hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1 -(2-cyclohexylphenoxy)-3 - [(1 -methylethyl)amino] -, hydrochloride CAS RN 59333-90-3), flestolol sulfate (Benzoic acid, 2-fluro-,3-[[2-[aminocarbonyl)amino]- - dimethylethyl]amino]-2-hydroxypropyl ester, (+)- sulfate (1 :1) (salt), CAS RN 88844-73-9; metalol hydrochloride (Methanesulfonamide, N-[4-[l-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)propyl]phenyl]-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 7701-65-7), metoprolol 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2- methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[l-methylethyl)amino]-; CAS RN 37350-58-6), metoprolol tartrate (such as 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-, *e.g.*, Lopressor®, Novartis), parnatolol sulfate (Carbamic acid, [2-[4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]propoxyl]phenyl]-ethyl]-, methyl ester, (±) sulfate (salt) (2:1), CAS RN 59954-01-7), penbutolol sulfate (2-Propanol, l-(2-cyclopentylphenoxy)-3-[l,l-dimethyle- thyl)amino] 1 , (S)-, sulfate (2:1) (salt), CAS RN 38363-32-5), practolol (Acetamide, N-[4-[2- hydroxy-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-propoxy]phenyl]-, CAS RN 6673-35-4;) tiprenolol hydrochloride (Propanol, l-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(methylthio)-phenoxy]-, hydrochloride, (±), CAS RN 39832-43-4), tolamolol (Benzamide, 4-[2-[[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methylphenoxy)-propyl] amino] ethoxyl]-, CAS RN 38103-61-6), bopindolol, indenolol, pindolol, propanolol, tertatolol, and tilisolol, and the like; calcium channel blockers such as besylate salt of amlodipine (such as 3-ethyl-5-methyl-2-(2-aminoethoxymethyl)-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-l ,4-dihydro-6-methyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate benzenesulphonate, *e.g.*, Norvasc®, Pfizer), clentiazem maleate (1,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one, 3-(acetyloxy)-8-chloro-5-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-(2S-cis)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1), see also US4567195), isradipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 4-(4-benzofurazanyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-, methyl 1-methylethyl ester, (±)-4(4-benzofurazanyl)- 1 ,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3 ,5 - pyridinedicarboxylate, see also US4466972); nimodipine (such as is isopropyl (2- methoxyethyl) 1, 4- dihydro -2,6- dimethyl -4- (3-nitrophenyl) -3,5- pyridine - dicarboxylate, *e.g.* Nimotop®, Bayer), felodipine (such as ethyl methyl 4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate- , *e.g.* Plendil® Extended-Release, AstraZeneca LP), nilvadipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-cyano-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-,3-methyl 5-(l-methylethyl) ester, also see US3799934), nifedipine (such as 3, 5 -pyridinedicarboxylic acid,l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester, *e.g.*, Procardia XL® Extended Release Tablets, Pfizer), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as l,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4-methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis., *e.g.*,

Tiazac®, Forest), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetronitrile, (alpha)-[[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)-(1 -methylethyl) hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Isoptin® SR, Knoll Labs), teludipine hydrochloride (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]4-[2-[(lE)-3-(l,l-dimethylethoxy)-3-oxo- l-propenyl]phenyl]-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-, diethyl ester, monohydrochloride) CAS RN 108700-03-4), belfosdil (Phosphonic acid, [2-(2-phenoxy ethyl)- 1,3 -propane- diyl]bis-, tetrabutyl ester CAS RN 103486-79-9), fostedil (Phosphonic acid, [[4-(2-benzothiazolyl)phenyl]methyl]-, diethyl ester CAS RN 75889-62-2), aranidipine, azelnidipine, barnidipine, benidipine, bepridil, cinaldipine, clevidipine, efonidipine, gallopamil, lacidipine, lemildipine, lercanidipine, monatepil maleate (1-Piperazinebutanamide, N-(6, 11 -dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiepin- 11 -yl)$_4$-(4-fluorophenyl)-, (+)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) (±)-N-(6,l l-Dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiep- in-l l-yl)-4-(p- fluorophenyl)-l-piperazinebutyramide maleate (1 :1) CAS RN 132046-06-1), nicardipine, nisoldipine, nitrendipine, manidipine, pranidipine, and the like; T-channel calcium antagonists such as mibefradil; angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as benazepril, benazepril hydrochloride (such as 3-[[l-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3- phenyl-(1 S)-propyl]amino]-2,3 ,4,5-tetrahydro-2-oxo- 1 H - 1 -(3 S)-benzazepine- 1 -acetic acid monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Lotrel®, Novartis), captopril (such as l-[(2S)-3-mercapto-2- methylpropionyl]-L-proline, *e.g.*, Captopril, Mylan, CAS RN 62571-86-2 and others disclosed in US4046889), ceranapril (and others disclosed in US4452790), cetapril (alacepril, Dainippon disclosed in Eur. Therap. Res. 39:671 (1986); 40:543 (1986)), cilazapril (Hoffman-LaRoche) disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 9:39 (1987), indalapril (delapril hydrochloride (2H-1,2,4- Benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide, 3-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl-6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-, 1,1- dioxide CAS RN 2259-96-3); disclosed in US4385051), enalapril (and others disclosed in US4374829), enalopril, enaloprilat, fosinopril, ((such as L-proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[[2-methyl- l-(l-oxopropoxy) propoxy](4-phenylbutyl) phosphinyl]acetyl]-, sodium salt, *e.g.*, Monopril, Bristol-Myers Squibb and others disclosed in US4168267), fosinopril sodium (L- Proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[(R)-[(lS)-2-methyl-l-(l-ox- opropoxy)propox), imidapril, indolapril (Schering, disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 5:643, 655 (1983)), lisinopril (Merck), losinopril, moexipril, moexipril hydrochloride (3-Isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, 2-[(2S)-2-[[(lS)- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]- 1 -oxopropyl]- 1 ,- 2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-, monohydrochloride, (3S)- CAS RN 82586-52-5), quinapril, quinaprilat, ramipril (Hoechsst) disclosed in EP 79022 and Curr. Ther. Res. 40:74

(1986), perindopril erbumine (such as 2S,3aS,7aS- 1 -[(S)-N-[(S)- 1 -Carboxybutyljalanyljhexahydro^-indolinecarboxylic acid, 1 -ethyl ester, compound with tert-butylamine (1 :1), *e.g.*, Aceon®, Solvay), perindopril (Servier, disclosed in Eur. J. clin. Pharmacol. 31 :519 (1987)), quanipril (disclosed in US4344949), spirapril (Schering, disclosed in Acta. Pharmacol. Toxicol. 59 (Supp. 5): 173 (1986)), tenocapril, trandolapril, zofenopril (and others disclosed in US4316906), rentiapril (fentiapril, disclosed in Clin. Exp. Pharmacol. Physiol. 10:131 (1983)), pivopril, YS980, teprotide (Bradykinin potentiator BPP9a CAS RN 35115-60-7), BRL 36,378 (Smith Kline Beecham, see EP80822 and EP60668), MC-838 (Chugai, see CA. 102:72588v and Jap. J. Pharmacol. 40:373 (1986), CGS 14824 (Ciba-Geigy, 3-([l-ethoxycarbonyl-3-phenyl-(IS)-propyl]amino)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-ox- o-l-(3S)-benzazepine-l acetic acid HCl, see U.K. Patent No. 2103614), CGS 16,617 (Ciba- Geigy, 3(S)-[[(lS)-5-amino-l-carboxypentyl]amino]-2,3,4,- 5-tetrahydro-2-oxo-lH-l- benzazepine-1-ethanoic acid, see US4473575), Ru 44570 (Hoechst, see Arzneimittelforschung 34:1254 (1985)), R 31-2201 (Hoffman-LaRoche see FEBS Lett. 165:201 (1984)), CI925 (Pharmacologist 26:243, 266 (1984)), WY-44221 (Wyeth, see J. Med. Chem. 26:394 (1983)), and those disclosed in US2003006922 (paragraph 28), US4337201, US4432971 (phosphonamidates); neutral endopeptidase inhibitors such as omapatrilat (Vanlev®), CGS 30440, cadoxatril and ecadotril, fasidotril (also known as aladotril or alatriopril), sampatrilat, mixanpril, and gemopatrilat, AVE7688, ER4030, and those disclosed in US5362727, US5366973, US5225401, US4722810, US5223516, US4749688, US5552397, US5504080, US5612359, US5525723, EP0599444, EP0481522, EP0599444, EP0595610, EP0534363, EP534396, EP534492, EP0629627; endothelin antagonists such as tezosentan, A308165, and YM62899, and the like; vasodilators such as hydralazine (apresoline), clonidine (clonidine hydrochloride (1H-Imidazol- 2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 4205-91-8), catapres, minoxidil (loniten), nicotinyl alcohol (roniacol), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as 1,5- Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4- methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis, *e.g.*, Tiazac®, Forest), isosorbide dinitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucitol 2,5-dinitrate *e.g.*, Isordil® Titradose®, Wyeth- Ayerst), sosorbide mononitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucito- 1,5-nitrate, an organic nitrate, *e.g.*, Ismo®, Wyeth-Ayerst), nitroglycerin (such as 2,3 propanetriol trinitrate, *e.g.*, Nitrostat® Parke- Davis), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetonitrile, (±)-(alpha)[3-[[2-(3,4 dimethoxypheny

l)ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)- (1 -methylethyl) hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Covera HS® Extended-Release, Searle), chromonar (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3282938), clonitate (Annalen 1870 155), droprenilamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in DE2521113), lidoflazine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3267104); prenylamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3152173), propatyl nitrate (which may be prepared as disclosed in French Patent No. 1,103,113), mioflazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, 3-(aminocarbonyl)$_4$-[4,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)butyl]-N-(2,6- dichlorophenyl)-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 83898-67-3), mixidine (Benzeneethanamine, 3,4- dimethoxy-N-(l-methyl-2-pyrrolidinylidene)- Pyrrolidine, 2-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]- 1 -methyl- l-Methyl-2- [(3, 4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]pyrrolidine CAS RN 27737-38-8), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), isosorbide mononitrate (D-Glucitol, l,4:3,6-dianhydro-, 5-nitrate CAS RN 16051-77-7), erythrityl tetranitrate (1,2,3,4-Butanetetrol, tetranitrate, (2R,3S)-rel-CAS RN 7297-25-8), clonitrate(l,2-Propanediol, 3-chloro-, dinitrate (7CI, 8CI, 9CI) CAS RN 2612-33-1), dipyridamole Ethanol, 2,2',2",2'"-[(4,8-di-l-piperidinylpyrimido[5,4-d]pyrimidine-2,6-diyl)dinitrilo]tetrakis- CAS RN 58-32-2), nicorandil (CAS RN 65141-46-0 3-), pyridinecarboxamide (N-[2-(nitrooxy)ethyl]-Nisoldipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, methyl 2-methylpropyl ester CAS RN 63675-72-9), nifedipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester CAS RN 21829-25-4), perhexiline maleate (Piperidine, 2-(2,2-dicyclohexylethyl)-, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 6724-53-4), oxprenolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1-[(1-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(2-propenyloxy)phenoxy]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 6452-73-9), pentrinitrol (1,3-Propanediol, 2,2-bis[(nitrooxy)methyl]-, mononitrate (ester) CAS RN 1607-17-6), verapamil (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]- methylamino]propyl]-3, 4-dimethoxy-α-(l -methylethyl)- CAS RN 52-53-9) and the like; angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as, aprosartan, zolasartan, olmesartan, pratosartan, FI6828K, RNH6270, candesartan (1 H-Benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,l'-biphenyl]4-yl]methyl]- CAS RN 139481-59-7), candesartan cilexetil ((+/-)-l-(cyclohexylcarbonyloxy)ethyl-2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-lH-benzimidazole carboxylate, CAS RN 145040-37-5, US5703110 and US5196444), eprosartan (3-[l-4-carboxyphenylmethyl)-2-n-butyl-imidazol-5-yl]-(2-thienylmethyl) propenoic acid, US5185351

and US5650650), irbesartan (2-n-butyl-3- [[2'-(lh-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] 1 ,3-diazazspiro[4,4]non-l-en-4-one, US5270317 and US5352788), losartan (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole, potassium salt, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), tasosartan (5,8-dihydro-2,4-dimethyl-8-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,r-biphenyl]4-yl)methyl]-pyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one, US5149699), telmisartan (4'-[(1 ,4-dimethyl-2'-propyl-(2,6'-bi-lH-benzimidazol)-r-yl)]-[1 , 1 '-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid, CAS RN 144701-48-4, US5591762), milfasartan, abitesartan, valsartan (Diovan® (Novartis), (S)-N-valeryl-N-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]valine, US5399578), EXP-3137 (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), 3-(2'-(tetrazol-5-yl)-l,r-biphen-4-yl)methyl-5,7-dimethyl-2-ethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 4'[2-ethyl-4-methyl-6-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[l,2-a]pyridin-2-yl]-benzimidazol-l-yl]-methyl]-l,r-biphenyl]-2- carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-6-(l-methoxy-l-methylethyl)-2-[2'-)lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-ylmethyl] guinazolin-4(3H)-one, 3 - [2 ' -carboxybiphenyl-4-yl)methyl] -2-cyclopropyl-7-methyl- 3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]imidazole-carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5- yl) [1 , 1 ' -biphenyl] -4-yl]methyl]- 1 H-imidazole-5 -carboxylic acid- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl-oxy)ethyl ester potassium salt, dipotassium 2-butyl-4-(methylthio)-l-[[2-[[[(propylamino)carbonyl]amino]-sulfonyl](1,1 '-biphenyl)-4-yl]methyl]-1 H-imidazole-5 -carboxylate, methyl-2-[[4-butyl-2-methyl-6-oxo-5-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-[1,1 '-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl]-l-(6H)- pyrimidinyl]methyl]-3-thiophencarboxylate, 5-[(3,5-dibutyl-lH-l,2,4-triazol-l-yl)methyl]-2-[2- (1 H-tetrazol-5 -ylphenyl)]pyridine, 6-butyl-2-(2-phenylethyl)-5 [[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)[1,1 '- biphenyl]-4-methyl]pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one D,L lysine salt, 5-methyl-7-n-propyl-8-[[2'-(lH- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-[1 ,2,4]-triazolo[1 ,5-c]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, 2,7-diethyl-5- [[2'-(5-tetrazoly)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-5H-pyrazolo[l,5-b][1,2,4]triazole potassium salt, 2-[2- butyl-4,5-dihydro-4-oxo-3-[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-4-biphenylmethyl]-3H-imidazol[4,5- c]pyridine-5-ylmethyl]benzoic acid, ethyl ester, potassium salt, 3-methoxy-2,6-dimethyl-4- [[2'(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-l,l '-biphenyl-4-yl]methoxy]pyridine, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(5-oxo-2,5-dihydro- 1 ,2,4-oxadiazol-3 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] - 1 H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 1 - [N-(2 ' -(1 H- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl-methyl)-N-valerolylaminomethyl)cyclopentane- 1 -carboxylic acid, 7- methyl-2n-propyl-3-[[2' lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-6]pyridine, 2- [5-[(2-

ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine-3-yl)methyl]-2-quinolinyl]sodium benzoate, 2-butyl-6-chloro-4-hydroxymethyl-5 -methyl-3 -[[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]pyridine, 2- [[[2-butyl- 1 - [(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl] - 1 H-imidazol-5 -yl]methyl]amino]benzoic acid tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]pyrimidin-6-one, 4(S)- [4-(carboxymethyl)phenoxy]-N-[2(R)-[4-(2-sulfobenzamido)imidazol- 1 -yl]octanoyl]-L-proline, 1 - (2,6-dimethylphenyl)-4-butyl-1,3-dihydro-3-[[6-[2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)phenyl]-3-pyridinyl]methyl]-2H-imidazol-2-one, 5 ,8-ethano-5 ,8-dimethyl-2-n-propyl-5 ,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1 - [[2'(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-lH,4H-l,3,4a,8a-tetrazacyclopentanaphthalene-9-one, 4-[1-[2'-(l,2,3,4-tetrazol-5-yl)biphen-4-yl)methylamino]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-trifylquinazoline, 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)imino-5-ethyl-3-[2'-(1H-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl-l,3,4-thiadiazoline, 2-[5-ethyl-3-[2-(1H-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl-l,3,4-thiazoline-2-ylidene]aminocarbonyl-l-cyclopentencarboxylic acid dipotassium salt, and 2-butyl-4-[N-methyl-N-(3 -methylcrotonoyl)amino] - 1 - [[2 ' -(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]- 1 H- imidzole-5 -carboxylic acid 1-ethoxycarbonyloxyethyl ester, those disclosed in patent publications EP475206, EP497150, EP539086, EP539713, EP535463, EP535465, EP542059, EP497121, EP535420, EP407342, EP415886, EP424317, EP435827, EP433983, EP475898, EP490820, EP528762, EP324377, EP323841, EP420237, EP500297, EP426021, EP480204, EP429257, EP430709, EP434249, EP446062, EP505954, EP524217, EP514197, EP514198, EP514193, EP514192, EP450566, EP468372, EP485929, EP503162, EP533058, EP467207 EP399731, EP399732, EP412848, EP453210, EP456442, EP470794, EP470795, EP495626, EP495627, EP499414, EP499416, EP499415, EP511791, EP516392, EP520723, EP520724, EP539066, EP438869, EP505893, EP530702, EP400835, EP400974, EP401030, EP407102, EP411766, EP409332, EP412594, EP419048, EP480659, EP481614, EP490587, EP467715, EP479479, EP502725, EP503838, EP505098, EP505111 EP513,979 EP507594, EP510812, EP511767, EP512675, EP512676, EP512870, EP517357, EP537937, EP534706, EP527534, EP540356, EP461040, EP540039, EP465368, EP498723, EP498722, EP498721, EP515265, EP503785, EP501892, EP519831, EP532410, EP498361, EP432737, EP504888, EP508393, EP508445, EP403159, EP403158, EP425211, EP427463, EP437103, EP481448, EP488532, EP501269, EP500409, EP540400, EP005528, EP028834, EP028833, EP411507, EP425921, EP430300, EP434038, EP442473, EP443568, EP445811, EP459136, EP483683, EP518033, EP520423, EP531876, EP531874, EP392317, EP468470, EP470543, EP502314,

EP529253, EP543263, EP540209, EP449699, EP465323, EP521768, EP415594, WO92/14468, WO93/08171, WO93/08169, WO91/00277, WO91/00281, WO91/14367, WO92/00067, WO92/00977, WO92/20342, WO93/04045, WO93/04046, WO91/15206, WO92/14714, WO92/09600, WO92/16552, WO93/05025, WO93/03018, WO91/07404, WO92/02508, WO92/13853, WO91/19697, WO91/11909, WO91/12001, WO91/11999, WO91/15209, WO91/15479, WO92/20687, WO92/20662, WO92/20661, WO93/01177, WO91/14679, WO91/13063, WO92/13564, WO91/17148, WO91/18888, WO91/19715, WO92/02257, WO92/04335, WO92/05161, WO92/07852, WO92/15577, WO93/03033, WO91/16313, WO92/00068, WO92/02510, WO92/09278, WO9210179, WO92/10180, WO92/10186, WO92/10181, WO92/10097, WO92/10183, WO92/10182, WO92/10187, WO92/10184, WO92/10188, WO92/10180, WO92/10185, WO92/20651, WO93/03722, WO93/06828, WO93/03040, WO92/19211, WO92/22533, WO92/06081, WO92/05784, WO93/00341, WO92/04343, WO92/04059, US5104877, US5187168, US5149699, US5185340, US4880804, US5138069, US4916129, US5153197, US5173494, US5137906, US5155126, US5140037, US5137902, US5157026, US5053329, US5132216, US5057522, US5066586, US5089626, US5049565, US5087702, US5124335, US5102880, US5128327, US5151435, US5202322, US5187159, US5198438, US5182288, US5036048, US5140036, US5087634, US5196537, US5153347, US5191086, US5190942, US5177097, US5212177, US5208234, US5208235, US5212195, US5130439, US5045540, US5041152, and US5210204, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α/β adrenergic blockers such as nipradilol, arotinolol, amosulalol, bretylium tosylate (CAS RN: 61-75-6), dihydroergtamine mesylate (such as ergotaman-3', 6',18-trione,9,-10-dihydro-12'-hydroxy-2'-methyl-5'-(phenylmethyl)-,(5'(α))-, monomethanesulfonate, *e.g.*, DHE 45® Injection, Novartis), carvedilol (such as (±)-l-(Carbazol-4-yloxy)-3-[[2-(o-methoxyphenoxy)ethyl] amino] -2-propanol, *e.g.*, Coreg®, SmithKline Beecham), labetalol (such as 5-[l-hydroxy-2-[(l-methyl-3-phenylpropyl) amino] ethyl]salicylamide monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Normodyne®, Schering), bretylium tosylate (Benzenemethanaminium, 2-bromo-N-ethyl-N,N-dimethyl-, salt with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (1 :1) CAS RN 61-75-6), phentolamine mesylate (Phenol, 3-[[(4,5-dihydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)methyl](4-methylphenyl)amino]-, monomethanesulfonate (salt) CAS RN 65-28-1), solypertine tartrate (5H-l,3-Dioxolo[4,5-f]indole, 7-[2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-l-piperazinyl]ethyl]-, (2R,3R)-2,3-dihydroxybutanedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 5591-43-5), zolertine

hydrochloride (Piperazine, l-phenyl4-[2-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl]-, monohydrochloride (8Cl, 9Cl) CAS RN 7241-94-3) and the like; α adrenergic receptor blockers, such as alfuzosin (CAS RN: 81403-68-1), terazosin, urapidil, prazosin (Minipress®), tamsulosin, bunazosin, trimazosin, doxazosin, naftopidil, indoramin, WHP 164, XENOlO, fenspiride hydrochloride (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3399192), proroxan (CAS RN 33743-96-3), and labetalol hydrochloride and combinations thereof; α 2 agonists such as methyldopa, methyldopa HCL, lofexidine, tiamenidine, moxonidine, rilmenidine, guanobenz, and the like; aldosterone inhibitors, and the like; renin inhibitors including Aliskiren (SPPlOO; Novartis/Speedel); angiopoietin-2-binding agents such as those disclosed in WO03/030833; anti-angina agents such as ranolazine (hydrochloride 1-Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6- dimethylphenyl)-4-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635- 56-6), betaxolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, l-[4-[2 (cyclopropylmethoxy)ethyl]phenoxy]-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 63659-19-8), butoprozine hydrochloride (Methanone, [4-[3(dibutylamino)propoxy]phenyl](2-ethyl-3-indolizinyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 62134-34-3), cinepazet maleatel-Piperazineacetic acid, 4-[l-oxo-3-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-2-propenyl]-, ethyl ester, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 50679-07-7), tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184), verapamilhydrochloride (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]methylamino]propyl]-3 ,4-dimethoxy-α-(1 -methylethyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 152-114), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), and ranolazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)$_4$-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-meth-oxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635-56-6); tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184); adrenergic stimulants such as guanfacine hydrochloride (such as N-amidino-2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl) acetamide hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Tenex® Tablets available from Robins); methyldopa-hydrochlorothiazide (such as levo-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-methylalanine) combined with Hydrochlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H -l,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7- sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide, *e.g.*, the combination as, *e.g.*, Aldoril® Tablets available from Merck), methyldopa-chlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-2H-l, 2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide and methyldopa as described above, *e.g.*, Aldoclor®, Merck), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-

(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride and chlorthalidone (such as 2-chloro-5-(1-hydroxy-3-oxo-1-isoindolinyl) benzenesulfonamide), *e.g.*, Combipres®, Boehringer Ingelheim), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Catapres®, Boehringer Ingelheim), clonidine (lH-Imidazol-2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-CAS RN 4205-90-7), Hyzaar (Merck; a combination of losartan and hydrochlorothiazide), Co-Diovan (Novartis; a combination of valsartan and hydrochlorothiazide, Lotrel (Novartis; a combination of benazepril and amlodipine) and Caduet (Pfizer; a combination of amlodipine and atorvastatin), and those agents disclosed in US20030069221.

Agents for the Treatment of Respiratory Disorders

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with one or more of the following agents useful in the treatment of respiratory and other disorders including but not limited to: (1) β-agonists including but not limited to : albuterol (PRO VENTIL® , S ALBUT AMOl® , VENTOLIN®), bambuterol, bitoterol, clenbuterol, fenoterol, formoterol, isoetharine (BRONKOSOL®, BRONKOMETER®), metaproterenol (ALUPENT®, METAPREL®), pirbuterol (MAXAIR®), reproterol, rimiterol, salmeterol, terbutaline (BRETHAIRE®, BRETHINE®, BRICANYL®), adrenalin, isoproterenol (ISUPREL®), epinephrine bitartrate (PRIMATENE®), ephedrine, orciprenline, fenoterol and isoetharine; (2) steroids, including but not limited to beclomethasone, beclomethasone dipropionate, betamethasone, budesonide, bunedoside, butixocort, dexamethasone, flunisolide, fluocortin, fluticasone, hydrocortisone, methyl prednisone, mometasone, predonisolone, predonisone, tipredane, tixocortal, triamcinolone, and triamcinolone acetonide; (3) β2-agonist-corticosteroid combinations [*e.g.*, salmeterol-fluticasone (AD V AIR®), formoterol-budesonid (S YMBICORT®)] ; (4) leukotriene D4 receptor antagonists/leukotriene antagonists/LTD4 antagonists (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting, reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between leukotrienes and the Cys LTI receptor) including but not limited to: zafhiukast, montelukast, montelukast sodium (SINGULAIR®), pranlukast, iralukast, pobilukast, SKB-106,203 and compounds described as having LTD4 antagonizing activity described in U.S. Patent No. 5,565,473; (5) 5 -lipoxygenase inhibitors and/or leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitors [*e.g.*, zileuton and BAY1005 (CA registry 128253-31-6)]; (6) histamine Hl receptor antagonists/antihistamines (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting,

reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between histamine and its receptor) including but not limited to: astemizole, acrivastine, antazoline, azatadine, azelastine, astamizole, bromopheniramine, bromopheniramine maleate, carbinoxamine, carebastine, cetirizine, chlorpheniramine, chloropheniramine maleate, cimetidine clemastine, cyclizine, cyproheptadine, descarboethoxyloratadine, dexchlorpheniramine, dimethindene, diphenhydramine, diphenylpyraline, doxylamine succinate, doxylamine, ebastine, efletirizine, epinastine, famotidine, fexofenadine, hydroxyzine, hydroxyzine, ketotifen, levocabastine, levocetirizine, levocetirizine, loratadine, meclizine, mepyramine, mequitazine, methdilazine, mianserin, mizolastine, noberastine, norasternizole, noraztemizole, phenindamine, pheniramine, picumast, promethazine, pynlamine, pyrilamine, ranitidine, temelastine, terfenadine, trimeprazine, tripelenamine, and triprolidine; (7) an anticholinergic including but not limited to: atropine, benztropine, biperiden, flutropium, hyoscyamine (*e.g.* Levsin®; Levbid®; Levsin/SL®, Anaspaz®, Levsinex timecaps®, NuLev®), ilutropium, ipratropium, ipratropium bromide, methscopolamine, oxybutinin, rispenzepine, scopolamine, and tiotropium; (8) an anti-tussive including but not limited to: dextromethorphan, codeine, and hydromorphone; (9) a decongestant including but not limited to: pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine; (10) an expectorant including but not limited to: guafenesin, guaicolsulfate, terpin, ammonium chloride, glycerol guaicolate, and iodinated glycerol; (11) a bronchodilator including but not limited to: theophylline and aminophylline; (12) an anti-inflammatory including but not limited to: fluribiprofen, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketoprofen, S-ketroprophen, tenoxicam; (13) a PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitor including but not limited to those disclosed herein; (14) a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody [*e.g.* xolair (also called omalizumab), rhuMab, and talizumab]; (15) a humanized lung surfactant including recombinant forms of surfactant proteins SP-B, SP-C or SP-D [*e.g.* SURFAXIN®, formerly known as dsc-104 (Discovery Laboratories)], (16) agents that inhibit epithelial sodium channels (ENaC) such as amiloride and related compounds; (17) antimicrobial agents used to treat pulmonary infections such as acyclovir, amikacin, amoxicillin, doxycycline, trimethoprin sulfamethoxazole, amphotericin B, azithromycin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin, clarithromycin, cephalosporins(ceffoxitin, cefmetazole etc), ciprofloxacin, ethambutol, gentimycin, ganciclovir, imipenem, isoniazid, itraconazole, penicillin, ribavirin, rifampin, rifabutin,amantadine, rimantidine, streptomycin, tobramycin, and vancomycin; (18) agents that activate chloride secretion through Ca++

