according to the present invention (see Example 3). Furthermore, the peptides when complexed with the respective MHC can be used for the production of antibodies and/or TCRs, in particular sTCRs, according to the present invention, as well. Respective methods are well known to the person of skill, and can be found in the respective literature as well (see also below). Thus, the peptides of the present invention are useful for generating an immune response in a patient by which tumor cells can be destroyed. An immune response in a patient can be induced by direct administration of the described peptides or suitable precursor substances (e.g. elongated peptides, proteins, or nucleic acids encoding these peptides) to the patient, ideally in combination with an agent enhancing the immunogenicity (i.e. an adjuvant). The immune response originating from such a therapeutic vaccination can be expected to be highly specific against tumor cells because the target peptides of the present invention are not presented on normal tissues in comparable copy numbers, preventing the risk of undesired autoimmune reactions against normal cells in the patient. In this context, particularly preferred are the peptides of the invention selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 24, 32, 39, 64, 72, 106, 149, 251, 305, and 306.

The present description further relates to T-cell receptors (TCRs) comprising an alpha chain and a beta chain ("alpha/beta TCRs"). Also provided are peptides according to the invention capable of binding to TCRs and antibodies when presented by an MHC molecule. The present description also relates to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells for expressing TCRs and peptides of the present description; and methods of using the same. Again, particularly preferred in this context are the peptides of the invention selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 24, 32, 39, 64, 72, 106, 149, 251, 305, and 306.

The term "T-cell receptor" (abbreviated TCR) refers to a heterodimeric molecule comprising an alpha polypeptide chain (alpha chain) and a beta polypeptide chain (beta chain), wherein the heterodimeric receptor is capable of binding to a peptide antigen presented by an HLA molecule. The term also includes so-called gamma/delta TCRs.

In one embodiment the description provides a method of producing a TCR as described herein, the method comprising culturing a host cell capable of expressing the TCR under conditions suitable to promote expression of the TCR.

The description in another aspect relates to methods according to the description, wherein the antigen is loaded onto class I or II MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell or artificial antigen-presenting cell by contacting a sufficient amount of the antigen with an antigen-presenting cell or the antigen is loaded onto class I or II MHC tetramers by tetramerizing the antigen/class I or II MHC complex monomers.

The alpha and beta chains of alpha/beta TCR's, and the gamma and delta chains of gamma/delta TCRs, are generally regarded as each having two "domains", namely variable and constant domains. The variable domain consists of a concatenation of variable region (V), and joining region (J). The variable domain may also include a leader region (L). Beta and delta chains may also include a diversity region (D). The alpha and beta constant domains may also include C-terminal transmembrane (TM) domains that anchor the alpha and beta chains to the cell membrane.

With respect to gamma/delta TCRs, the term "TCR gamma variable domain" as used herein refers to the concatenation of the TCR gamma V (TRGV) region without leader region (L), and the TCR gamma J (TRGJ) region, and the term TCR gamma constant domain refers to the extracellular TRGC region, or to a C-terminal truncated TRGC sequence. Likewise the term "TCR delta variable domain" refers to the concatenation of the TCR delta V (TRDV) region without leader region (L) and the TCR delta D/J

(TRDD/TRDJ) region, and the term "TCR delta constant domain" refers to the extracellular TRDC region, or to a C-terminal truncated TRDC sequence.

TCRs of the present description preferably bind to an peptide-HLA molecule complex with a binding affinity (KD) of about 100 μ M or less, about 50 μ M or less, about 25 μ M or less, or about 10 μ M or less. More preferred are high affinity TCRs having binding affinities of about 1 μ M or less, about 100 nM or less, about 50 nM or less, about 25 nM or less. Non-limiting examples of preferred binding affinity ranges for TCRs of the present invention include about 1 nM to about 10 nM; about 10 nM to about 20 nM; about 20 nM to about 30 nM; about 30 nM to about 40 nM; about 40 nM to about 50 nM; about 50 nM to about 60 nM; about 60 nM to about 70 nM; about 70 nM to about 80 nM; about 80 nM to about 90 nM; and about 90 nM to about 100 nM.

As used herein in connect with TCRs of the present description, "specific binding" and grammatical variants thereof are used to mean a TCR having a binding affinity (KD) for a peptide-HLA molecule complex of 100 μ M or less.

Alpha/beta heterodimeric TCRs of the present description may have an introduced disulfide bond between their constant domains. Preferred TCRs of this type include those which have a TRAC constant domain sequence and a TRBC1 or TRBC2 constant domain sequence except that Thr 48 of TRAC and Ser 57 of TRBC1 or TRBC2 are replaced by cysteine residues, the said cysteines forming a disulfide bond between the TRAC constant domain sequence and the TRBC1 or TRBC2 constant domain sequence of the TCR.

With or without the introduced inter-chain bond mentioned above, alpha/beta heterodimeric TCRs of the present description may have a TRAC constant domain sequence and a TRBC1 or TRBC2 constant domain sequence, and the TRAC constant domain sequence and the TRBC1 or TRBC2 constant domain sequence of the TCR may be linked by the native disulfide bond between Cys4 of exon 2 of TRAC and Cys2 of exon 2 of TRBC1 or TRBC2.

TCRs of the present description may comprise a detectable label selected from the group consisting of a radionuclide, a fluorophore and biotin. TCRs of the present description may be conjugated to a therapeutically active agent, such as a radionuclide, a chemotherapeutic agent, or a toxin.

In an embodiment, a TCR of the present description having at least one mutation in the alpha chain and/or having at least one mutation in the beta chain has modified glycosylation compared to the unmutated TCR.

In an embodiment, a TCR comprising at least one mutation in the TCR alpha chain and/or TCR beta chain has a binding affinity for, and/or a binding half-life for, a peptide-HLA molecule complex, which is at least double that of a TCR comprising the unmutated TCR alpha chain and/or unmutated TCR beta chain. Affinity-enhancement of tumor-specific TCRs, and its exploitation, relies on the existence of a window for optimal TCR affinities. The existence of such a window is based on observations that TCRs specific for HLA-A2-restricted pathogens have KD values that are generally about 10-fold lower when compared to TCRs specific for HLA-A2-restricted tumor-associated self-antigens. It is now known, although tumor antigens have the potential to be immunogenic, because tumors arise from the individual's own cells only mutated proteins or proteins with altered translational processing will be seen as foreign by the immune system. Antigens that are upregulated or overexpressed (so called self-antigens) will not necessarily induce a functional immune response against the tumor: T-cells expressing TCRs that are highly reactive to these antigens will have been negatively selected within the thymus in a process known as central tolerance, meaning that only T-cells with low-affinity TCRs for self-antigens remain. Therefore, affinity of TCRs or variants of the present description to peptides can be enhanced by methods well known in the art.

The present description further relates to a method of identifying and isolating a TCR according to the present description, said method comprising incubating PBMCs from

HLA-A*02-negative healthy donors with A2/peptide monomers, incubating the PBMCs with tetramer-phycoerythrin (PE) and isolating the high avidity T-cells by fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)–Calibur analysis.

The present description further relates to a method of identifying and isolating a TCR according to the present description, said method comprising obtaining a transgenic mouse with the entire human TCR $\alpha\beta$ gene loci (1.1 and 0.7 Mb), whose T-cells express a diverse human TCR repertoire that compensates for mouse TCR deficiency, immunizing the mouse with a peptide, incubating PBMCs obtained from the transgenic mice with tetramer-phycoerythrin (PE), and isolating the high avidity T-cells by fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)–Calibur analysis.

In one aspect, to obtain T-cells expressing TCRs of the present description, nucleic acids encoding TCR-alpha and/or TCR-beta chains of the present description are cloned into expression vectors, such as gamma retrovirus or lentivirus. The recombinant viruses are generated and then tested for functionality, such as antigen specificity and functional avidity. An aliquot of the final product is then used to transduce the target T-cell population (generally purified from patient PBMCs), which is expanded before infusion into the patient.

In another aspect, to obtain T-cells expressing TCRs of the present description, TCR RNAs are synthesized by techniques known in the art, e.g., in vitro transcription systems. The in vitro-synthesized TCR RNAs are then introduced into primary CD8⁺ T-cells obtained from healthy donors by electroporation to re-express tumor specific TCR-alpha and/or TCR-beta chains.

To increase the expression, nucleic acids encoding TCRs of the present description may be operably linked to strong promoters, such as retroviral long terminal repeats (LTRs), cytomegalovirus (CMV), murine stem cell virus (MSCV) U3, phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), β -actin, ubiquitin, and a simian virus 40 (SV40)/CD43 composite promoter, elongation factor (EF)-1a and the spleen focus-forming virus (SFFV)

promoter. In a preferred embodiment, the promoter is heterologous to the nucleic acid being expressed.

In addition to strong promoters, TCR expression cassettes of the present description may contain additional elements that can enhance transgene expression, including a central polypurine tract (cPPT), which promotes the nuclear translocation of lentiviral constructs (Follenzi et al., 2000), and the woodchuck hepatitis virus posttranscriptional regulatory element (wPRE), which increases the level of transgene expression by increasing RNA stability (Zufferey et al., 1999).

The alpha and beta chains of a TCR of the present invention may be encoded by nucleic acids located in separate vectors, or may be encoded by polynucleotides located in the same vector.

Achieving high-level TCR surface expression requires that both the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains of the introduced TCR be transcribed at high levels. To do so, the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains of the present description may be cloned into bicistronic constructs in a single vector, which has been shown to be capable of overcoming this obstacle. The use of a viral intraribosomal entry site (IRES) between the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains results in the coordinated expression of both chains, because the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains are generated from a single transcript that is broken into two proteins during translation, ensuring that an equal molar ratio of TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains are produced (Schmitt et al., 2009).

Nucleic acids encoding TCRs of the present description may be codon optimized to increase expression from a host cell. Redundancy in the genetic code allows some amino acids to be encoded by more than one codon, but certain codons are less "optimal" than others because of the relative availability of matching tRNAs as well as other factors (Gustafsson et al., 2004). Modifying the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta gene sequences such that each amino acid is encoded by the optimal codon for mammalian gene expression, as well as eliminating mRNA instability motifs or cryptic splice sites,

has been shown to significantly enhance TCR-alpha and TCR-beta gene expression (Scholten et al., 2006).

Furthermore, mispairing between the introduced and endogenous TCR chains may result in the acquisition of specificities that pose a significant risk for autoimmunity. For example, the formation of mixed TCR dimers may reduce the number of CD3 molecules available to form properly paired TCR complexes, and therefore can significantly decrease the functional avidity of the cells expressing the introduced TCR (Kuball et al., 2007).

To reduce mispairing, the C-terminus domain of the introduced TCR chains of the present description may be modified in order to promote interchain affinity, while decreasing the ability of the introduced chains to pair with the endogenous TCR. These strategies may include replacing the human TCR-alpha and TCR-beta C-terminus domains with their murine counterparts (murinized C-terminus domain); generating a second interchain disulfide bond in the C-terminus domain by introducing a second cysteine residue into both the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains of the introduced TCR (cysteine modification); swapping interacting residues in the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chain C-terminus domains ("knob-in-hole"); and fusing the variable domains of the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains directly to CD3 ζ (CD3 ζ fusion) (Schmitt et al., 2009).

In an embodiment, a host cell is engineered to express a TCR of the present description. In preferred embodiments, the host cell is a human T-cell or T-cell progenitor. In some embodiments the T-cell or T-cell progenitor is obtained from a cancer patient. In other embodiments the T-cell or T-cell progenitor is obtained from a healthy donor. Host cells of the present description can be allogeneic or autologous with respect to a patient to be treated. In one embodiment, the host is a gamma/delta T-cell transformed to express an alpha/beta TCR.

A "pharmaceutical composition" is a composition suitable for administration to a human being in a medical setting. Preferably, a pharmaceutical composition is sterile and produced according to GMP guidelines.

The pharmaceutical compositions comprise the peptides either in the free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt (see also above). As used herein, "a pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to a derivative of the disclosed peptides wherein the peptide is modified by making acid or base salts of the agent. For example, acid salts are prepared from the free base (typically wherein the neutral form of the drug has a neutral $-NH_2$ group) involving reaction with a suitable acid. Suitable acids for preparing acid salts include both organic acids, e.g., acetic acid, propionic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, oxalic acid, malic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid, methane sulfonic acid, ethane sulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, salicylic acid, and the like, as well as inorganic acids, e.g., hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid phosphoric acid and the like. Conversely, preparation of basic salts of acid moieties which may be present on a peptide are prepared using a pharmaceutically acceptable base such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, trimethylamine or the like.

In an especially preferred embodiment, the pharmaceutical compositions comprise the peptides as salts of acetic acid (acetates), trifluoro acetates or hydrochloric acid (chlorides).

Preferably, the medicament of the present invention is an immunotherapeutic such as a vaccine. It may be administered directly into the patient, into the affected organ or systemically i.d., i.m., s.c., i.p. and i.v., or applied *ex vivo* to cells derived from the patient or a human cell line which are subsequently administered to the patient, or used *in vitro* to select a subpopulation of immune cells derived from the patient, which are then re-administered to the patient. If the nucleic acid is administered to cells *in vitro*, it may be useful for the cells to be transfected so as to co-express immune-stimulating

cytokines, such as interleukin-2. The peptide may be substantially pure, or combined with an immune-stimulating adjuvant (see below) or used in combination with immune-stimulatory cytokines, or be administered with a suitable delivery system, for example liposomes. The peptide may also be conjugated to a suitable carrier such as keyhole limpet haemocyanin (KLH) or mannan (see WO 95/18145 and (Longenecker et al., 1993)). The peptide may also be tagged, may be a fusion protein, or may be a hybrid molecule. The peptides whose sequence is given in the present invention are expected to stimulate CD4 or CD8 T cells. However, stimulation of CD8 T cells is more efficient in the presence of help provided by CD4 T-helper cells. Thus, for MHC Class I epitopes that stimulate CD8 T cells the fusion partner or sections of a hybrid molecule suitably provide epitopes which stimulate CD4-positive T cells. CD4- and CD8-stimulating epitopes are well known in the art and include those identified in the present invention.

In one aspect, the vaccine comprises at least one peptide having the amino acid sequence set forth SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, 305, and 306, and at least one additional peptide, preferably two to 50, more preferably two to 25, even more preferably two to 20 and most preferably two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen or eighteen peptides. The peptide(s) may be derived from one or more specific TAAs and may bind to MHC class I molecules.

A further aspect of the invention provides a nucleic acid (for example a polynucleotide) encoding a peptide or peptide variant of the invention. The polynucleotide may be, for example, DNA, cDNA, PNA, RNA or combinations thereof, either single- and/or double-stranded, or native or stabilized forms of polynucleotides, such as, for example, polynucleotides with a phosphorothioate backbone and it may or may not contain introns so long as it codes for the peptide. Of course, only peptides that contain naturally occurring amino acid residues joined by naturally occurring peptide bonds are encodable by a polynucleotide. A still further aspect of the invention provides an expression vector capable of expressing a polypeptide according to the invention.

A variety of methods have been developed to link polynucleotides, especially DNA, to vectors for example via complementary cohesive termini. For instance, complementary homopolymer tracts can be added to the DNA segment to be inserted to the vector DNA. The vector and DNA segment are then joined by hydrogen bonding between the complementary homopolymeric tails to form recombinant DNA molecules.

Synthetic linkers containing one or more restriction sites provide an alternative method of joining the DNA segment to vectors. Synthetic linkers containing a variety of restriction endonuclease sites are commercially available from a number of sources including International Biotechnologies Inc. New Haven, CN, USA.

A desirable method of modifying the DNA encoding the polypeptide of the invention employs the polymerase chain reaction as disclosed by Saiki RK, et al. (Saiki et al., 1988). This method may be used for introducing the DNA into a suitable vector, for example by engineering in suitable restriction sites, or it may be used to modify the DNA in other useful ways as is known in the art. If viral vectors are used, pox- or adenovirus vectors are preferred.

The DNA (or in the case of retroviral vectors, RNA) may then be expressed in a suitable host to produce a polypeptide comprising the peptide or variant of the invention. Thus, the DNA encoding the peptide or variant of the invention may be used in accordance with known techniques, appropriately modified in view of the teachings contained herein, to construct an expression vector, which is then used to transform an appropriate host cell for the expression and production of the polypeptide of the invention. Such techniques include those disclosed, for example, in US 4,440,859, 4,530,901, 4,582,800, 4,677,063, 4,678,751, 4,704,362, 4,710,463, 4,757,006, 4,766,075, and 4,810,648.

The DNA (or in the case of retroviral vectors, RNA) encoding the polypeptide constituting the compound of the invention may be joined to a wide variety of other DNA sequences for introduction into an appropriate host. The companion DNA will depend

upon the nature of the host, the manner of the introduction of the DNA into the host, and whether episomal maintenance or integration is desired.

Generally, the DNA is inserted into an expression vector, such as a plasmid, in proper orientation and correct reading frame for expression. If necessary, the DNA may be linked to the appropriate transcriptional and translational regulatory control nucleotide sequences recognized by the desired host, although such controls are generally available in the expression vector. The vector is then introduced into the host through standard techniques. Generally, not all of the hosts will be transformed by the vector. Therefore, it will be necessary to select for transformed host cells. One selection technique involves incorporating into the expression vector a DNA sequence, with any necessary control elements, that codes for a selectable trait in the transformed cell, such as antibiotic resistance.

Alternatively, the gene for such selectable trait can be on another vector, which is used to co-transform the desired host cell.

Host cells that have been transformed by the recombinant DNA of the invention are then cultured for a sufficient time and under appropriate conditions known to those skilled in the art in view of the teachings disclosed herein to permit the expression of the polypeptide, which can then be recovered.

Many expression systems are known, including bacteria (for example *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*), yeasts (for example *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), filamentous fungi (for example *Aspergillus spec.*), plant cells, animal cells and insect cells. Preferably, the system can be mammalian cells such as CHO cells available from the ATCC Cell Biology Collection.

A typical mammalian cell vector plasmid for constitutive expression comprises the CMV or SV40 promoter with a suitable poly A tail and a resistance marker, such as neomycin. One example is pSVL available from Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ, USA. An example of

an inducible mammalian expression vector is pMSG, also available from Pharmacia. Useful yeast plasmid vectors are pRS403-406 and pRS413-416 and are generally available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA. Plasmids pRS403, pRS404, pRS405 and pRS406 are Yeast Integrating plasmids (YIps) and incorporate the yeast selectable markers HIS3, TRP1, LEU2 and URA3. Plasmids pRS413-416 are Yeast Centromere plasmids (Ycps). CMV promoter-based vectors (for example from Sigma-Aldrich) provide transient or stable expression, cytoplasmic expression or secretion, and N-terminal or C-terminal tagging in various combinations of FLAG, 3xFLAG, c-myc or MAT. These fusion proteins allow for detection, purification and analysis of recombinant protein. Dual-tagged fusions provide flexibility in detection.

The strong human cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter regulatory region drives constitutive protein expression levels as high as 1 mg/L in COS cells. For less potent cell lines, protein levels are typically ~0.1 mg/L. The presence of the SV40 replication origin will result in high levels of DNA replication in SV40 replication permissive COS cells. CMV vectors, for example, can contain the pMB1 (derivative of pBR322) origin for replication in bacterial cells, the b-lactamase gene for ampicillin resistance selection in bacteria, hGH polyA, and the f1 origin. Vectors containing the pre-pro-trypsin leader (PPT) sequence can direct the secretion of FLAG fusion proteins into the culture medium for purification using ANTI-FLAG antibodies, resins, and plates. Other vectors and expression systems are well known in the art for use with a variety of host cells.

In another embodiment two or more peptides or peptide variants of the invention are encoded and thus expressed in a successive order (similar to "beads on a string" constructs). In doing so, the peptides or peptide variants may be linked or fused together by stretches of linker amino acids, such as for example LLLLLL, or may be linked without any additional peptide(s) between them. These constructs can also be used for cancer therapy, and may induce immune responses both involving MHC I and MHC II.

The present invention also relates to a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide vector construct of the present invention. The host cell can be either prokaryotic or eukaryotic. Bacterial cells may be preferred prokaryotic host cells in some circumstances and typically are a strain of *E. coli* such as, for example, the *E. coli* strains DH5 available from Bethesda Research Laboratories Inc., Bethesda, MD, USA, and RR1 available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) of Rockville, MD, USA (No ATCC 31343). Preferred eukaryotic host cells include yeast, insect and mammalian cells, preferably vertebrate cells such as those from a mouse, rat, monkey or human fibroblastic and colon cell lines. Yeast host cells include YPH499, YPH500 and YPH501, which are generally available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA. Preferred mammalian host cells include Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells available from the ATCC as CCL61, NIH Swiss mouse embryo cells NIH/3T3 available from the ATCC as CRL 1658, monkey kidney-derived COS-1 cells available from the ATCC as CRL 1650 and 293 cells which are human embryonic kidney cells. Preferred insect cells are Sf9 cells which can be transfected with baculovirus expression vectors. An overview regarding the choice of suitable host cells for expression can be found in, for example, the textbook of Paulina Balbás and Argelia Lorence "Methods in Molecular Biology Recombinant Gene Expression, Reviews and Protocols," Part One, Second Edition, ISBN 978-1-58829-262-9, and other literature known to the person of skill.

Transformation of appropriate cell hosts with a DNA construct of the present invention is accomplished by well-known methods that typically depend on the type of vector used. With regard to transformation of prokaryotic host cells, see, for example, Cohen et al. (Cohen et al., 1972) and (Green and Sambrook, 2012) . Transformation of yeast cells is described in Sherman et al. (Sherman et al., 1986) . The method of Beggs (Beggs, 1978) is also useful. With regard to vertebrate cells, reagents useful in transfecting such cells, for example calcium phosphate and DEAE-dextran or liposome formulations, are available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, or Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, USA. Electroporation is also useful for transforming and/or transfecting cells

and is well known in the art for transforming yeast cell, bacterial cells, insect cells and vertebrate cells.

Successfully transformed cells, i.e. cells that contain a DNA construct of the present invention, can be identified by well-known techniques such as PCR. Alternatively, the presence of the protein in the supernatant can be detected using antibodies.

It will be appreciated that certain host cells of the invention are useful in the preparation of the peptides of the invention, for example bacterial, yeast and insect cells. However, other host cells may be useful in certain therapeutic methods. For example, antigen-presenting cells, such as dendritic cells, may usefully be used to express the peptides of the invention such that they may be loaded into appropriate MHC molecules. Thus, the current invention provides a host cell comprising a nucleic acid or an expression vector according to the invention.

In a preferred embodiment the host cell is an antigen presenting cell, in particular a dendritic cell or antigen presenting cell. APCs loaded with a recombinant fusion protein containing prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 29, 2010, to treat asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic metastatic HRPC (Sipuleucel-T) (Rini et al., 2006; Small et al., 2006).

A further aspect of the invention provides a method of producing a peptide or its variant, the method comprising culturing a host cell and isolating the peptide from the host cell or its culture medium.

In another embodiment the peptide, the nucleic acid or the expression vector of the invention are used in medicine. For example, the peptide or its variant may be prepared for intravenous (i.v.) injection, sub-cutaneous (s.c.) injection, intradermal (i.d.) injection, intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection, intramuscular (i.m.) injection. Preferred methods of peptide injection include s.c., i.d., i.p., i.m., and i.v. Preferred methods of DNA injection include i.d., i.m., s.c., i.p. and i.v. Doses of e.g. between 50 µg and 1.5 mg, preferably

125 µg to 500 µg, of peptide or DNA may be given and will depend on the respective peptide or DNA. Dosages of this range were successfully used in previous trials (Walter et al., 2012).

The polynucleotide used for active vaccination may be substantially pure, or contained in a suitable vector or delivery system. The nucleic acid may be DNA, cDNA, PNA, RNA or a combination thereof. Methods for designing and introducing such a nucleic acid are well known in the art. An overview is provided by e.g. Teufel et al. (Teufel et al., 2005). Polynucleotide vaccines are easy to prepare, but the mode of action of these vectors in inducing an immune response is not fully understood. Suitable vectors and delivery systems include viral DNA and/or RNA, such as systems based on adenovirus, vaccinia virus, retroviruses, herpes virus, adeno-associated virus or hybrids containing elements of more than one virus. Non-viral delivery systems include cationic lipids and cationic polymers and are well known in the art of DNA delivery. Physical delivery, such as via a “gene-gun” may also be used. The peptide or peptides encoded by the nucleic acid may be a fusion protein, for example with an epitope that stimulates T cells for the respective opposite CDR as noted above.

