(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
14 December 2006 (14.12.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/133333 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:
C12P 21/06 (2006.01) *C07K 14/705* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/022211

(22) International Filing Date: 7 June 2006 (07.06.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/687,856 7 June 2005 (07.06.2005) US
60/741,893 5 December 2005 (05.12.2005) US

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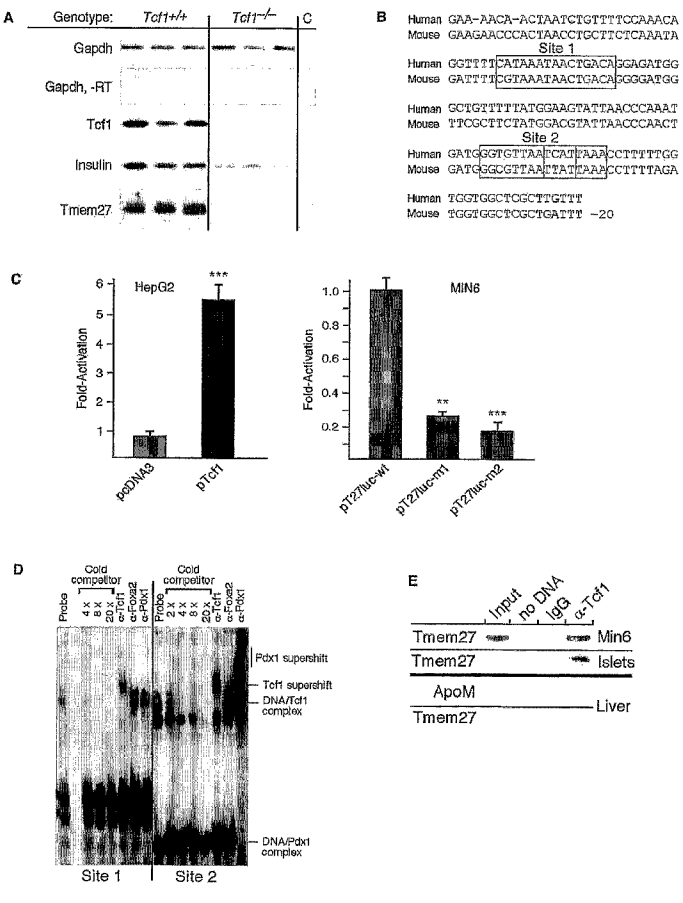
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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,

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(54) Title: STIMULATION OF PANCREATIC B CELL PROLIFERATION



(57) Abstract: This invention provides a polypeptide, TMEM27, and secreted forms thereof, nucleic acids and constructs encoding the same, and cells comprising the same. The TMEM27 protein is expressed in hormone positive cells at early stages of pancreas development and pancreatic β-cells in the mature pancreas, whose expression promotes pancreatic β-cell replication and increased islet mass. Applications of the protein in diagnostics and therapeutics are described.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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