dependent chloride channels (such as purinergic receptor (P2Y(2) agonists); (19) agents that decrease sputum viscosity, such as human recombinant DNase 1, (Pulmozyme®); (20) nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (acemetacin, acetaminophen, acetyl salicylic acid, alclofenac, alminoprofen, apazone, aspirin, benoxaprofen, bezpiperylon, bucloxic acid, carprofen, clidanac, diclofenac, diclofenac, diflunisal, diflusinal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenbufen, fenclofenac, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, feprazone, flufenamic acid, flufenisal, flufenisal, fluprofen, flurbiprofen, flurbiprofen, furofenac, ibufenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, indomethacin, indoprofen, isoxepac, isoxicam, ketoprofen, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, mefenamic acid, miroprofen, mofebutazone, naburnetone oxaprozin, naproxen, naproxen, niflumic acid , oxaprozin, oxpinac, oxyphenbutazone, phenacetin, phenylbutazone, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, piroxicam, pirprofen, pranoprofen, sudoxicam, tenoxican, sulfasalazine, sulindac, sulindac, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, tiopinac, tioxaprofen, tolfenamic acid, tolmetin, tolmetin, zidometacin, zomepirac, and zomepirac); and (21) aerosolized antioxidant therapeutics such as S-Nitrosoglutathione.

Anti-obesity agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an anti-obesity agent. Suitable such agents include, but are not limited to: 1 lβ HSD-I (11-beta hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase type 1) inhibitors, such as BVT 3498, BVT 2733, 3-(l-adamantyl)-4-ethyl-5-(ethylthio)- 4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3-(l-adamantyl)-5-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3- adamantanyl-4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,3a- decahydro-l,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a][l l]annulene, and those compounds disclosed in WO01/90091, WOO 1/90090, WOO 1/90092 and WO02/072084; 5HT antagonists such as those in WO03/037871, WO03/037887, and the like; 5HTIa modulators such as carbidopa, benserazide and those disclosed in US6207699, WO03/031439, and the like; 5HT2c (serotonin receptor 2c) agonists, such as BVT933, DPCA37215, IK264, PNU 22394, WAY161503, R-1065, SB 243213 (Glaxo Smith Kline) and YM 348 and those disclosed in US3914250, WO00/77010, WO02/36596, WO02/48124, WO02/10169, WO01/66548, WO02/44152, WO02/51844, WO02/40456, and WO02/40457; 5HT6 receptor modulators, such as those in WO03/030901, WO03/035061, WO03/039547, and the like; acyl-estrogens, such as oleoyl-estrone, disclosed in del Mar-Grasa, M. et al, Obesity

Research, 9:202-9 (2001) and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; anorectic bicyclic compounds such as 1426 (Aventis) and 1954 (Aventis), and the compounds disclosed in WO00/18749, WO01/32638, WO01/62746, WO01/62747, and WO03/015769; CB 1 (cannabinoid-1 receptor) antagonist/inverse agonists such as rimonabant (Acomplia; Sanofi), SR-147778 (Sanofi), SR-141716 (Sanofi), BAY 65-2520 (Bayer), and SLV 319 (Solvay), and those disclosed in patent publications US4973587, US5013837, US5081122, US5112820, US5292736, US5532237, US5624941, US6028084, US6509367, US6509367, WO96/33159, WO97/29079, WO98/31227, WO98/33765, WO98/37061, WO98/41519, WO98/43635, WO98/43636, WO99/02499, WO00/10967, WO00/10968, WO01/09120, WO01/58869, WO01/64632, WO01/64633, WO01/64634, WO01/70700, WO01/96330, WO02/076949, WO03/006007, WO03/007887, WO03/020217, WO03/026647, WO03/026648, WO03/027069, WO03/027076, WO03/027114, WO03/037332, WO03/040107, WO03/086940, WO03/084943 and EP658546; CCK-A (cholecystokinin-A) agonists, such as AR-R 15849, GI 181771 (GSK), JMV-180, A-71378, A-71623 and SR146131 (Sanofi), and those described in US5739106; CNTF (Ciliary neurotrophic factors), such as GI- 181771 (Glaxo-SmithKline), SRI 46131 (Sanofi Synthelabo), butabindide, PD 170,292, and PD 149164 (Pfizer); CNTF derivatives, such as Axokine® (Regeneron), and those disclosed in WO94/09134, WO98/22128, and WO99/43813; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, valine pyrrolidide, NVP-DPP728, LAF237, P93/01, P 3298, TSL 225 (tryptophyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid; disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD26 inhibtors, FE 999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) and the compounds disclosed patent publications. WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279 (Probiodrug), WO99/67278 (Probiodrug), WO99/61431 (Probiodrug), WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000180, WO03/000181, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/004498, WO03/004496,WO03/017936, WO03/024942, WO03/024965, WO03/033524, WO03/037327 and EP1258476; growth hormone secretagogue receptor agonists/antagonists, such as NN703, hexarelin, MK- 0677 (Merck), SM-130686, CP-424391 (Pfizer), LY 444,711 (Eli Lilly), L-692,429 and L- 163,255, and such as those disclosed in USSN 09/662448, US provisional application 60/203335, US6358951, US2002049196, US2002/022637, WO01/56592

and WO02/32888; H3 (histamine H3) antagonist/inverse agonists, such as thioperamide, 3-(1H-imidazol-4- yl)propyl N-(4-pentenyl)carbamate), clobenpropit, iodophenpropit, imoproxifan, GT2394 (Gliatech), and A331440, O-[3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propanol]carbamates (Kiec-Kononowicz, K. et al., Pharmazie, 55:349-55 (2000)), piperidine-containing histamine H3-receptor antagonists (Lazewska, D. et al., Pharmazie, 56:927-32 (2001), benzophenone derivatives and related compounds (Sasse, A. et al., Arch. Pharm.(Weinheim) 334:45-52 (2001)), substituted N- phenylcarbamates (Reidemeister, S. et al., Pharmazie, 55:83-6 (2000)), and proxifan derivatives (Sasse, A. et al., J. Med. Chem.. 43:3335-43 (2000)) and histamine H3 receptor modulators such as those disclosed in WO02/15905, WO03/024928 and WO03/024929; leptin derivatives, such as those disclosed in US5552524, US5552523, US5552522, US5521283, WO96/23513, WO96/23514, WO96/23515, WO96/23516, WO96/23517, WO96/23518, WO96/23519, and WO96/23520; leptin, including recombinant human leptin (PEG-OB, Hoffman La Roche) and recombinant methionyl human leptin (Amgen); lipase inhibitors, such as tetrahydrolipstatin (orlistat/Xenical®), Triton WR1 339, RHC80267, lipstatin, teasaponin, diethylumbelliferyl phosphate, FL-386, WAY-121898, Bay-N-3176, valilactone, esteracin, ebelactone A, ebelactone B, and RHC 80267, and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/77094, US4598089, US4452813, USUS5512565, US5391571, US5602151, US4405644, US4189438, and US4242453; lipid metabolism modulators such as maslinic acid, erythrodiol, ursolic acid uvaol, betulinic acid, betulin, and the like and compounds disclosed in WO03/011267; Mc4r (melanocortin 4 receptor) agonists, such as CHIR86036 (Chiron), ME-10142, ME-10145, and HS-131 (Melacure), and those disclosed in PCT publication Nos. WO99/64002, WO00/74679, WOO 1/991752, WOO 1/25192, WOO 1/52880, WOO 1/74844, WOO 1/70708, WO01/70337, WO01/91752, WO02/059095, WO02/059107, WO02/059108, WO02/059117, WO02/06276, WO02/12166, WO02/11715, WO02/12178, WO02/15909, WO02/38544, WO02/068387, WO02/068388, WO02/067869, WO02/081430, WO03/06604, WO03/007949, WO03/009847, WO03/009850, WO03/013509, and WO03/031410; Mc5r (melanocortin 5 receptor) modulators, such as those disclosed in WO97/19952, WO00/15826, WO00/15790, US20030092041; melanin-concentrating hormone 1 receptor (MCHR) antagonists, such as T-226296 (Takeda), SB 568849, SNP-7941 (Synaptic), and those disclosed in patent publications WOO 1/21169, WO01/82925, WO01/87834, WO02/051809, WO02/06245, WO02/076929, WO02/076947, WO02/04433, WO02/51809, WO02/083134,

WO02/094799, WO03/004027, WO03/13574, WO03/15769, WO03/028641, WO03/035624, WO03/033476, WO03/033480, JP13226269, and JP1437059; mGluR5 modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/029210, WO03/047581, WO03/048137, WO03/051315, WO03/051833, WO03/053922, WO03/059904, and the like; serotoninergic agents, such as fenfluramine (such as Pondimin® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl- alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Robbins), dexfenfluramine (such as Redux® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Interneuron) and sibutramine ((Meridia®, Knoll/Reductil™) including racemic mixtures, as optically pure isomers (+) and (-), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvents, hydrates, clathrates and prodrugs thereof including sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate salts thereof, and those compounds disclosed in US4746680, US4806570, and US5436272, US20020006964, WOO 1/27068, and WOO 1/62341; NE (norepinephrine) transport inhibitors, such as GW 320659, despiramine, talsupram, and nomifensine; NPY 1 antagonists, such as BIBP3226, J-115814, BIBO 3304, LY-357897, CP-671906, GI- 264879A, and those disclosed in US6001836, WO96/14307, WO01/23387, WO99/51600, WO01/85690, WO01/85098, WO01/85173, and WO01/89528; NPY5 (neuropeptide Y Y5) antagonists, such as 152,804, GW-569180A, GW-594884A, GW-587081X, GW-548118X, FR235208, FR226928, FR240662, FR252384, 1229U91, GI-264879A, CGP71683A, LY-377897, LY-366377, PD-160170, SR- 120562A, SR-120819A, JCF-104, and H409/22 and those compounds disclosed in patent publications US6140354, US6191160, US6218408, US6258837, US6313298, US6326375, US6329395, US6335345, US6337332, US6329395, US6340683, EP01010691, EP-01044970, WO97/19682, WO97/20820, WO97/20821, WO97/20822, WO97/20823, WO98/27063, WO00/107409, WO00/185714, WO00/185730, WO00/64880, WO00/68197, WO00/69849, WO/0113917, WO01/09120, WO01/14376, WO01/85714, WO01/85730, WO01/07409, WO01/02379, WO01/23388, WO01/23389, WOO 1/44201, WO01/62737, WO01/62738, WO01/09120, WO02/20488, WO02/22592, WO02/48152, WO02/49648, WO02/051806, WO02/094789, WO03/009845, WO03/014083, WO03/022849, WO03/028726 and Norman et al, J. Med. Chem. 43:4288-4312 (2000); opioid antagonists, such as nalmefene (REVEX ®), 3-methoxynaltrexone, methylnaltrexone, naloxone, and naltrexone (*e.g.* PT901; Pain Therapeutics, Inc.) and those disclosed in US20050004155 and WO00/21509; orexin antagonists, such as SB-334867-A and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/96302, WO01/68609, WO02/44172, WO02/51232,

WO02/51838, WO02/089800, WO02/090355, WO03/023561, WO03/032991, and WO03/037847; PDE inhibitors (*e.g.* compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP and cGMP; possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors) such as those disclosed in patent publications DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EP0112987, EP0116948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, US4963561, US5141931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DE1116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6331543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I- XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577), WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399, as well as PDE5 inhibitors (such as RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra™)), PDE4 inhibitors (such as etazolate, ICI63197, RP73401, imazolidinone

(RO-20-1724), MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), denbufylline, rolipram, oxagrelate, nitraquazone, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, motapizone, lixazinone, indolidan, olprinone, atizoram, KS-506-G, dipamfylline, BMY-43351, atizoram, arofylline, filaminast, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF-107806, piclamilast, RS-17597, RS-25344- 000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, mopidamol, anagrelide, ibudilast, amrinone, pimobendan, cilostazol, quazinone and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide, PDE3 inhibitors (such as ICI153, 100, bemorandane (RWJ 22867), MCI-154, UD-CG 212, sulmazole, ampizone, cilostamide, carbazeran, piroximone, imazodan, CI-930, siguazodan, adibendan, saterinone, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, emoradan, EMD-53998, EMD- 57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, revizinone, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, enoximone and milrinone, PDE3/4 inhibitors (such as benafentrine, trequinsin, ORG-30029, zardaverine, L- 686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and tolafentrine) and other PDE inhibitors (such as vinpocetin, papaverine, enprofylline, cilomilast, fenoximone, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®); Neuropeptide Y2 (NPY2) agonists include but are not limited to: polypeptide YY and fragments and variants thereof (*e.g.* YY3-36 (PYY3-36)(N. Engl. J. Med. 349:941, 2003; IKPEAPGE DASPEELNRY YASLRHYLNL VTRQRY (SEQ ID NO:XXX)) and PYY agonists such as those disclosed in WO02/47712, WO03/026591, WO03/057235, and WO03/027637; serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as, paroxetine, fluoxetine (Prozac™), fluvoxamine, sertraline, citalopram, and imipramine, and those disclosed in US6162805, US6365633, WO03/00663, WOO 1/27060, and WOO 1/162341; thyroid hormone β agonists, such as KB-2611 (KaroBioBMS), and those disclosed in WO02/15845, WO97/21993, WO99/00353, GB98/284425, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,223, and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; UCP-1 (uncoupling protein-1), 2, or 3 activators, such as phytanic acid, 4-[(E)-2-(5, 6,7,8- tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-napthalenyl)-l-propenyl]benzoic acid (TTNPB), retinoic acid, and those disclosed in WO99/00123; β3 (beta adrenergic receptor 3) agonists, such as AJ9677/TAK677 (Dainippon/Takeda), L750355 (Merck), CP331648 (Pfizer), CL-316,243, SB 418790, BRL-37344, L-796568, BMS-196085, BRL-35135A, CGP12177A, BTA-243, GW 427353, Trecadrine, Zeneca D7114, N-5984 (Nisshin Kyorin), LY-377604 (Lilly), SR 59119A, and those disclosed in US5541204, US5770615, US5491134, US5776983, US488064, US5705515,

