~~THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:~~ CLAIMS

1. ~~A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of aortic fibrosis in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject at risk of developing aortic fibrosis, or to a subject having aortic fibrosis, a composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount~~Use of vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) (SEQ ID No. 1) or one or more functional VIP fragments selected from SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, SEQ ID No. 5, SEQ ID No. 6, SEQ ID No. 7, SEQ ID No. 8, SEQ ID No. 9, SEQ ID No. 10, SEQ ID No. 11, SEQ ID No.12, SEQ ID No. 13, SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15, or SEQ ID No. 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of aortic fibrosis.

2. The ~~method~~use according to claim 1, wherein the ~~treatment~~medicament prevents or slows down the development of aortic fibrosis ~~in a subject~~.

3. The ~~method~~use according to claim ~~2~~1 or claim 2, wherein the ~~treatment~~medicament prevents or slows down progression of established aortic fibrosis, or reduces the degree of established aortic fibrosis.

4. The ~~method~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the medicament further comprises~~ing administration of~~ one or more other active agents useful in the treatment of aortic fibrosis.

5. The ~~method~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein ~~VIP or one or more functional VIP fragments are administered~~the medicament is adapted for administered by a route selected from intravenous, intramuscular, by subcuticular injection, oral, sublingual or nasal.

6. The ~~method~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 45, wherein ~~VIP or one or more functional VIP fragments are administered~~the medicament is in a dosage form selected from tablets, capsules, powders, liquid formulations, delayed or sustained release, patches, snuffs~~,~~ and nasal sprays ~~and the like~~.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the medicament reduces collagen formation or enhances collagen degradation in the aorta.

~~7. Vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) (SEQ ID No. 1) or one or more functional VIP fragments selected from SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, SEQ ID No. 5, SEQ ID No. 6, SEQ ID No. 7, SEQ ID No. 8, SEQ ID No. 9, SEQ ID No. 10, SEQ ID No. 11, SEQ ID No.12, SEQ ID No. 13, SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15, or SEQ ID No. 16, for use in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of aortic fibrosis.~~

~~8. Use of vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) (SEQ ID No. 1) or one or more functional VIP fragments selected from SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, SEQ ID No. 5, SEQ ID No. 6, SEQ ID No. 7, SEQ ID No. 8, SEQ ID No. 9, SEQ ID No. 10, SEQ ID No. 11, SEQ ID No.12, SEQ ID No. 13, SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15, or SEQ ID No. 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of aortic fibrosis.~~

~~9. A method of reducing collagen formation or enhancing collagen degradation in the aorta of a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of vasoactive intestine peptide (VIP) (SEQ ID No. 1) or one or more functional VIP fragments selected from SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, SEQ ID No. 5, SEQ ID No. 6, SEQ ID No. 7, SEQ ID No. 8, SEQ ID No. 9, SEQ ID No. 10, SEQ ID No. 11, SEQ ID No.12, SEQ ID No. 13, SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15, or SEQ ID No. 16~~

~~10. A composition for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of aortic fibrosis, the composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) (SEQ ID No. 1) or one or more functional VIP fragments selected from SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, SEQ ID No. 5, SEQ ID No. 6, SEQ ID No. 7, SEQ ID No. 8, SEQ ID No. 9, SEQ ID No. 10, SEQ ID No. 11, SEQ ID No.12, SEQ ID No. 13, SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15, or SEQ ID No. 16.~~