What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) An expression vector comprising:

a promoter; and

a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter, wherein the insert encodes one or more short hairpin RNAs (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and that inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

2. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA incorporates one or more siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

3. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is both the cleavage-dependent and cleavage-independent inhibitor of the PDX-1 oncogene expression.

4. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

5. (Cancelled).

~~6~~5. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the region targeted is the 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

~~7~~6. (Currently amended) A therapeutic delivery system comprising:

a therapeutic agent carrier; and

an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter encodes one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

~~8~~7. The delivery system of claim ~~7~~6, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

~~9~~8. The delivery system of claim ~~7~~6, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations.

~~10~~9. (Currently amended) The delivery system of claim 9, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine ~~3-mer~~ 30-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$).

~~11~~10. The delivery system of claim ~~7~~6, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.

~~12~~11. The delivery system of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

~~13~~12. The delivery system of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome

~~14~~13. (Currently amended) The delivery system of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the liposome is decorated with one or more ~~"smart"~~ receptor targeting moieties.

15 (Cancelled).

~~16~~14. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome.

~~17~~15. (Currently amended) The delivery system of claim ~~16~~14, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) decorated with one or more ~~"smart"~~ receptor targeting moieties, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

~~20~~16. (Currently amended) A method to deliver one or more shRNAs to ~~a target tissue expressing~~ silence *in vitro* an expression of a PDX-1 oncogene in one or more target cells comprising the steps of:

preparing an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter that encodes the one or more shRNAs that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof;

combining the expression vector with a therapeutic agent carrier, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome decorated with one or more ~~"smart"~~ receptor targeting moieties; and

administering a therapeutically effective amount of the expression vector and therapeutic agent carrier complex ~~to a patient in need thereof~~.

~~21~~17. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

~~22~~18. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations comprise a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine ~~3-mer~~ 30-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide.

~~23~~19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~22~~18, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) and is decorated with one or more ~~"smart"~~ receptor targeting moieties.

24. (Cancelled).

~~25~~20. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

~~26~~21. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

~~27~~22. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

~~30~~23. (Currently amended) A method to silence an expression of a PDX-1 oncogene in one or more target cells comprising the steps of:

selecting the one or more target cells; and

transfecting the target cell with a vector that expresses one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the transfection of the one or more target cells with the vector inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more

shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

~~31~~24. The method of claim ~~30~~23, wherein the shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

~~32~~25. The method of claim ~~30~~23, wherein the shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

~~33~~ 26 The method of claim ~~30~~23, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

~~34~~27. The method of claim ~~30~~23, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Cancelled)

~~36~~28. (New) The use of the expression vector of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of tumor cell growth, treating an islet neoplasia disorder or both.

~~37~~29. (New) The method of claim 28 where the expression vector is combined with a therapeutic agent carrier and administered in an amount sufficient to supress the tumor cell growth, treat the islet neoplasia disorder or both, wherein the expression vector expresses one or more bifunctional short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding a PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the hybridization results in an apoptosis, an arrested proliferation, or a reduced invasiveness of the tumor cells wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.~~:~~

~~37~~30. The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the islet neoplasia disorders comprise pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (NET), insulinomas, and carcinoids.

~~38~~31. The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the bifunctional shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

~~39~~32. The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the bifunctional shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

40. (Cancelled).

~~41~~33. The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 transcript.

~~42~~34. The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the islet neoplasia disorder is a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor (NET).

~~43~~35. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~36~~29, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle or a reversibly masked liposome decorated with one or more ~~"smart"~~ receptor targeting moieties.

~~44~~36. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~43~~35, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine ~~3-mer~~ 30-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide

~~45~~37. The method of claim ~~43~~35, wherein the reversibly masked liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

46. (Cancelled).

~~47~~38. The method of claim ~~43~~35, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.

CLAIMS

1. An expression vector comprising:

a promoter; and

a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter, wherein the insert encodes one or more short hairpin RNAs (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and that inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference.

2. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA incorporates one or more siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

3. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is both the cleavage-dependent and cleavage-independent inhibitor of the PDX-1 oncogene expression.

4. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

5. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the one or more shRNA comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 3, SEQ. ID NO: 4, SEQ. ID NO: 5, SEQ. ID NO: 6, SEQ. ID NO: 7, SEQ. ID NO: 8, and combinations or modifications thereof.

6. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the region targeted is the 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

7. A therapeutic delivery system comprising:

a therapeutic agent carrier; and

an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter encodes one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference.

8. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

9. The delivery system of claim 8, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations.

10. The delivery system of claim 8, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 3-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$).

11. The delivery system of claim 8, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.

12. The delivery system of claim 11, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

13. The delivery system of claim 11, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome

14. The delivery system of claim 11, wherein the liposome is decorated with one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties.

15. The delivery system of claim 14, wherein the one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties are small molecule bivalent beta-turn mimics.

16. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome.

17. The delivery system of claim 16, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) decorated with one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

18. The delivery system of claim 17, wherein the "smart" receptor targeting moieties are small molecule bivalent beta-turn mimics.

19. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the one or more shRNA comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 3, SEQ. ID NO: 4, SEQ. ID NO: 5, SEQ. ID NO: 6, SEQ. ID NO: 7, SEQ. ID NO: 8, and combinations or modifications thereof.

20. A method to deliver one or more shRNAs to a target tissue expressing a PDX-1 oncogene comprising the steps of:

preparing an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter that encodes the one or more shRNAs that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference;

combining the expression vector with a therapeutic agent carrier, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome decorated with one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties; and

administering a therapeutically effective amount of the expression vector and therapeutic agent carrier complex to a patient in need thereof.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations comprise a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 3-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) and is decorated with one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties are small molecule bivalent beta-turn mimics.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

27. The method of claim 20, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein the one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties are small molecule bivalent beta-turn mimics.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the one or more shRNA comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 3, SEQ. ID NO: 4, SEQ. ID NO: 5, SEQ. ID NO: 6, SEQ. ID NO: 7, SEQ. ID NO: 8, and combinations or modifications thereof.