US5451677, WO94/18161, WO95/29159, WO97/46556, WO98/04526 and WO98/32753, WO01/74782, WO02/32897, WO03/014113, WO03/016276, WO03/016307, WO03/024948, WO03/024953 and WO03/037881; noradrenergic agents including, but not limited to, diethylpropion (such as Tenuate® (1- propanone, 2-(diethylamino)-l -phenyl-, hydrochloride), Merrell), dextroamphetamine (also known as dextroamphetamine sulfate, dexamphetamine, dexedrine, Dexampex, Ferndex, Oxydess II, Robese, Spancap #1), mazindol ((or 5-(p-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-3H- imidazo[2,l-a]isoindol-5-ol) such as Sanorex®, Novartis or Mazanor®, Wyeth Ayerst), phenylpropanolamine (or Benzenemethanol, alpha-(l-aminoethyl)-, hydrochloride), phentermine ((or Phenol, 3-[[4,5-duhydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)ethyl](4-methylpheny-l)amino], monohydrochloride) such as Adipex-P®, Lemmon, FASTIN®, Smith-Kline Beecham and Ionamin®, Medeva), phendimetrazine ((or (2S,3S)-3,4-Dimethyl-2phenylmorpholine L-(+)- tartrate (1 :1)) such as Metra® (Forest) , Plegine® (Wyeth- Ay erst), Prelu-2® (Boehringer Ingelheim), and Statobex® (Lemmon), phendamine tartrate (such as Thephorin® (2,3,4,9- Tetrahydro-2-methyl-9-phenyl-lH-indenol[2,l-c]pyridine L-(+)-tartrate (1 :1)), Hoffmann- LaRoche), methamphetamine (such as Desoxyn®, Abbot ((S)-N, (alpha)-dimethylbenzenecthanamine hydrochloride)), and phendimetrazine tartrate (such as Bontril® Slow-Release Capsules, Amarin (-3,4-Dimethyl-2-phenylmorpholine Tartrate); fatty acid oxidation upregulator/inducers such as Famoxin® (Genset); monamine oxidase inhibitors including but not limited to befloxatone, moclobemide, brofaromine, phenoxathine, esuprone, befol, toloxatone, pirlindol, amiflamine, sercloremine, bazinaprine, lazabemide, milacemide, caroxazone and other certain compounds as disclosed by WO01/12176; and other anti-obesity agents such as 5HT-2 agonists, ACC (acetyl-CoA carboxylase) inhibitors such as those described in WO03/072197, alpha-lipoic acid (alpha-LA), AOD9604, appetite suppressants such as those in WO03/40107, ATL-962 (Alizyme PLC), benzocaine, benzphetamine hydrochloride (Didrex), bladderwrack (focus vesiculosus), BRS3 (bombesin receptor subtype 3) agonists, bupropion, caffeine, CCK agonists, chitosan, chromium, conjugated linoleic acid, corticotropin-releasing hormone agonists, dehydroepiandrosterone, DGATl (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1) inhibitors, DGAT2 (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2) inhibitors, dicarboxylate transporter inhibitors, ephedra, exendin-4 (an inhibitor of glp-1) FAS (fatty acid synthase) inhibitors (such as Cerulenin and C75), fat resorption inhibitors (such as those in WO03/053451, and the like), fatty acid transporter inhibitors, natural water soluble fibers (such as psyllium, plantago, guar, oat, pectin),

galanin antagonists, galega (Goat's Rue, French Lilac), garcinia cambogia, germander (teucrium chamaedrys), ghrelin antibodies and ghrelin antagonists (such as those disclosed in WO01/87335, and WO02/08250), polypeptide hormones and variants thereof which affect the islet cell secretion, such as the hormones of the secretin/gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP)/vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP)/pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP)/glucagon-like polypeptide II (GLP- II)/glicentin/glucagon gene family and/or those of the adrenomedullin/amylin/calcitonin gene related polypeptide (CGRP) gene family includingGLP-1 (glucagon- like polypeptide 1) agonists (*e.g.* (1) exendin-4, (2) those GLP-I molecules described in US20050130891 including GLP- 1(7-34), GLP-l(7-35), GLP-l(7-36) or GLP-l(7-37) in its C-terminally carboxylated or amidated form or as modified GLP-I polypeptides and modifications thereof including those described in paragraphs 17-44 of US20050130891, and derivatives derived from GLP-l-(7- 34)COOH and the corresponding acid amide are employed which have the following general formula: R-NH-HAEGTFTSDVSYLEGQAAKEFIAWLVK-$CONH_2$ wherein R=H or an organic compound having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms. Preferably, R is the residue of a carboxylic acid. Particularly preferred are the following carboxylic acid residues: formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert- butyl.) and glp-1 (glucagon-like polypeptide- 1), glucocorticoid antagonists, glucose transporter inhibitors, growth hormone secretagogues (such as those disclosed and specifically described in US5536716), interleukin-6 (IL-6) and modulators thereof (as in WO03/057237, and the like), L- carnitine, Mc3r (melanocortin 3 receptor) agonists, MCH2R (melanin concentrating hormone 2R) agonist/antagonists, melanin concentrating hormone antagonists, melanocortin agonists (such as Melanotan II or those described in WO 99/64002 and WO 00/74679), nomame herba, phosphate transporter inhibitors, phytopharm compound 57 (CP 644,673), pyruvate, SCD-1 (stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1) inhibitors, T71 (Tularik, Inc., Boulder CO), Topiramate (Topimax®, indicated as an anti-convulsant which has been shown to increase weight loss), transcription factor modulators (such as those disclosed in WO03/026576), β-hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase- 1 inhibitors (β -HSD-I), β-hydroxy-β-methylbutyrate, p57 (Pfizer), Zonisamide (Zonegran™, indicated as an anti-epileptic which has been shown to lead to weight loss), and the agents disclosed in US20030119428 paragraphs 20-26.

Anti-Diabetic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in therapeutic combination with one or more anti-diabetic agents, including but not limited to: PPARγ agonists such as glitazones (*e.g.*, WAY-120,744, AD 5075, balaglitazone, ciglitazone, darglitazone (CP-86325, Pfizer), englitazone (CP-68722, Pfizer), isaglitazone (MIT/J&J), MCC- 555 (Mitsibishi disclosed in US5594016), pioglitazone (such as such as Actos™ pioglitazone; Takeda), rosiglitazone (Avandia™;Smith Kline Beecham), rosiglitazone maleate, troglitazone (Rezulin®, disclosed in US4572912), rivoglitazone (CS-Ol 1, Sankyo), GL-262570 (Glaxo Welcome), BRL49653 (disclosed in WO98/05331), CLX-0921, 5-BTZD, GW-0207, LG- 100641, JJT-501 (JPNT/P&U), L-895645 (Merck), R-119702 (Sankyo/Pfizer), NN-2344 (Dr. Reddy/NN), YM-440 (Yamanouchi), LY-300512, LY-519818, R483 (Roche), T131 (Tularik), and the like and compounds disclosed in US4687777, US5002953, US5741803, US5965584, US6150383, US6150384, US6166042, US6166043, US6172090, US6211205, US6271243, US6288095, US6303640, US6329404, US5994554, W097/10813, WO97/27857, WO97/28115, WO97/28137,WO97/27847, WO00/76488, WO03/000685,WO03/027112,WO03/035602, WO03/048130, WO03/055867, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; biguanides such as metformin hydrochloride (N,N-dimethylimidodicarbonimidic diamide hydrochloride, such as Glucophage™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); metformin hydrochloride with glyburide, such as Glucovance™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); buformin (Imidodicarbonimidic diamide, N-butyl-); etoformine (l-Butyl-2-ethylbiguanide, Schering A. G.); other metformin salt forms (including where the salt is chosen from the group of, acetate, benzoate, citrate, ftimarate, embonate, chlorophenoxyacetate, glycolate, palmoate, aspartate, methanesulphonate, maleate, parachlorophenoxyisobutyrate, formate, lactate, succinate, sulphate, tartrate, cyclohexanecarboxylate, hexanoate, octanoate, decanoate, hexadecanoate, octodecanoate, benzenesulphonate, trimethoxybenzoate, paratoluenesulphonate, adamantanecarboxylate, glycoxylate, glutarnate, pyrrolidonecarboxylate, naphthalenesulphonate, 1-glucosephosphate, nitrate, sulphite, dithionate and phosphate), and phenformin; protein tyrosine phosphatase- IB (PTP-IB) inhibitors, such as A-401,674, KR 61639, OC- 060062, OC-83839, OC-297962, MC52445, MC52453, ISIS 113715, and those disclosed in WO99/585521, WO99/58518, WO99/58522, WO99/61435, WO03/032916, WO03/032982, WO03/041729, WO03/055883, WO02/26707, WO02/26743, JP2002114768, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; sulfonylureas such as acetohexamide (*e.g.* Dymelor, Eli Lilly), carbutamide,

chlorpropamide (*e.g.* Diabinese®, Pfizer), glamilide (Pfizer), gliclazide (*e.g.* Diamcron, Servier Canada Inc), glimepiride (*e.g.* disclosed in US4379785, such as Amaryl , Aventis), glipentide, glipizide (*e.g.* Glucotrol or Glucotrol XL Extended Release, Pfizer), gliquidone, glisolamide, glyburide/glibenclamide (*e.g.* Micronase or Glynase Prestab, Pharmacia & Upjohn and Diabeta, Aventis), tolazamide (*e.g.* Tolinase), and tolbutamide (*e.g.* Orinase), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; meglitinides such as repaglinide (*e.g.* Pranidin®, Novo Nordisk), KAD1229 (PF/Kissei), and nateglinide (*e.g.* Starlix®, Novartis), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α glucoside hydrolase inhibitors (or glucoside inhibitors) such as acarbose (*e.g.* Precose™, Bayer disclosed in US4904769), miglitol (such as GLYSET™, Pharmacia & Upjohn disclosed in US4639436), camiglibose (Methyl 6-deoxy-6-[(2R,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2- (hydroxymethyl)piperidino]-alpha-D-glucopyranoside, Marion Merrell Dow), voglibose (Takeda), adiposine, emiglitate, pradimicin-Q, salbostatin, CKD-711, MDL-25,637, MDL- 73,945, and MOR 14, and the compounds disclosed in US4062950, US4174439, US4254256, US4701559, US4639436, US5192772, US4634765, US5157116, US5504078, US5091418, US5217877, US51091 and WOO 1/47528 (polyamines); α-amylase inhibitors such as tendamistat, trestatin, and Al -3688, and the compounds disclosed in US4451455, US4623714, and US4273765; SGLT2 inhibtors including those disclosed in US6414126 and US6515117; an aP2 inhibitor such as disclosed in US6548529; insulin secreatagogues such as linogliride, A-4166, forskilin, dibutyrl cAMP, isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; fatty acid oxidation inhibitors, such as clomoxir, and etomoxir, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; A2 antagonists, such as midaglizole, isaglidole, deriglidole, idazoxan, earoxan, and fluparoxan, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; insulin and related compounds (*e.g.* insulin mimetics) such as biota, LP-100, novarapid, insulin detemir, insulin lispro, insulin glargine, insulin zinc suspension (lente and ultralente), Lys-Pro insulin, GLP-I (1-36) amide, GLP-I (73-7) (insulintropin, disclosed in US5614492), LY-315902 (Lilly), GLP-I (7-36)-NH2), AL-401 (Autoimmune), certain compositions as disclosed in US4579730, US4849405, US4963526, US5642868, US5763396, US5824638, US5843866, US6153632, US6191105, and WO 85/05029, and primate, rodent, or rabbit insulin including biologically active variants thereof including allelic variants, more preferably human insulin available in recombinant form (sources of human insulin include pharmaceutically acceptable and sterile formulations such as those