The medicament of the invention may also include one or more adjuvants. Adjuvants are substances that non-specifically enhance or potentiate the immune response (e.g., immune responses mediated by CD8-positive T cells and helper-T (TH) cells to an antigen, and would thus be considered useful in the medicament of the present invention. Suitable adjuvants include, but are not limited to, 1018 ISS, aluminum salts, AMPLIVAX®, AS15, BCG, CP-870,893, CpG7909, CyaA, dSLIM, flagellin or TLR5 ligands derived from flagellin, FLT3 ligand, GM-CSF, IC30, IC31, Imiquimod (ALDARA®), resiquimod, ImuFact IMP321, Interleukins as IL-2, IL-13, IL-21, Interferon-alpha or -beta, or pegylated derivatives thereof, IS Patch, ISS, ISCOMATRIX, ISCOMs, JuvImmune®, LipoVac, MALP2, MF59, monophosphoryl lipid A, Montanide IMS 1312, Montanide ISA 206, Montanide ISA 50V, Montanide ISA-51, water-in-oil and oil-in-water emulsions, OK-432, OM-174, OM-197-MP-EC, ONTAK, OspA, PepTel® vector system, poly(lactid co-glycolid) [PLG]-based and dextran microparticles, talactoferrin SRL172,

Virosomes and other Virus-like particles, YF-17D, VEGF trap, R848, beta-glucan, Pam3Cys, Aquila's QS21 stimulon, which is derived from saponin, mycobacterial extracts and synthetic bacterial cell wall mimics, and other proprietary adjuvants such as Ribi's Detox, Quil, or Superfos. Adjuvants such as Freund's or GM-CSF are preferred. Several immunological adjuvants (e.g., MF59) specific for dendritic cells and their preparation have been described previously (Allison and Krummel, 1995). Also cytokines may be used. Several cytokines have been directly linked to influencing dendritic cell migration to lymphoid tissues (e.g., TNF-), accelerating the maturation of dendritic cells into efficient antigen-presenting cells for T-lymphocytes (e.g., GM-CSF, IL-1 and IL-4) (U.S. Pat. No. 5,849,589, specifically incorporated herein by reference in its entirety) and acting as immunoadjuvants (e.g., IL-12, IL-15, IL-23, IL-7, IFN-alpha. IFN-beta) (Gabrilovich et al., 1996).

CpG immunostimulatory oligonucleotides have also been reported to enhance the effects of adjuvants in a vaccine setting. Without being bound by theory, CpG oligonucleotides act by activating the innate (non-adaptive) immune system via Toll-like receptors (TLR), mainly TLR9. CpG triggered TLR9 activation enhances antigen-specific humoral and cellular responses to a wide variety of antigens, including peptide or protein antigens, live or killed viruses, dendritic cell vaccines, autologous cellular vaccines and polysaccharide conjugates in both prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines. More importantly it enhances dendritic cell maturation and differentiation, resulting in enhanced activation of TH1 cells and strong cytotoxic T-lymphocyte (CTL) generation, even in the absence of CD4 T cell help. The TH1 bias induced by TLR9 stimulation is maintained even in the presence of vaccine adjuvants such as alum or incomplete Freund's adjuvant (IFA) that normally promote a TH2 bias. CpG oligonucleotides show even greater adjuvant activity when formulated or co-administered with other adjuvants or in formulations such as microparticles, nanoparticles, lipid emulsions or similar formulations, which are especially necessary for inducing a strong response when the antigen is relatively weak. They also accelerate the immune response and enable the antigen doses to be reduced by approximately two orders of magnitude, with comparable antibody responses to the full-dose vaccine without CpG in some

experiments (Krieg, 2006). US 6,406,705 B1 describes the combined use of CpG oligonucleotides, non-nucleic acid adjuvants and an antigen to induce an antigen-specific immune response. A CpG TLR9 antagonist is dSLIM (double Stem Loop Immunomodulator) by Mologen (Berlin, Germany) which is a preferred component of the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention. Other TLR binding molecules such as RNA binding TLR 7, TLR 8 and/or TLR 9 may also be used.

Other examples for useful adjuvants include, but are not limited to chemically modified CpGs (e.g. CpR, Idera), dsRNA analogues such as Poly(I:C) and derivatives thereof (e.g. AmpliGen®, Hiltonol®, poly-(ICLC), poly(IC-R), poly(I:C12U), non-CpG bacterial DNA or RNA as well as immunoactive small molecules and antibodies such as cyclophosphamide, sunitinib, Bevacizumab®, celebrex, NCX-4016, sildenafil, tadalafil, vardenafil, sorafenib, temozolomide, temsirolimus, XL-999, CP-547632, pazopanib, VEGF Trap, ZD2171, AZD2171, anti-CTLA4, other antibodies targeting key structures of the immune system (e.g. anti-CD40, anti-TGFbeta, anti-TNFalpha receptor) and SC58175, which may act therapeutically and/or as an adjuvant. The amounts and concentrations of adjuvants and additives useful in the context of the present invention can readily be determined by the skilled artisan without undue experimentation.

Preferred adjuvants are anti-CD40, imiquimod, resiquimod, GM-CSF, cyclophosphamide, sunitinib, bevacizumab, interferon-alpha, CpG oligonucleotides and derivatives, poly-(I:C) and derivatives, RNA, sildenafil, and particulate formulations with PLG or virosomes.

In a preferred embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of colony-stimulating factors, such as Granulocyte Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF, sargramostim), cyclophosphamide, imiquimod, resiquimod, and interferon-alpha.

In a preferred embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of colony-stimulating factors, such as

Granulocyte Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF, sargramostim), cyclophosphamide, imiquimod and resiquimod. In a preferred embodiment of the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention, the adjuvant is cyclophosphamide, imiquimod or resiquimod. Even more preferred adjuvants are Montanide IMS 1312, Montanide ISA 206, Montanide ISA 50V, Montanide ISA-51, poly-ICLC (Hiltonol®) and anti-CD40 mAB, or combinations thereof.

This composition is used for parenteral administration, such as subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular or oral administration. For this, the peptides and optionally other molecules are dissolved or suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable, preferably aqueous carrier. In addition, the composition can contain excipients, such as buffers, binding agents, blasting agents, diluents, flavors, lubricants, etc. The peptides can also be administered together with immune stimulating substances, such as cytokines. An extensive listing of excipients that can be used in such a composition, can be, for example, taken from A. Kibbe, Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients (Kibbe, 2000). The composition can be used for a prevention, prophylaxis and/or therapy of adenomatous or cancerous diseases. Exemplary formulations can be found in, for example, EP2112253.

It is important to realize that the immune response triggered by the vaccine according to the invention attacks the cancer in different cell-stages and different stages of development. Furthermore different cancer associated signaling pathways are attacked. This is an advantage over vaccines that address only one or few targets, which may cause the tumor to easily adapt to the attack (tumor escape). Furthermore, not all individual tumors express the same pattern of antigens. Therefore, a combination of several tumor-associated peptides ensures that every single tumor bears at least some of the targets. The composition is designed in such a way that each tumor is expected to express several of the antigens and cover several independent pathways necessary for tumor growth and maintenance. Thus, the vaccine can easily be used "off-the-shelf" for a larger patient population. This means that a pre-selection of patients to be treated with the vaccine can be restricted to HLA typing, does not require any additional

biomarker assessments for antigen expression, but it is still ensured that several targets are simultaneously attacked by the induced immune response, which is important for efficacy (Banchereau et al., 2001; Walter et al., 2012).

As used herein, the term "scaffold" refers to a molecule that specifically binds to an (e.g. antigenic) determinant. In one embodiment, a scaffold is able to direct the entity to which it is attached (e.g. a (second) antigen binding moiety) to a target site, for example to a specific type of tumor cell or tumor stroma bearing the antigenic determinant (e.g. the complex of a peptide with MHC, according to the application at hand). In another embodiment a scaffold is able to activate signaling through its target antigen, for example a T cell receptor complex antigen. Scaffolds include but are not limited to antibodies and fragments thereof, antigen binding domains of an antibody, comprising an antibody heavy chain variable region and an antibody light chain variable region, binding proteins comprising at least one ankyrin repeat motif and single domain antigen binding (SDAB) molecules, aptamers, (soluble) TCRs and (modified) cells such as allogenic or autologous T cells. To assess whether a molecule is a scaffold binding to a target, binding assays can be performed.

"Specific" binding means that the scaffold binds the peptide-MHC-complex of interest better than other naturally occurring peptide-MHC-complexes, to an extent that a scaffold armed with an active molecule that is able to kill a cell bearing the specific target is not able to kill another cell without the specific target but presenting other peptide-MHC complex(es). Binding to other peptide-MHC complexes is irrelevant if the peptide of the cross-reactive peptide-MHC is not naturally occurring, i.e. not derived from the human HLA-peptidome. Tests to assess target cell killing are well known in the art. They should be performed using target cells (primary cells or cell lines) with unaltered peptide-MHC presentation, or cells loaded with peptides such that naturally occurring peptide-MHC levels are reached.

Each scaffold can comprise a labelling which provides that the bound scaffold can be detected by determining the presence or absence of a signal provided by the label. For

example, the scaffold can be labelled with a fluorescent dye or any other applicable cellular marker molecule. Such marker molecules are well known in the art. For example a fluorescence-labelling, for example provided by a fluorescence dye, can provide a visualization of the bound aptamer by fluorescence or laser scanning microscopy or flow cytometry.

Each scaffold can be conjugated with a second active molecule such as for example IL-21, anti-CD3, and anti-CD28.

For further information on polypeptide scaffolds see for example the background section of WO 2014/071978A1 and the references cited therein.

The present invention further relates to aptamers. Aptamers (see for example WO 2014/191359 and the literature as cited therein) are short single-stranded nucleic acid molecules, which can fold into defined three-dimensional structures and recognize specific target structures. They have appeared to be suitable alternatives for developing targeted therapies. Aptamers have been shown to selectively bind to a variety of complex targets with high affinity and specificity.

Aptamers recognizing cell surface located molecules have been identified within the past decade and provide means for developing diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Since aptamers have been shown to possess almost no toxicity and immunogenicity they are promising candidates for biomedical applications. Indeed aptamers, for example prostate-specific membrane-antigen recognizing aptamers, have been successfully employed for targeted therapies and shown to be functional in xenograft *in vivo* models. Furthermore, aptamers recognizing specific tumor cell lines have been identified.

DNA aptamers can be selected to reveal broad-spectrum recognition properties for various cancer cells, and particularly those derived from solid tumors, while non-tumorigenic and primary healthy cells are not recognized. If the identified aptamers

recognize not only a specific tumor sub-type but rather interact with a series of tumors, this renders the aptamers applicable as so-called broad-spectrum diagnostics and therapeutics.

Further, investigation of cell-binding behavior with flow cytometry showed that the aptamers revealed very good apparent affinities that are within the nanomolar range.

Aptamers are useful for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Further, it could be shown that some of the aptamers are taken up by tumor cells and thus can function as molecular vehicles for the targeted delivery of anti-cancer agents such as siRNA into tumor cells.

Aptamers can be selected against complex targets such as cells and tissues and complexes of the peptides comprising, preferably consisting of, a sequence according to any of SEQ ID NO 1 to SEQ ID NO 289, 305, and 306, according to the invention at hand with the MHC molecule, using the cell-SELEX (Systematic Evolution of Ligands by Exponential enrichment) technique.

The peptides of the present invention can be used to generate and develop specific antibodies against MHC/peptide complexes. These can be used for therapy, targeting toxins or radioactive substances to the diseased tissue. Another use of these antibodies can be targeting radionuclides to the diseased tissue for imaging purposes such as PET. This use can help to detect small metastases or to determine the size and precise localization of diseased tissues.

Therefore, it is a further aspect of the invention to provide a method for producing a recombinant antibody specifically binding to a human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I or II being complexed with a HLA-restricted antigen (preferably a peptide according to the present invention), the method comprising: immunizing a genetically engineered non-human mammal comprising cells expressing said human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I or II with a soluble form of a MHC class I or II

molecule being complexed with said HLA-restricted antigen; isolating mRNA molecules from antibody producing cells of said non-human mammal; producing a phage display library displaying protein molecules encoded by said mRNA molecules; and isolating at least one phage from said phage display library, said at least one phage displaying said antibody specifically binding to said human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I or II being complexed with said HLA-restricted antigen.

It is thus a further aspect of the invention to provide an antibody that specifically binds to a human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I or II being complexed with a HLA-restricted antigen, wherein the antibody preferably is a polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, bi-specific antibody and/or a chimeric antibody.

Respective methods for producing such antibodies and single chain class I major histocompatibility complexes, as well as other tools for the production of these antibodies are disclosed in WO 03/068201, WO 2004/084798, WO 01/72768, WO 03/070752, and in publications (Cohen et al., 2003a; Cohen et al., 2003b; Denkberg et al., 2003), which for the purposes of the present invention are all explicitly incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Preferably, the antibody is binding with a binding affinity of below 20 nanomolar, preferably of below 10 nanomolar, to the complex, which is also regarded as "specific" in the context of the present invention.

The present invention relates to a peptide comprising a sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306, or a variant thereof which is at least 88% homologous (preferably identical) to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306 or a variant thereof that induces T cells cross-reacting with said peptide, wherein said peptide is not the underlying full-length polypeptide.

The present invention further relates to a peptide comprising a sequence that is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306

or a variant thereof which is at least 88% homologous (preferably identical) to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306, wherein said peptide or variant has an overall length of between 8 and 100, preferably between 8 and 30, and most preferred between 8 and 14 amino acids.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the invention that have the ability to bind to a molecule of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class-I or -II.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the invention wherein the peptide consists or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the invention, wherein the peptide is (chemically) modified and/or includes non-peptide bonds.

The present invention further relates to the peptides according to the invention, wherein the peptide is part of a fusion protein, in particular comprising N-terminal amino acids of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (Ii), or wherein the peptide is fused to (or into) an antibody, such as, for example, an antibody that is specific for dendritic cells.

The present invention further relates to a nucleic acid, encoding the peptides according to the invention, provided that the peptide is not the complete (full) human protein.

The present invention further relates to the nucleic acid according to the invention that is DNA, cDNA, PNA, RNA or combinations thereof.

The present invention further relates to an expression vector capable of expressing a nucleic acid according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to a peptide according to the present invention, a nucleic acid according to the present invention or an expression vector according to the present invention for use in medicine, in particular in the treatment of cancers such as glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer.

The present invention further relates to a host cell comprising a nucleic acid according to the invention or an expression vector according to the invention.

The present invention further relates to the host cell according to the present invention that is an antigen presenting cell, and preferably a dendritic cell.

The present invention further relates to a method of producing a peptide according to the present invention, said method comprising culturing the host cell according to the present invention, and isolating the peptide from said host cell or its culture medium.

The present invention further relates to the method according to the present invention, where-in the antigen is loaded onto class I or II MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell by contacting a sufficient amount of the antigen with an antigen-presenting cell.

The present invention further relates to the method according to the invention, wherein the antigen-presenting cell comprises an expression vector capable of expressing said peptide containing SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306 or said variant amino acid sequence.

The present invention further relates to activated T cells, produced by the method according to the present invention, wherein said T cells selectively recognizes a cell which aberrantly expresses a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to a method of killing target cells in a patient which target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising any amino acid sequence according to the present invention, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective number of T cells as according to the present invention.

The present invention further relates to the use of any peptide described, a nucleic acid according to the present invention, an expression vector according to the present invention, a cell according to the present invention, or an activated cytotoxic T lymphocyte according to the present invention as a medicament or in the manufacture of a medicament. The present invention further relates to a use according to the present invention, wherein the medicament is active against cancer.

The present invention further relates to a use according to the invention, wherein the medicament is a vaccine. The present invention further relates to a use according to the invention, wherein the medicament is active against cancer.

The present invention further relates to a use according to the invention, wherein said cancer cells are cells or other solid or haematological tumor cells such as glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer cells.

The present invention further relates to particular marker proteins and biomarkers based on the peptides according to the present invention, herein called "targets" that can be used in the diagnosis and/or prognosis of glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer. The present invention also relates to the use of these novel targets for cancer treatment.

The term "antibody" or "antibodies" is used herein in a broad sense and includes both polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies. In addition to intact or "full" immunoglobulin molecules, also included in the term "antibodies" are fragments (e.g. CDRs, Fv, Fab and Fc fragments) or polymers of those immunoglobulin molecules and humanized versions of immunoglobulin molecules, as long as they exhibit any of the desired properties (e.g., specific binding of a glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer marker (poly)peptide, delivery of a toxin to a cancer cell expressing a cancer marker gene at an increased level, and/or inhibiting the activity of a cancer marker polypeptide) according to the invention.

Whenever possible, the antibodies of the invention may be purchased from commercial sources. The antibodies of the invention may also be generated using well-known methods. The skilled artisan will understand that either full length glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin

lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer marker polypeptides or fragments thereof may be used to generate the antibodies of the invention. A polypeptide to be used for generating an antibody of the invention may be partially or fully purified from a natural source, or may be produced using recombinant DNA techniques.

For example, a cDNA encoding a peptide according to the present invention, such as a peptide according to SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306 polypeptide, or a variant or fragment thereof, can be expressed in prokaryotic cells (e.g., bacteria) or eukaryotic cells (e.g., yeast, insect, or mammalian cells), after which the recombinant protein can be purified and used to generate a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody preparation that specifically bind the marker polypeptide for above-mentioned cancers used to generate the antibody according to the invention.

One of skill in the art will realize that the generation of two or more different sets of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies maximizes the likelihood of obtaining an antibody with the specificity and affinity required for its intended use (e.g., ELISA, immunohistochemistry, *in vivo* imaging, immunotoxin therapy). The antibodies are tested for their desired activity by known methods, in accordance with the purpose for which the antibodies are to be used (e.g., ELISA, immunohistochemistry, immunotherapy, etc.; for further guidance on the generation and testing of antibodies, see, e.g., Greenfield, 2014 (Greenfield, 2014)). For example, the antibodies may be tested in ELISA assays or, Western blots, immunohistochemical staining of formalin-fixed cancers or frozen tissue sections. After their initial *in vitro* characterization, antibodies intended for therapeutic or *in vivo* diagnostic use are tested according to known clinical testing methods.

The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to an antibody obtained from a substantially homogeneous population of antibodies, i.e.; the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical except for possible naturally occurring mutations that may be present in minor amounts. The monoclonal antibodies herein specifically include "chimeric" antibodies in which a portion of the heavy and/or light chain is identical with or homologous to corresponding sequences in antibodies derived from a particular species or belonging to a particular antibody class or subclass, while the remainder of the chain(s) is identical with or homologous to corresponding sequences in antibodies derived from another species or belonging to another antibody class or subclass, as well as fragments of such antibodies, so long as they exhibit the desired antagonistic activity (US 4,816,567, which is hereby incorporated in its entirety).

Monoclonal antibodies of the invention may be prepared using hybridoma methods. In a hybridoma method, a mouse or other appropriate host animal is typically immunized with an immunizing agent to elicit lymphocytes that produce or are capable of producing antibodies that will specifically bind to the immunizing agent. Alternatively, the lymphocytes may be immunized *in vitro*.

The monoclonal antibodies may also be made by recombinant DNA methods, such as those described in US 4,816,567. DNA encoding the monoclonal antibodies of the invention can be readily isolated and sequenced using conventional procedures (e.g., by using oligonucleotide probes that are capable of binding specifically to genes encoding the heavy and light chains of murine antibodies).

In vitro methods are also suitable for preparing monovalent antibodies. Digestion of antibodies to produce fragments thereof, particularly Fab fragments, can be accomplished using routine techniques known in the art. For instance, digestion can be performed using papain. Examples of papain digestion are described in WO 94/29348 and US 4,342,566. Papain digestion of antibodies typically produces two identical antigen binding fragments, called Fab fragments, each with a single antigen binding

site, and a residual Fc fragment. Pepsin treatment yields a F(ab')₂ fragment and a pFc' fragment.

The antibody fragments, whether attached to other sequences or not, can also include insertions, deletions, substitutions, or other selected modifications of particular regions or specific amino acids residues, provided the activity of the fragment is not significantly altered or impaired compared to the non-modified antibody or antibody fragment. These modifications can provide for some additional property, such as to remove/add amino acids capable of disulfide bonding, to increase its bio-longevity, to alter its secretory characteristics, etc. In any case, the antibody fragment must possess a bioactive property, such as binding activity, regulation of binding at the binding domain, etc. Functional or active regions of the antibody may be identified by mutagenesis of a specific region of the protein, followed by expression and testing of the expressed polypeptide. Such methods are readily apparent to a skilled practitioner in the art and can include site-specific mutagenesis of the nucleic acid encoding the antibody fragment.

The antibodies of the invention may further comprise humanized antibodies or human antibodies. Humanized forms of non-human (e.g., murine) antibodies are chimeric immunoglobulins, immunoglobulin chains or fragments thereof (such as Fv, Fab, Fab' or other antigen-binding subsequences of antibodies) which contain minimal sequence derived from non-human immunoglobulin. Humanized antibodies include human immunoglobulins (recipient antibody) in which residues from a complementary determining region (CDR) of the recipient are replaced by residues from a CDR of a non-human species (donor antibody) such as mouse, rat or rabbit having the desired specificity, affinity and capacity. In some instances, Fv framework (FR) residues of the human immunoglobulin are replaced by corresponding non-human residues. Humanized antibodies may also comprise residues which are found neither in the recipient antibody nor in the imported CDR or framework sequences. In general, the humanized antibody will comprise substantially all of at least one, and typically two, variable domains, in which all or substantially all of the CDR regions correspond to

those of a non-human immunoglobulin and all or substantially all of the FR regions are those of a human immunoglobulin consensus sequence. The humanized antibody optimally also will comprise at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region (Fc), typically that of a human immunoglobulin.

Methods for humanizing non-human antibodies are well known in the art. Generally, a humanized antibody has one or more amino acid residues introduced into it from a source which is non-human. These non-human amino acid residues are often referred to as "import" residues, which are typically taken from an "import" variable domain. Humanization can be essentially performed by substituting rodent CDRs or CDR sequences for the corresponding sequences of a human antibody. Accordingly, such "humanized" antibodies are chimeric antibodies (US 4,816,567), wherein substantially less than an intact human variable domain has been substituted by the corresponding sequence from a non-human species. In practice, humanized antibodies are typically human antibodies in which some CDR residues and possibly some FR residues are substituted by residues from analogous sites in rodent antibodies.

Transgenic animals (e.g., mice) that are capable, upon immunization, of producing a full repertoire of human antibodies in the absence of endogenous immunoglobulin production can be employed. For example, it has been described that the homozygous deletion of the antibody heavy chain joining region gene in chimeric and germ-line mutant mice results in complete inhibition of endogenous antibody production. Transfer of the human germ-line immunoglobulin gene array in such germ-line mutant mice will result in the production of human antibodies upon antigen challenge. Human antibodies can also be produced in phage display libraries.

Antibodies of the invention are preferably administered to a subject in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Typically, an appropriate amount of a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt is used in the formulation to render the formulation isotonic. Examples of the pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier include saline, Ringer's solution and dextrose solution. The pH of the solution is preferably from about 5 to

about 8, and more preferably from about 7 to about 7.5. Further carriers include sustained release preparations such as semipermeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the antibody, which matrices are in the form of shaped articles, e.g., films, liposomes or microparticles. It will be apparent to those persons skilled in the art that certain carriers may be more preferable depending upon, for instance, the route of administration and concentration of antibody being administered.

The antibodies can be administered to the subject, patient, or cell by injection (e.g., intravenous, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, intramuscular), or by other methods such as infusion that ensure its delivery to the bloodstream in an effective form. The antibodies may also be administered by intratumoral or peritumoral routes, to exert local as well as systemic therapeutic effects. Local or intravenous injection is preferred.

Effective dosages and schedules for administering the antibodies may be determined empirically, and making such determinations is within the skill in the art. Those skilled in the art will understand that the dosage of antibodies that must be administered will vary depending on, for example, the subject that will receive the antibody, the route of administration, the particular type of antibody used and other drugs being administered. A typical daily dosage of the antibody used alone might range from about 1 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ to up to 100 mg/kg of body weight or more per day, depending on the factors mentioned above. Following administration of an antibody, preferably for treating glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer, the efficacy of the therapeutic antibody can be assessed in various ways well known to the skilled practitioner. For instance, the size, number, and/or distribution of cancer in a subject receiving treatment may be monitored using standard tumor imaging techniques. A therapeutically-administered antibody that arrests tumor growth, results in tumor

shrinkage, and/or prevents the development of new tumors, compared to the disease course that would occur in the absence of antibody administration, is an efficacious antibody for treatment of cancer.

