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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA98/00497</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 15 May 1998 (15.05.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>60/046,754</td> <td>16 May 1997 (16.05.97)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9715481.9</td> <td>23 July 1997 (23.07.97)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09/059,504</td> <td>13 April 1998 (13.04.98)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> </table> <p>(71) Applicant: 1149336 ONTARIO INC. [CA/CA]; 19 Fernwood Road, Toronto, Ontario M6B 3G3 (CA).</p> <p>(72) Inventor: DRUCKER, Daniel, J.; 19 Fernwood Road, Toronto, Ontario M6B 3G3 (CA).</p> <p>(74) Agent: AITKEN, David, W.; Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, Suite 1500, 50 O'Connor Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2 (CA).</p>	60/046,754	16 May 1997 (16.05.97)	US	9715481.9	23 July 1997 (23.07.97)	GB	09/059,504	13 April 1998 (13.04.98)	US	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
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<p>(54) Title: METHODS OF ENHANCING FUNCTIONING OF THE UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The invention relates to glucagon-related peptides and their use for the prevention or treatment of disorders involving the upper gastrointestinal tract including the esophagus and stomach. In particular, it has now been demonstrated that GLP-2 and peptidic agonists of GLP-2 can cause proliferation of the tissue of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Thus, the invention provides methods of proliferating the upper gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need thereof. Further, the methods of the invention are useful to treat or prevent inflammatory conditions of the upper gastrointestinal tract, including inflammatory diseases. GLP-2 stimulates the growth of upper gastrointestinal tissue when administered in conjunction with other peptide hormones. The invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions of GLP-2 with at least one other peptide hormone, methods of enhancing the growth of upper gastrointestinal tissue and of gastrointestinal disorders by increasing serum levels of GLP-2 and at least one other peptide hormone, an kits for performing the methods of the invention.</p>										

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**METHODS OF ENHANCING FUNCTIONING
OF THE UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT**

Field of Invention

5 This invention relates to glucagon-related peptides and their use, either alone or in combination with other peptide hormones, for the prevention or treatment of disorders involving the upper gastrointestinal tract.

10 **Background of the Invention**

 Glucagon-like peptide-2 (GLP-2) is a 33 amino acid peptide expressed in a tissue-specific manner from the pleiotropic glucagon gene. GLP-2 shows remarkable homology in terms of amino acid sequence to glucagon and Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1). Further, different mammalian forms of GLP-2 are highly conserved. For example, the human GLP-2 and degu (a south American rodent) GLP-2 differ from rat GLP-2 by one and three amino acids respectively. When given exogenously, GLP-2 can produce a marked increase in the proliferation of small intestinal epithelium of test mice, apparently with no undesirable side effects (Drucker et al., 1996, *PNAS:USA* 93:7911-7916). Subsequently it was shown that peptide analogs of native GLP-2 with certain modifications to the peptide sequence possess enhanced trophic activity at the small intestine (see co-pending application U.S. Serial No. 08/669,791, filed June 28, 1996, incorporated herein by reference). It has further been demonstrated that GLP-2 can proliferate the tissue of the large intestine (co-pending applications U.S. Serial No. 08/763,177, filed December 10, 1996, and U.S. Serial No. 08/850,664, filed on May 2, 1997, and Litvak et al., 1997, *Gastroenterology*, vol. 112 (4 Suppl.), page A1455, all of which are incorporated herein by reference). Moreover, GLP-2 has also been shown to increase D-glucose maximal transport rate across the intestinal basolateral membrane (Cheeseman and Tseng, 1996, *American Journal of Physiology* 271:G477-G482).

 A number of peptide hormones, structurally unrelated to

GLP-2, have been demonstrated to have varying degrees of trophic activity. For example, Insulin-Like Growth Factor-2 (IGF-2) has been shown to promote mitosis of the crypt cells of the small intestine *in vivo* (U.S. Patent No. 5,482,926).
5 Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1), which shares 64% sequence identity with IGF-2, and peptide analogs thereof have also been shown to increase the growth of gut tissue *in vivo* (WO 91/12018). Growth Hormone (GH) has been shown to have a number of physiological effects, including increasing
10 proliferation of the intestinal mucosa (see, for example, Willmore, U.S. Patent No. 5,288,703), thereby enhancing the absorptive capacity of the gut. However, none of the above peptide hormones possess the efficacy or specificity of GLP-2 in promoting proliferation of the tissue of the lower
15 gastrointestinal tract.

Summary of the Invention

The invention is based, in part, on the discovery that GLP-2 receptor agonists act to enhance functioning of the
20 upper gastrointestinal tract. Specifically, it has been demonstrated that GLP-2 can proliferate the tissue of the esophagus and stomach. It is accordingly a general object of the present invention to exploit GLP-2 receptor agonists for therapeutic and related purposes.

25 In particular, it has been demonstrated that GLP-2 and peptidic analogs of GLP-2 can cause proliferation of the tissue of upper gastrointestinal tract. Thus, one aspect the invention provides a method of proliferating the tissue of the upper gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need thereof
30 comprising delivering to the upper gastrointestinal tract of the subject an upper gastrointestinal tract proliferating amount of GLP-2 or a GLP-2 analog.

In addition, it has been demonstrated that GLP-2 can ameliorate nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)
35 induced gastrointestinal toxicity. Thus, the invention provides methods of therapeutically or prophylactically treating a subject with or at risk of an inflammatory

condition of the gastrointestinal involving the upper gastrointestinal tract, comprising delivering to the upper gastrointestinal tract an effective amount of GLP-2 or a GLP-2 analog.

5 More particularly, and according to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of treating a subject suffering from a condition involving the upper gastrointestinal tract, wherein GLP-2 or a GLP-2 analog is delivered to the upper gastrointestinal tract in an amount
10 capable of ameliorating the condition.

In a related aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of treating a subject having a damaged, partially resected, eroded or inflamed esophagus comprising the step of delivering to the subject a upper gastrointestinal tract
15 damage or inflammation ameliorating amount of GLP-2 or an analog of GLP-2 in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier. In a further aspect, GLP-2 or a GLP-2 analog is provided in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable form in an amount effective to cause proliferation
20 of the upper gastrointestinal tract.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of treating a subject having a damaged, atrophic or inflamed stomach comprising the step of delivering to the subject a stomach damage or inflammation ameliorating amount
25 of GLP-2 or an analog of GLP-2 in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier. In a further aspect, GLP-2 is provided in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable form in an amount effective to cause proliferation of the tissue of the stomach.

30 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of prophylactically treating a subject at risk of developing an inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal involving the upper gastrointestinal tract comprising the steps of:

a) identifying a subject at risk of developing an
35 inflammatory condition involving the upper gastrointestinal tract; and

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