available from Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, Ind. 46285) as Humulin™ (human insulin rDNA origin), also see the THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE, 55.sup.th Ed. (2001) Medical Economics, Thomson Healthcare (disclosing other suitable human insulins); non-thiazolidinediones such as JT-501 and farglitazar (GW-2570/GI- 262579), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; PPARα/γ dual agonists such as AR-HO39242 (Aztrazeneca), GW-409544 (Glaxo-Wellcome), BVT-142, CLX-0940, GW-1536, GW-1929, GW-2433, KRP-297 (Kyorin Merck; 5-[(2,4-Dioxo thiazolidinyl)methyl] methoxy-N-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl] methyl]benzamide), L-796449, LR-90, MK-0767 (Merck/Kyorin/Banyu), SB 219994, muraglitazar (BMS), tesaglitzar (Astrazeneca), reglitazar (JTT-501) and those disclosed in WO99/16758, WO99/19313, WO99/20614, WO99/38850, WO00/23415, WO00/23417, WO00/23445, WO00/50414, WO01/00579, WO01/79150, WO02/062799, WO03/004458, WO03/016265, WO03/018010, WO03/033481, WO03/033450, WO03/033453, WO03/043985, WO 031053976, U.S. application Ser. No. 09/664,598, filed Sep. 18, 2000, Murakami et al. Diabetes 47, 1841-1847 (1998), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; other insulin sensitizing drugs; VPAC2 receptor agonists; GLK modulators, such as those disclosed in WO03/015774; retinoid modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/000249; GSK 3β/GSK 3 inhibitors such as 4-[2-(2-bromophenyl)-4-(4-fluorophenyl-lH-imidazol-5- yl]pyridine and those compounds disclosed in WO03/024447, WO03/037869, WO03/037877, WO03/037891, WO03/068773, EP1295884, EP1295885, and the like; glycogen phosphorylase (HGLPa) inhibitors such as CP-368,296, CP-316,819, BAYR3401, and compounds disclosed in WOO 1/94300, WO02/20530, WO03/037864, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof; ATP consumption promotors such as those disclosed in WO03/007990; TRB3 inhibitors; vanilloid receptor ligands such as those disclosed in WO03/049702; hypoglycemic agents such as those disclosed in WO03/015781 and WO03/040114; glycogen synthase kinase 3 inhibitors such as those disclosed in WO03/035663 agents such as those disclosed in WO99/51225, US20030134890, WO01/24786, and WO03/059870; insulin-responsive DNA binding protein-1 (IRDBP-I) as disclosed in WO03/057827, and the like; adenosine A2 antagonists such as those disclosed in WO03/035639, WO03/035640, and the like; PPARδ agonists such as GW 501516, GW 590735, and compounds disclosed in JP10237049 and WO02/14291; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, NVP-DPP728A (1- [[[2-[(5-cyanopyridin-2-

yl)amino]ethyl]amino]acetyl]-2-cyano-(S)-pyrrolidine, disclosed by Hughes et al, Biochemistry, 38(36), 11597-11603, 1999), P32/98, NVP-LAF-237, P3298, TSL225 (tryptophyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), valine pyrrolidide, TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD- 26 inhibitors, FE999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, DPP4, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) ,and the compounds disclosed in US6395767, US6573287, US6395767 (compounds disclosed include BMS-477118, BMS-471211 and BMS 538,305), WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279, WO99/67278, WO99/61431WO03/004498, WO03/004496, EP1258476, WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/000180, and WO03/000181; GLP-1 agonists such as exendin-3 and exendin-4 (including the 39 aa polypeptide synthetic exendin-4 called Exenatide®), and compounds disclosed in US2003087821 and NZ 504256, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; peptides including amlintide and Symlin® (pramlintide acetate); and glycokinase activators such as those disclosed in US2002103199 (fused heteroaromatic compounds) and WO02/48106 (isoindolin-1-one-substituted propionamide compounds).

Phosphodiesterase inhibitors

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor. PDE inhibitors are those compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of c AMP and/or cGMP. Possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors. By way of example, those PDE inhibitors may be mentioned such as are described and/or claimed in the following patent applications and patents: DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792,

DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,963,561, 5,141,931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEl 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6,331,543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I-XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577) and WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399. PDE5 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra®). PDE4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RO-20-1724, MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), DENBUFYLLINE, ROLIPRAM, OXAGRELATE, NITRAQUAZONE, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, MOTAPIZONE, LIXAZINONE, INDOLIDAN, OLPRINONE, ATIZORAM, KS-506-G, DIPAMFYLLINE, BMY-43351, ATIZORAM, AROFYLLINE, FILAMINAST, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF- 107806, PICLAMILAST, RS- 17597, RS-25344-000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, MOPIDAMOL, ANAGRELIDE, IBUDILAST, AMRINONE, PIMOBENDAN, CILOSTAZOL, QUAZINONE and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide. PDE3 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are SULMAZOLE, AMPIZONE, CILOSTAMIDE, CARBAZERAN, PIROXIMONE, IMAZODAN, CI-930, SIGUAZODAN,

ADIBENDAN, SATERINONE, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, EMORADAN, EMD-53998, EMD-57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, REVIZINONE, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, ENOXIMONE and MILRINONE. PDE3/4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are BENAFENTRINE, TREQUINSIN, ORG-30029, ZARDAVERINE, L-686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and TOLAFENTRINE. Other PDE inhibitors include: cilomilast, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®), zaprinast (PDE5 specific).

Anti- Uterine Contractions Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in order to decrease or inhibit uterine contractions) with a tocolytic agent including but not limited to beta-adrenergic agents, magnesium sulfate, prostaglandin inhibitors, and calcium channel blockers.

Anti- Neoplastic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an antineoplastic agents including but not limited to alkylating agents, epipodophyllotoxins, nitrosoureas, antimetabolites, vinca alkaloids, anthracycline antibiotics, nitrogen mustard agents, and the like. Particular anti-neoplastic agents may include tamoxifen, taxol, etoposide and 5-fluorouracil.

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example as in a chemotherapeutic composition) with an antiviral and monoclonal antibody therapies.

Agents to treat Congestive Heart Failure

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in prevention/treatment of congestive heart failure or another method described herein) with the partial agonist of the nociceptin receptor ORL1 described by Dooley et al. (The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 283 (2): 735-741, 1997). The agonist is a hexapeptide having the amino acid sequence Ac- RYY (RK) (WI) (RK)-NH2 ("the Dooley polypeptide"), where the brackets show allowable variation of amino acid residue. Thus Dooley polypeptide can include but are not limited to KYYRWR, RYYRWR, KWRYYR, RYYRWK,

RYYRWK (all-D amin acids), RYYRIK, RYYRIR, RYYKIK, RYYKIR, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWR, RYYRWK, RYYRIK, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWK and KYYRWK, wherein the amino acid residues are in the L-form unless otherwise specified. The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with polypeptide conjugate modifications of the Dooley polypeptide described in WO0198324.

DOSAGE

Dosage levels of active ingredients in a pharmaceutical composition can also be varied so as to achieve a transient or sustained concentration of the compound in a subject, especially in and around the site of inflammation or disease area, and to result in the desired response. It is well within the skill of the art to start doses of the compound at levels lower than required to achieve the desired effect and to gradually increase the dosage until the desired effect is achieved. It will be understood that the specific dose level for any particular subject will depend on a variety of factors, including body weight, general health, diet, natural history of disease, route and scheduling of administration, combination with one or more other drugs, and severity of disease.

An effective dosage of the composition will typically be between about 1 μg and about 10 mg per kilogram body weight, preferably between about 10 μg to 5 mg of the compound per kilogram body weight. Adjustments in dosage will be made using methods that are routine in the art and will be based upon the particular composition being used and clinical considerations.

The guanylate cyclase receptor agonists used in the methods described above may be administered orally, systemically or locally. Dosage forms include preparations for inhalation or injection, solutions, suspensions, emulsions, tablets, capsules, topical salves and lotions, transdermal compositions, other known peptide formulations and pegylated peptide analogs. Agonists may be administered as either the sole active agent or in combination with other drugs, *e.g.*, an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase and anti-inflammatory agent. In all cases, additional drugs should be administered at a dosage that is therapeutically effective using the existing art as a guide. Drugs may be administered in a single composition or sequentially.

Dosage levels of the GCR agonist for use in methods of this invention typically are from about 0.001 mg to about 10,000 mg daily, preferably from about 0.005 mg to about 1,000 mg daily. On the basis of mg/kg daily dose, either given in single or divided doses, dosages typically range from about 0.001/75 mg/kg to about 10,000/75 mg/kg, preferably from about 0.005/75 mg/kg to about 1,000/75 mg/kg.

The total daily dose of each inhibitor can be administered to the patient in a single dose, or in multiple subdoses. Typically, subdoses can be administered two to six times per day, preferably two to four times per day, and even more preferably two to three times per day. Doses can be in immediate release form or sustained release form sufficiently effective to obtain the desired control over the medical condition.

The dosage regimen to prevent, treat, give relief from, or ameliorate a medical condition or disorder, or to otherwise protect against or treat a medical condition with the combinations and compositions of the present invention is selected in accordance with a variety of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, the type, age, weight, sex, diet, and medical condition of the subject, the severity of the disease, the route of administration, pharmacological considerations such as the activity, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and toxicology profiles of the particular inhibitors employed, whether a drug delivery system is utilized, and whether the inhibitors are administered with other active ingredients. Thus, the dosage regimen actually employed may vary widely and therefore deviate from the preferred dosage regimen set forth above.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1: SYNTHESIS AND PURIFICATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

The GCRA peptides were synthesized using standard methods for solid-phase peptide synthesis. Either a Boc/Bzl or Fmoc/tBu protecting group strategy was seleceted depending upon the scale of the peptide to be produced. In the case of smaller quantities, it is possible to get the desired product using an Fmoc/tBu protocol, but for larger quantities (1 g or more), Boc/Bzl is superior.

In each case the GCRA peptide was started by either using a pre-loaded Wang (Fmoc) or Merrifield (Boc) or Pam (Boc) resin. For products with C-terminal Leu, Fmoc-Leu-Wang (D-1115) or Boc-Leu-Pam resin (D-1230) or Boc-Leu-Merrifield (D-1030) Thus, for peptides containing the C-terminal d-Leu, the resin was Fmoc-dLeu-Wang Resin (D-2535) and Boc-dLeu-Merrifield, Boc-dLeu-Pam-Resin (Bachem Product D-1230 and D-1590, respectively) (SP-332 and related analogs). For peptides produced as C-terminal amides, a resin with Ramage linker (Bachem Product D-2200) (Fmoc) or mBHA (Boc) (Bachem Product D-1210 was used and loaded with the C-terminal residue as the first synthetic step.

Fmoc-tBu Overview

Each synthetic cycle consisted deprotection with 20% piperidine in DMF. Resin washes were accomplished with alternating DMF and IpOH to swell and shrink the resin, respectively. Peptide synthesis elongated the chain from the C-terminus to the N-terminus. Activation chemistry for each amino acid was with HBTU/DIEA in a 4 fold excess for 45 minutes. In automated chemistries, each amino acid was double coupled to maximize the coupling efficiency. To insure the correct position of disulfide bonds, the Cys residues were introduced as Cys(Acm) at positions 15 and 7. Cys(Trt) was positioned at Cys4 and Cys12. This protecting group strategy yields the correct topoisomer as the dominant product (75:25). (For enterotoxin analogs, a third disulfide bond protecting group (Mob) was utilized).

For peptides containing C-terminal Aeea (aminoethyloxyethyloxyacetyl) groups, these were coupled to a Ramage amide linker using the same activation chemistry above by using an Fmoc-protected Aeea derivative. The Cys numbering in these cases remains the same and the positioning of the protecting groups as well. For the peptides containing the N-terminal extension of Aeea, the Cys residue numbering will be increased by three Cys4 becomes Cys7, Cys12 becomes Cys15; Cys7 becomes Cys10 and Cys 15 becomes Cys18. The latter pair is protected with Acm and the former pair keeps the Trt groups.

For analogs containing D-amino acid substitutions, these were introduced directly by incorporating the correctly protected derivative at the desired position using the same activation chemistry described in this document. For Fmoc strategies, Fmoc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Fmoc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Fmoc-dAsp(tBu)-OH, Fmoc-dGlu(tBu)-OH and for Boc strategies, Boc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Boc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Boc-dAsp(Chx), Boc-dAsp(Bzl)-OH, Boc-dGlu(Chx)-OH and Boc-dGlu(Bzl)-OH would be utilized.

Each peptide is cleaved from the solid-phase support using a cleavage cocktail of TFA:H2O:Trisisopropylsilane (8.5:0.75:0.75) ml/g of resin for 2 hr at RT. The crude deprotected peptide is filtered to remove the spent resin beads and precipitated into ice-cold diethylether.

Each disulfide bonds was introduced orthogonally. Briefly, the crude synthetic product was dissolved in water containing NH_4OH to increase the pH to 9. Following complete solubilization of the product, the disulfide bond was made between the Trt deprotected Cys residues by titration with H_2O_2. The monocyclic product was purified by RP-HPLC. The purified

mono-cyclic product was subsequently treated with a solution of iodine to simultaneously remove the Acm protecting groups and introduce the second disulfide bond.

For enterotoxin analogs, the Mob group was removed via treatment of the dicyclic product with TFA 85% containing 10% DMSO and 5% thioanisole for 2 hr at RT.

Each product was then purified by RP-HPLC using a combination buffer system of TEAP in H2O versus MeCN, followed by TFA in H2O versus MeCN. Highly pure fractions were combined and lyophilized. The final product was converted to an Acetate salt using either ion exchange with Acetate loaded Dow-Ex resin or using RP-HPLC using a base-wash step with NH_4OAc followed by 1% AcOH in water versus MeCN.

It is also possible to prepare enterotoxin analogs using a random oxidation methodology using Cys(Trt) in Fmoc or Cys(MeB) in Boc. Following cleavage, the disulfide bonds can be formed using disulfide interchange redox pairs such as glutathione (red/ox) and/or cysteine/cystine. This process will yield a folded product that the disulfide pairs must be determined as there would be no way of knowing their position directly.

Boc-Bzl Process

Peptide synthesis is initiated on a Merrifield or Pam pre-loaded resin or with mBHA for peptides produced as C-terminal amides. Each synthetic cycle consists of a deprotection step with 50% TFA in MeCL2. The resin is washed repetitively with MeCl2 and MeOH. The TFA salt formed is neutralized with a base wash of 10% TEA in MeCl2. The resin is washed with MeCl2 and MeOH and lastly with DMF prior to coupling steps. A colorimetric test is conducted to ensure deprotection. Each coupling is mediated with diisopropyl carbodiimide with HOBT to form the active ester. Each coupling is allowed to continue for 2 hr at RT or overnight on difficult couplings. Recouplings are conducted with either Uronium or Phosphonium reagents until a negative colorimetric test is obtained for free primary amines. The resin is then washed with DMF, MeCl2 and MeOH and prepared for the next solid-phase step. Cys protection utilizes Cys(Acm) at positions 7 and 15, and Cys(MeB) at Cys 4 and Cys12.