It is a further aspect of the invention to provide a method for producing a soluble T-cell receptor (sTCR) recognizing a specific peptide-MHC complex. Such soluble T-cell receptors can be generated from specific T-cell clones, and their affinity can be increased by mutagenesis targeting the complementarity-determining regions. For the purpose of T-cell receptor selection, phage display can be used (US 2010/0113300, (Liddy et al., 2012)). For the purpose of stabilization of T-cell receptors during phage display and in case of practical use as drug, alpha and beta chain can be linked e.g. by non-native disulfide bonds, other covalent bonds (single-chain T-cell receptor), or by dimerization domains (Boulter et al., 2003; Card et al., 2004; Willcox et al., 1999). The T-cell receptor can be linked to toxins, drugs, cytokines (see, for example, US 2013/0115191), and domains recruiting effector cells such as an anti-CD3 domain, etc., in order to execute particular functions on target cells. Moreover, it could be expressed in T cells used for adoptive transfer. Further information can be found in WO 2004/033685A1 and WO 2004/074322A1. A combination of sTCRs is described in WO 2012/056407A1. Further methods for the production are disclosed in WO 2013/057586A1.

In addition, the peptides and/or the TCRs or antibodies or other binding molecules of the present invention can be used to verify a pathologist's diagnosis of a cancer based on a biopsied sample.

The antibodies or TCRs may also be used for *in vivo* diagnostic assays. Generally, the antibody is labeled with a radionucleotide (such as ^{111}In , ^{99}Tc , ^{14}C , ^{131}I , ^3H , ^{32}P or ^{35}S) so that the tumor can be localized using immunoscintigraphy. In one embodiment, antibodies or fragments thereof bind to the extracellular domains of two or more targets of a protein selected from the group consisting of the above-mentioned proteins, and the affinity value (Kd) is less than $1 \times 10\mu\text{M}$.

Antibodies for diagnostic use may be labeled with probes suitable for detection by various imaging methods. Methods for detection of probes include, but are not limited to, fluorescence, light, confocal and electron microscopy; magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy; fluoroscopy, computed tomography and positron emission tomography. Suitable probes include, but are not limited to, fluorescein, rhodamine, eosin and other fluorophores, radioisotopes, gold, gadolinium and other lanthanides, paramagnetic iron, fluorine-18 and other positron-emitting radionuclides. Additionally, probes may be bi- or multi-functional and be detectable by more than one of the methods listed. These antibodies may be directly or indirectly labeled with said probes. Attachment of probes to the antibodies includes covalent attachment of the probe, incorporation of the probe into the antibody, and the covalent attachment of a chelating compound for binding of probe, amongst others well recognized in the art. For immunohistochemistry, the disease tissue sample may be fresh or frozen or may be embedded in paraffin and fixed with a preservative such as formalin. The fixed or embedded section contains the sample are contacted with a labeled primary antibody and secondary antibody, wherein the antibody is used to detect the expression of the proteins in situ.

Another aspect of the present invention includes an *in vitro* method for producing activated T cells, the method comprising contacting *in vitro* T cells with antigen loaded human MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell for a period of time sufficient to activate the T cell in an antigen specific manner, wherein the antigen is a peptide according to the invention. Preferably a sufficient amount of the antigen is used with an antigen-presenting cell.

Preferably the mammalian cell lacks or has a reduced level or function of the TAP peptide transporter. Suitable cells that lack the TAP peptide transporter include T2, RMA-S and *Drosophila* cells. TAP is the transporter associated with antigen processing.

The human peptide loading deficient cell line T2 is available from the American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA under Catalogue No CRL 1992; the *Drosophila* cell line Schneider line 2 is available from the ATCC under Catalogue No CRL 19863; the mouse RMA-S cell line is described in Ljunggren et al. (Ljunggren and Karre, 1985).

Preferably, before transfection the host cell expresses substantially no MHC class I molecules. It is also preferred that the stimulator cell expresses a molecule important for providing a co-stimulatory signal for T-cells such as any of B7.1, B7.2, ICAM-1 and LFA 3. The nucleic acid sequences of numerous MHC class I molecules and of the co-stimulator molecules are publicly available from the GenBank and EMBL databases.

In case of a MHC class I epitope being used as an antigen, the T cells are CD8-positive T cells.

If an antigen-presenting cell is transfected to express such an epitope, preferably the cell comprises an expression vector capable of expressing a peptide containing SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306, or a variant amino acid sequence thereof.

A number of other methods may be used for generating T cells in vitro. For example, autologous tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes can be used in the generation of CTL. Plebanski et al. (Plebanski et al., 1995) made use of autologous peripheral blood lymphocytes (PLBs) in the preparation of T cells. Furthermore, the production of autologous T cells by pulsing dendritic cells with peptide or polypeptide, or via infection with recombinant virus is possible. Also, B cells can be used in the production of autologous T cells. In addition, macrophages pulsed with peptide or polypeptide, or infected with recombinant virus, may be used in the preparation of autologous T cells. S. Walter et al. (Walter et al., 2003) describe the in vitro priming of T cells by using artificial antigen presenting cells (aAPCs), which is also a suitable way for generating T cells against the peptide of choice. In the present invention, aAPCs were generated by the coupling of preformed MHC:peptide complexes to the surface of polystyrene

particles (microbeads) by biotin:streptavidin biochemistry. This system permits the exact control of the MHC density on aAPCs, which allows to selectively elicit high- or low-avidity antigen-specific T cell responses with high efficiency from blood samples. Apart from MHC:peptide complexes, aAPCs should carry other proteins with co-stimulatory activity like anti-CD28 antibodies coupled to their surface. Furthermore such aAPC-based systems often require the addition of appropriate soluble factors, e. g. cytokines, like interleukin-12.

Allogeneic cells may also be used in the preparation of T cells and a method is described in detail in WO 97/26328, incorporated herein by reference. For example, in addition to *Drosophila* cells and T2 cells, other cells may be used to present antigens such as CHO cells, baculovirus-infected insect cells, bacteria, yeast, and vaccinia-infected target cells. In addition plant viruses may be used (see, for example, Porta et al. (Porta et al., 1994) which describes the development of cowpea mosaic virus as a high-yielding system for the presentation of foreign peptides.

The activated T cells that are directed against the peptides of the invention are useful in therapy. Thus, a further aspect of the invention provides activated T cells obtainable by the foregoing methods of the invention.

Activated T cells, which are produced by the above method, will selectively recognize a cell that aberrantly expresses a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 289, 305, and 306.

Preferably, the T cell recognizes the cell by interacting through its TCR with the HLA/peptide-complex (for example, binding). The T cells are useful in a method of killing target cells in a patient whose target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of the invention wherein the patient is administered an effective number of the activated T cells. The T cells that are administered to the patient may be derived from the patient and activated as described above (i.e. they are autologous T cells). Alternatively, the T cells are not from the patient but are from

another individual. Of course, it is preferred if the individual is a healthy individual. By "healthy individual" the inventors mean that the individual is generally in good health, preferably has a competent immune system and, more preferably, is not suffering from any disease that can be readily tested for, and detected.

In vivo, the target cells for the CD8-positive T cells according to the present invention can be cells of the tumor (which sometimes express MHC class II) and/or stromal cells surrounding the tumor (tumor cells) (which sometimes also express MHC class II; (Dengjel et al., 2006)).

The T cells of the present invention may be used as active ingredients of a therapeutic composition. Thus, the invention also provides a method of killing target cells in a patient whose target cells aberrantly express a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of the invention, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective number of T cells as defined above.

By "aberrantly expressed" the inventors also mean that the polypeptide is over-expressed compared to levels of expression in normal tissues or that the gene is silent in the tissue from which the tumor is derived but in the tumor it is expressed. By "over-expressed" the inventors mean that the polypeptide is present at a level at least 1.2-fold of that present in normal tissue; preferably at least 2-fold, and more preferably at least 5-fold or 10-fold the level present in normal tissue.

T cells may be obtained by methods known in the art, e.g. those described above.

Protocols for this so-called adoptive transfer of T cells are well known in the art. Reviews can be found in: Gattinoni et al. and Morgan et al. (Gattinoni et al., 2006; Morgan et al., 2006).

Another aspect of the present invention includes the use of the peptides complexed with MHC to generate a T-cell receptor whose nucleic acid is cloned and is introduced into a

host cell, preferably a T cell. This engineered T cell can then be transferred to a patient for therapy of cancer.

Any molecule of the invention, i.e. the peptide, nucleic acid, antibody, expression vector, cell, activated T cell, T-cell receptor or the nucleic acid encoding it, is useful for the treatment of disorders, characterized by cells escaping an immune response. Therefore any molecule of the present invention may be used as medicament or in the manufacture of a medicament. The molecule may be used by itself or combined with other molecule(s) of the invention or (a) known molecule(s).

The present invention is further directed at a kit comprising:

- (a) a container containing a pharmaceutical composition as described above, in solution or in lyophilized form;
- (b) optionally a second container containing a diluent or reconstituting solution for the lyophilized formulation; and
- (c) optionally, instructions for (i) use of the solution or (ii) reconstitution and/or use of the lyophilized formulation.

The kit may further comprise one or more of (iii) a buffer, (iv) a diluent, (v) a filter, (vi) a needle, or (v) a syringe. The container is preferably a bottle, a vial, a syringe or test tube; and it may be a multi-use container. The pharmaceutical composition is preferably lyophilized.

Kits of the present invention preferably comprise a lyophilized formulation of the present invention in a suitable container and instructions for its reconstitution and/or use. Suitable containers include, for example, bottles, vials (e.g. dual chamber vials), syringes (such as dual chamber syringes) and test tubes. The container may be formed from a variety of materials such as glass or plastic. Preferably the kit and/or container contain/s instructions on or associated with the container that indicates directions for reconstitution and/or use. For example, the label may indicate that the lyophilized formulation is to be reconstituted to peptide concentrations as described above. The

label may further indicate that the formulation is useful or intended for subcutaneous administration.

The container holding the formulation may be a multi-use vial, which allows for repeat administrations (e.g., from 2-6 administrations) of the reconstituted formulation. The kit may further comprise a second container comprising a suitable diluent (e.g., sodium bicarbonate solution).

Upon mixing of the diluent and the lyophilized formulation, the final peptide concentration in the reconstituted formulation is preferably at least 0.15 mg/mL/peptide (=75 µg) and preferably not more than 3 mg/mL/peptide (=1500 µg). The kit may further include other materials desirable from a commercial and user standpoint, including other buffers, diluents, filters, needles, syringes, and package inserts with instructions for use.

Kits of the present invention may have a single container that contains the formulation of the pharmaceutical compositions according to the present invention with or without other components (e.g., other compounds or pharmaceutical compositions of these other compounds) or may have distinct container for each component.

Preferably, kits of the invention include a formulation of the invention packaged for use in combination with the co-administration of a second compound (such as adjuvants (e.g. GM-CSF), a chemotherapeutic agent, a natural product, a hormone or antagonist, an anti-angiogenesis agent or inhibitor, an apoptosis-inducing agent or a chelator) or a pharmaceutical composition thereof. The components of the kit may be pre-complexed or each component may be in a separate distinct container prior to administration to a patient. The components of the kit may be provided in one or more liquid solutions, preferably, an aqueous solution, more preferably, a sterile aqueous solution. The components of the kit may also be provided as solids, which may be converted into liquids by addition of suitable solvents, which are preferably provided in another distinct container.

The container of a therapeutic kit may be a vial, test tube, flask, bottle, syringe, or any other means of enclosing a solid or liquid. Usually, when there is more than one component, the kit will contain a second vial or other container, which allows for separate dosing. The kit may also contain another container for a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid. Preferably, a therapeutic kit will contain an apparatus (e.g., one or more needles, syringes, eye droppers, pipette, etc.), which enables administration of the agents of the invention that are components of the present kit.

The present formulation is one that is suitable for administration of the peptides by any acceptable route such as oral (enteral), nasal, ophthal, subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular, intravenous or transdermal. Preferably, the administration is s.c., and most preferably i.d. administration may be by infusion pump.

Since the peptides of the invention were isolated from glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, or uterine cancer, the medicament of the invention is preferably used to treat glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer.

The present invention further relates to a method for producing a personalized pharmaceutical for an individual patient comprising manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one peptide selected from a warehouse of pre-

screened TUMAPs, wherein the at least one peptide used in the pharmaceutical composition is selected for suitability in the individual patient. In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is a vaccine. The method could also be adapted to produce T cell clones for down-stream applications, such as TCR isolations, or soluble antibodies, and other treatment options.

A “personalized pharmaceutical” shall mean specifically tailored therapies for one individual patient that will only be used for therapy in such individual patient, including actively personalized cancer vaccines and adoptive cellular therapies using autologous patient tissue.

As used herein, the term “warehouse” shall refer to a group or set of peptides that have been pre-screened for immunogenicity and/or over-presentation in a particular tumor type. The term “warehouse” is not intended to imply that the particular peptides included in the vaccine have been pre-manufactured and stored in a physical facility, although that possibility is contemplated. It is expressly contemplated that the peptides may be manufactured *de novo* for each individualized vaccine produced, or may be pre-manufactured and stored. The warehouse (e.g. in the form of a database) is composed of tumor-associated peptides which were highly overexpressed in the tumor tissue of glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer patients with various HLA-A HLA-B and HLA-C alleles. It may contain MHC class I and MHC class II peptides or elongated MHC class I peptides. In addition to the tumor associated peptides collected from several cancer tissues, the warehouse may contain HLA-A*02 and HLA-A*24 marker peptides. These peptides allow comparison of the magnitude of T-cell immunity induced by TUMAPS in a quantitative manner and hence allow important conclusion to be drawn on the capacity of the vaccine to elicit anti-tumor

responses. Secondly, they function as important positive control peptides derived from a “non-self” antigen in the case that any vaccine-induced T-cell responses to TUMAPs derived from “self” antigens in a patient are not observed. And thirdly, it may allow conclusions to be drawn, regarding the status of immunocompetence of the patient.

TUMAPs for the warehouse are identified by using an integrated functional genomics approach combining gene expression analysis, mass spectrometry, and T-cell immunology (XPresident®). The approach assures that only TUMAPs truly present on a high percentage of tumors but not or only minimally expressed on normal tissue, are chosen for further analysis. For initial peptide selection, glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer samples from patients and blood from healthy donors were analyzed in a stepwise approach:

1. HLA ligands from the malignant material were identified by mass spectrometry
2. Genome-wide messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) expression analysis was used to identify genes over-expressed in the malignant tissue compared with a range of normal organs and tissues
3. Identified HLA ligands were compared to gene expression data. Peptides over-presented or selectively presented on tumor tissue, preferably encoded by selectively expressed or over-expressed genes as detected in step 2 were considered suitable TUMAP candidates for a multi-peptide vaccine.
4. Literature research was performed in order to identify additional evidence supporting the relevance of the identified peptides as TUMAPs
5. The relevance of over-expression at the mRNA level was confirmed by redetection of selected TUMAPs from step 3 on tumor tissue and lack of (or infrequent) detection on healthy tissues.

6. In order to assess, whether an induction of *in vivo* T-cell responses by the selected peptides may be feasible, *in vitro* immunogenicity assays were performed using human T cells from healthy donors as well as from cancer patients.

In an aspect, the peptides are pre-screened for immunogenicity before being included in the warehouse. By way of example, and not limitation, the immunogenicity of the peptides included in the warehouse is determined by a method comprising *in vitro* T-cell priming through repeated stimulations of CD8+ T cells from healthy donors with artificial antigen presenting cells loaded with peptide/MHC complexes and anti-CD28 antibody.

This method is preferred for rare cancers and patients with a rare expression profile. In contrast to multi-peptide cocktails with a fixed composition as currently developed, the warehouse allows a significantly higher matching of the actual expression of antigens in the tumor with the vaccine. Selected single or combinations of several “off-the-shelf” peptides will be used for each patient in a multitarget approach. In theory an approach based on selection of e.g. 5 different antigenic peptides from a library of 50 would already lead to approximately 17 million possible drug product (DP) compositions.

In an aspect, the peptides are selected for inclusion in the vaccine based on their suitability for the individual patient based on the method according to the present invention as described herein, or as below.

The HLA phenotype, transcriptomic and peptidomic data is gathered from the patient's tumor material, and blood samples to identify the most suitable peptides for each patient containing “warehouse” and patient-unique (i.e. mutated) TUMAPs. Those peptides will be chosen, which are selectively or over-expressed in the patients tumor and, where possible, show strong *in vitro* immunogenicity if tested with the patients' individual PBMCs.

Preferably, the peptides included in the vaccine are identified by a method comprising: (a) identifying tumor-associated peptides (TUMAPs) presented by a tumor sample from

the individual patient; (b) comparing the peptides identified in (a) with a warehouse (database) of peptides as described above; and (c) selecting at least one peptide from the warehouse (database) that correlates with a tumor-associated peptide identified in the patient. For example, the TUMAPs presented by the tumor sample are identified by: (a1) comparing expression data from the tumor sample to expression data from a sample of normal tissue corresponding to the tissue type of the tumor sample to identify proteins that are over-expressed or aberrantly expressed in the tumor sample; and (a2) correlating the expression data with sequences of MHC ligands bound to MHC class I and/or class II molecules in the tumor sample to identify MHC ligands derived from proteins over-expressed or aberrantly expressed by the tumor. Preferably, the sequences of MHC ligands are identified by eluting bound peptides from MHC molecules isolated from the tumor sample, and sequencing the eluted ligands. Preferably, the tumor sample and the normal tissue are obtained from the same patient.

In addition to, or as an alternative to, selecting peptides using a warehousing (database) model, TUMAPs may be identified in the patient *de novo*, and then included in the vaccine. As one example, candidate TUMAPs may be identified in the patient by (a1) comparing expression data from the tumor sample to expression data from a sample of normal tissue corresponding to the tissue type of the tumor sample to identify proteins that are over-expressed or aberrantly expressed in the tumor sample; and (a2) correlating the expression data with sequences of MHC ligands bound to MHC class I and/or class II molecules in the tumor sample to identify MHC ligands derived from proteins over-expressed or aberrantly expressed by the tumor. As another example, proteins may be identified containing mutations that are unique to the tumor sample relative to normal corresponding tissue from the individual patient, and TUMAPs can be identified that specifically target the mutation. For example, the genome of the tumor and of corresponding normal tissue can be sequenced by whole genome sequencing: For discovery of non-synonymous mutations in the protein-coding regions of genes, genomic DNA and RNA are extracted from tumor tissues and normal non-mutated genomic germline DNA is extracted from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs). The applied NGS approach is confined to the re-sequencing of protein coding regions

(exome re-sequencing). For this purpose, exonic DNA from human samples is captured using vendor-supplied target enrichment kits, followed by sequencing with e.g. a HiSeq2000 (Illumina). Additionally, tumor mRNA is sequenced for direct quantification of gene expression and validation that mutated genes are expressed in the patients' tumors. The resultant millions of sequence reads are processed through software algorithms. The output list contains mutations and gene expression. Tumor-specific somatic mutations are determined by comparison with the PBMC-derived germline variations and prioritized. The *de novo* identified peptides can then be tested for immunogenicity as described above for the warehouse, and candidate TUMAPs possessing suitable immunogenicity are selected for inclusion in the vaccine.

In one exemplary embodiment, the peptides included in the vaccine are identified by: (a) identifying tumor-associated peptides (TUMAPs) presented by a tumor sample from the individual patient by the method as described above; (b) comparing the peptides identified in a) with a warehouse of peptides that have been prescreened for immunogenicity and overpresentation in tumors as compared to corresponding normal tissue; (c) selecting at least one peptide from the warehouse that correlates with a tumor-associated peptide identified in the patient; and (d) optionally, selecting at least one peptide identified *de novo* in (a) confirming its immunogenicity.

In one exemplary embodiment, the peptides included in the vaccine are identified by: (a) identifying tumor-associated peptides (TUMAPs) presented by a tumor sample from the individual patient; and (b) selecting at least one peptide identified *de novo* in (a) and confirming its immunogenicity.

Once the peptides for a personalized peptide based vaccine are selected, the vaccine is produced. The vaccine preferably is a liquid formulation consisting of the individual peptides dissolved in between 20-40% DMSO, preferably about 30-35% DMSO, such as about 33% DMSO.

Each peptide to be included into a product is dissolved in DMSO. The concentration of the single peptide solutions has to be chosen depending on the number of peptides to be included into the product. The single peptide-DMSO solutions are mixed in equal parts to achieve a solution containing all peptides to be included in the product with a concentration of ~2.5 mg/ml per peptide. The mixed solution is then diluted 1:3 with water for injection to achieve a concentration of 0.826 mg/ml per peptide in 33% DMSO. The diluted solution is filtered through a 0.22 µm sterile filter. The final bulk solution is obtained.

Final bulk solution is filled into vials and stored at -20°C until use. One vial contains 700 µL solution, containing 0.578 mg of each peptide. Of this, 500 µL (approx. 400 µg per peptide) will be applied for intradermal injection.

In addition to being useful for treating cancer, the peptides of the present invention are also useful as diagnostics. Since the peptides were generated from glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer cells and since it was determined that these peptides are not or at lower levels present in normal tissues, these peptides can be used to diagnose the presence of a cancer.

The presence of claimed peptides on tissue biopsies in blood samples can assist a pathologist in diagnosis of cancer. Detection of certain peptides by means of antibodies, mass spectrometry or other methods known in the art can tell the pathologist that the tissue sample is malignant or inflamed or generally diseased, or can be used as a biomarker for glioblastoma, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia, ovarian cancer,

pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, melanoma, gastric cancer, urinary bladder cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, or uterine cancer. Presence of groups of peptides can enable classification or sub-classification of diseased tissues.

The detection of peptides on diseased tissue specimen can enable the decision about the benefit of therapies involving the immune system, especially if T-lymphocytes are known or expected to be involved in the mechanism of action. Loss of MHC expression is a well described mechanism by which infected or malignant cells escape immuno-surveillance. Thus, presence of peptides shows that this mechanism is not exploited by the analyzed cells.

The peptides of the present invention might be used to analyze lymphocyte responses against those peptides such as T cell responses or antibody responses against the peptide or the peptide complexed to MHC molecules. These lymphocyte responses can be used as prognostic markers for decision on further therapy steps. These responses can also be used as surrogate response markers in immunotherapy approaches aiming to induce lymphocyte responses by different means, e.g. vaccination of protein, nucleic acids, autologous materials, adoptive transfer of lymphocytes. In gene therapy settings, lymphocyte responses against peptides can be considered in the assessment of side effects. Monitoring of lymphocyte responses might also be a valuable tool for follow-up examinations of transplantation therapies, e.g. for the detection of graft versus host and host versus graft diseases.