30. A method to silence an expression of a PDX-1 oncogene in one or more target cells comprising the steps of:

selecting the one or more target cells; and

transfecting the target cell with a vector that expresses one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the transfection of the one or more target cells with the vector inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the one or more shRNA comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 3, SEQ. ID NO: 4, SEQ. ID NO: 5, SEQ. ID NO: 6, SEQ. ID NO: 7, SEQ. ID NO: 8, and combinations or modifications thereof.

36. A method of suppressing a tumor cell growth, treating an islet neoplasia disorder or both in a human subject comprising the steps of:

identifying the human subject in need for suppression of the tumor cell growth, treatment of the islet neoplasia disorder or both; and

administering a an expression vector in a therapeutic agent carrier complex to the human subject in an amount sufficient to suppress the tumor cell growth, treat the islet neoplasia disorder or both, wherein the expression vector expresses one or more bifunctional short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding a PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the hybridization results in an apoptosis, an arrested proliferation, or a reduced invasiveness of the tumor cells.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the islet neoplasia disorders comprise pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (NET), insulinomas, and carcinoids.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the bifunctional shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein the bifunctional shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein the one or more shRNA comprise a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 3, SEQ. ID NO: 4, SEQ. ID NO: 5, SEQ. ID NO: 6, SEQ. ID NO: 7, SEQ. ID NO: 8, and combinations or modifications thereof.

41. The method of claim 36, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 transcript.

42. The method of claim 36, wherein the islet neoplasia disorder is a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor (NET).

43. The method of claim 36, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle or a reversibly masked liposome decorated with one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 3-mer peptide ($CK_{30}PEG10k$) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide

45. The method of claim 43, wherein the reversibly masked liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

46. The method of claim 43, wherein the one or more "smart" receptor targeting moieties are small molecule bivalent beta-turn mimics.

47. The method of claim 43, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.

CLAIMS

1. An expression vector comprising:

a promoter; and

a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter, wherein the insert encodes one or more short hairpin RNAs (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and that inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

2. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA incorporates one or more siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

3. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is both the cleavage-dependent and cleavage-independent inhibitor of the PDX-1 oncogene expression.

4. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

5. The expression vector of claim 1, wherein the region targeted is the 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

6. A therapeutic delivery system comprising:

a therapeutic agent carrier; and

an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter encodes one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript that encodes a PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence

of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

7. The delivery system of claim 6, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

8. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations.

9. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 30-mer peptide (CK_{30}PEG10k).

10. The delivery system of claim 7, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.

11. The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

12. The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome

13. The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the liposome is decorated with one or more receptor targeting moieties.

14. The delivery system of claim6, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome.

15. The delivery system of claim 14, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) decorated with one or more receptor targeting moieties, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

16. A method to deliver one or more shRNAs to silence *in vitro* an expression of a PDX-1 oncogene in one or more target cells comprising the steps of:

preparing an expression vector comprising a promoter and a nucleic acid insert operably linked to the promoter that encodes the one or more shRNAs that hybridizes to a region of an mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene and inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof;

combining the expression vector with a therapeutic agent carrier, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a liposome decorated with one or more receptor targeting moieties; and

administering a therapeutically effective amount of the expression vector and therapeutic agent carrier complex.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations comprise a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 30-mer peptide (CK_{30}PEG10k) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV) and is decorated with one or more receptor targeting moieties.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the liposome is a reversibly masked liposome.

23. A method to silence an expression of a PDX-1 oncogene in one or more target cells comprising the steps of:

selecting the one or more target cells; and

transfecting the target cell with a vector that expresses one or more short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding the PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the transfection of the one or more target cells with the vector inhibits the PDX-1 oncogene expression via RNA interference, wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

26 The method of claim 23, wherein the shRNA is further defined as a bifunctional shRNA.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 oncogene transcript.

28. The use of the expression vector of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of tumor cell growth, treating an islet neoplasia disorder or both.

29. The method of claim 28 where the expression vector is combined with a therapeutic agent carrier and administered in an amount sufficient to supress the tumor cell growth, treat

the islet neoplasia disorder or both, wherein the expression vector expresses one or more bifunctional short hairpin RNA (shRNA) capable of hybridizing to a region of a mRNA transcript encoding a PDX-1 oncogene, wherein the hybridization results in an apoptosis, an arrested proliferation, or a reduced invasiveness of the tumor cells wherein the sequence of the one or more shRNAs is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and combinations thereof.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the islet neoplasia disorders comprise pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (NET), insulinomas, and carcinoids.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the bifunctional shRNA incorporates siRNA (cleavage-dependent) and miRNA (cleavage-independent) motifs.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the bifunctional shRNA is both a cleavage-dependent and a cleavage-independent inhibitor of PDX-1 expression.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the region targeted is a 3' UTR region sequence of the PDX-1 transcript.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the islet neoplasia disorder is a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor (NET).

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the therapeutic agent carrier is a compacted DNA nanoparticle or a reversibly masked liposome decorated with one or more receptor targeting moieties.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the DNA nanoparticle is compacted with one or more polycations, wherein the one or more polycations is a 10 kDA polyethylene glycol (PEG)-substituted cysteine-lysine 30-mer peptide (CK_{30}PEG10k) or a 30-mer lysine condensing peptide

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the reversibly masked liposome is a bilamellar invaginated vesicle (BIV).

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the compacted DNA nanoparticles are further encapsulated in a liposome.