Cleavage and simultaneous deprotection is accomplished by treatment with HF using anisole as a scavenger (9:1:1) ml:ml:g (resin) at 0°C for 60 min. The peptide is subsequently extracted from the resin and precipitated in ice cold ether. The introduction of disulfide bonds

and purification follows the exact same protocol described above for the *Fmoc-produced* product.

EXAMPLE 2: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED GASTRIC FLUID (SGF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide according to the invention is determined in the presence of simulated gastric fluid (SGF) . GRCA peptide (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF (Proteose peptone (8.3 g/liter; Difco), D-Glucose (3.5 g/liter; Sigma), NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), Porcine bile (final 1 X concentration 0.05 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Lysozyme (final 1 X concentration 0.10 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Pepsin (final 1 X concentration 0.0133 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS). SGF is made on the day of the experiment and the pH is adjusted to 2.0 ± 0.1 using HCl or NaOH as necessary. After the pH adjustment, SGF is sterilized filtered with 0.22 μm membrane filters. SP-304 (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 15, 30, 45, 60 and 120 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are snap frozen in dry ice then are stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate.

EXAMPLE 3: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED INTESTINAL FLUID (SIF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide is also evaluated against digestion with simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SIF solution was prepared by the method as described in the United States Pharmacopoeia, 24th edition, p2236. The recipe to prepare SIF solution is as described below. The SIF solution contains NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), and Pacreatin 10 mg/ml. The pH is adjusted to 6 and the solution is filter sterilized. A solution of SP-304 (8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 300 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are removed and snap frozen with dry ice and stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate. F

The integrity of GRCA peptide is evaluated by HPLC by essentially using the method described for SGF digestion.

EXAMPLE 4: CYCLIC GMP STIMULATION ASSAYS

The ability of the GCRA peptide to bind to and activate the intestinal GC-C receptor is tested by usingT 84 human colon carcinoma cell line. Human T84 colon carcinoma cells are obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Cells are grown in a 1:1 mixture of Ham's F-12 medium and Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U penicillin/ml, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. The cells are fed fresh medium every third day and split at a confluence of approximately 80%.

Biological activity of the GCRA peptides is assayed as previously reported (15). Briefly, the confluent monolayers of T-84 cells in 24-well plates are washed twice with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), pre-incubated at 37°C for 10 min with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4) and 1 mM isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), followed by incubation with GCRA peptides (0.1 nM to 10 .mu.M) for 30 min. The medium is aspirated, and the reaction is terminated by the addition of 3% perchloric acid. Following centrifugation, and neutralization with 0.1 N NaOH, the supernatant is used directly for measurements of cGMP using an ELISA kit (Caymen Chemical, Ann Arbor, Mich.).

EXAMPLE 5: PEGGYLATED PEPTIDES

The other strategy to render peptides more resistant towards digestions against digestive proteases is to peggylate them at the N- and C-terminal. The peptide GCRA peptide is peggylated with the aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (Aeea) group at the C-terminal (or at the N-terminal or at both termini. Cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells is measured by the method as described above.

EXAMPLE 6: COMBINATION OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE RECPTOR AGONISTS WITH PHOSPHODIESTERASE INHIBITORS

Regulation of intracellular concentrations of cyclic nucleotides (*i.e.*, cAMP and cGMP) and thus, signaling via these second messengers, is generally considered to be governed by their rates of production versus their rates of destruction within cells. Thus, levels of cGMP in tissues and organs can also be regulated by the levels of expression of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases (cGMP-PDE), which are generally overexpressed in cancer and

inflammatory diseases. Therefore, a combination consisting of an agonist of GC-C with an inhibitor of cGMP-PDE might produce synergistic effect on levels of cGMP in the target tissues and organs.

Sulindac Sulfone (SS) and Zaprinast (ZAP) are two of the known inhibitors of cGMP-PDE and has shown to induce apoptosis in cancer cells via a cGMP-dependent mechanism. SS and ZAP in combination with GCRA peptide is evaluated to see if these PDE inhibitors have any synergistic effect on intracellular accumulation of cGMP

EXAMPLE 7: AN ORAL RANGE-FINDING TOXICITY STUDY IN CYNOMOLGUS MONKEYS.

The objective of the study is to determine the toxicity of the GRCA peptides according to the invention following a single oral gavage administration to the cynomolgus monkey and to allow assessment of reversibility of any changes following a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each GRCA peptide according to the invention will be given at two different dose levels.

Experimental Design

The test (*e.g.*, the GRCA peptides according to the invention) and control/vehicle article will be administered in three phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation period. Each phase will consist of a single oral gavage administration to female cynomolgus monkeys as indicated in the tables below:

Phase 1:

Eight non-naive female cynomolgus monkeys will be transferred from the ITR Spare Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Days	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	0	0	10	2
		4				
2	Test Peptides	1	1	0.1	10	2
		4				
		4				

Following completion of the Phase 1 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for 33 days. Upon completion of the observation period, all monkeys will be transferred back to the ITR Spare Monkey Colony.

Phase 2:

The same eight non-naïve female cynomolgus monkeys as previously used in Phase 1 will be transferred from the ITR Spare Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Day	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	10	1	10	2
2	Test Peptides	1	10	1	10	2

Following completion of the Phase 2 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for a minimum of 7 days.

Route of Administration

The oral route of administration has been chosen because it is a preferred human therapeutic route.

Preparation of Test and Control /Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be prepared fresh on the day of dosing in cold distilled water (maintained in an ice water bath). A sufficient amount of test article powder will be added to the appropriate amount of distilled water in order to achieve the desired concentration. The dose formulations will be mixed by simple inversion.

Analysis of Test Article Concentration and Stability in the Dose Formulations

For possible confirmation of the concentration and stability of the test article in the formulations, representative samples will be taken from the middle of each concentration, including the control/vehicle article on the first day of dosing of each group, as indicated below. Samples will be collected immediately after preparation on Day 1 and again after dosing is completed on that day and will be stored frozen (approximately 80°C nominal) in 20 mL screw

cap vials. Therefore, the remaining dose formulation vials will be returned to the Pharmacy Department as soon as possible after completion of dosing.

Group 1: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 2: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 3: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 4: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

The formulations will be maintained cold in an ice water bath during all sampling procedures.

The formulations will be stirred continuously with a stir bar for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to sampling.

The samples will be retained frozen (approximately -80°C nominal) at ITR until requested by the Sponsor to be shipped to a laboratory designated by the Sponsor for analysis. The samples can be discarded once it is determined by the analyst and Study Director that they are no longer needed. These samples' disposition will be recorded in the raw data.

If analyzed, a Dose Formulation report will be prepared by the Principal Investigator (Formulation analysis) and will be provided to ITR for inclusion in the final report.

Test System

Species/Strain:	Cynomolgus Monkey *(Macaca Fasicularis)*
Source:	orldwide Primates Inc., P.O. Box 971279 Miami, Florida, 33187, USA *and* Covance Research Products Inc. P.O. Box 549 Alice, Texas, 78333, USA
Total No. of monkeys on study:	8 non-naive females
Body Weight Range:	2-4 kg at onset of treatment
Age Range at Start:	Young adult at onset of treatment
Acclimation Period:	The animals will be transferred from ITR's sparc monkey colony. They are therefore, considered to be fully acclimated to the laboratory environment.

The actual age and body weight ranges will be noted in the final report.

Administration of the Test and Control/Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be administered by oral gavage administration using a gavage tube attached to a syringe in three Phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each dosing session will consist of a single oral gavage administration. The gavage tube will be flushed with 3 mL of reverse osmosis water immediately following administration of the dose formulation in order to ensure that the entire dose volume has been delivered to the animal. The dose volume will be 10 mL/kg for all animals, including controls. The actual volume administered to each monkey on Day 1 of each Phase will be calculated using the Day -1 body weights of each Phase.

Dosing formulations will be maintained cold during dose administration by placing them in an ice water bath.

The dosing formulations must be placed on a stir plate for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of dosing and maintained on the stir plate throughout the dosing procedure.

The dosing formulations must be used within 2 hours of preparation.

Clinical Observations

Cage-side clinical signs (ill health, behavioral changes etc.) will be recorded as indicated below except on detailed clinical examination days, where the morning cage-side clinical signs will be replaced by a detailed clinical examination (DCE). During regular cage side clinical signs and detailed examinations, particular attention will be paid to stools with respect to amount of stools produced, description of stools, etc.

Cage side clinical signs will be performed as follows:

During the pretreatment period and during the 7-day (minimum) observation periods: Three times per day with a minimum of 3 hours between each occasion.

On the dosing day of Phase 1: pre-dose, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 2: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 3: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

A detailed clinical examination of each monkey will be performed once at the time of animal transfer and once weekly thereafter.

Animals whose health status is judged to warrant additional evaluation will be examined by a Clinical Veterinarian, or a technician working under the supervision of the Clinical Veterinarian. Any veterinarian-recommended treatments will only be performed once agreement has been obtained from the Study Director. Where possible, the Sponsor will be consulted prior to administration of therapeutic drugs.

Body weights will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Food consumption will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Cages will be cleaned prior to the start of the daily food consumption to ensure no food cookies remain in the cage. Monkeys will be fed 7 cookies before 12pm and 7 cookies after 12pm. The sum of the total number of cookies given for the day will be recorded.

The next morning, a visual check will be performed to see how many cookies are left in the cage. The number of whole cookies remaining in the food hopper or on the tray will be recorded. The number of whole cookies left will be subtracted from the total number of cookies given in order to calculate the number of cookies eaten.

EXAMPLE 8: SUCKLING MOUSE MODEL OF INTESTINAL SECRETION (SUMI ASSAY)

The GCRA peptides described herein can be tested for their ability to increase intestinal secretion using a suckling mouse model of intestinal secretion. In this model a GCRA peptide is administered to suckling mice that are between seven and nine days old. After the mice are sacrificed, the gastrointestinal tract from the stomach to the cecum is dissected ("guts"). The remains ("carcass") as well as the guts are weighed and the ratio of guts to carcass weight is calculated. If the ratio is above 0.09, one can conclude that the test compound increases intestinal secretion. Controls for this assay may include wild-type SP-304, ST polypeptide and Zelnorm®. Phenylbenzoquinone-induced writhing model

The PBQ-induced writhing model can be used to assess pain control activity of the GCRA peptide described herein. This model is described by Siegmund et al. (1957 Proc. Soc. Exp. Bio. Med. 95:729-731). Briefly, one hour after oral dosing with a test compound, *e.g.*, a GCRA peptide, morphine or vehicle, 0.02% phenylbenzoquinone (PBQ) solution (12.5 mL/kg) is injected by intraperitoneal route into the mouse. The number of stretches and writhings are recorded from the 5^{th} to the 10^{th} minute after PBQ injection, and can also be counted between the 35^{th} and 40^{th} minute and between the 60^{th} and 65^{th} minute to provide a kinetic assessment. The results are expressed as the number of stretches and writhings (mean ± SEM) and the percentage of variation of the nociceptive threshold calculated from the mean value of the vehicle-treated group. The statistical significance of any differences between the treated groups and the control group is determined by a Dunnett's test using the residual variance after a one-way analysis of variance ($P< 0.05$) using SigmaStat Software.

EXAMPLE 9 : PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTY DETERMINATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

Serum samples are extracted from the whole blood of exposed (mice dosed orally or intravenously with GCRA peptides (s) described herein) and control mice, then injected directly (10 mL) onto an in-line solid phase extraction (SPE) column (Waters Oasis HLB 25µm column, 2.0 x 15mm direct connect) without further processing. The sample on the SPE column is washed with a 5% methanol, 95% dH_2O solution (2.1 mL/min, 1.0 minute), then loaded onto an 0 analytical column using a valve switch that places the SPE column in an inverted flow path onto the analytical column (Waters Xterra MS C8 5µm IS column, 2.1 x 20mm). The sample is eluted from the analytical column with a reverse phase gradient (Mobile Phase A: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in dH_2O, Mobile Phase B: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in 80% acetonitrile and 20% methanol; 20% B for the first 3 minutes then ramping to 95% B over 4 min. and holding for 2 5 min., all at a flow rate of 0.4 mL/min.). At 9.1 minutes, the gradient returns to the initial conditions of 20%B for 1 min. polypeptide is eluted from the analytical column and is detected by triple-quadrapole mass spectrometry (MRM, 764 (+2 charge state)>182 (+1 charge state) Da; cone voltage = 30V; collision = 20 eV; parent resolution = 2 Da at base peak; daughter resolution = 2 Da at base peak). Instrument response is converted into concentration units by comparison with a standard curve using known amounts of chemically synthesized polypeptide(s) prepared and injected in mouse plasma using the same procedure.

Similarly, pharmacokinetic properties are determined in rats using LCMS methodology. Rat plasma samples containing the GCRA peptide are extracted using a Waters Oasis MAX 96 well solid phase extraction (SPE) plate. A 200 μL volume of rat plasma is mixed with 200 μL of ^{13}Cg, ^{15}N -labeled polypeptide in the well of a prepared SPE plate. The samples are drawn through the stationary phase with 15 mm Hg vacuum. All samples are rinsed with 200 μL of 2% ammonium hydroxide in water followed by 200 μL of 20% methanol in water. The samples are eluted with consecutive 100 μL volumes of 5/20/75 formic acid/water/methanol and 100 μL 5/15/80 formic acid/water/methanol. The samples are dried under nitrogen and resuspended in 100 μL of 20% methanol in water. Samples are analyzed by a Waters Quattro Micro mass spectrometer coupled to a Waters 1525 binary pump with a Waters 2777 autosampler. A 40 μL volume of each sample is injected onto a Thermo Hypersil GOLD C18 column (2.1x50 mm, 5 um). polypeptide is eluted by a gradient over 3 minutes with acetonitrile and water containing 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid. The Quattro Micro mass spectrometer is run in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode using the mass transitions of, for example 764>182 or 682>136. Using this methodology, polypeptide is dosed orally and by IV to rats at 10 mg/kg. Pharmacokinetic properties including area under the curve and bioavailabilty are determined.