The present invention will now be described in the following examples which describe preferred embodiments thereof, and with reference to the accompanying figures, nevertheless, without being limited thereto. For the purposes of the present invention, all references as cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIGURES

Figures 1A to T show the over-presentation of various peptides in normal tissues (white bars) and different cancers (black bars). Figure 1A - MET, Peptide: GLIAGVVSII (SEQ ID NO.: 2) - Tissues from left to right: 4 cell lines (1 kidney, 2 pancreatic, 1 melanoma), 24 cancer tissues (1 brain cancer, 1 gallbladder cancer, 7 kidney cancers, 1 rectum cancer, 1 liver cancer, 7 lung cancers, 2 stomach cancers, 4 urinary bladder cancers); Figure 1B) - TMEM223, Peptide: GLLFSLRSV (SEQ ID NO.: 92) - Tissues from left to right: 2 cell lines (2 pancreatic), 1 normal tissue (1 lymph node), 14 cancer tissues (4 leukocytic leukemia cancers, 2 myeloid cells cancers, 1 bone marrow cancer, 1 breast cancer, 1 lymph node cancer, 1 ovarian cancer, 2 prostate cancers, 1 skin cancer, 1 urinary bladder cancer); Figure 1C - PRKDC, Peptide: HYSQELSLLYL (SEQ ID NO.: 158) - Tissues from left to right: 19 cancer tissues (1 brain cancer, 1 kidney cancer, 2 liver cancers, 9 lung cancers, 2 prostate cancers, 4 stomach cancers); Figure 1D - GPX6, GPX7, Peptide: TYSVSFPMF (SEQ ID NO.: 195) - Tissues from left to right: 3 cell lines (3 benign prostate hyperplasias), 1 normal tissue (1 stomach), 58 cancer tissues (1 brain cancer, 2 liver cancers, 47 lung cancers, 7 prostate cancers, 1 stomach cancer). Figure 1E to R show the over-presentation of various peptides in different cancer tissues compared to normal tissues. The analyses included data from more than 490 A*02 positive normal tissue samples and 70 A*24 positive normal tissue samples, 543 A*02 positive cancer samples and 200 A*24 positive cancer samples. Shown are only samples where the peptide was found to be presented. Figure 1E) Gene symbol: FEN1, Peptide: SIYQFLIAV (SEQ ID NO: 8) - Tissues from left to right: 2 cell lines (1 blood cells, 1 pancreas), 14 cancer tissues (3 leukocytic leukemia cancers, 1 myeloid cells cancer, 1 breast cancer, 1 gallbladder cancer, 1 head-and-neck cancer, 1 colon cancer, 2 lung cancers, 3 lymph node cancers, 1 uterus cancer); Figure 1F) Gene symbol: DERL3, Peptide: ALMAMLVYV (SEQ ID NO: 13) - Tissues from left to right: 17 cancer tissues (1 bile duct cancer, 2 breast cancers, 1 gallbladder cancer, 3 head-and-neck cancers, 7 lung cancers, 1 lymph node cancer, 1 ovarian cancer, 1 stomach cancer); Figure 1G) Gene symbol: HEATR2, Peptide: ALAPHLDDA (SEQ ID NO: 237) - Tissues from left to right: 1 cell lines (blood cells), 10 cancer tissues (1 myeloid cells cancer, 2 brain cancers, 1 breast cancer, 1 lung cancer, 1 ovarian cancer, 1 skin cancer, 1 urinary bladder cancer, 2 uterus cancers); Figure 1H) Gene symbol:

SLC4A11, Peptide: ILLPRIIEA (SEQ ID NO: 259) - Tissues from left to right: 1 cell lines (1 pancreas), 27 cancer tissues (3 leukocytic leukemia cancers, 1 brain cancer, 2 breast cancers, 3 head-and-neck cancers, 1 colon cancer, 1 rectum cancer, 6 lung cancers, 5 ovarian cancers, 1 pancreas cancer, 2 skin cancers, 1 stomach cancer, 1 uterus cancer); Figure 1I) Gene symbol: ABCC11, Peptide: HLLEGSVG (SEQ ID NO: 39) - Tissues from left to right: 7 cancer tissues (5 breast cancers, 1 liver cancer, 1 skin cancer); Figure 1J) Gene symbol: PRAME, Peptide: VQLDSIEDLEV (SEQ ID NO: 32) - Tissues from left to right: 10 cancer tissues (1 leukocytic leukemia cancer, 1 lung cancer, 4 ovarian cancers, 3 skin cancers, 1 uterus cancer); Figure 1K) Gene symbol: ZWILCH, Peptide: FYSRLLQKF (SEQ ID NO: 203) - Tissues from left to right: 1 cell line (1 benign prostate hyperplasia), 15 cancer tissues (13 lung cancers, 2 stomach cancers); Figure 1L) Gene symbol: PRC1, Peptide: NYEYVHKELF (SEQ ID NO: 270) - Tissues from left to right: 14 cancer tissues (1 brain cancer, 11 lung cancers, 2 stomach cancers); Figure 1M) Gene symbol: GZMK, Peptide: KFSSFSLFF (SEQ ID NO: 164) - Tissues from left to right: 2 cell lines (2 benign prostate hyperplasias), 14 cancer tissues (11 lung cancers, 1 prostate cancer, 2 stomach cancers); Figure 1N) Gene symbols: TREX2, HAUS7, Peptide: LYITEPKTI (SEQ ID NO: 287) - Tissues from left to right: 12 cancer tissues (3 brain cancers, 1 liver cancer, 7 lung cancers, 1 stomach cancer); Figure 1O) Gene symbol: DNMBP, Peptide: RYISDQLFTNF (SEQ ID NO: 278) - Tissues from left to right: 1 normal tissue (1 lung), 31 cancer tissues (2 brain cancers, 1 kidney cancer, 2 liver cancers, 20 lung cancers, 2 prostate cancers, 4 stomach cancers); Figure 1P) Gene symbol: PTK7, Peptide: VYQGHTALL (SEQ ID NO: 277) - Tissues from left to right: 2 cell line (2 benign prostate hyperplasias), 4 normal tissues (1 rectum, 2 lungs, 1 pancreas), 64 cancer tissues (5 brain cancers, 48 lung cancers, 6 prostate cancers, 5 stomach cancers); Figure 1Q) Gene symbols: NUP210P1, NUP210, Peptide: VYVSDIQEL (SEQ ID NO: 288) - Tissues from left to right: 2 normal tissues (1 colon, 1 pituitary gland), 21 cancer tissues (1 liver cancer, 14 lung cancers, 1 prostate cancer, 5 stomach cancers); Figure 1R) Gene symbol: ATAD2, Peptide: VYTL DIPVL (SEQ ID NO: 160) - Tissues from left to right: 17 cancer tissues (1 liver cancer, 9 lung cancers, 1 prostate cancer, 6 stomach cancers); Figure 1S) Gene symbol: DNNT, Peptide: KLFTSVFGV (SEQ ID NO: 305) - Tissues from left to right: 5 cancer tissues (5

blood cells cancers); Figure 1T) Gene symbol: AR, Peptide: ALLSSLNEL (SEQ ID NO: 306) - Tissues from left to right: 3 cell lines (1 kidney, 2 prostates), 4 normal tissues (1 liver, , 1 lung, 1 ovary, 1 uterus), 29 cancer tissues (1 bile duct cancer, 2 blood cells cancers, 1 brain cancer, 3 breast cancers, 1 kidney cancer, 5 liver cancers, 1 lung cancer, 1 lymph node cancer, 4 ovary cancers, 6 prostate cancers, 1 urinary bladder cancer, 3 uterus cancers).

Figure 2A to I show exemplary expression profiles of source genes of the present invention that are highly over-expressed or exclusively expressed in different cancers in a panel of normal tissues (white bars) and different cancers samples (black bars). Figure 2A - TNC, Peptide: KLLDPQEFTL, (SEQ ID NO.: 59) - Tissues from left to right: 73 normal tissue samples (6 arteries, 1 blood cells, 1 brain, 1 heart, 2 livers, 2 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 1 adrenal gland, 6 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 colon, 1 esophagus, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 5 pancreases, 2 pituitary glands, 1 rectum, 1 salivary gland, 1 skeletal muscle, 1 skin, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 3 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 1 thymus, 1 uterus) and 46 cancer samples (24 brain cancers, 11 lung cancers, 11 esophagus cancers); Figure 2B - LRRC15, Peptide: ILNTHITEL, (SEQ ID NO.: 149) - Tissues from left to right: 73 normal tissue samples (6 arteries, 1 blood cells, 1 brain, 1 heart, 2 livers, 2 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 1 adrenal gland, 6 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 colon, 1 esophagus, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 5 pancreases, 2 pituitary glands, 1 rectum, 1 salivary gland, 1 skeletal muscle, 1 skin, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 3 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 1 thymus, 1 uterus) and 56 cancer samples (10 breast cancers, 3 gallbladder cancers, 11 stomach cancers, 10 lymph node cancers, 11 lung cancers, 11 esophagus cancers); Figure 2C - C1QL1, Peptide: TYTTVPRVAF, (SEQ ID NO.: 172) - Tissues from left to right: 73 normal tissue samples (6 arteries, 1 blood cells, 1 brain, 1 heart, 2 livers, 2 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 1 adrenal gland, 6 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 colon, 1 esophagus, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 5 pancreases, 2 pituitary glands, 1 rectum, 1 salivary gland, 1 skeletal muscle, 1 skin, 1 small intestine, 1

spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 3 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 1 thymus, 1 uterus) and 34 cancer samples (24 brain cancers, 10 kidney cancers); Figure 2D - AMC2, Peptide: GYIDNVTLI, (SEQ ID NO.: 220) - Tissues from left to right: 73 normal tissue samples (6 arteries, 1 blood cells, 1 brain, 1 heart, 2 livers, 2 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 1 adrenal gland, 6 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 colon, 1 esophagus, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 5 pancreases, 2 pituitary glands, 1 rectum, 1 salivary gland, 1 skeletal muscle, 1 skin, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 3 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 1 thymus, 1 uterus) and 48 cancer samples (11 lung cancers, 11 esophagus cancers, 26 pancreas cancers). Figure 2E - ABCC11, Peptide: HLLEGSVG, (SEQ ID NO.: 39) - Tissues from left to right: 6 arteries, 2 blood cellss, 6 brains, 4 hearts, 8 livers, 6 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 5 adrenal glands, 1 bile duct, 5 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 chest wall and skeletal muscle, 1 colon, 5 esophagi, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 8 head-and-necks, 5 head-and-neck and salivary glands, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 4 pancreases, 3 parathyroid glands, 2 peripheral nerves, 3 peritoneums, 2 pituitary glands, 3 pleuras, 1 rectum, 1 skeletal muscle, 2 skins, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 5 ureters, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 5 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 2 thymi, 1 uterus, and 10 breast cancers samples. Figure 2F - PRAME, Peptide: VQLDSIEDLEV, (SEQ ID NO.: 32) - Tissues from left to right: 6 arteries, 2 blood cellss, 6 brains, 4 hearts, 8 livers, 6 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 5 adrenal glands, 1 bile duct, 5 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 chest wall and skeletal muscle, 1 colon, 5 esophagi, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 8 head-and-necks, 5 head-and-neck and salivary glands, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 4 pancreases, 3 parathyroid glands, 2 peripheral nerves, 3 peritoneums, 2 pituitary glands, 3 pleuras, 1 rectum, 1 skeletal muscle, 2 skins, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 5 ureters, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 5 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 2 thymi, 1 uterus, and 37 cancer samples (10 melanoma cancers, 17 ovarian cancers, 10 uterine cancers). Figure 2G - SPINK2, Peptide: ALSVLRAL, (SEQ ID NO.: 251) - Tissues from left to right: 6 arteries, 2 blood cellss, 6 brains, 4 hearts, 8 livers, 6 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 5 adrenal glands, 1 bile duct, 5 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 chest wall

and skeletal muscle, 1 colon, 5 esophagi, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 8 head-and-necks, 5 head-and-neck and salivary glands, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 4 pancreases, 3 parathyroid glands, 2 peripheral nerves, 3 peritoneums, 2 pituitary glands, 3 pleuras, 1 rectum, 1 skeletal muscle, 2 skins, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 5 ureters, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 5 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 2 thymi, 1 uterus, and 11 acute myeloid leukemia samples. Figure 2H - MAGEC2, Peptide: TLDEKVAEL, (SEQ ID NO.: 24) - Tissues from left to right: 6 arteries, 2 blood cellss, 6 brains, 4 hearts, 8 livers, 6 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 5 adrenal glands, 1 bile duct, 5 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 chest wall and skeletal muscle, 1 colon, 5 esophagi, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 8 head-and-necks, 5 head-and-neck and salivary glands, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 4 pancreases, 3 parathyroid glands, 2 peripheral nerves, 3 peritoneums, 2 pituitary glands, 3 pleuras, 1 rectum, 1 skeletal muscle, 2 skins, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 5 ureters, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 5 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 2 thymi, 1 uterus, and 29 cancer samples (19 liver cancers, 10 melanoma cancers). Figure 2I - C1orf186, Peptide: FLTAINYLL, (SEQ ID NO.: 72) - Tissues from left to right: 6 arteries, 2 blood cellss, 6 brains, 4 hearts, 8 livers, 6 lungs, 2 veins, 1 adipose tissue, 5 adrenal glands, 1 bile duct, 5 bone marrows, 1 cartilage, 1 chest wall and skeletal muscle, 1 colon, 5 esophagi, 2 eyes, 2 gallbladders, 8 head-and-necks, 5 head-and-neck and salivary glands, 1 kidney, 6 lymph nodes, 4 pancreases, 3 parathyroid glands, 2 peripheral nerves, 3 peritoneums, 2 pituitary glands, 3 pleuras, 1 rectum, 1 skeletal muscle, 2 skins, 1 small intestine, 1 spleen, 1 stomach, 1 thyroid gland, 7 tracheas, 5 ureters, 1 urinary bladder, 1 breast, 5 ovaries, 5 placentas, 1 prostate, 1 testis, 2 thymi, 1 uterus, and 49 cancer samples (11 acute myeloid leukemia samples, 17 ovarian cancer samples, 11 renal cell carcinoma samples, 10 uterine cancer samples).

Figure 1 shows exemplary immunogenicity data: flow cytometry results after peptide-specific multimer staining.

Figure 4A to D shows exemplary results of peptide-specific in vitro CD8⁺ T cell responses of a healthy HLA-A*02⁺ donor. CD8⁺ T cells were primed using artificial

APCs coated with anti-CD28 mAb and HLA-A*02 in complex with SeqID No 27 peptide (A, left panel), SeqID No 229 peptide (B, left panel), SeqID No 230 peptide (C, left panel) and SeqID No 235 peptide (D, left panel), respectively. After three cycles of stimulation, the detection of peptide-reactive cells was performed by 2D multimer staining with A*02/SeqID No 27 (A), A*02/SeqID No 229 (B), A*02/SeqID No 230 (C) or A*02/SeqID No 235 (D). Right panels (A,B and C) show control staining of cells stimulated with irrelevant A*02/peptide complexes. Viable singlet cells were gated for CD8⁺ lymphocytes. Boolean gates helped excluding false-positive events detected with multimers specific for different peptides. Frequencies of specific multimer⁺ cells among CD8⁺ lymphocytes are indicated.

Figure 5A to C shows exemplary results of peptide-specific in vitro CD8⁺ T cell responses of a healthy HLA-A*24⁺ donor. CD8⁺ T cells were primed using artificial APCs coated with anti-CD28 mAb and HLA-A*24 in complex with SeqID No 159 peptide (A, left panel), SeqID No 161 peptide (B, left panel) and SeqID No 281 peptide (C, left panel), respectively. After three cycles of stimulation, the detection of peptide-reactive cells was performed by 2D multimer staining with A*24/SeqID No 159 (A), A*24/SeqID No 161 (B) or A*24/SeqID No 281 (C). Right panels (A,B and C) show control staining of cells stimulated with irrelevant A*24/peptide complexes. Viable singlet cells were gated for CD8⁺ lymphocytes. Boolean gates helped excluding false-positive events detected with multimers specific for different peptides. Frequencies of specific multimer⁺ cells among CD8⁺ lymphocytes are indicated.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1

Identification and quantitation of tumor associated peptides presented on the cell surface

Tissue samples

Patients' tumor tissues were obtained from:

Asterand (Detroit, MI, USA & Royston, Herts, UK); Bio-Options Inc. (Brea, CA, USA); BioServe (Beltsville, MD, USA); Center for cancer immune therapy (CCIT), Herlev Hospital (Herlev, Denmark); Geneticist Inc. (Glendale, CA, USA); Indivumed GmbH (Hamburg, Germany); Istituto Nazionale Tumori "Pascale" (Naples, Italy); Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine (KPUM) (Kyoto, Japan); Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) (Leiden, Netherlands); ProteoGenex Inc. (Culver City, CA, USA); Saint Savas Hospital (Athens, Greece); Stanford Cancer Center (Stanford, CA, USA); Tissue Solutions Ltd (Glasgow, UK); University Hospital Bonn (Bonn, Germany); University Hospital Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland); University Hospital Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany); University Hospital Munich (Munich, Germany); Osaka City University (OCU) (Osaka, Japan); University Hospital Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany); Val d'Hebron University Hospital (Barcelona, Spain).

Normal tissues were obtained from

Asterand (Detroit, MI, USA & Royston, Herts, UK); BioCat GmbH (Heidelberg, Germany); Bio-Options Inc. (Brea, CA, USA); BioServe (Beltsville, MD, USA); Capital BioScience Inc. (Rockville, MD, USA); Geneticist Inc. (Glendale, CA, USA); Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine (KPUM) (Kyoto, Japan); ProteoGenex Inc. (Culver City, CA, USA); Tissue Solutions Ltd (Glasgow, UK); University Hospital Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland); University Hospital Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany); University Hospital Munich (Munich, Germany); Osaka City University (OCU) (Osaka, Japan); University Hospital Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany).

Written informed consents of all patients had been given before surgery or autopsy. Tissues were shock-frozen immediately after excision and stored until isolation of TUMAPs at -70°C or below.

Peptides were selected if three conditions were true: (1) Its underlying transcript(s) and/or exon(s) are expressed at low levels, i.e. the median reads per kilobase per million reads (RPKM) was required to be less than 10 for the following organs: brain, blood vessel, heart, liver, lung, blood. In addition, the median RPKM was required to be

less than 50 for the following organs: urinary bladder, salivary gland, stomach, adrenal gland, colon, small intestine, spleen, bone marrow, pancreas, muscle, adipose tissue, skin, esophagus, kidney, thyroid gland, pituitary gland, nerve. (2) Its underlying transcript(s) and/or exon(s) are considered over-expressed if the highest 90% percentile of expression level in a tumor sample (based on data generated by the TCGA Research Network: <http://cancergenome.nih.gov/>) was more than 6-fold above the highest 75% percentile of expression levels determined from normal samples based on a database of RNASeq data covering around 3000 normal tissue samples (Lonsdale, 2013). (3) The peptide was tumor-associated, i.e. found specifically on tumors or over-expressed compared to a baseline of normal tissues (cf. Example 1).

Sample numbers for HLA-A*02 TUMAP selection were: for pancreatic cancer N = 16, for renal cancer N = 20, for colorectal cancer N = 28, for esophageal carcinoma including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction N = 17, for prostate tumors N = 39, for hepatocellular carcinoma N = 16, for non-small cell lung cancer N = 90, for gastric cancer N = 29, for breast cancer N = 17, for melanoma N = 7, for ovarian cancer N = 20, for chronic lymphocytic leukemia N = 17, for urinary bladder cancer N = 16, for small-cell lung cancer N = 19, for gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma N = 6, for acute myeloid leukemia N = 18, for glioblastoma N = 41, for testis cancer N = 1, for Non-Hodgkin lymphoma N = 18, for uterine cancer N = 15, and for normal tissues N = 262.

Sample numbers for HLA-A*24 TUMAP selection were: for gastric cancer N = 44, for prostate tumors N = 40, for non-small cell lung cancer N = 91, for hepatocellular carcinoma N = 15, for renal cancer N = 2, for colorectal cancer N = 1, for glioblastoma N = 18 and for normal tissues N = 70.

Figures 1 also show results for cell lines including kidney cancer cell lines, melanoma cell lines, pancreatic cancer cell lines and benign prostate hyperplasias.

Isolation of HLA peptides from tissue samples

HLA peptide pools from shock-frozen tissue samples were obtained by immune precipitation from solid tissues according to a slightly modified protocol (Falk et al., 1991; Seeger et al., 1999) using the HLA-A*02-specific antibody BB7.2, the HLA-A, -B, -C-specific antibody W6/32, CNBr-activated sepharose, acid treatment, and ultrafiltration.

Mass spectrometry analyses

The HLA peptide pools as obtained were separated according to their hydrophobicity by reversed-phase chromatography (nanoAcquity UPLC system, Waters) and the eluting peptides were analyzed in LTQ-velos and fusion hybrid mass spectrometers (ThermoElectron) equipped with an ESI source. Peptide pools were loaded directly onto the analytical fused-silica micro-capillary column (75 μm i.d. x 250 mm) packed with 1.7 μm C18 reversed-phase material (Waters) applying a flow rate of 400 nL per minute. Subsequently, the peptides were separated using a two-step 180 minute-binary gradient from 10% to 33% B at a flow rate of 300 nL per minute. The gradient was composed of Solvent A (0.1% formic acid in water) and solvent B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile). A gold coated glass capillary (PicoTip, New Objective) was used for introduction into the nanoESI source. The LTQ-Orbitrap mass spectrometers were operated in the data-dependent mode using a TOP5 strategy. In brief, a scan cycle was initiated with a full scan of high mass accuracy in the Orbitrap ($R = 30\,000$), which was followed by MS/MS scans also in the Orbitrap ($R = 7500$) on the five most abundant precursor ions with dynamic exclusion of previously selected ions. Tandem mass spectra were interpreted by SEQUEST and additional manual control. The identified peptide sequence was assured by comparison of the generated natural peptide fragmentation pattern with the fragmentation pattern of a synthetic sequence-identical reference peptide.

Label-free relative LC-MS quantitation was performed by ion counting i.e. by extraction and analysis of LC-MS features (Mueller et al., 2007). The method assumes that the peptide's LC-MS signal area correlates with its abundance in the sample. Extracted features were further processed by charge state deconvolution and retention time alignment (Mueller et al., 2008; Sturm et al., 2008). Finally, all LC-MS features were

cross-referenced with the sequence identification results to combine quantitative data of different samples and tissues to peptide presentation profiles. The quantitative data were normalized in a two-tier fashion according to central tendency to account for variation within technical and biological replicates. Thus each identified peptide can be associated with quantitative data allowing relative quantification between samples and tissues. In addition, all quantitative data acquired for peptide candidates was inspected manually to assure data consistency and to verify the accuracy of the automated analysis. For each peptide a presentation profile was calculated showing the mean sample presentation as well as replicate variations. The profiles juxtapose different cancer samples to a baseline of normal tissue samples.

Presentation profiles of exemplary over-presented peptides are shown in Figure 1. Presentation scores for exemplary peptides are shown in Table 15 and Table 16.

Table 13 (A and B) and Table 14 (A and B) show the presentation on various cancer entities for selected peptides, and thus the particular relevance of the peptides as mentioned for the diagnosis and/or treatment of the cancers as indicated (e.g. peptide SEQ ID No. 1 for glioblastoma, non-small cell lung cancer, and ovarian cancer, peptide SEQ ID No. 2 for glioblastoma, gastric cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, urinary bladder cancer, gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, colorectal cancer and pancreatic cancer).

Table 13A: Overview of presentation of selected HLA-A*02-binding tumor-associated peptides of the present invention across entities.

