Claims:

1. A peptide comprising or consisting of the amino acid sequence of :

a) SEQ ID NO: 17;

b) SEQ ID NO: 12;

c) SEQ ID NO: 13;

d) SEQ ID NO: 14;

e) SEQ ID NO: 15, or

f) SEQ ID NO: 16;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. ~~The~~ A peptide ~~of Claim 1~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. ~~The~~ A peptide ~~of Claim 1~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The peptide of Claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The peptide of Claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The peptide of Claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The peptide of Claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A variant peptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 85%, 90%, or 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the peptide of Claim 1, said variant peptide differing from the amino acid sequence of the peptide of claim 1 in that the variant peptide comprises one or more of the following features:

thereof, wherein the conjugate exhibits enhanced activity at the GLP-1 receptor, as compared to native glucagon, and exhibits at least 100-fold greater selectivity for the human GLP-1 receptor versus the GIP receptor.

19. The conjugate of Claim 18, wherein the heterologous moiety comprises one or more of: a peptide, a polypeptide, a nucleic acid molecule, an antibody or fragment thereof, a polymer, a quantum dot, a small molecule, a toxin, a diagonostic agent, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. The conjugate of Claim 19, wherein the heterologous moiety is a peptide and conjugate is a fusion peptide or a chimeric peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. The conjugate of Claim 20, comprising an extension of 1-21 amino acids C-terminal to the amino acid at position 31 of the peptide or variant peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. The conjugate of Claim 21, wherein the extension is selected from the group consisting of: Gly, Glu, Cys, Gly-Gly, Gly-Glu, GPSSGAPPPS (SEQ ID NO: 9) or GGPSSGAPPPS (SEQ ID NO: 10) , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. A dimer or multimer comprising a peptide or variant peptide of any one of the preceding claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide or variant peptide of any one of the preceding claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a conjugate of Claim 18 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a dimer or multimer of Claim 23, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a combination thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, comprising an anti-diabetic or anti-obesity agent.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 24 or 25 for use in ~~A method of~~ treating a disease or medical condition in a patient, wherein the disease or medical condition is selected from the group consisting of: metabolic syndrome, diabetes, obesity, liver steatosis, and a neurodegenerative disease~~, comprising administering to the patient the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 24 or 25 in an amount effective to treat the disease or medical condition~~.

27. The ~~method~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, ~~further comprising administering to~~for use in combination ~~the patient~~ with an anti-diabetic for treating diabetes~~or anti-obesity agent~~.

~~27.~~28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, for use in combination with an anti-obesity agent for treating obesity.

~~28. Use of the peptide or variant peptide of any one of the preceding claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a conjugate of Claim 18 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a dimer or multimer of Claim 23, or a combination thereof for treating a disease or medical condition.~~

~~29.~~ Use of the peptide or variant peptide of any one of the preceding claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a conjugate of Claim 18 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; a dimer or multimer of Claim 23, or a combination thereof in the manufacture of a medicament ~~to treat~~for treating a disease or medical condition, ~~:~~

~~30. The use of claim 28 or 29,~~ wherein the disease or medical condition is selected from the group consisting of: metabolic syndrome, diabetes, obesity, liver steatosis, and a neurodegenerative disease.