EXAMPLE 10: DIURESIS RELATED EXPERIMENTS EFFECT ON DIURESIS AND NATRIURESIS

The effect of GCRA peptides described herein on diuresis and natriuresis can be determined using methodology similar to that described in WO06/001931 (examples 6 (p. 42) and 8 (p.45)). Briefly, the polypeptide/agonist described herein (180-pmol) is infused for 60 min into a group of 5 anesthetized mice or primates. Given an estimated rat plasma volume of 10 mL, the infusion rate is approximately 3 pmol/mL/min. Blood pressure, urine production, and sodium excretion are monitored for approximately 40 minutes prior to the infusion, during the infusion, and for approximately 50 minutes after the infusion to measure the effect of the GCRA peptides on diuresis and natriuresis. For comparison, a control group of five rats is infused with regular saline. Urine and sodium excretion can be assessed. Dose response can also be determined. polypeptide/GC-C agonist described herein is infused intravenously into mice or primates over 60 minutes. Urine is collected at 30 minute intervals up to 180 minutes after termination of polypeptide/GC-C agonist infusion, and urine volume, sodium excretion, and potassium excretion are determined for each collection interval. Blood pressure is monitored continuously.

For each dose a dose-response relationship for urine volume, sodium and potassium excretion can be determined. Plasma concentration of the polypeptide/GC-agonist is also determined before and after iv infusion.

Mouse or Primate Diuresis Experiment: Once an appropriate level of anesthesia has been achieved, a sterile polyurethane catheter is inserted into the urethra and secured using 1 - 2 drops of veterinary bond adhesive applied to urethra/catheter junction. Animals are then dosed with either vehicle or test article via the intravenous or intraperitoneal route. Animals are allowed to regain consciousness, and the volume of urine excreted over a 1-5 hour duration is recorded periodically for each rat.

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We claim:

1. A peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:2-8.

2. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dose comprising a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist peptide having the sequence of any one of NO:2-8 present in a therapeutically effective amount and a pharmacetical carrier, excipient or diluent.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the unit dose form is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a capsule, a solution or inhalation formulation.

4. A method for preventing or treating a condition selected from the group consisting of Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) non-ulcer dyspepsia chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, constipation associated with use of opiate pain killers, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), post surgical constipation, gastroparesis, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders, heartburn, poor gastrointestinal motility , congestive heart failure, hypertension, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), colon cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, liver cancer, salivary gland cancer or skin cancer, bronchitis, tissue inflammation, organ inflammation, respiratory inflammation, asthma, COPD comprising administering toa patient in need thereof, an effective dosage of a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist having the sequence of any one of NO:2-8.

5. A method of claim 4, further comprising administering an effective dose of inhibitor of a cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising administering to said patient an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase either concurrently or sequentially with said guanylate cyclase receptor agonist.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

8. The method of claim 4, futher comprising administering an effective does of at least one anti-inflammatory agent.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein an anti-inflammatory agent is a steroid or nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drug (NISAIDS).

10 The use of any one of the peptides having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:2-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a human disease.

11. A method of increasing cGMP production in a cell comprising contacting said cell with a peptide selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2-8.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising contacting said cell with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2009/046287

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61K38/10 C07K7/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61K C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, BIOSIS, Sequence Search, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2007/101158 A (MICROBIA INC [US]; CURRIE MARK G [US]) 7 September 2007 (2007-09-07) page 45 - page 63; claims 10,63; sequences 21,27,40,42,49,70,85,98,10,128 page 213, line 13 - line 23 page 206, line 26 - line 27 page 190, line 1 - line 15	1-13
X	US 2003/073628 A1 (SHAILUBHAI KUNWAR [US] ET AL) 17 April 2003 (2003-04-17) claims; sequence 20	1-13
X	WO 2005/016244 A (MICROBIA INC [US]; CURRIE MARK G [US]; MAHAJAN-MIKLOS SHALINA [US]; LI) 24 February 2005 (2005-02-24) the whole document	1-13

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"&" document member of the same patent family

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02/078683 A (SYNERGY PHARMACEUTICALS INC [US]) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) claims; sequence 20	1-13
X	WO 2006/086653 A (MICROBIA INC [US]; CURRIE MARK G [US]; MAHAJAN-MIKLOS SHALINA [US]; SU) 17 August 2006 (2006-08-17) the whole document	1-13
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2009/046287

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(54) Title: AGONISTS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE USEFUL FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS, INFLAMMATION, CANCER AND OTHER DISORDERS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides novel guanylate cyclase-C agonist peptides and their use in the treatment of human diseases including gastrointestinal disorders, inflammation or cancer (e.g., a gastrointestinal cancer). The peptides can be administered either alone or in combination with an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase. The gastrointestinal disorder may be classified as either irritable bowel syndrome, constipation, or excessive acidity etc. The gastrointestinal disease may be classified as either inflammatory bowel disease or other GI condition including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and cancer.

AGONISTS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE USEFUL FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS, INFLAMMATION, CANCER AND OTHER DISORDERS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S.S.N. 61/058,892 filed June 4, 2008 the contenst of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the therapeutic use of guanylate cyclase C (GC-C) agonists as a means for enhancing the intracellular production of cGMP. The agonists may be used either alone or in combination with inhibitors of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase to prevent or treat inflammation, cancer and other disorders, particularly of the gastrointestinal tract and the lung.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Uroguanylin, guanylin and bacterial ST peptides are structurally related peptides that bind to a guanylate cyclase receptor and stimulate intracellular production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) (1-6). This results in the activation of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR), an apical membrane channel for efflux of chloride from enterocytes lining the intestinal tract (1-6). Activation of CFTR and the subsequent enhancement of transepithelial secretion of chloride lead to stimulation of sodium and water secretion into the intestinal lumen. Therefore, by serving as paracrine regulators of CFTR activity, cGMP receptor agonists regulate fluid and electrolyte transport in the GI tract (1-6; US patent 5,489,670). Thus, the cGMP-mediated activation of CFTR and the downstream signaling plays an important role in normal functioning of gut physiology. Therefore, any abnormality in this process could potentially lead to gastrointestinal disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, excessive acidity and cancer (25, 26).

The process of epithelial renewal involves the proliferation, migration, differentiation, senescence, and eventual loss of GI cells in the lumen (7, 8). The GI mucosa can be divided into three distinct zones based on the proliferation index of epithelial cells. One of these zones, the

proliferative zone, consists of undifferentiated stem cells responsible for providing a constant source of new cells. The stem cells migrate upward toward the lumen to which they are extruded. As they migrate, the cells lose their capacity to divide and become differentiated for carrying out specialized functions of the GI mucosa (9). Renewal of GI mucosa is very rapid with complete turnover occurring within a 24-48 hour period (9). During this process mutated and unwanted cells are replenished with new cells. Hence, homeostasis of the GI mucosa is regulated by continual maintenance of the balance between proliferation and apoptotic rates (8).

The rates of cell proliferation and apoptosis in the gut epithelium can be increased or decreased in a wide variety of different circumstances, *e.g.*, in response to physiological stimuli such as aging, inflammatory signals, hormones, peptides, growth factors, chemicals and dietary habits. In addition, an enhanced proliferation rate is frequently associated with a reduction in turnover time and an expansion of the proliferative zone (10). The proliferation index has been observed to be much higher in pathological cases of ulcerative colitis and other GI disorders (11). Thus, intestinal hyperplasia is the major promoter of gastrointestinal inflammation and carcinogenesis.

In addition to a role for uroguanylin and guanylin as modulators of intestinal fluid and ion secretion, these peptides may also be involved in the continual renewal of GI mucosa by maintaining the balance between proliferation and apoptosis in cells lining GI mucosa. Therefore, any disruption in this renewal process, due to reduced production of uroguanylin and/or guanylin can lead to GI inflammation and cancer (25, 26). This is consistent with previously published data in WO 01/25266, which suggest a peptide with the active domain of uroguanylin may function as an inhibitor of polyp development in the colon and may constitute a treatment of colon cancer. However, recent data also suggest that uroguanylin also binds to a currently unknown receptor, which is distinct from GC-C receptor (3,4). Knockout mice lacking this guanylate cyclase receptor show resistance to ST peptides in the intestine, but effects of uroguanylin and ST peptides are not disturbed in the kidney *in vivo* (3). These results were further supported by the fact that membrane depolarization induced by guanylin was blocked by genistein, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, whereas hyperpolarization induced by uroguanylin was not effected (12, 13). Thus, it is not clear if the anti-colon cancer and anti-inflammatory activities of uroguanylin and its analogs are mediated through binding to one or both of these receptors.

Inflammatory bowel disease is a general name given to a group of disorders that cause intestines to become inflamed, characterized by red and swollen tissue. Gastrointestinal (GI) inflammation can be a chronic condition and often leads to GI cancer (14). Examples of such inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) include Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (UC). It is estimated that as many as 1,000,000 Americans are afflicted with IBD, with male and female patients appearing to be equally affected. Most cases are diagnosed before age 30, but the disease can occur in the sixth, seventh, and later decades of life.

Crohn's disease is a serious inflammatory disease that predominantly effects ileum and colon, but can also occur in other sections of the GI tract, whereas UC is exclusively an inflammatory disease of the colon, the large intestine (15). Unlike Crohn's disease, in which all layers of the intestine are involved, and in which there can be normal healthy bowel in between patches of diseased bowel, UC affects only the innermost lining (mucosa) of the colon in a continuous manner (16). Depending on which portion of the GI tract is involved, Crohn's disease may be referred to as ileitis, regional enteritis, colitis, etc. Crohn's disease and UC differ from spastic colon or irritable bowel syndrome, which are motility disorders of the GI tract.

While the precise cause of IBD is not known, it is believed that the disruption of the process of continual renewal of GI mucosa may be involved in disease (17,18). The renewal process of the GI lining is an efficient and dynamic process involving the continual proliferation and replenishment of unwanted damaged cells. Proliferation rates of cells lining the GI mucosa are very high, second only to the hematopoietic system. Thus, the balance between proliferation and apoptosis is important to the maintenance of the homeostasis of the GI mucosa (19,20).

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is a devastating inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal tract that afflicts 10% of premature infants born weighing less than 1500 grams. Despite modern medical advances, the etiology remains elusive, and morbidity and mortality is unacceptably high, with as many as 10–30% of affected infants succumbing to the disease. Although the pathophysiology is incompletely understood, it is known that prematurity, formula feeding, intestinal ischemia, and bacterial colonization are important risk factors. It has been suggested that these risk factors initiate the activation of the pro-inflammatory response that ultimately leads to bowel necrosis, and in some cases multi-organ dysfunction syndrome, and death. Multiple inflammatory mediators have been identified that might contribute to this final common pathway. Several of the pro- and anti-inflammatory molecules have been studied in

detail in animal models, in humans, and *in vitro*, including IL-6, IL-8, and IL-10 as well as nitric oxide, oxygen free radicals, and numerous others. Previously, we reported that SP-304 ameliorates GI inflammation in experimental models of murine colitis, possibly through downregulation of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-5, IL-17, IL-23 and TNF-a. (Shailubhai et al, 2007 and 2008). Therefore, GC_C agonists such as uroguanylin, guanylin, E.coli enterotoxin ST peptides and their analogs might be used to prevent, control and treat NEC. GC-C agonists may be given either in drinking water or in mother's milk to treat NEC in newborne babies.

GI homeostasis depends on both proliferation and programmed cellular death (apoptosis) of epithelial cells lining the gut mucosa. Hence, cells are continually lost from the villus into the lumen of the gut and are replenished at a substantially equal rate by the proliferation of cells in the crypts, followed by their upward movement to the villus. It has become increasingly apparent that the control of cell death is an equally, if not more, important regulator of cell number and proliferation index (19,20). Reduced rates of apoptosis are often associated with abnormal growth, inflammation, and neoplastic transformation. Thus, both decreased proliferation and/or increased cell death may reduce cell number, whereas increased proliferation and/or reduced cell death may increase the proliferation index of intestinal tissue (20), which may lead to GI inflammatory diseases and cancer.

Uroguanylin and guanylin peptides also appear to promote apoptosis by controlling cellular ion flux. Alterations in apoptosis have been associated with tumor progression to the metastatic phenotype. While a primary gastrointestinal (GI) cancer is limited to the small intestine, colon, and rectum, it may metastasize and spread to such localities as bone, lymph nodes, liver, lung, peritoneum, ovaries, and brain. By enhancing the efflux of K+ and influx of Ca++, uroguanylin and related peptides may promote the death of transformed cells and thereby inhibit metastasis

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and chronic idiopathic constipation are pathological conditions that can cause a great deal of intestinal discomfort and distress but unlike the IBD diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, IBS does not cause the serious inflammation or changes in bowel tissue and it is not thought to increase the risk of colorectal cancer. In the past, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), celiac disease and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) were regarded as completely separate disorders. Now, with the description of

inflammation, albeit low-grade, in IBS, and of symptom overlap between IBS and celiac disease, this contention has come under question. Acute bacterial gastroenteritis is the strongest risk factor identified to date for the subsequent development of postinfective irritable bowel syndrome. Clinical risk factors include prolonged acute illness and the absence of vomiting. A genetically determined susceptibility to inflammatory stimuli may also be a risk factor for irritable bowel syndrome. The underlying pathophysiology indicates increased intestinal permeability and low-grade inflammation, as well as altered motility and visceral sensitivity (27). Serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine [5-HT]) is a key modulator of gut function and is known to play a major role in pathophysiology of IBS. It has been shown that the activity of 5-HT is regulated by cGMP (28). Therefore, based on this observation as well as other effects of cGMP, we believe that GC-C agonists will be useful in the treatment of IBS.

Given the prevalence of inflammatory conditions in Western societies and the attendant risk of developing cancerous lesions from inflamed tissue, particularly intestinal tissue, a need exists to improve the treatment options for inflammatory conditions, particularly of the gastrointestinal tract.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based upon the development of agonists of guanylate cyclase receptor. The agonists are analogs of uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptides and have superior properties such as for example high resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases and/or by other proteolytic enzymes present in the stimulated human intestinal juices and human gastric juices.