GB = glioblastoma, BRCA = breast cancer, CRC = colorectal cancer, RCC = renal cell carcinoma, CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia, HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma, NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer, SCLC = small cell lung cancer, NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma, AML = acute myeloid leukemia, OC = ovarian cancer, PC = pancreatic cancer, PCA = prostate cancer and benign prostate hyperplasia, OSCAR = esophageal cancer, including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, GBC_CCC =

gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma, MEL = melanoma, GC = gastric cancer, UBC = urinary bladder cancer, UEC = uterine cancer.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
1	LLYPEPWSV	GB, NSCLC, OC
2	GLIAGVVS	GB, GC, NSCLC, UBC, GBC_CCC, RCC, CRC, PC
3	KLEENGDLYL	NSCLC, OC, SCLC, UBC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, MEL, NHL
4	KLMPGTYTL	NSCLC, OC, UEC, AML, NHL
5	GIVAHIQEV	GC, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, CRC, AML, NHL
6	ALFDSLRLHV	GB
7	ILDHEVPSL	NSCLC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, UBC, MEL, RCC, AML,
8	SIYQFLIAV	NSCLC, CLL, GBC_CCC, AML, NHL
9	FLVDGSYSI	NSCLC, OSCAR, GBC_CCC, CRC
10	GIAGSLKTV	NSCLC, OSCAR, UBC, UEC, CRC, AML
11	ALSPSYLTV	GC, NSCLC, CLL, BRCA, GBC_CCC, NHL
12	GLLPLLHRA	GB, NSCLC, UEC, RCC
13	ALMAMLVYV	GC, NSCLC, OC, SCLC, BRCA, GBC_CCC
14	ILAKDLFEI	NSCLC, HCC, OSCAR, UBC, AML, NHL
15	YLDLSHNQL	NSCLC, CLL, BRCA, GBC_CCC
16	YTLDIPVLFGV	NSCLC, HCC, CLL, MEL, NHL
17	AVFPDDMPTL	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, NHL
18	ILLDLTDNRL	NSCLC, OSCAR, UBC, BRCA, MEL, RCC, CRC
19	SISDNVWEV	GB, OSCAR, OC, UEC, BRCA, MEL, NHL
20	GLSQITNQL	CLL, UBC, NHL
21	AIQDEIRSV	GB, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, BRCA, NHL
22	FVDPNTQEKV	GC, HCC, OSCAR, OC, UBC, BRCA,
23	SLFSDEFKLV	NSCLC, OSCAR, UBC, RCC, CRC, AML,
24	TLDEKVAEL	NSCLC, HCC, OSCAR, MEL,
25	TMDSVLVTV	OC, UEC
26	ALQEELTEL	BRCA, GBC_CCC, MEL, AML, NHL
27	RLMEENWNA	NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, UEC, CRC
28	SLPNGKPVSV	NSCLC, OC, UBC, NHL
29	YLLDPSITL	NSCLC, CLL, BRCA, GBC_CCC, AML, NHL
30	AMIEEVFEA	PCA, OC, SCLC, UBC, BRCA, MEL
31	TITETTVEV	GB
32	VQLDSIEDLEV	CLL, OC
33	YIKTELISV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, NHL
34	FLLATEVVTV	OC, SCLC, AML, NHL
35	FLLPFSTVYL	NSCLC, CLL, OC, AML, NHL
36	SLADTNSLAVV	SCLC, MEL
37	ILAPFSVDL	AML

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
38	FLGPRIIGL	CLL, AML, NHL
39	HLLEGSVGV	BRCA
40	VLIDPQWVLTA	OC, NHL
41	ALFENTPKA	GB
42	LLDSVSRL	NSCLC, GBC_CCC, CRC
43	KAIEVLLTL	GC, OSCAR, AML
44	SLFETAWEA	NSCLC, MEL, AML, NHL
45	SLTEVSLPL	OC, GBC_CCC, AML, NHL
46	SQFPLPLAV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, UBC
47	ALLERGELFV	NSCLC, CLL, OC, NHL
48	QVIEDSTGV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC
49	ALNIATHVL	NSCLC, CLL, UBC, NHL
50	ILFHGVFYA	NSCLC, OC, UBC, BRCA
51	LLFSRLCGA	GB, NSCLC
52	RLAVLFSGA	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC
53	KMVGLVVAI	CLL, AML, NHL
54	VLNPLITAV	NSCLC, PCA, AML, NHL
55	SLATKIVEA	PCA, OC, BRCA, AML
56	FLHDEKEGIYI	NSCLC, OC, NHL
57	TVFTDHMLTV	NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, NHL
58	YLLPLLPAL	GB
59	KLLDPQEFTL	GB, NSCLC
60	ALFAPLVHL	AML
61	AIVKEIVNI	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
62	ALNPELVQA	GB, NSCLC, RCC
63	SQIPAQPSV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
64	SLFPDSLIV	PCA
65	SVVPDVRSV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
66	KLIFSVEAV	NSCLC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA
67	TLLQRLTEV	NSCLC, CLL, RCC, AML
68	SLSNRLYYL	GC, OSCAR, CRC
69	FLAVGLVDV	AML, NHL
70	LLLGDSALYL	RCC, NHL
71	VLHSKFWVV	CLL, NHL
72	FLTAINYLL	OC, RCC
73	YTLREVDTV	NSCLC, OSCAR, OC
74	TLFGYSVVL	AML
75	AVIKFLELL	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
76	AVGPVHNSV	GC, OSCAR

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
77	TLIDEQDIPLV	NSCLC, OC, SCLC
78	TVVTRLDEI	GC, OSCAR, OC
79	VTFKEYVTV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
80	KLYEADFVL	NSCLC, AML, NHL
81	NALDKVLSV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
82	FIFDEAEKL	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
83	GQASYFYVA	CRC, AML
84	ALCPRIHEV	GB
85	VLNDILVRA	OC, UEC
86	SVDSHFQEV	GC, OSCAR, OC
87	TIYKDFVYI	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
88	AQADHLPQL	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
89	QLAPVFQRV	CLL, OC, NHL
90	FLQDLEQRL	GC, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, GBC, CCC, CRC, NHL
91	KLFDESILI	GC, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA, AML, NHL
92	GLLFSLRSV	NSCLC, HCC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, UBC, BRCA, MEL, RCC, CRC, AML, NHL
93	QVLELDVADI	GC, NSCLC, PCA, SCLC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, CRC, AML, NHL
94	LLPAPVPVGA	GB, NSCLC, OC, UBC, CRC, AML
95	GLLGSLFFL	NSCLC, OC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA, GBC, CCC, AML, NHL
96	LLVSHLYLV	NSCLC, CLL, OC, UBC, NHL
97	STLPKSLSL	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, OSCAR, OC, BRCA, NHL
98	RLFPDFFTRVAL	NSCLC
99	YLLQSVNQLLL	NSCLC, CLL, NHL
100	ALLGMIIVGV	PCA, SCLC, BRCA
101	ALADFMLSL	AML
102	VLLDIQEVFQI	AML
103	YLVSEIFKA	AML
104	ALISWQPPRA	GB
105	ALLGTKILL	NHL
106	FINDSIVYL	AML
107	LLVPTSGIYFV	NHL
108	ILLKNLVTI	BRCA
109	SLDPSVTHL	UEC
110	FLLGVSKEV	MEL
111	AIVDLIHDI	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
112	SLGKFTFDV	NSCLC, UEC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
113	FLERGLESA	GC, OSCAR, UBC
114	QLIQTLHAV	OC, RCC
115	SLDPDTLPAV	NSCLC, OC
116	TIDESGSIL	UBC, NHL
117	KMPDVSELFV	NSCLC
118	QLWQFLVTL	OC
119	FIIQGLRSVGA	NSCLC, OC
120	VTPVTVSAV	GC, OSCAR
121	FTIFRTISV	CLL
122	GVVDPVHGV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR
123	VLDPALPALV	OC, UBC
124	KVMATIEKV	NSCLC, OC
125	SLADYEHFV	GB, PCA
126	QMFQYFITV	NSCLC, CLL
127	KLDGNELDL	NSCLC
128	TQSPATLSV	GC, OSCAR
129	RLQDILWFL	NSCLC, AML
130	SLLGGTFVGI	UBC
131	VTSNSGILGV	CLL, NHL
132	ILGEVLAQL	CLL, NHL
133	ALLPRLHQL	PCA
134	GLAVPTPSV	NSCLC, OC
135	HLSTIIHEA	NSCLC, CLL
136	FLFGGVLMTL	OC, NHL
137	EIASITEQL	GB, NSCLC
138	ALLAKILQI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, MEL, RCC, CRC, AML, NHL
139	FLLPTGAEA	GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, MEL, RCC, CRC, PC, AML, NHL
140	VLLEELEAL	NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, MEL, AML, NHL
141	FLDKVLVAA	GC, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, UBC, RCC, AML, NHL
142	ILVEGISTV	GB, NSCLC, PCA, OC, SCLC, BRCA, GBC_CCC
143	ALLPELREV	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, RCC, CRC
144	ALLAFFPGL	GB, GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, UBC, BRCA, MEL, CRC, PC, AML, NHL
145	YLWATIQRI	NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, AML
146	ALHFSEDEI	PCA, UEC
147	YLMDDTVEI	OC, GBC_CCC
148	MLAGIAITV	GB, GBC_CCC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
149	ILNTHITEL	NHL
150	VLYDRPLKI	NSCLC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, MEL, RCC, CRC, NHL
151	SVLDSTAKV	GC, NSCLC, OSCAR, OC, UBC, BRCA, RCC, CRC, NHL
152	MMVGDLLEV	GB, GC, NSCLC, CLL, MEL, CRC, AML, NHL
153	FISERVEVV	NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, UBC, NHL
154	RLLGTEFQV	NSCLC, HCC, MEL,
155	LLNPVVEFV	CLL, OC, GBC_CCC, NHL
156	ILGDLSHLL	NSCLC, PC
157	TLTSLLAQA	UBC
229	AILAHLNTV	GB, NSCLC, HCC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, BRCA, CRC, AML, NHL
230	KLQNIMMLL	NSCLC, HCC, CLL, UBC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, RCC, CRC, AML, NHL
231	MLDKYSHYL	NSCLC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, NHL
232	KIFPAALQLV	NSCLC, HCC, CLL, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, GBC_CCC, CRC, NHL
233	HLFDAFVSV	NSCLC, UBC, BRCA, CRC, AML, NHL
234	LLSPHPAL	NSCLC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, UBC, BRCA, NHL
235	KIIDFLSAL	OC, UEC, AML, NHL
236	STIAILNSV	GB, GC, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, NHL
237	ALAPHLDDA	GB, NSCLC, HCC, OC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, MEL
238	GLYERPTAA	NSCLC, PCA, PC, AML
239	KMNESTRSV	NSCLC, GBC_CCC, NHL
240	YMGEEEKLIASV	NSCLC, CLL, OC, UBC, MEL,
241	KTIQQLETV	NSCLC, OC, NHL
242	WLYGEDHqi	NSCLC, UEC, AML
243	FMADDIFSV	NHL
244	YLLEKNRVV	NSCLC, OSCAR, OC
245	SLLDLPLSL	CLL, NHL
246	TVSDVLNSV	GB, NSCLC, CLL
247	ALYEGYATV	NSCLC, HCC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, MEL, RCC, CRC, PC, NHL
248	YLDRFLAGV	GB, NSCLC, PCA, CLL, CRC, AML, NHL
249	GLCERLVSL	GB, NSCLC, CLL, RCC, CRC
250	SLAPATPEV	MEL, NHL
251	ALSVLRAL	AML
252	RLMEICESL	AML
253	ALAEIDNSL	CLL
254	KLQGKLPel	NSCLC, NHL
255	SLLHFTENL	AML, NHL

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
256	SLGEEQFSV	MEL, NHL
257	GLYTDPCGV	NSCLC, NHL
258	LLSERFINV	HCC, PCA
259	ILLPRIIEA	NSCLC, OC
260	ILLEKILSL	NSCLC, CRC
261	QLQDRVYAL	NSCLC, HCC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, BRCA, RCC, CRC, NHL
262	FMVDKAIYL	GC, NSCLC, PCA, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, BRCA, GBC_CCC, CRC, PC, NHL
263	VLLSEQGDVKL	NSCLC, PCA, CLL, OSCAR, OC, MEL, NHL
264	KLFPQETLFL	NSCLC, CLL, OSCAR, AML, NHL
265	NTCPYVHNI	GB, CLL
266	YAIGLVMRL	CLL, BRCA, AML
290	KIVDFSYSV	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, BRCA, MEL, CRC, AML, NHL
291	KLDETGNL	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, CLL, OSCAR, OC, SCLC, UBC, UEC, MEL, RCC, CRC, PC, AML, NHL
292	GMMTAILGV	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, CLL, UEC, GBC_CCC, RCC, CRC, PC, AML, NHL
293	FLVDGSWSI	GB
294	GLMKYIGEV	PCA

Tables 13B show the presentation on additional cancer entities for selected peptides, and thus the particular relevance of the peptides as mentioned for the diagnosis and/or treatment of the cancers as indicated.

Table 13B: Overview of presentation of selected HLA-A*02-binding tumor-associated peptides of the present invention across entities.

GB = glioblastoma, BRCA = breast cancer, CRC = colorectal cancer, RCC = renal cell carcinoma, CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia, HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma, NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer, SCLC = small cell lung cancer, NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma, AML = acute myeloid leukemia, OC = ovarian cancer, PC = pancreatic cancer, PCA = prostate cancer and benign prostate hyperplasia, OSCAR = esophageal cancer, including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction, GBC_CCC = gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma, MEL = melanoma, GC = gastric cancer, UBC = urinary bladder cancer, UEC = uterine cancer.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
1	LLYPEPWSV	SCLC, UEC, HNSCC
2	GLIAGVVS	HCC, UEC, HNSCC
3	KLEENGDLYL	HCC, UEC, AML, HNSCC
4	KLMPGTYTL	MEL, HNSCC
5	GIVAHIQEV	UEC, MEL
7	ILDHEVPSL	HNSCC
8	SIYQFLIAV	UEC, BRCA, CRC, HNSCC
10	GIAGSLKTV	SCLC, MEL, AML
11	ALSPSYLTV	HNSCC
12	GLLPLLHRA	MEL, RCC
13	ALMAMLVYV	GBC_CCC, MEL, NHL, HNSCC
14	ILAKDLFEI	SCLC
15	YLDLSHNQL	OSCAR, GBC_CCC, HNSCC
16	YTLDIPVLFGV	HNSCC
18	ILLDLTDNRL	AML, HNSCC
19	SISDNVWEV	HNSCC
20	GLSQITNQL	MEL, AML
21	AIQDEIRSV	MEL, CRC, AML
22	FVDPNTQEKV	HNSCC
23	SLFSDEFKV	MEL
26	ALQEELTEL	NSCLC, CRC, HNSCC
28	SLPNGKPVSV	OSCAR, SCLC, HNSCC
29	YLLDPSITL	HCC, SCLC, MEL, HNSCC
30	AMIEEVFEA	NSCLC, HCC, UEC, GBC_CCC, NHL, HNSCC
32	VQLDSIEDLEV	NSCLC, OC, UEC, MEL
33	YIKTELISV	HCC
35	FLLPFSTVYL	HNSCC
38	FLGPRIIGL	CRC
39	HLLEGSVGV	HCC, MEL
40	VLIDPQWVLTA	CRC
42	LLDSVSRL	CRC
43	KAIEVLLTL	NSCLC, AML
44	SLFETAWEA	UEC, CRC, HNSCC
45	SLTEVSLPL	NSCLC, CRC, HNSCC
46	SQFPLPLAV	MEL, HNSCC
47	ALLERGELFV	OSCAR, UBC, AML
48	QVIEDSTGV	OC
49	ALNIATHVL	CRC
50	ILFHGVFYA	SCLC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
51	LLFSRLCGA	UEC
52	RLAVLFSGA	HCC
53	KMVGLVVAI	MEL
54	VLNPLITAV	HCC, SCLC, UEC, MEL, RCC
55	SLATKIVEA	AML
56	FLHDEKEGIYI	AML
60	ALFAPLVHL	NHL
63	SQIPAQPSV	AML, HNSCC
64	SLFPDSLIV	NSCLC, HCC, BRCA, PC
66	KLIFSVEAV	OC, UBC, BRCA
67	TLLQRLTEV	NHL
69	FLAVGLVDV	SCLC
70	LLLGDSALYL	CRC
72	FLTAINYLL	UEC, RCC, AML
73	YTLREVDTV	AML
76	AVGPVHNSV	NSCLC
77	TLIDEQDIPLV	SCLC, NHL, HNSCC
85	VLNDILVRA	UEC
86	SVDSHFQEV	NSCLC, OC
87	TIYKDFVYI	OC
90	FLQDLEQRL	HNSCC
91	KLFDESILI	HCC, HNSCC
92	GLLFSLRSV	SCLC, HNSCC
93	QVLELDVADI	HNSCC
94	LLPAVPVGA	SCLC
95	GLLGSFLFL	GC, OSCAR, UBC, MEL, RCC, CRC, PC, HNSCC
96	LLVSHLYLV	UEC, CRC, HNSCC
98	RLFPDFFTRVAL	NSCLC
100	ALLGMIIVGV	HCC, AML
106	FINDSIVYL	NSCLC, HCC, CRC, NHL
110	FLLGVSKEV	NHL
116	TIDESGSIL	MEL, AML
117	KMPDVELFV	NSCLC, SCLC, MEL
118	QLWQFLVTL	MEL
123	VLDPALPALV	NSCLC, UEC, HNSCC
126	QMFQYFITV	UEC
130	SLLGGTFVGI	HCC
134	GLAVPTPSV	HNSCC
135	HLSTIIHEA	CLL, UEC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
138	ALLAKILQI	HNSCC
139	FLLPTGAEA	GBC_CCC, HNSCC
140	VLLEELEAL	HCC, CRC, HNSCC
141	FLDKVLVAA	HCC, OC, UEC, BRCA, MEL, CRC, HNSCC
143	ALLPELREV	OC, SCLC, AML, HNSCC
145	YLWATIQRI	UEC
148	MLAGIAITV	GBC_CCC, NHL
149	ILNTHITEL	BRCA
150	VLYDRPLKI	HCC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA
151	SVLDSTAKV	HCC, UEC, GBC_CCC, MEL, HNSCC
152	MMVGDLLEV	UEC, HNSCC
153	FISERVEVV	SCLC, UEC
154	RLLGTEFQV	SCLC
155	LLNPVVEFV	NSCLC, HCC, BRCA, CRC, HNSCC
157	TLTSLLAQA	NSCLC, CRC, HNSCC
229	AILAHLNTV	UEC, HNSCC
230	KLQNIMMLL	HNSCC
233	HLFDAFVSV	MEL
234	LLSPHNPAL	GB, HCC, SCLC, UEC, MEL, RCC
235	KIIDFLSAL	NSCLC, HCC, MEL, HNSCC
236	STIAILNSV	MEL
237	ALAPHLDDA	SCLC, AML
238	GLYERPTAA	GC, MCC, OSCAR, CRC, NHL
239	KMNESTRSV	GB, CRC
240	YMGEKLIASV	UEC, NHL
243	FMADDIFSV	SCLC
244	YLLEKNRVV	HNSCC
245	SLLDLPLSL	NSCLC, RCC, AML, HNSCC
247	ALYEGYATV	AML, HNSCC
248	YLDRFLAGV	SCLC, HNSCC
249	GLCERLVSL	MEL, NHL, HNSCC
250	SLAPATPEV	BRCA, HNSCC
252	RLMEICESL	UEC, MEL
253	ALAEIDNSL	NSCLC, AML
254	KLQGKLPEL	UEC, AML
255	SLLHFTENL	NSCLC, CRC
257	GLYTDPCGV	HNSCC
259	ILLPRIIEA	GB, GC, CLL, SCLC, UEC, BRCA, MEL, CRC, PC, HNSCC
260	ILLEKILSL	GC, HCC, PCA, CLL, OC, SCLC, UEC, BRCA,

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
		GBC_CCC, MEL, PC, AML, NHL, HNSCC
261	QLQDRVYAL	MEL
262	FMVDKAIYL	UEC, MEL, HNSCC
263	VLLSEQGDVKL	UEC, AML
266	YAIGLVMRL	HCC, GBC_CCC, MEL
305	KLFTSVFGV	AML
306	ALLSSLNEL	AML, PCA, BRCA, GBC_CCC, HCC, NHL, NSCLC, OC, GB, RCC, UBC, UEC

Table 14A: Overview of presentation of selected HLA-A*24-binding tumor-associated peptides of the present invention across entities.

GB = glioblastoma, HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma, NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer, PCA = prostate cancer, GC = gastric cancer, CRC = colorectal cancer, RCC = renal cell carcinoma.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
158	HYSQELSLLYL	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, RCC
159	LYNKGFIYL	GB, NSCLC, RCC
160	VYTL DIPVL	GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
161	IYLVSIPEL	GC, NSCLC, PCA
162	VFTRVSSFL	GB, GC, NSCLC
163	DYLGKGLASF	GB, GC, NSCLC
164	KFSSFSLFF	GC, NSCLC, PCA
165	DYTTWTALL	GC, NSCLC
166	YYVESGKLF	GB, NSCLC, HCC
167	NYINRILKL	GC
168	KYQDILETI	NSCLC, PCA
169	AYTLIAPNI	GC, NSCLC, HCC
170	VYEDQVGKF	GB, NSCLC
171	LFIPSSKLLFL	NSCLC, HCC, RCC
172	TYTTVPRVAF	GB, RCC
173	IYSWILDHF	GC, NSCLC, HCC, RCC
174	VYVGGGQIIHL	GB, GC, NSCLC
175	YYEVHKELF	GC, NSCLC, HCC
176	EYNQWFTKL	GC, NSCLC
177	VYPWLGALL	GC
178	IFIEVFSHF	GC, NSCLC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
179	MYDSYWRQF	GB, NSCLC
180	IYDDSFIRPVTf	NSCLC, HCC
181	LYLDIINLF	GC, NSCLC, PCA
182	IYQLDTASI	GC, NSCLC, PCA
183	VFTSTARAF	NSCLC, PCA
184	VFQNFPLLF	GB, GC
185	IYKVGAPTI	NSCLC
186	IFPQFLYQF	GC, NSCLC
187	TYLRDQHFL	GC, NSCLC, HCC
188	RYFKGLVF	GB
189	WYVNGVNYF	NSCLC, PCA
190	GFFIFNERF	NSCLC, PCA
191	VFKASKITF	GB
192	SYALLTYMI	NSCLC
193	RFHPTPLLL	NSCLC, HCC, PCA
194	EFGSLHLEFL	GB
195	TYSVSFPMF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
196	LYIDRPLPYL	GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, RCC
197	EYSLFPGQVVI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
198	LYLDKATLI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
199	RYAEEVGIF	GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
200	YYGPSLFLL	GC, NSCLC, RCC
201	IYATEAHVF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
202	VYWDSAGAAHF	NSCLC
203	FYSRLLQKF	GC, NSCLC
204	TYELRYFQI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC
205	VHIPEVYLI	GC, NSCLC
206	EYQENFLSF	NSCLC, PCA
207	AYVVFVSTL	GB, GC, NSCLC
208	TYTQDFNKF	NSCLC, HCC
209	TYKDEGNDYF	GB, NSCLC
210	IYTMiYRNL	GB, GC, NSCLC
211	YYLEVgKTLI	GC, NSCLC, HCC
212	YYTFHFLYF	GC, NSCLC, HCC
213	IFDEAEKL	NSCLC, PCA
214	LYLKLWNLI	NSCLC, HCC
215	YFDKVVTL	NSCLC, HCC
216	QYSSVFksL	GB, GC
217	FFPpTRQMGLLF	GC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
218	YYKSTSSAF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
219	EYPLVINTL	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, RCC
220	GYIDNVTLI	GC, NSCLC, HCC
221	RYSTGLAGNLL	GB, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
222	TFSVSSHLEF	GB, NSCLC, HCC
223	KYIPYKYVI	NSCLC, HCC
224	QYLENLEKL	GB, NSCLC, HCC
225	YYVYIMNHL	GB, NSCLC
226	VYRDETGELEF	GB, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
227	IFLDYEAGTSLF	GC, RCC
228	KYTSWYVAL	GB, PCA
267	KYMVYPQTF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
268	QYLGQIQHI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC
269	YFIDSTNLKTHF	GC, NSCLC, HCC
270	NYVEVHKELF	GB, GC, NSCLC
271	LYHDIFSRL	GC, NSCLC, HCC
272	QYLQDAYSF	GB, NSCLC
273	TYIKPISKL	GB, NSCLC
274	AYLHSHALI	NSCLC, PCA
275	EYINQGDLHEF	NSCLC, PCA
276	VYGFQWRHF	NSCLC
277	VYQGHTALL	GB, GC, NSCLC, PCA
278	RYISDQLFTNF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA, RCC
279	TYIESASEL	NSCLC, RCC
280	RYPDNLKHLYL	GC, NSCLC, HCC
281	PYRLIFEKF	NSCLC, HCC
282	KFVDSTFYL	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC
283	TYGDAGLTYTF	GB, GC, NSCLC, PCA, RCC
284	RYLNKAFHI	PCA
285	HYPPVQVLF	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
286	RYPDNLKHL	NSCLC, HCC, PCA
287	LYITEPKTI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC
288	VYVSDIQEL	GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
289	KYPVEWAKF	PCA, RCC
295	YYPGVILGF	GB, NSCLC, RCC
296	TYVDSSHTI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC, PCA
297	PFLQASPHF	GC, NSCLC
298	RYLEGTSCI	GB, GC, NSCLC, HCC
299	VYFVAPAKF	GC, NSCLC

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
300	AYVLRLETL	GB, GC, NSCLC, RCC
301	AYKPGALTF	NSCLC, HCC
302	RYMPPAHRNF	GC, NSCLC

Table 14B show the presentation on additional cancer entities for selected peptides, and thus the particular relevance of the peptides as mentioned for the diagnosis and/or treatment of the cancers as indicated.

Table 14B: Overview of presentation of selected HLA-A*24-binding tumor-associated peptides of the present invention across entities.

GB = glioblastoma, HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma, NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer, PCA = prostate cancer, GC = gastric cancer, CRC = colorectal cancer, RCC = renal cell carcinoma.

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Peptide Presentation on cancer entities
162	VFTRVSSFL	HCC
163	DYLGKGLASF	PCA
164	KFSSFSLFF	PCA
167	NYINRILKL	NSCLC
178	IFIEVFSHF	HCC
180	IYDDSFIRPVTF	HCC
184	VFQNFPLL	NSCLC
206	EYQENFLSF	GB
212	YYTFHFLYF	PCA
216	QYSSVFKSL	NSCLC, HCC
218	YYKSTSSAF	SCLC
227	IFLDYEAGTLSF	NSCLC

Table 15: Presentation scores. The table lists HLA-A*02 peptides that are specifically presented on tumors (++++), very highly over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+++), highly over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (++) or over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+).

GB = glioblastoma (N = 41), BRCA = breast cancer (N = 17), CRC = colorectal cancer (N = 28), RCC = renal cell carcinoma (N = 20), CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia (N = 17), HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma (N = 16), NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer (N = 90), SCLC = small cell lung cancer (N = 19), NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma (N = 18), AML = acute myeloid leukemia (N = 18), OC = ovarian cancer (N = 20), PC = pancreatic cancer (N = 16), PCA = prostate cancer and benign prostate hyperplasia (N = 39), OSCAR = esophageal cancer, including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction (N = 17), GBC_CCC = gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma (N = 6), MEL = melanoma (N = 7), GC = gastric cancer (N = 29), UBC = urinary bladder cancer (N = 16), UEC = uterine cancer (N = 15). The panel of normal tissues (N = 262) considered relevant for comparison with tumors consisted of: adipose tissue, adrenal gland, artery, vein, bone marrow, brain, central and peripheral nerve, eye, colon, rectum, small intestine incl. duodenum, esophagus, gallbladder, heart, kidney, liver, lung, lymph node, mononuclear white blood cells, pancreas, peritoneum, pituitary, pleura, salivary gland, skeletal muscle, skin, spleen, stomach, thymus, thyroid gland, trachea, ureter, urinary bladder.

[illegible]

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
7	++		+						+				+++						
8	++++		++++			++++				++++	++++								
9				++++		++++					++++		++++						
10	++										+								+
11		+++	+++			+++	+++			+++	+++								
12					++++						++++					++++			++++
13		++++				++++	++++				++++	++++					++++		
14	++++							++++		++++	++++		++++					++++	
15		++++	++++			++++					++++								
16			++++					++++	++++	++++	++++								
17							++++			++++	++++	++++	++++						
18		++++		++++					++++		++++		++++			++++		++++	
19		++++			++++				++++	++++		++++	++++						++++
20			++++							++++								++++	
21		++++			++++					++++	++++	++++	++++						
22		++++					++++	++++				++++	++++					++++	
23	++			++							+		+			+		+++	
24								++++	++++		++++		++++						
25												++++							++++
26	++++	++++				++++			++++	++++									
27				++++							++++	++++	++++						++++
28										++++	++++	++++						++++	
29	+++	+++	+++			+++				+++	+++								
30		+++							+++			+++			+++		+++	+++	
31					++++														
32			++++									++++							
33							++++			++++	++++	++++	++++						

[illegible]

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
61							++++				++++		++++						
62					++++						++++					++++			
63							++++				++++		++++						
64															++++				
65							++++				++++		++++						
66		++++									++++						++++		++++
67	+++		+++								+++					+++			
68				++++			++++						++++						
69	++++									++++									
70										++++						++++			
71			++++							++++									
72												++++				++++			
73											++++	++++	++++						
74	++++																		
75							++++				++++		++++						
76							++++						++++						
77											++++	++++					++++		
78							++++					++++	++++						
79							++++				++++		++++						
80	++++									++++	++++								
81							++++				++++		++++						
82							++++				++++		++++						
84					++++														
85												++++							++++
86							++++					++++	++++						
87							++++				++++		++++						
88							++++				++++		++++						

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
89			++++							++++		++++							
90																	+++	+	
91	+									+	++	+							
92													+			+			
93	+++	+++		+++			+++			+++	+++				+++		+++	+++	+++
94	+++			+++	+						+								
95		++				+++				++	++	+					+		
96			+++							+++	+							+++	
97					+		+++					+++	+++						
98											+								
99			+++							+++									
100		+++																	
101	++++																		
102	++++																		
103	++++																		
104					++++														
105										++++									
106	++++																		
107										++++									
108		++++																	
109																			++++
110									++++										
111							++++				++++		++++						
112											++++								++++
113							++++						++++					++++	
114												++++				++++			
115											++++	++++							

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
116										++++								++++	
117											+								
118												++++							
119											++++	++++							
120							++++						++++						
121			++++																
122							++++				++++		++++						
123												++++						++++	
124											++++	++++							
125					++++										++++				
126			++++								++++								
127											++++								
128							++++						++++						
129	++++										++++								
130																		++++	
131			++++							++++									
132			++++							++++									
133															++++				
134											++++	++++							
135			++++								++++								
136										++++		++++							
137					+++						+++								
138	+++	+	+++	++			+++		++	+	+	+				++		+	
139	+++		+																+
140	++		++			+				+		+							+++
141	++		+																
142											+++				+				

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
143					+	+		+			+								
144	+++	+		+	+++		++				++		+++						
145	++										+	+++	+						
146															+++				+
147						+++						+++							
148					+++														
149										++++									
150			++	++					+	+			+						
151							+					++	+			+			
152	+++		+++	+++	+++					+	+++								
153			+							++		++	+					+	
154									+										
155			+++			++				+									
156														++					
157																		+	
229	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++			++++		++++	++++	++++	++++				++++	++++	
230	++++	++++	++++	++++		++++		++++		++++	++++					++++		++++	
231			+																
232				+				++									++		
233	++++	++++		++++						++++	++++							++++	
234		++++	++++							++++	++++	++++	++++					++++	
235	++++									++++		++++							++++
236			++++		++++		++++			++++	++++		++++		++++				
237		++++			++++			++++	++++		++++	++++						++++	++++
238	++																		
239						++++				++++	++++								
240			++						+		+							+	

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
241										++++	++++	++++							
242	++++										++++								++++
243										++++									
244											++++	++++	++++						
245			++++							++++									
246			++++		++++						++++								
247		++											+				+	+++	
248	+																		
249			+	+++	++						+					+++			
251	++++																		
252	++++																		
253			++++																
254										++++	++++								
255	++++									++++									
256									++++	++++									
257										++++	++++								
258								++++							++++				
259											++++	++++							
260				++							+++								
261				+						+	+	+							
262		+		++		+				+++	+++				+		+++		
263			+						+	+	+++		+						
264	+		+								+								
265			+		+++														
266	+++		+																
290		++							++										
291	++				+			+	+++	++		++					+		+++

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_CCC	GC	HCC	MEL	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
292				+++	+++	+++				++	+++								+++
293					++++														
294															++++				

Table 16: Presentation scores: The table lists HLA-A*24 peptides that are specifically presented on tumors (++++), very highly over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+++), highly over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (++) or over-presented on tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+).

GB = glioblastoma (N = 18), HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma (N = 15), NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer (N = 91), PCA = prostate cancer (N = 40), GC = gastric cancer (N = 44), RCC = renal cell carcinoma (N = 2). The panel of normal tissues (N =70) considered relevant for comparison with tumors consisted of: adrenal gland, brain, colon, rectum, heart, kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, pituitary, skin, spleen, stomach, and thymus.

SEQ ID No.	GB	GC	HCC	NSCLC	PCA	RCC
158	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++
159	++++			++++		++++
160		++++	++++	++++	++++	
161		++++		++++	++++	
162	++++	++++		++++		
163	++++	++++		++++		
164		++++		++++	++++	
165		++++		++++		
166	++++		++++	++++		
167		++++				
168				++++	++++	
169		++++	++++	++++		
170	++++			++++		
171			+++	+++		+++
172	++++					++++
173		++++	++++	++++		++++
174	++++	++++		++++		
175		++++	++++	++++		
176		++++		++++		
177		++++				
178		++++		++++		
179	++++			++++		
180			++++	++++		
181		++++		++++	++++	

SEQ ID No.	GB	GC	HCC	NSCL C	PCA	RCC
182		++++		++++	++++	
183				++++	++++	
184	++++	++++				
185				++++		
186		++++		++++		
187		++++	++++	++++		
188	++++					
189				++++	++++	
190				++++	++++	
191	++++					
192				++++		
193			++++	++++	++++	
194	++++					
195	+++			+		
196			+			+
197		+			+	
198		++	++	+		
199		+			++	
200		+		+		
201	+++	+		++		
202				+		
203		+				
204	++	+++	+	+++		
207	+++	+++				
208			+	+++		
209	+++			+		
210	+++	+				
211		+++				
212		+++	+++	+++		
213				++	+++	
214			++++	++++		
215			++++	++++		
216	++++	++++				
217		++++				
218	++	+		++		
219	+++		+	+		++
222			+	+		
224	+		+	+		
225				++		

SEQ ID No.	GB	GC	HCC	NSCL C	PCA	RCC
227		+++				+++
228	++				+	
267	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	
268	++++	++++	++++	++++		
269		++++	++++	++++		
270	++++	++++		++++		
271		++++	++++	++++		
272	++++			++++		
273	++++			++++		
274				++++	++++	
275				++++	++++	
276				++++		
277		++		+++	+	
278	+	++				
279						+++
280			+			
281			+++	+++		
282	+++	+++	+++	+++		
283	+	++		+++	+++	+++
284					++++	
285	+			+		
286			++	+		
287	+	+				
288		+	+	+		
289					+++	+++
295	++++			++++		++++
296						
297		+++		+++		
298	+			+++		
299				++		
300	+++	+++		+++		+++
301			++++	++++		
302		++++		++++		

EXAMPLE 2

Expression profiling of genes encoding the peptides of the invention

Over-presentation or specific presentation of a peptide on tumor cells compared to normal cells is sufficient for its usefulness in immunotherapy, and some peptides are tumor-specific despite their source protein occurring also in normal tissues. Still, mRNA expression profiling adds an additional level of safety in selection of peptide targets for immunotherapies. Especially for therapeutic options with high safety risks, such as affinity-matured TCRs, the ideal target peptide will be derived from a protein that is unique to the tumor and not found on normal tissues.

For HLA class I-binding peptides of this invention, normal tissue expression of all source genes was shown to be minimal based on a database of RNASeq data covering around 3000 normal tissue samples (Lonsdale, 2013). In addition, gene and exon expression data from tumors vs normal tissues were analyzed to assess target coverage in various tumor entities.

RNA sources and preparation

Surgically removed tissue specimens were provided as indicated above (see Example 1) after written informed consent had been obtained from each patient. Tumor tissue specimens were snap-frozen immediately after surgery and later homogenized with mortar and pestle under liquid nitrogen. Total RNA was prepared from these samples using TRI Reagent (Ambion, Darmstadt, Germany) followed by a cleanup with RNeasy (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany); both methods were performed according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Total RNA from healthy human tissues for RNASeq experiments was obtained from: Asterand (Detroit, MI, USA & Royston, Herts, UK); BioCat GmbH (Heidelberg, Germany); BioServe (Beltsville, MD, USA); Geneticist Inc. (Glendale, CA, USA); Istituto Nazionale Tumori "Pascale" (Naples, Italy); ProteoGenex Inc. (Culver City, CA, USA); University Hospital Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany).

Total RNA from tumor tissues for RNASeq experiments was obtained from:

Asterand (Detroit, MI, USA & Royston, Herts, UK); Bio-Options Inc. (Brea, CA, USA); BioServe (Beltsville, MD, USA); Center for cancer immune therapy (CCIT), Herlev Hospital (Herlev, Denmark); Geneticist Inc. (Glendale, CA, USA); Istituto Nazionale Tumori "Pascale" (Naples, Italy); Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine (KPUM) (Kyoto, Japan); Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) (Leiden, Netherlands); Tissue Solutions Ltd (Glasgow, UK); University Hospital Bonn (Bonn, Germany); University Hospital Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland); University Hospital Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany); Osaka City University (OCU) (Osaka, Japan); University Hospital Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany); Val d'Hebron University Hospital (Barcelona, Spain).

Quality and quantity of all RNA samples were assessed on an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent, Waldbronn, Germany) using the RNA 6000 Pico LabChip Kit (Agilent).

RNAseq experiments

Gene expression analysis of - tumor and normal tissue RNA samples was performed by next generation sequencing (RNAseq) by CeGaT (Tübingen, Germany). Briefly, sequencing libraries are prepared using the Illumina HiSeq v4 reagent kit according to the provider's protocol (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, USA), which includes RNA fragmentation, cDNA conversion and addition of sequencing adaptors. Libraries derived from multiple samples are mixed equimolarly and sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 2500 sequencer according to the manufacturer's instructions, generating 50 bp single end reads. Processed reads are mapped to the human genome (GRCh38) using the STAR software. Expression data are provided on transcript level as RPKM (Reads Per Kilobase per Million mapped reads, generated by the software Cufflinks) and on exon level (total reads, generated by the software Bedtools), based on annotations of the ensembl sequence database (Ensembl77). Exon reads are normalized for exon length and alignment size to obtain RPKM values.

Exemplary expression profiles of source genes of the present invention that are highly over-expressed or exclusively expressed in different cancer are shown in Figure 2. Expression data for different entities and further exemplary peptides are summarized in Table 17, based on data generated by comparing tumor samples from the TCGA Research Network (<http://cancergenome.nih.gov/>.) with normal tissue samples (Lonsdale, 2013). Expression scores for further exemplary genes are shown in Table 18, based on in-house RNASeq analyses.

Table 17: Target coverage within various tumor entities, for expression of source genes of selected peptides:

A gene was considered over-expressed if its expression level in a tumor sample was more than 2-fold above the highest 75% percentile of expression levels determined from high and medium risk normal tissue samples. Over-expression categories are indicated as “A” ($\geq 50\%$ of tumors above the cutoff), “B” ($\geq 20\%$ of tumors above the cutoff, but $< 50\%$), and “C” ($\geq 5\%$ of tumors above the cutoff, but $< 20\%$).

BLCA=Bladder urothelial carcinoma (N=408), BRCA=Breast cancer (N=1104), CHOL=Cholangiocarcinoma (N=36), COAD=Colon and rectal adenocarcinoma (N=462), DLBC=Lymphoid neoplasm diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (N=48), ESCA=Esophageal cancer (N=185), GBM=Glioblastoma multiforme (N=169), KICH=Kidney chromophobe (N=66), KIRC=Clear cell kidney carcinoma (N=534), KIRP=Papillary kidney carcinoma (N=291), LAML=Acute Myeloid Leukemia (N=173), LGG=Lower grade glioma (N=534), LIHC=Liver hepatocellular carcinoma (N=374), LUAD=Lung adenocarcinoma (N=517), LUSC=Lung squamous cell carcinoma (N=503), OV=Ovarian serous cystadenocarcinoma (N=309), PAAD=Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (N=179), PRAD=Prostate adenocarcinoma (N=498), READ=Colon and rectal adenocarcinoma (N=167), SKCM=Skin cutaneous melanoma (N=473), STAD=Stomach adenocarcinoma (N=415), UCEC=Uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma (N=546).

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
1							A					A										
2	C	C	B	A		A		A	A	A			B	A	A		B		A	B	B	C
3	A	B	B	C	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	C	B	A	C	C	B	C	A	B	B
4		C				C									B	C						B
5	B			C	B	B					A			C	B	C		B	C		A	C
6							A					A										
7	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
8	B	A	C	B	A	B	B				B	C	C	C	B	C			B	A	C	B

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
37											A											C
38											A											
39	A												C					B		C		
40					A				C													
41							C															
42	C	B	A	A		A				B				A	A	B	A	C	A		B	B
43	B	B	C	B	A	A	B		C		A			C	A	B			B	B	B	B
44	B	C		B	B	A	C				A			C	B	C			B	B	B	
45						C					C											
46						C						C										
47	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	A
48	C	C	C	C		A		C	B	C	A			C	B	B	C		C	C	A	C
49	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		C	C	A	B	C	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
50	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
51			B	B		B	C	B	B	C		C	C	C	C	A	C	B	B	C	A	C
52	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	C
53		C		B	A								C		C				B			B
54	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	B	B
55	B										C											
56					C						A										C	
57					C		C				B			C	C	B						C
58							B					A						B				
59						B	A					B		C	C					B		
60											C											
61	B	B		B	B	B	B				B	C		C	B	A			B	B	C	B
62		C	B	A		A		A	A	A			B	A	B		B		A	B	B	C
63	B	C				A			C	C	A			B	C	A				C	A	C
64	C					C												A			C	

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
65	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
66	B	C	B	A	C	A		B		C		C		B	B	B	B	B	A	C	B	B
67					B	C					A									C		
68				C		C													C		C	
69					B				C		B									C	C	
70					B						B									C		
71					C		B		C		A	B										
72			C						B	A	A					A						A
73	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
74					C				C		A									C	C	
75	B	C		B	B	C	C				A	C		C	B	B			C	B	C	C
76	B					B		C	C	C	A	C						C			B	
77	C	B		B	C	C	B					C		C	B	B		C	B	C	B	B
78	C						A				A	A										
79	B		C	C		C					C	C		C	C	C		C	C	B	B	
80											C											
81	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
82	B	B	B	B	A		B						C	B	A	C	C		B	C	C	B
83				C		C											C		C		C	
84		C				C	B					B			C	B				C	C	
85																C						B
86				C	A		B			B		C	C			B			C			
87		C	C	C		B		B	C	B	B				C				C		C	C
88	C	B		C		C	B	B		C		A				C		B	C	C	C	B
89	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
90		C												C	C							C
91	B			C	C	A		C	C	C	A	C		C	C	B		C	C	C	A	C
92	C	C	C	C				B		C			C	C	C	B		C	C	C		B

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LHIC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
93	C	B	C	B	C	A	B	C		C	A	C	C	C	B	A		C	A	B	B	B
94											B					C						
95														C	C							
96	B	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	C	A	A		B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
97	C	B		B	A	B	C							C	B	B			B		C	B
98											A											
99	C					B					A										B	
100											C											
101						C					A										C	C
102											A											
103											B											
104							C					A										
105					B	C						C				C				C	C	
106	B			B		C		B			A			B	C	C			B			B
107					A																	
108	C					C									C	B						B
109		C		B		B								B		A	B		B		B	A
110																						
111	B	C		B	B	B		C			A			B	B	A		C	B	B	B	B
112		B					C	C	A	C				C		B						B
113	A	A	B	A	A	A	A		C	C	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	C	A	A	A	A
114			B						A	A						A						C
115	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
116	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	C			A	C	C	B	A	A			A	A	A	B
117	B	B	A	C		C	B		A	A	C		B	C	B	C	B		C	B	C	B
118						C	A					B		C	C	C				A	C	C
119	A	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	A	A	B	C	B	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	B	B
120	C	C		B	B	A	C	C		C	A	B		C	B	A		C	B	B	A	B

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
121	C	B	C	B	A	B	C				C		C		C	B		C	B	B	B	B
122	C			C		B										C			C		C	
123				C		C											C		C		C	
124	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
125							C													C		
126	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
127	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
128	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	C	A	B	A		B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
129					C						C											
130	C	C		C	C	C	C		B	C				C	B	C			C	C	C	
131	B			C		B	C		C		A	C			C	C		C	C	C	B	C
132			C							C									C			C
133											B							A				
135	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
136														C	C							
137	B				C	A			B	C	A	C		C	C		C	C	C	C	A	
138	A	B	C	B	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	B		B	A	C	C	C	B	A	A	C
139											A											
140											A									C		
141	C										A							C			C	
142							A			C	B	A										
144	B		C	C		B					A			C			C	B	C	C	B	
145																		B				C
146	C							B	C				B	C				B				
147																						C
148	A	B	B	B	A	B	A	C	B	A	A	A	C	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
149	A					C								C	C	C	C					
150	B	A	B	B	A	A	B		B	B	A	B	B	B	B	C	A	A	B	B	B	A

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
151									C													
152	C					B					A				C	C				C	B	
153	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A
154										C			C					B		A		
155	A	B	C	B	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	B		B	A	B	C	C	B	A	A	C
156	B	B	B	B		B	C		C	B			C	A	B	B	A	B	B	A	A	B
157	C			C		B										C			C		C	
229	B	B		B	B	B	B				B		C	C	B	B			B	C	B	B
230	B	B		B	A	A	C				A			C	B	C			B	C	B	B
231											A											
232	B	A	B	A	A	B	C				C		C	C	B	B	C		A	B	B	B
233	B	B	A	A	A	A	B	C			A	C	C	B	A	A	C		A	B	A	B
234	B			B	C	C		B							C	B			B	C	B	
235	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A
236	B	B		A	A	B	B				A	C		C	B	B		A	A	C	B	B
237	B	B	B	A	C	A	A		C	B		C		B	B	B			A	B	B	B
238					C						A											
239	B	B		A	B	A	B				A	C		C	A	B			A	B	B	B
240	B	B	B	A	A	B	A		B	C	A	A	C	B	A	B	C	B	A	B	B	B
241	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
242					C		B				B			C	C	B						B
243					A									C	C					C	C	
244	B	C	B	B		A		A	C	C				B	B	A	B	C	B	A	A	B
245						C					A										C	
246	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
247	B	A	A	A	A	A	C	C		B	C		C	B	A	A	B	B	A	B	A	A
248				C	C	C	C				B	C			C	C			C		C	
249	A	B	C	B	B	A	C	C	C	C	A	B		B	A	B	C	C	B	A	A	C

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LHIC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
165	C	B	C	C	A	B	C				C		C	C	B				C	C	C	B
166	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	B	A	B	C	B	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	C
167	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
168	C	C		B		C		A						B	C	A		B	C		C	B
169	B	B	C	A	A	A	C		B		C		C	B	B	A	A		A	C	A	C
170	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	C	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
171	B	C	C	B	B	B		B	C	C	A	C		C	B	C	C		A	B	B	A
172			C				A		C			A				C						
173						B					A	C								C	B	
174	C	B		A		B	B	C				C			B	C		B	A		B	B
175	B	B	C	B	B	A	B				B	C		C	A	B			B	B	B	C
176			C	C		B									C				C	C	B	C
177				B		C													B		C	
179						B					B	C			B							
180	A	B	B	A	C	A	A	C	B	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	B
181	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
182	B	B	C	A	B	A	A				B	C	C	B	A	A		A	A	A	B	B
183					C						A											
184											C											
185					C																	
186			C	C		B			A	B	A			A		C			C	C	A	
187	C	A	C	B	A	B	C				B		C	C	B	A			B	C	B	A
188							A					A										
189			C							C			C	C				A		C		
190									C		A							C				
191						C	A					A			C					C		
192	B	B	C	B	A	B	A		B	B	A	C	C	C	B	B			B	A	B	A
193	B	A	B	B	A	B	C			C	B		C	B	A	A	C		B	B	B	B

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
194	C	B					A	A	C	C		B	C				C	A		C	C	
195	C	C	C		B		A		C	C	B			C	B	A	C			B		B
196	A	B	B	A	B	A	C	B	A	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	B
197	B	B		A	A	A	B				A			C	A	A			A	B	A	B
198	B	C	C	B	B	A	A		B	C	A	B	C	B	A	A		C	A	B	B	C
199	A	B	C	A	A	C								C	C	C	B	A	A	B	B	B
200	B			C		A		C	B	C	A	B		C	C	B	C	C	C	B	A	C
201	A	B	B	A	B	A	B		C	C	A		C	B	A	A	C	C	A	B	A	B
202											C											
203	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	C		C	A	C	C	B	A	A	C	C	A	A	A	A
204		C	B	B	A	C	C			C			C		C	C		C	C	C	B	B
205					B						A											
206	C																					
207	C			C		B	A					B		C	B	B		C	C	C	C	C
208			C					B						C								
209	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
210	A	B	B	C	C	A	B	C	A	B	A	C	C	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	A	B
211	B			C		A					A			C			C	B	C	C	B	
212	A	C	B	C		B	A	B	A	B	C	B		C	B	B	C	B	B	C	B	
213	B	B	B	B	A		B						C	B	A	C	C		B	C	C	B
214	A	A	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
215												C								C		
216	C					B	C				C	B		C						C	C	
217	B	C	A	A		B	C	B	B	A		C	C	C	C	A	B	A	A		A	B
218							C															
219				C		A	A	C	C	C	B	C		B	C	C	C		C	C	A	
220	C	B	A	B		A				C				B	A	A	A		B		A	B
221	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	B	A	A		C	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
222										C								B		A		
223	B	C			C	A			B	B	A			C		B				C	A	
224	C					C					A											
225								A														
226							B					C										C
227	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
228	C						B	C	C	C		A			C		C			C	C	
267	B			B	C	C		B							C	B			B	C	B	
268	B	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	B	A	C	B	B	A	A	C		B	A	A	A
269	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
270	B	B	C	B	B	A	B				B	C		C	A	B			B	B	B	C
271	C	B	B	A	C	B			C	C				B	B	C	B		A	C	B	C
272	B	B		B	B	A	C				A			C	A	A			B	B	A	C
273						C					B	C								B		
274						C					A							B			B	
275						C										C					C	
276	B	A	B	A	A	A	A		A	B	A	C	B	B	A	A	C		B	A	A	B
277	B	B	C	B		B				C				A	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	A
278				B		B											C		B		B	
279		C							A	A				C	C							
280	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	A	B
281	A	B	C	B	C	A	C	C	C	C	A	B		B	A	B	C	C	B	A	A	C
282	B	A	B	A	A	A	A		C	B	A	A	C	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
283	C	C	C	C	C		B					B	B		C	C		B	C	C		B
284	B	C		B	C	A	C				A	C		C	B	B		A	B	C	B	C
285	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	A
286	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	A	B
287	B	A	B	A	A	B	A	C	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A

SEQ ID No.	BRCA	BLCA	CHOL	COAD	DLBC	ESCA	GBM	KICH	KIRC	KIRP	LAML	LGG	LIHC	LUAD	LUSC	OV	PAAD	PRAD	READ	SKCM	STAD	UCEC
288	C	C		C	B	B					A			C	C	B			C	C	C	C
289								C														
295							A	A				B								C		
296							A			C	B	A										
297		B				C								C	C							
298	C			C		B										C			C		C	
299	C	B	A	A		A				B				A	A	A	A	C	A		A	B
300							B		C			A										
301				C									C									C
302	B	B	C	B	A	B		C	A					A	A	A	C	C	B	B	B	A

Table 18: Expression scores. The table lists peptides from genes that are very highly over-expressed in tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+++), highly over-expressed in tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (++) or over-expressed in tumors compared to a panel of normal tissues (+).

AML = acute myeloid leukemia (N= 11), CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia (N= 10), CRC = colorectal cancer (N= 20), GB = glioblastoma (N= 24), GBC_CCC = gallbladder adenocarcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma (N= 3), GC = gastric cancer (N= 11), HCC = hepatocellular carcinoma (N= 15), NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma (N= 10), NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer (N= 11), OC = ovarian cancer (N= 12), OSCAR = esophageal cancer, including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction (N= 11), PC = pancreatic cancer (N= 26), PCA = prostate cancer and benign prostate hyperplasia (N= 5), RCC = renal cell carcinoma (N= 10), SCLC = small cell lung cancer (N= 10), UBC = urinary bladder cancer (N= 10), UEC = uterine cancer (N= 10). The baseline for this score was calculated from measurements of the following relevant normal tissues: adipose tissue, adrenal gland, artery, blood cells, bone marrow, brain, cartilage, colon,

esophagus, gallbladder, heart, kidney, liver, lung, lymph node, pancreas, pituitary, rectum, skeletal muscle, skin, small intestine, spleen, stomach, thyroid gland, trachea, urinary bladder, and vein.

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
1					+++													
2				+	+	+++	++	+		+++	+		+		+++			+
4					++					++	+++	+++				+		++
5	+		+						+		+					+		
6					+++													
8					+				+	+	+	+				+		+
9		+++		+		+++	++			++	+	+++	++				+	++
10	+++		+		+					+	+	+				+	++	
11		+							+	+	++	+	+			+		
12					+						+	+						
13		+					+				+					+		
14	+	+++		++	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	+			+++	+	+
15		+	+			+				+		+	+					
16		+		+		+			+	+	++	+				+++		
17			+															
18						++	+			++		+++			+			
19					+				+									
20		+	+		+				+	+	+					+		+
21	+	+		+	+	+	+		+++	+	+	+	+			++	+	+
22		++		+		+++	++			+	+++	+++	+			+	++	
23						+				+			+	+			+++	+
24		+++			+++			+++		+++		+++	+			+++		
25											+++		+					++
26	+				+				++		+	+				+		

[illegible]

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
85			+								+++							+++
86					+				+									
90		+								+	++	+				+++	+++	+
91			+		+				+	+	+					+		
93				+						+	+					+		
94	++									+	+		+			+		++
95		+					+				+					+		
96												+						
97	+	+	+	+	+		+		+++	+	++	++				+++	+	
98																		
99	+		+++		+	+	+		+	+	+		+	+		++		+
100								+++					++	+++				+
101	+++																	
102	+++																	
104					+++													
105			+++		+++				+++		+++					+	+++	
106	+++	+++	+	+++	+			+	+++	+++	+++	++	+++			+++		++
107			+						+++									
108		+++						+++			+++							+++
109						+++	+				+++	+++	+					+++
111	+++	+	++		+				+++	++	++	+				++		
112											+		+		+++		+	+
113	+				+				+	+	+	+				++	+	
114											+++				+++			
115					+													
116		+		+	+				+	++	+	+				++	+	
117						+						+	+		+	+		

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
118					+													
119			+						+									
120	+				+				+	+	+	+				+		
121												+						
122		++		+		+++	++			+	+++	+++	+			+	++	
123				++		+	+++			+	+	+	+++				+++	
127		+		+	+		+			+	+	+					+	+
128		+++					+			+	+		+			+		
129			+		+				++									
130			++			+			+		+	+					+	
133	++						+						+	+++			+	
134							+				+	+						
135																		
136		+					+				+					+		
137				+	+	+			+	+	+	+				+		+
138	+	+		+	+	+			+	++	++	+	+			++	+	
140											+	+				+		
141	+	+	+			+												
142					+++	+				+			+					
144		+		+			+						+					+
145	+					+	+				+		+	+				+++
146								+										
147																+		
148					++											+		
149		+++		+		+++	+++		+++	+++		+++	+++			+	+	++
150	+	+	++		+				+	+	+	+				+		
151		+		+		+	+				+	+	+	+	+		+	+

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
152	+		+						+		+	+				+		
153		+		+							+	+				+	+	
154								++					+++					
155	+	+		+	+	+			+	+	+	+				+		
156		+		+			+			+	+	+	+		+			+
157		++		+		+++	++			+	+++	+++	+			+	++	
229		+	++		++	+			++	++	+++	+++			+	+++	+	+
230	+	+		+	+	+	+		+++	++	++	++	+		+	+++	+	++
231	+		+															
232	+			+		+			++	+	+	+				+	+	+
233				+	+	+	+		+++	+	+	++				+++		+
234		++																
235	+	+							+	+	++	+				++	+	
236									+	+	+			+++		+		
237		+			+	+	+		+		+	+	+				+	+
238	+																	
239	+	+		+	+				+	+	+	+				++	+	
240									+			+						
241		+							+	+	+	+				+		+
242					++				++	++	+++							+++
243			++						+++	+	++				+	+		
244				+	+		+			+	++	++	+			+	+	+
245								+				+						
246		+																+
247	+	+					+		+	+	+	++				+	+	+
248				+	++				+									
249	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	++	+	+	+			++	+	+

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
250									++		+							+
251	+++								+									
252	+	++		++	+++	++	+		+++	+++	+++	+++	+			+++	++	+++
253	+		+++			+				+						++		
254	+				+		+		++	+	+					+		+
255	+	+		+	++	+	++		+++	++	+	++				++		++
256				+	+	+	+		++	+		+				++		+
257													+				+	
259											+							
263	++		+						+									
264																+		
265									+							+		
266	+		+															
290	+	+		+	+		+		+++	+	++	++				+++	+	+
291	+	++		++	++	+	+		+++	+++	++	+++	+			+++	+	+
292											+							
293					+++													
294					+++			++					+	+++		+++		+
158		+		+	+				+	+	+	+				+		
159	+	+		+	+	+		+		++	+	+	+		+	+		
160		+		+		+			+	+	++	+				+++		
161	+		+							+								
163	+		+															
164		+				+			+	+			+		++	+		
165		+			+				++	+	+	+				++	+	
166					+				+	+	+	+				+		
167							+		++		+						+	

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
168											+			+		+		+
169				+			+		+	+	+	++	+				+	
170					+					+	+	+					+	
172					+++			+			+				+++	++		
173	+		+		+				+									
174				++		+											+	
175					+				+	+	+	++				++	+	
176											+							+
177				+++		+++	+++				+++	++	+	+			+	
178									+++							+++		
179			++							+								
180				+	+	+	+	+		+			+			+		+
182											+	+		+++		+		+
183	++								+									
184					+											+		
185												+						
186										+					+			
187									+	+	+++	+				++	+	+
188					+++													
189					+			++						+++		+++		
190			+															
191					+++													
192	+				+				++	+	+	+				+++	+	
193		+		+		+			+	+	+	+				+		
194					+													
195					+				+	+	+					+		+
196											+							

[illegible]

SEQ ID No.	AML	BRCA	CLL	CRC	GB	GBC_C CC	GC	HCC	NHL	NSCLC	OC	OSCAR	PC	PCA	RCC	SCLC	UBC	UEC
226																+		
267		++																
268	+				+				++		++	+				++	+	
270					+				+	+	+	++				++	+	
271		++		+++		+++	+	+	++	++	+++	+++	++		+	+	++	+++
272									+	+	++	+				+		
274	+				+				+									
275			+															
276	+				+				++		+	+				++	+	
277		++		+		++	+			+++	++	+++	+	+		++	++	+++
278			+++	+			+											+
279										+		+			+++		+	
281		+		+	+	+			+	+	+	+				+		
282									+							+		
283					+			+			+							
284					+				+	+	+			+++		+		
285	+	+							+	+	++	+				++	+	
287					+													
288	++		+						++	+	+	+				+		
295					+++													
296					+++	+				+			+					
297						++				+++	+	+++	+				+++	
298		++		+		+++	++			+	+++	+++	+			+	++	
299		+		++		+++	+++			+++	+++	+++	+++				+++	+++
302		+							+	+++	+++	++	+		+	++	+	++

EXAMPLE 3

In vitro immunogenicity for MHC class I presented peptides

In order to obtain information regarding the immunogenicity of the TUMAPs of the present invention, the inventors performed investigations using an *in vitro* T-cell priming assay based on repeated stimulations of CD8⁺ T cells with artificial antigen presenting cells (aAPCs) loaded with peptide/MHC complexes and anti-CD28 antibody. This way the inventors could show immunogenicity for HLA-A*0201 restricted TUMAPs of the invention, demonstrating that these peptides are T-cell epitopes against which CD8⁺ precursor T cells exist in humans (Table 19).

In vitro priming of CD8⁺ T cells

In order to perform *in vitro* stimulations by artificial antigen presenting cells loaded with peptide-MHC complex (pMHC) and anti-CD28 antibody, the inventors first isolated CD8⁺ T cells from fresh HLA-A*02 leukapheresis products via positive selection using CD8 microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec, Bergisch-Gladbach, Germany) of healthy donors obtained from the University clinics Mannheim, Germany, after informed consent.

PBMCs and isolated CD8⁺ lymphocytes were incubated in T-cell medium (TCM) until use consisting of RPMI-Glutamax (Invitrogen, Karlsruhe, Germany) supplemented with 10% heat inactivated human AB serum (PAN-Biotech, Aidenbach, Germany), 100 U/ml Penicillin/100 µg/ml Streptomycin (Cambrex, Cologne, Germany), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (CC Pro, Oberdorla, Germany), 20 µg/ml Gentamycin (Cambrex), 2.5 ng/ml IL-7 (PromoCell, Heidelberg, Germany) and 10 U/ml IL-2 (Novartis Pharma, Nürnberg, Germany) were also added to the TCM at this step.

Generation of pMHC/anti-CD28 coated beads, T-cell stimulations and readout was performed in a highly defined *in vitro* system using four different pMHC molecules per stimulation condition and 8 different pMHC molecules per readout condition.

The purified co-stimulatory mouse IgG2a anti human CD28 Ab 9.3 (Jung et al., 1987) was chemically biotinylated using Sulfo-N-hydroxysuccinimidobiotin as recommended by the manufacturer (Perbio, Bonn, Germany). Beads used were 5.6

µm diameter streptavidin coated polystyrene particles (Bangs Laboratories, Illinois, USA).

pMHC used for positive and negative control stimulations were A*0201/MLA-001 (peptide ELAGIGILTV (SEQ ID NO. 303) from modified Melan-A/MART-1) and A*0201/DDX5-001 (YLLPAIVHI from DDX5, SEQ ID NO. 304), respectively.

800.000 beads / 200 µl were coated in 96-well plates in the presence of 4 x 12.5 ng different biotin-pMHC, washed and 600 ng biotin anti-CD28 were added subsequently in a volume of 200 µl. Stimulations were initiated in 96-well plates by co-incubating 1×10^6 CD8⁺ T cells with 2×10^5 washed coated beads in 200 µl TCM supplemented with 5 ng/ml IL-12 (PromoCell) for 3 days at 37°C. Half of the medium was then exchanged by fresh TCM supplemented with 80 U/ml IL-2 and incubating was continued for 4 days at 37°C. This stimulation cycle was performed for a total of three times. For the pMHC multimer readout using 8 different pMHC molecules per condition, a two-dimensional combinatorial coding approach was used as previously described (Andersen et al., 2012) with minor modifications encompassing coupling to 5 different fluorochromes. Finally, multimeric analyses were performed by staining the cells with Live/dead near IR dye (Invitrogen, Karlsruhe, Germany), CD8-FITC antibody clone SK1 (BD, Heidelberg, Germany) and fluorescent pMHC multimers. For analysis, a BD LSRII SORP cytometer equipped with appropriate lasers and filters was used. Peptide specific cells were calculated as percentage of total CD8⁺ cells. Evaluation of multimeric analysis was done using the FlowJo software (Tree Star, Oregon, USA). *In vitro* priming of specific multimer⁺ CD8⁺ lymphocytes was detected by comparing to negative control stimulations. Immunogenicity for a given antigen was detected if at least one evaluable *in vitro* stimulated well of one healthy donor was found to contain a specific CD8⁺ T-cell line after *in vitro* stimulation (i.e. this well contained at least 1% of specific multimer⁺ among CD8⁺ T-cells and the percentage of specific multimer⁺ cells was at least 10x the median of the negative control stimulations).

In vitro immunogenicity for different cancer peptides

For tested HLA class I peptides, *in vitro* immunogenicity could be demonstrated by generation of peptide specific T-cell lines. Exemplary flow cytometry results after

TUMAP-specific multimer staining for 2 peptides of the invention are shown in Figure 3 together with corresponding negative controls. Results for 10 peptides from the invention are summarized in Table 19A. Exemplary flow cytometry results after TUMAP-specific multimer staining for seven peptides of the invention are shown in Figure 4 and 5 together with corresponding negative controls. Results for 60 peptides from the invention are summarized in Table 19B.

Table 19A: *in vitro* immunogenicity of HLA class I peptides of the invention

Exemplary results of *in vitro* immunogenicity experiments conducted by the applicant for the peptides of the invention. <20 % = +; 20 % - 49 % = ++; 50 % - 69 % = +++; >= 70 % = ++++

SEQ ID No.	Sequence	Wells
290	KIVDFSYSV	++
291	KLDETGNL	+
292	GMMTAILGV	+
293	FLVDGSWSI	+
295	YYPGVILGF	++
296	TYVDSSHTI	+
297	PFLQASPHF	++
298	RYLEGTSCI	+
300	AYVLRLET	+
301	AYKPGALTF	+

Table 19B: *in vitro* immunogenicity of HLA class I peptides of the invention

Exemplary results of *in vitro* immunogenicity experiments conducted by the applicant for the peptides of the invention. <20 % = +; 20 % - 49 % = ++; 50 % - 69 % = +++; >= 70 % = ++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Wells positive [%]
1	LLYPEPWSV	++
2	GLIAGVVS	++
4	KLMPGTYTL	+
5	GIVAHIQEV	+
6	ALFDSLRLHV	++
7	ILDHEVPSL	++
11	ALSPSYLTV	++
12	GLLPLLHRA	++++
14	ILAKDLFEI	++
18	ILLDLTDNRL	+
20	GLSQITNQL	++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Wells positive [%]
23	SLFSDEFKV	++++
26	ALQEELTEL	+
27	RLMEENWNA	+++
29	YLLDPSITL	+
31	TITETTVEV	+
35	FLLPFSTVYL	+
90	FLQDLEQRL	+
92	GLLFSLRSV	++
96	LLVSHLYLV	++
138	ALLAKILQI	++
141	FLDKVLVAA	+
144	ALLAFFPGL	+++
149	ILNTHITEL	+
150	VLYDRPLKI	++
151	SVLDSTAKV	++
229	AILAHLNTV	++
230	KLQNIMMLL	++++
232	KIFPAALQLV	++
233	HLFDAFVSV	++
235	KIIDFLSAL	+++
247	ALYEGYATV	++
248	YLDRFLAGV	++
249	GLCERLVSL	+
251	ALSVLRLAL	++
158	HYSQELSLLYL	+
159	LYNKGFIYL	++++
160	VYTLDIPVL	++
161	IYLVSIPEL	++
162	VFTRVSSFL	++
163	DYLKGLASF	+
165	DYTTWTALL	+
166	YYVESGKLF	+++
167	NYINRILKL	+
168	KYQDILETI	++
169	AYTLIAPNI	+++
173	IYSWILDHF	++
176	EYNQWFTKL	+++
196	LYIDRPLPYL	++++
197	EYSLFPGQVVI	+
199	RYAEEVGIF	++
200	YYGPSLFLL	++
204	TYELRYFQI	+
207	AYVVFVSTL	+
218	YYKSTSSAF	+

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Wells positive [%]
222	TFSVSSHLF	++
268	QYLGQIQHI	+
269	YFIDSTNLKTHF	+
281	PYRLIFEKF	+++
285	HYPPVQVLF	+

EXAMPLE 4

Synthesis of peptides

All peptides were synthesized using standard and well-established solid phase peptide synthesis using the Fmoc-strategy. Identity and purity of each individual peptide have been determined by mass spectrometry and analytical RP-HPLC. The peptides were obtained as white to off-white lyophilizates (trifluoro acetate salt) in purities of >50%. All TUMAPs are preferably administered as trifluoro-acetate salts or acetate salts, other salt-forms are also possible.

EXAMPLE 5

MHC Binding Assays

Candidate peptides for T cell based therapies according to the present invention were further tested for their MHC binding capacity (affinity). The individual peptide-MHC complexes were produced by UV-ligand exchange, where a UV-sensitive peptide is cleaved upon UV-irradiation, and exchanged with the peptide of interest as analyzed. Only peptide candidates that can effectively bind and stabilize the peptide-receptive MHC molecules prevent dissociation of the MHC complexes. To determine the yield of the exchange reaction, an ELISA was performed based on the detection of the light chain ($\beta 2m$) of stabilized MHC complexes. The assay was performed as generally described in Rodenko et al. (Rodenko et al., 2006).

96 well MAXISorp plates (NUNC) were coated over night with 2ug/ml streptavidin in PBS at room temperature, washed 4x and blocked for 1h at 37°C in 2% BSA containing blocking buffer. Refolded HLA-A*02:01/MLA-001 monomers served as standards, covering the range of 15-500 ng/ml. Peptide-MHC monomers of the UV-exchange reaction were diluted 100 fold in blocking buffer. Samples were incubated for 1h at 37°C, washed four times, incubated with 2ug/ml HRP conjugated anti- $\beta 2m$ for 1h at 37°C, washed again and detected with TMB solution that is stopped with

NH₂SO₄. Absorption was measured at 450nm. Candidate peptides that show a high exchange yield (preferably higher than 50%, most preferred higher than 75%) are generally preferred for a generation and production of antibodies or fragments thereof, and/or T cell receptors or fragments thereof, as they show sufficient avidity to the MHC molecules and prevent dissociation of the MHC complexes.

Table 20: MHC class I binding scores. Binding of HLA-class I restricted peptides to HLA-A*02 was ranged by peptide exchange yield: <20 % = +; 20 % - 49 % = ++; 50 % - 75 % = +++; >= 75 % = ++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
1	LLYPEPWSV	++++
2	GLIAGVVS	+++
3	KLEENGDLYL	++++
4	KLMPGTYTL	++++
5	GIVAHIQEV	+++
6	ALFDSL RHV	+++
7	ILDHEVPSL	+++
9	FLVDGSYSI	+++
10	GIAGSLKTV	+++
11	ALSPSYLTV	+++
12	GLLPLLHRA	++++
13	ALMAMLVYV	++
14	ILAKDLFEI	++++
15	YLDLSHNQL	+++
16	YTLDIPVLFGV	++++
18	ILLDLTDNRL	+++
19	SISDNVWEV	+++
20	GLSQITNQL	+++
21	AIQDEIRSV	+++
22	FVDPNTQEKV	++
23	SLFSDEFKV	+++
24	TLDEKVAEL	+++
25	TMDSVLVTV	+++
26	ALQEELTEL	+++
27	RLMEENWNA	+++
28	SLPNGKPVSV	+++
29	YLLDPSITL	+++
30	AMIEEVFEA	++
31	TITETTVEV	+++
32	VQLDSIEDLEV	+++
33	YIKTELISV	+++
34	FLLATEVVTV	++++
35	FLLPFSTVYL	+++
36	SLADTNSLAVV	+++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
37	ILAPFSVDL	+++
38	FLGPRIIGL	+++
39	HLLEGSVGV	+++
40	VLIDPQWVLTA	+++
41	ALFENTPKA	++
42	LLDSVSR	+
43	KAIEVLLTL	+++
44	SLFETAWEA	+++
45	SLTEVSLPL	+++
46	SQFPLPLAV	++
47	ALLERGELFV	+++
48	QVIEDSTGV	++
49	ALNIATHVL	+++
50	ILFHGVFYA	+++
51	LLFSRLCGA	++++
53	KMVGLVVAI	+++
54	VLNPLITAV	+++
55	SLATKIVEA	+++
56	FLHDEKEGIYI	+++
57	TVFTDHMLTV	++
58	YLLPLLAL	+++
59	KLLDPQEFTL	+++
60	ALFAPLVHL	+++
61	AIVKEIVNI	++
62	ALNPELVQA	++
63	SQIPAQPSV	++
64	SLFPDSLIV	++
65	SVVPDVRSV	++
66	KLIFSVEAV	+++
67	TLLQRLTEV	+++
68	SLSNRLYYL	+++
69	FLAVGLVDV	+++
70	LLLGDSALYL	+++
71	VLHSKFWVV	+++
72	FLTAINYLL	+++
73	YTLREVDTV	++
74	TLFGYSVVL	+++
75	AVIKFLELL	+++
76	AVGPVHNSV	++
77	TLIDEQDIPLV	+++
78	TVVTRLDEI	++
79	VTFKEYVTV	++
80	KLYEADFVL	++
81	NALDKVLSV	+++
82	FIFDEAEKL	+
83	GQASYFYVA	++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
84	ALCPRIHEV	++++
85	VLNDILVRA	+++
86	SVDSHFQEV	++
87	TIYKDFVYI	++
88	AQADHLPQL	++
89	QLAPVFQRV	++
90	FLQDLEQRL	+++
92	GLLFSLRSV	++++
94	LLPAVPVGA	+++
95	GLLGSLFFL	++++
96	LLVSHLYLV	++
98	RLFPDFFTRVAL	++
99	YLLQSVNQLLL	++
100	ALLGMIIVGV	+
101	ALADFMLSL	+++
102	VLLDIQEVFQI	+++
103	YLVSEIFKA	+++
104	ALISWQPPRA	+++
105	ALLGTKILL	+++
106	FINDSIVYL	+++
107	LLVPTSGIYFV	+++
108	ILLKNLVTI	++
109	SLDPSVTHL	++
110	FLLGVSKEV	+++
111	AIVDLIHD	++
112	SLGKFTFDV	++++
113	FLERGLESA	++
114	QLIQT LHAV	+++
115	SLDPDTLPAV	++
117	KMPDV ELFV	+++
118	QLWQFLVTL	+++
119	FIIQGLRSVGA	+++
120	VTPVTVSAV	+
121	FTIFRTISV	+++
122	GVVDPVHGV	++
123	VLDPALPALV	++
124	KVMATIEKV	++
125	SLADYEHFV	++++
126	QMFQYFITV	++++
127	KLDGNELDL	+++
128	TQSPATLSV	++
129	RLQDILWFL	++++
130	SLLGGTFVGI	+++
131	VTSNSGILGV	+++
132	ILGEVLAQL	+++
133	ALLPRLHQL	++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
134	GLAVPTPSV	+++
135	HLSTIIHEA	+++
136	FLFGGVLMTL	++
138	ALLAKILQI	+++
139	FLLPTGAEA	++
141	FLDKVLVAA	+++
142	ILVEGISTV	+++
143	ALLPELREV	+++
144	ALLAFFPGL	+++
145	YLWATIQRI	+++
146	ALHFSEDEI	++
147	YLMDDTVEI	++++
148	MLAGIAITV	+++
149	ILNTHITEL	+++
150	VLYDRPLKI	+++
151	SVLDSTAKV	++
152	MMVGDLLEV	+++
153	FISERVEVV	++++
154	RLLGTEFQV	+++
155	LLNPVVEFV	+++
156	ILGDLSHLL	+++
157	TLTSLLAQA	+++
229	AILAHLNTV	++++
230	KLQNIMMLL	++
231	MLDKYSHYL	+++
232	KIFPAALQLV	+++
233	HLFDAFVSV	+++
234	LLSPHNPAL	+++
235	KIIDFLSAL	+++
236	STIAILNSV	+++
237	ALAPHLDDA	+++
238	GLYERPTAA	++
239	KMNESTRSV	++
240	YMGE EKLIASV	+++
241	KTIQQLETV	++
242	WLYGEDHQI	++
243	FMADDIFSV	+++
244	YLLEKNRVV	++
245	SLLDLPLSL	++++
246	TVSDVLNSV	+++
247	ALYEGYATV	+++
248	YLDRFLAGV	++++
249	GLCERLVSL	++++
250	SLAPATPEV	+++
251	ALSVLRLAL	+++
252	RLMEICESL	+++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
253	ALAEIDNSL	+++
254	KLQGKLPEL	++
255	SLLHFTENL	+++
256	SLGEEQFSV	++
257	GLYTDPCGV	++++
258	LLSERFINV	++++
259	ILLPRIIEA	+++
260	ILLEKILSL	+++
261	QLQDRVYAL	+++
262	FMVDKAIYL	+++
263	VLLSEQGDVKL	++
264	KLFPQETLFL	+++
265	NTCPYVHNI	+++
266	YAIGLVMRL	+++

Table 21: MHC class I binding scores. Binding of HLA-class I restricted peptides to HLA-A*24 was ranged by peptide exchange yield: <20 % = +; 20 % - 49 % = ++; 50 % - 75 % = +++; >= 75 % = ++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
172	TYTTVPRVAF	++++
177	VYPWLGALL	++++
178	IFIEVFSHF	+++
179	MYDSYWRQF	++++
180	IYDDSFIRPVT	+++
181	LYLDIINLF	++++
182	IYQLDTASI	+++
183	VFTSTARAF	+++
184	VFQNFPLLF	++++
185	IYKVGAPTI	+++
186	IFPQFLYQF	++++
187	TYLRDQHFL	++++
188	RYFKGLVF	+++
189	WYVNGVNYF	++
190	GFFIFNERF	+++
191	VFKASKITF	+++
192	SYALLTYMI	++++
193	RFHPTPLLL	++++
194	EFGSLHLEFL	+
198	LYLDKATLI	+++
203	FYSRLLQKF	+++
205	VHIPEVYLI	+++
206	EYQENFLSF	+++
208	TYTQDFNKF	+++
210	IYTMIYRNL	++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
211	YYLEVGTKLI	++++
214	LYLKLWNLI	+++
215	YFDKVVTL	++
216	QYSSVFKSL	++++
217	FFPPTRQMGLLF	++++
219	EYPLVINTL	+++
220	GYIDNVTLI	++++
221	RYSTGLAGNLL	+++
223	KYIPYKYVI	+++
224	QYLENLEKL	+++
225	YYVYIMNHL	+++
226	VYRDETGELF	+++
227	IFLDYEAGTLSF	++++
228	KYTSWYVAL	++++
267	KYMVYPQTF	++++
271	LYHDIFSRL	++++
272	QYLQDAYSF	++++
273	TYIKPISKL	+++
274	AYLHSHALI	++++
275	EYINQGDLEHF	+++
276	VYGFQWRHF	++++
278	RYISDQLFTNF	++++
279	TYIESASEL	+++
280	RYPDNLKHLYL	++++
282	KFVDSTFYL	++++
283	TYGDAGLTYTF	+++
284	RYLNKAFHI	+++
286	RYPDNLKHL	++
288	VYVSDIQEL	+++
289	KYPVEWAKF	++++
158	HYSQELSLLYL	++++
159	LYNKGFIYL	++++
160	VYTL DIPVL	++++
161	IYLVSIPEL	++++
162	VFTRVSSFL	+++
163	DYLGGLASF	++++
164	KFSSFSLFF	+++
165	DYTTWTALL	++++
166	YYVESGKLF	++++
167	NYINRILKL	++++
168	KYQDILETI	++++
169	AYTLIAPNI	+++
170	VYEDQVGKF	++
171	LFIPSSKLLFL	+++
173	IYSWILDHF	++++
174	VYVGGGQIIHL	+++
175	YYEVHKELF	++++

SEQ ID No	Sequence	Peptide exchange
176	EYNQWFTKL	+++
195	TYSVSFPMF	++++
196	LYIDRPLPYL	+++
197	EYSLFPGQVVI	+++
199	RYAEEVGIF	+++
200	YYGPSLFL	+++
201	IYATEAHVF	+++
202	VYWDSAGAAHF	++++
204	TYELRYFQI	++++
207	AYVVFVSTL	++
209	TYKDEGNDYF	+++
218	YYKSTSSAF	+++
222	TFSVSSHIF	+++
268	QYLGQIQHI	+++
269	YFIDSTNLKTHF	+++
270	NYEYVHKELF	+++
277	VYQGHTALL	++++
281	PYRLIFEKF	++
285	HYPPVQVLF	+++
287	LYITEPKTI	+++

EXAMPLE 6

Absolute quantitation of tumor associated peptides presented on the cell surface

The generation of binders, such as antibodies and/or TCRs, is a laborious process, which may be conducted only for a number of selected targets. In the case of tumor-associated and –specific peptides, selection criteria include but are not restricted to exclusiveness of presentation and the density of peptide presented on the cell surface. In addition to the isolation and relative quantitation of peptides as described in **Error! Reference source not found.**, the inventors did analyze absolute peptide copies per cell as described. The quantitation of TUMAP copies per cell in solid tumor samples requires the absolute quantitation of the isolated TUMAP, the efficiency of TUMAP isolation, and the cell count of the tissue sample analyzed.

Peptide quantitation by nanoLC-MS/MS

For an accurate quantitation of peptides by mass spectrometry, a calibration curve was generated for each peptide using the internal standard method. The internal standard is a double-isotope-labelled variant of each peptide, i.e. two isotope-labelled amino acids were included in TUMAP synthesis. It differs from the tumor-associated

peptide only in its mass but shows no difference in other physicochemical properties (Anderson et al., 2012). The internal standard was spiked to each MS sample and all MS signals were normalized to the MS signal of the internal standard to level out potential technical variances between MS experiments. The calibration curves were prepared in at least three different matrices, i.e. HLA peptide eluates from natural samples similar to the routine MS samples, and each preparation was measured in duplicate MS runs. For evaluation, MS signals were normalized to the signal of the internal standard and a calibration curve was calculated by logistic regression. For the quantitation of tumor-associated peptides from tissue samples, the respective samples were also spiked with the internal standard, the MS signals were normalized to the internal standard and quantified using the peptide calibration curve.

Efficiency of peptide/MHC isolation

As for any protein purification process, the isolation of proteins from tissue samples is associated with a certain loss of the protein of interest. To determine the efficiency of TUMAP isolation, peptide/MHC complexes were generated for all TUMAPs selected for absolute quantitation. To be able to discriminate the spiked from the natural peptide/MHC complexes, single-isotope-labelled versions of the TUMAPs were used, i.e. one isotope-labelled amino acid was included in TUMAP synthesis. These complexes were spiked into the freshly prepared tissue lysates, i.e. at the earliest possible point of the TUMAP isolation procedure, and then captured like the natural peptide/MHC complexes in the following affinity purification. Measuring the recovery of the single-labelled TUMAPs therefore allows conclusions regarding the efficiency of isolation of individual natural TUMAPs.

The efficiency of isolation was analyzed in a low number of samples and was comparable among these tissue samples. In contrast, the isolation efficiency differs between individual peptides. This suggests that the isolation efficiency, although determined in only a limited number of tissue samples, may be extrapolated to any other tissue preparation. However, it is necessary to analyze each TUMAP individually as the isolation efficiency may not be extrapolated from one peptide to others.

Determination of the cell count in solid, frozen tissue

In order to determine the cell count of the tissue samples subjected to absolute peptide quantitation, the inventors applied DNA content analysis. This method is applicable to a wide range of samples of different origin and, most importantly, frozen samples (Alcoser et al., 2011; Forsey and Chaudhuri, 2009; Silva et al., 2013). During the peptide isolation protocol, a tissue sample is processed to a homogenous lysate, from which a small lysate aliquot is taken. The aliquot is divided in three parts, from which DNA is isolated (QiaAmp DNA Mini Kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The total DNA content from each DNA isolation is quantified using a fluorescence-based DNA quantitation assay (Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit, Life Technologies, Darmstadt, Germany) in at least two replicates.

In order to calculate the cell number, a DNA standard curve from aliquots of single healthy blood cells, with a range of defined cell numbers, has been generated. The standard curve is used to calculate the total cell content from the total DNA content from each DNA isolation. The mean total cell count of the tissue sample used for peptide isolation is extrapolated considering the known volume of the lysate aliquots and the total lysate volume.

Peptide copies per cell

With data of the aforementioned experiments, the inventors calculated the number of TUMAP copies per cell by dividing the total peptide amount by the total cell count of the sample, followed by division through isolation efficiency. Copy cell number for selected peptides are shown in Table 22.

Table 22: Absolute copy numbers. The table lists the results of absolute peptide quantitation in tumor samples. The median number of copies per cell are indicated for each peptide: <100 = +; >=100 = ++; >=1,000 = +++; >=10,000 = +++. The number of samples, in which evaluable, high quality MS data is available is indicated.

SEQ ID No.	Peptide Code	Copies per cell (median)	Number of samples
2	MET-007	+	15
24	MAGEC2-001	+	16
32	PRAME-006	++	17
39	ABCC11-001	+	14
251	SPINK2-001	++	16

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STATEMENTS

1. A peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306, and variant sequences thereof that are at least 88% homologous to SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306, and wherein said variant binds to molecule(s) of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) and/or induces T cells cross-reacting with said variant peptide; and a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, wherein said peptide is not a full-length polypeptide.
2. The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide has the ability to bind to an MHC class-I or –II molecule, and wherein said peptide, when bound to said MHC, is capable of being recognized by CD4 and/or CD8 T cells.
3. The peptide or variant thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amino acid sequence thereof comprises a continuous stretch of amino acids according to any one of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.
4. The peptide or variant thereof according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said peptide or variant thereof has an overall length of from 8 to 100, preferably from 8 to 30, and more preferred from 8 to 16 amino acids, and most preferred wherein the peptide consists or consists essentially of an amino acid sequence according to any of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306, and preferably of SEQ ID NO: 2, 24, 32, 39, 64, 72, 106, 149, 251, 305, and 306.
5. The peptide or variant thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said peptide is modified and/or includes non-peptide bonds.
6. The peptide or variant thereof according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein said peptide is part of a fusion protein, in particular comprising N-terminal amino acids of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (Ii).

7. A nucleic acid, encoding a peptide or variant thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6, optionally linked to a heterologous promoter sequence.
8. An expression vector capable of expressing the nucleic acid according to claim 7.
9. A recombinant host cell comprising the peptide according to claim 1 to 6, the nucleic acid according to claim 7 or the expression vector according to claim 8, wherein said host cell preferably is an antigen presenting cell such as a dendritic cell.
10. The peptide or variant thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6, the nucleic acid according to claim 7, the expression vector according to claim 8, or the host cell according to claim 9 for use in medicine.
11. A method for producing the peptide or variant thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6, the method comprising culturing the host cell according to claim 9 that presents the peptide according to claim 1 to 6, or expresses the nucleic acid according to claim 7 or comprises the expression vector according to claim 8, and isolating the peptide or variant thereof from the host cell or its culture medium.
12. An *in vitro* method for producing activated T lymphocytes, the method comprising contacting *in vitro* T cells with antigen loaded human class I or II MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell or an artificial construct mimicking an antigen-presenting cell for a period of time sufficient to activate said T cells in an antigen specific manner, wherein said antigen is a peptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4.
13. An activated T lymphocyte, produced by the method according to claim 12, that selectively recognizes a cell which presents a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of claims 1 to 4.

14. A method for killing target cells in a patient which target cells present a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence given in any one of claims 1 to 4, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective number of activated T cells as defined in claim 13.
15. An antibody, in particular a soluble or membrane-bound antibody, that specifically recognizes the peptide or variant thereof according to any of claims 1 to 5, preferably the peptide or variant thereof according to any of claims 1 to 5 when bound to an MHC molecule.
16. Use of a peptide according to any one of claims 1 to 6, the nucleic acid according to claim 7, the expression vector according to claim 8, the cell according to claim 9, the activated T lymphocyte according to claim 13 or the antibody according to claim 15 for use in diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer, or for use in the manufacture of a medicament against cancer.
17. The use according to claim 16, wherein said cancer is selected from the group of glioblastoma (GB), breast cancer (BRCA), colorectal cancer (CRC), renal cell carcinoma (RCC), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), non-small cell and small cell lung cancer (NSCLC, SCLC), Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), ovarian cancer (OC), pancreatic cancer (PC), prostate cancer (PCA), esophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-esophageal junction (OSCAR), gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma (GBC, CCC), melanoma (MEL), gastric cancer (GC), urinary bladder cancer (UBC), and uterine cancer (UEC) and other tumors that show an overexpression of a protein from which a peptide SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, or SEQ ID No. 306 is derived from.
18. A kit comprising:
 - (a) a container comprising a pharmaceutical composition containing the peptide(s) or the variant according to any one of claims 1 to 6, the nucleic acid(s) according to claim 7, the expression vector(s) according to claim 8, the

- cell(s) according to claim 10, the activated T lymphocyte(s) according to claim 13 or the antibody according to claim 15, in solution or in lyophilized form;
- (b) optionally, a second container containing a diluent or reconstituting solution for the lyophilized formulation;
 - (c) optionally, at least one more peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 302, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306, and
 - (d) optionally, instructions for (i) use of the solution or (ii) reconstitution and/or use of the lyophilized formulation.
19. The kit according to claim 18, further comprising one or more of (iii) a buffer, (iv) a diluent, (v) a filter, (vi) a needle, or (v) a syringe.
20. The kit according to claim 18 or 19, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.
21. A method for producing a personalized anti-cancer vaccine or a compound-based and/or cellular therapy for an individual patient, said method comprising:
- a) identifying tumor-associated peptides (TUMAPs) presented by a tumor sample from said individual patient;
 - b) comparing the peptides as identified in a) with a warehouse of peptides that have been pre-screened for immunogenicity and/or over-presentation in tumors as compared to normal tissues
 - c) selecting at least one peptide from the warehouse that matches a TUMAP identified in the patient; and
 - d) manufacturing and/or formulating the personalized vaccine or compound-based or cellular therapy based on step c).
22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said TUMAPs are identified by:
- a1) comparing expression data from the tumor sample to expression data from a sample of normal tissue corresponding to **the** tissue type of the tumor

sample to identify proteins that are over-expressed or aberrantly expressed in the tumor sample; and

a2) correlating the expression data with sequences of MHC ligands bound to MHC class I and/or class II molecules in the tumor sample to identify MHC ligands derived from proteins over-expressed or aberrantly expressed by the tumor.

23. The method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the sequences of MHC ligands are identified by eluting bound peptides from MHC molecules isolated from the tumor sample, and sequencing the eluted ligands.
24. The method according to any of claims 21 to 23, wherein the normal tissue corresponding to the tissue type of the tumor sample is obtained from the same patient.
25. The method according to any of claims 21 to 24, wherein the peptides included in the warehouse are identified based on the following steps:
 - aa. Performing genome-wide messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) expression analysis by highly parallel methods, such as microarrays or sequencing-based expression profiling, comprising identify genes that over-expressed in a malignant tissue, compared with a normal tissue or tissues;
 - ab. Selecting peptides encoded by selectively expressed or over-expressed genes as detected in step aa, and
 - ac. Determining an induction of in vivo T-cell responses by the peptides as selected comprising *in vitro* immunogenicity assays using human T cells from healthy donors or said patient; or
 - ba. Identifying HLA ligands from said tumor sample using mass spectrometry;
 - bb. Performing genome-wide messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) expression analysis by highly parallel methods, such as microarrays or sequencing-based expression profiling, comprising identify genes that over-expressed in a malignant tissue, compared with a normal tissue or tissues;
 - bc. Comparing the identified HLA ligands to said gene expression data;
 - bd. Selecting peptides encoded by selectively expressed or over-expressed genes as detected in step bc;

- be. Re-detecting of selected TUMAPs from step bd. on tumor tissue and lack of or infrequent detection on healthy tissues and confirming the relevance of over-expression at the mRNA level; and
- bf. Determining an induction of in vivo T-cell responses by the peptides as selected comprising *in vitro* immunogenicity assays using human T cells from healthy donors or said patient.
26. The method according to any of claims 21 to 25, wherein the immunogenicity of the peptides included in the warehouse is determined by a method comprising in vitro immunogenicity assays, patient immunomonitoring for individual HLA binding, MHC multimer staining, ELISPOT assays and/or intracellular cytokine staining.
27. The method according to any of claims 21 to 26, wherein said warehouse comprises a plurality of peptides selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 302, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.
28. The method according to any of claims 21 to 27, further comprising identifying at least one mutation that is unique to the tumor sample relative to normal corresponding tissue from the individual patient, and selecting a peptide that correlates with the mutation for inclusion in the vaccine or for the generation of cellular therapies.
29. The method according to claim 28, wherein said at least one mutation is identified by whole genome sequencing.
30. A T-cell receptor, preferably soluble or membrane-bound, that is reactive with an HLA ligand, wherein said ligand has at least 75% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.
31. The T-cell receptor according to claim 30, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 88% identical to SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.

32. The T-cell receptor according to claim 30 or 31, wherein said amino acid sequence consists any of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306.
33. The T-cell receptor according to any of claims 30 to 32, wherein said T-cell receptor is provided as a soluble molecule and optionally carries a further effector function such as an immune stimulating domain or toxin.
34. A nucleic acid, encoding for a TCR according to any one of claims 30 to 33, optionally linked to a heterologous promoter sequence.
35. An expression vector capable of expressing the nucleic acid according to claim 34.
36. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 34 or the nucleic acid encoding an antibody according to claim 15 or the expression vector according to claim 35, wherein said host cell preferably is a T cell or NK cell.
37. A method for producing the T cell receptor according to any claims 30 to 33, said method comprising culturing a host cell according to Claim 36, and isolating said T cell receptor from said host cell and/or its culture medium.
38. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one active ingredient selected from the group consisting of
 - a) a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306;
 - b) a T-cell receptor reactive with a peptide and/or the peptide-MHC complex according to a);
 - c) a fusion protein comprising a peptide according to a), and the N-terminal amino acids 1 to 80 of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (Ii);
 - d) a nucleic acid encoding for any of a) to c) or an expression vector comprising said nucleic acid,

- e) a host cell comprising the expression vector of d,
 - f) an activated T-lymphocyte, obtained by a method comprising contacting in vitro T cells with a peptide according to a) expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen presenting cell for a period of time sufficient to activate said T cell in an antigen specific manner, as well as a method to transfer these activated T cells into the autologous or other patients;
 - g) an antibody, or soluble T-cell receptor, reactive to a peptide and/or the peptide – MHC complex according to a) and/or a cell presenting a peptide according to a), and potentially modified by fusion with for example immune-activating domains or toxins,
 - h) an aptamer recognizing a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306, and/or a complex of a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1 to SEQ ID No. 289, SEQ ID No. 305, and SEQ ID No. 306 with a MHC molecule,
 - i) a conjugated or labelled peptide or scaffold according to any of a) to h) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and optionally, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and/or stabilizers.
39. An aptamer that specifically recognizes the peptide or variant thereof according to any of claims 1 to 5, preferably the peptide or variant thereof according to any of claims 1 to 5 that is bound to an MHC molecule.

CLAIMS

1. A recombinant or synthetic peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, and wherein the peptide has the ability to bind to an MHC class-I or -II molecule.
2. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, and wherein the peptide has the ability to bind to an MHC class-I or -II molecule.
3. The pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 2, wherein the salt is a chloride, a bromide, a iodide, a phosphate, a sulphate, a nitrate, a chlorate, a thiocyanate, an ammonium salt, a potassium salt, a sodium salt, a magnesium salt, a calcium salt, a lithium salt, a Zn^{2+} salt, a Cu^{2+} salt, a caesium salt, a manganese salt, a rubidium salt or a Ba^{2+} salt, an acetate, a trifluoroacetate, a propionate, a glycolate, a pyruvate, an oxalate, a malate, a maleate, a malonate, a succinate, a fumarate, a tartrate, a citrate, a benzoate, a cinnamate, a mandelate, a methane sulfonate, an ethane sulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, a salicylate or a trimethylamine salt.
4. The recombinant or synthetic peptide of claim 1 or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of claim 2 or 3, wherein the peptide consists of the amino acid sequence according to any of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228.
5. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in therapy, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, and wherein the peptide has the ability to bind to an MHC class-I or -II molecule.
6. The recombinant or synthetic peptide of claim 1 or 4, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of claims 2 to 4 or the peptide for use of claim 5, wherein the peptide, when

bound to molecule(s) of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC), is capable of being recognized by CD4 and/or CD8 T cells.

7. The recombinant or synthetic peptide of any of claims 1, 4 or 6, or the peptide for use according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the peptide is modified and/or includes non-peptide bonds.
8. A fusion protein, comprising a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, having an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, and N-terminal amino acids of the HLA-DR antigen-associated invariant chain (Ii).
9. A binding molecule that specifically binds to a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, having an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, or to the peptide defined in any of claims 4 to 6 when bound to an MHC molecule.
10. The binding molecule of claim 9, being (i) an antibody, in particular a soluble or membrane-bound antibody, or (ii) a T-cell receptor that is reactive with an HLA ligand, wherein the ligand is a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228 and has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids.
11. The binding molecule of claim 10, wherein (i) the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a chimeric antibody and/or a humanized antibody, or a fragment thereof, (ii) the antibody binds to said peptide when bound to an MHC molecule and is a bi-specific antibody or a fragment thereof and/or (iii) wherein the T-cell receptor is soluble or membrane-bound.
12. The binding molecule of claim 10 or 11, wherein the T-cell receptor is provided as a soluble molecule and carries a further effector function such as an immune stimulating domain or toxin.
13. A nucleic acid, encoding the peptide defined in any one of claims 1, 4 or 6 or the binding molecule of any of claims 10 to 12, optionally linked to a heterologous promoter sequence, or an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid.

14. A recombinant host cell comprising the peptide defined in any of claims 1, 4 or 6, or the nucleic acid or expression vector according to claim 13.
15. The recombinant host cell of claim 14, wherein (i) the host cell comprises the peptide defined in any of claims 1, 4 or 6 or a nucleic acid encoding the same, wherein the host cell is an antigen presenting cell such as a dendritic cell, or (ii) the host cell comprises a nucleic acid encoding the binding molecule of any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the host cell is a T cell or an NK cell.
16. An *in vitro* method for producing activated T lymphocytes, the method comprising contacting *in vitro* T cells with antigen loaded human class I or II MHC molecules expressed on the surface of a suitable antigen-presenting cell or an artificial construct mimicking an antigen-presenting cell for a period of time sufficient to activate the T cells in an antigen specific manner, wherein the antigen is a peptide defined in any one of claims 1, 4 or 6.
17. An activated T lymphocyte, produced by the method according to claim 16, that selectively recognizes a cell which presents a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, and that has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids.
18. Use of a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of the nucleic acid or expression vector of claim 12, of the recombinant host cell of claim 13 or 14, of an activated T lymphocyte of claim 16 or of the binding molecule of any of claims 10 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.
19. A peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the nucleic acid or expression vector of claim 12, the recombinant host

cell of claim 113 or 14, the activated T lymphocyte of claim 17 or the binding molecule of any of claims 9 to 12 for use in diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer.

20. The use of claim 18, or the peptide, nucleic acid, expression vector, host cell, activated T lymphocyte or binding molecule for use of claim 19, wherein the cancer is selected from the group of glioblastoma (GB), breast cancer (BRCA), colorectal cancer (CRC), renal cell carcinoma (RCC), chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), non-small cell and small cell lung cancer (NSCLC, SCLC), Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), ovarian cancer (OC), pancreatic cancer (PC), prostate cancer (PCA), oesophageal cancer including cancer of the gastric-oesophageal junction (OSCAR), gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma (GBC, CCC), melanoma (MEL), gastric cancer (GC), urinary bladder cancer (UBC), and uterine cancer (UEC) and other tumours that show an overpresentation of a peptide comprising the sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, which peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids.
21. The use, or the peptide, nucleic acid, expression vector, host cell, activated T lymphocyte or binding molecule for use of claim 19, wherein the treatment is a cellular therapy.
22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one active ingredient selected from a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the binding molecule of any of claims 9 to 12, the nucleic acid or the expression vector according to claim 13, the recombinant host cell according to claim 14 or 15, or the activated T lymphocyte of claim 17, or a conjugated or labelled active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein (i) the pharmaceutical composition further comprises pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and/or stabilizers, and/or (ii) wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a vaccine.
24. A kit comprising:

- (e) a container comprising a pharmaceutical composition containing a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID No: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 38, and SEQ ID NO: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 228, wherein the peptide has an overall length of up to 14 amino acids or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the binding molecule of any of claims 9 to 12, the nucleic acid or expression vector of claim 13, the recombinant host cell of claim 14 or 15, the activated T lymphocyte of claim 17, in solution or in lyophilized form;
- (f) optionally, a second container containing a diluent or reconstituting solution for the lyophilized formulation; and
- (g) optionally, at least one further peptide of an overall length of up to 14 amino acids, the further peptide being selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID No: 38, SEQ ID No: 40 to SEQ ID NO: 302, SEQ ID NO: 305, and SEQ ID NO: 306.