The peptides of the invention may be used to treat any condition that responds to enhanced intracellular levels of cGMP. Intracellular levels of cGMP can be increased by enhancing intracellular production of cGMP and/or by inhibition of its degradation by cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases. Among the specific conditions that can be treated or prevented are gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity. Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus inflammation

(*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. In addition, GC-C agonist may also be useful to facilitate liver regeneration in liver transplant patients. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

In one aspect, the present invention is directed to a peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of, SEQ ID NOs: 2-4 and to therapeutic compositions which contain these peptides. The term "consisting essentially of" includes peptides that are identical to a recited sequence identification number and other sequences that do not differ substantially in terms of either structure or function. For the purpose of the present application, a peptide differs substantially if its structure varies by more than three amino acids from a peptide of SEQ ID NOs: 2-4 or if its activation of cellular cGMP production is reduced by more than 50% compared to a control peptide such as SEQ ID NO:1. Preferably, substantially similar peptides should differ by no more than two amino acids and not differ by more than about 25% with respect to

activating cGMP production. The instant peptide sequences comprise at least 12 amino acid residues, preferably between 12 and 26 amino acids in length.

The peptides may be in a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipients or diluents. The term "unit dose form" refers to a single drug delivery entity, *e.g.*, a tablet, capsule, solution or inhalation formulation. The amount of peptide present should be sufficient to have a positive therapeutic effect when administered to a patient (typically, between 100 μg and 3 g). What constitutes a "positive therapeutic effect" will depend upon the particular condition being treated and will include any significant improvement in a condition readily recognized by one of skill in the art. For example, it may constitute a reduction in inflammation, shrinkage of polyps or tumors, a reduction in metastatic lesions, etc.

In yet another aspect, an invention provides administering to said patient an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP-PDE) either concurrently or sequentially with said guanylate cyclase receptor agonist. The cGMP-PDE inhibitor include for example suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and sildenafil. In addition, GC-C agonist peptides may be used in combination with inhibitors of cyclic nucleotide transporters.

Optionally, anti-inflammatory agents are also administered. Anti-inflammatory agents include for example steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS).

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from and are encompassed by the following detailed description and claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention is based upon the development of agonists of guanylate cyclase-C (GC-C). The agonists are analogs of uroguanylin and have superior properties such as for example high resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases and/or by other proteolytic enzymes such as those present in the stimulated human intestinal fluid (SIF)and simulated human gastric fluid (SGF). Specifically, these peptides contain polyethylene glycol or a polymer thereof at the amino terminus, carboxyl terminus or both. Thus, the peptide is protected from degradation by proteases present in SIF and SGF. Examples of such a peptide include SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO: 4 shown in Table I.

The GC-C is expressed on various cells including on gastrointestinal epithelial cells, and on extra-intestinal tissues including kidney, lung, pancreas, pituitary, adrenal, developing liver, heart and male and female reproductive tissues (reviewed in Vaandrager 2002 Mol Cell Biochem 230:73-83). The GC-C is a key regulator of fluid and electrolyte balance in the intestine and kidney. In the intestine, when stimulated, the GC-C causes an increase in intestinal epithelial cGMP. This increase in cGMP causes a decrease in water and sodium absorption and an increase in chloride and potassium ion secretion, leading to changes in intestinal fluid and electrolyte transport and increased intestinal motility.

The gualylate cyclase-C agonists according to the invention include SEQ ID NO:2-4 and are summarized below in Table I. The gualylate cyclase-C agonists according to the invention are collectively refered to herein as "GCRA peptides".

Table I GCRA Peptides

Name	Structure	SEQ ID NO:
SP304	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	1
SP-304 di-PEG	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}-PEG3	2
SP-304 N-PEG	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	3
SP-304 C-PEG	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}-PEG3	4

The GCRA peptides described herein bind the guanylate cyclase C (GC-C) and stimulate intracellular production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP). Optionally, the GCRA peptides induce apoptosis. In some aspects, the GCRA peptides stimulate intracellular cGMP production at higher levels than naturally occurring GC-C agonists (*e.g.*, uroguanylin, guanylin, and ST peptides) and/or SP-304. For example, the GCRA peptides of the invention stimulate 5, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304. The terms induced and stimulated are used interchangeably throughout the specification. The GCRA peptides described herein are more stable than naturally occurring GC-C agonists and/or SP-304. By more stable it is meant that the peptide degrade less and/or more slowly in simulated gastrointestinal fluid and/or simulatd intestinal fluid compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention degrade 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304.

The GCRA peptides described herein have therapeutic value in the treatment of a wide variety of disorders and conditions including for example gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for

example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

As used herein, the term "guanylate cyclase C (GC-C)" refers to the class of guanylate cyclase C receptor on any cell type to which the inventive agonist peptides or natural agonists described herein bind. As used herein, "intestinal guanylate cyclase receptor" is found exclusively on epithelial cells lining the GI mucosa. Uroguanylin, guanylin, and ST peptides are expected to bind to these receptors and may induce apoptosis. The possibility that there may be different receptors for each agonist peptide is not excluded. Hence, the term refers to the class of guanylate cyclase receptors on epithelial cells lining the GI mucosa.

As used herein, the term "GCR agonist" is meant to refer to peptides and/or other compounds that bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase C and stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport. This term also covers fragments and pro-peptides that bind to GC-C and stimulate fluid and water secretion.

As used herein, the term "substantially equivalent" is meant to refer to a peptide that has an amino acid sequence equivalent to that of the binding domain where certain residues may be deleted or replaced with other amino acids without impairing the peptide's ability to bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase receptor and stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport.

Addition of carriers (*e.g.*, phosphate-buffered saline or PBS) and other components to the composition of the present invention is well within the level of skill in this art. In addition to the compound, such compositions may contain pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and other ingredients known to facilitate administration and/or enhance uptake. Other formulations, such

as microspheres, nanoparticles, liposomes, and immunologically-based systems may also be used in accordance with the present invention. Other examples include formulations with polymers (*e.g.*, 20% w/v polyethylene glycol) or cellulose, or enteric formulations.

The present invention is based upon several concepts. The first is that there is a cGMP-dependent mechanism which regulates the balance between cellular proliferation and apoptosis and that a reduction in cGMP levels, due to a deficiency of uroguanylin/guanylin and/or due to the activation of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases, is an early and critical step in neoplastic transformation. A second concept is that the release of arachidonic acid from membrane phospholipids, which leads to the activation of cytoplasmic phospholipase A2 (cPLA2), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and possibly 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) during the process of inflammation, is down-regulated by a cGMP-dependent mechanism, leading to reduced levels of prostaglandins and leukotrienes, and that increasing intracellular levels of cGMP may therefore produce an anti-inflammatory response. In addition, a cGMP-dependent mechanism, is thought to be involved in the control of proinflammatory processes. Therefore, elevating intracellular levels of cGMP may be used as a means of treating and controlling gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC),), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example COPD and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer

(*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

Without intending to be bound by any theory, it is envisioned that ion transport across the plasma membrane may prove to be an important regulator of the balance between cell proliferation and apoptosis that will be affected by agents altering cGMP concentrations. Uroguanylin has been shown to stimulate K+ efflux, Ca++ influx and water transport in the gastrointestinal tract (3). Moreover, atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), a peptide that also binds to a specific guanylate cyclase receptor, has also been shown to induce apoptosis in rat mesangial cells, and to induce apoptosis in cardiac myocytes by a cGMP mechanism (21-24).

Binding of the present agonists to a guanylate cyclase receptor stimulates production of cGMP. This ligand-receptor interaction, via activation of a cascade of cGMP-dependent protein kinases and CFTR, induces apoptosis in target cells. Therefore, administration of the novel peptides defined by SEQ ID NO:2-4, as shown in Table I are useful in eliminating or, at least retarding, the onset of gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus inflammation (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ

inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

Uroguanylin is a circulating peptide hormone with natriuretic activity and has been found to stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport in a manner similar to another family of heat stable enterotoxins (ST peptides) secreted by pathogenic strains of *E. coli* and other enteric bacteria that activate guanylate cyclase receptor and cause secretory diarrhea. Unlike bacterial ST peptides, the binding of uroguanylin to guanylate cyclase receptor is dependent on the physiological pH of the gut. Therefore, uroguanylin is expected to regulate fluid and electrolyte transport in a pH dependent manner and without causing severe diarrhea.

GCRA PEPTIDES

In one aspect, the invention provides a GCRA peptide. The GCRA peptides are analogues uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptide. No particular length is implied by the term "peptide". In some embodiments, the GCRA peptide is less than 25 amino acids in length, *e.g.,* less than or equal to 20, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, or 5 amino acid in length.

The GCRA peptides can be polymers of L-amino acids, D-amino acids, or a combination of both. For example, in various embodiments, the peptides are D retro-inverso peptides. The term "retro-inverso isomer" refers to an isomer of a linear peptide in which the direction of the sequence is reversed and the chirality of each amino acid residue is inverted. *See, e.g.*, Jameson *et al.*, *Nature*, 368, 744-746 (1994); Brady *et al.*, Nature, 368, 692-693 (1994). The net result of combining D-enantiomers and reverse synthesis is that the positions of carbonyl and amino groups in each amide bond are exchanged, while the position of the side-chain groups at each alpha carbon is preserved. Unless specifically stated otherwise, it is presumed that any given L-amino acid sequence of the invention may be made into an D retro-inverso peptide by synthesizing a reverse of the sequence for the corresponding native L-amino acid sequence. For example a GCRA peptide includes the sequence of SEQ ID NO: SEQ ID NO:2-4.

By inducing cGMP production is meant that the GCRA peptide induces the production of intracellular cGMP. Intracellular cGMP is measured by methods known in the art. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention stimulate 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists. Optionally, the GCRA peptides of the invention of the invention stimulate 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared SP-304 (SEQ ID NO:1). In further embodiments, the GCRA peptide stimulates apoptosis, *e.g.*, programmed cell death or activate the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR). In some embodimenst the GCRA peptides described herein are more stable than naturally occurring GC-C agonists and/or SP-304 (SEQ ID NO:1). By more stable it is meant that the peptide degrade less and/or more slowly in simulated gastric fluid and/or simulated ntestinal fluid compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention degrade 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304.

As used herein PEG3, 3 PEG, is meant to denote polyethylene glycol such as include aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (AeeA).

In certain embodiments, one or more amino acids of the GCRA peptides can be replaced by a non-naturally occurring amino acid or a naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid analog. There are many amino acids beyond the standard 20 (Ala, Arg, Asn, Asp, Cys, Gln, Glu, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Lys, Met, Phe, Pro, Ser, Thr, Trp, Tyr, and VaI). Some are naturally-

occurring others are not. (*See*, for example, Hunt, The Non-Protein Amino Acids: In Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Amino Acids, Barrett, Chapman and Hall, 1985). For example, an aromatic amino acid can be replaced by 3,4-dihydroxy-L-phenylalanine, 3-iodo-L-tyrosine, triiodothyronine, L-thyroxine, phenylglycine (Phg) or nor-tyrosine (norTyr). Phg and norTyr and other amino acids including Phe and Tyr can be substituted by, *e.g.*, a halogen, -CH3, -OH, -CH2NH3, -C(O)H, -CH2CH3, - CN, -CH2CH2CH3, -SH, or another group. Any amino acid can be substituted by the D-form of the amino acid.

With regard to non-naturally occurring amino acids or naturally and non-naturally occurring amino acid analogs, a number of substitutions in the polypeptide and agonists described herein are possible alone or in combination.

For example, glutamine residues can be substituted with gamma-Hydroxy-Glu or gamma- Carboxy-Glu. Tyrosine residues can be substituted with an alpha substituted amino acid such as L-alpha-methylphenylalanine or by analogues such as: 3-Amino-Tyr; Tyr(CH3); Tyr(PO3(CH3)2); Tyr(SO3H); beta-Cyclohexyl-Ala; beta-(l-Cyclopentenyl)-Ala; beta-Cyclopentyl-Ala; beta-Cyclopropyl-Ala; beta-Quinolyl-Ala; beta-(2-Thiazolyl)-Ala; beta-(Triazole-l-yl)-Ala; beta-(2-Pyridyl)-Ala; beta-(3-Pyridyl)-Ala; Amino-Phe; Fluoro-Phe; Cyclohexyl-Gly; tBu-Gly; beta-(3-benzothienyl)-Ala; beta-(2-thienyl)-Ala; 5-Methyl-Trp; and A- Methyl-Trp. Proline residues can be substituted with homopro (L-pipecolic acid); hydroxy-Pro; 3,4-Dehydro-Pro; 4-fluoro-Pro; or alpha-methyl-Pro or an N(alpha)-C(alpha) cyclized amino acid analogues with the structure: n = 0, 1, 2, 3 Alanine residues can be substituted with alpha-substitued or N-methylated amino acid such as alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib), L/D-alpha-ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline), L/D-methylvaline, or L/D-alpha-methylleucine or a non-natural amino acid such as beta-fluoro-Ala. Alanine can also be substituted with: n = 0, 1, 2, 3 Glycine residues can be substituted with alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib) or L/D-alpha-ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline).

Further examples of unnatural amino acids include: an unnatural analog of tyrosine; an unnatural analogue of glutamine; an unnatural analogue of phenylalanine; an unnatural analogue of serine; an unnatural analogue of threonine; an alkyl, aryl, acyl, azido, cyano, halo, hydrazine, hydrazide, hydroxyl, alkenyl, alkynl, ether, thiol, sulfonyl, seleno, ester, thioacid, borate, boronate, phospho, phosphono, phosphine, heterocyclic, enone, imine, aldehyde, hydroxylamine, keto, or amino substituted amino acid, or any combination thereof; an amino acid with a

photoactivatable cross-linker; a spin-labeled amino acid; a fluorescent amino acid; an amino acid with a novel functional group; an amino acid that covalently or noncovalently interacts with another molecule; a metal binding amino acid; an amino acid that is amidated at a site that is not naturally amidated, a metal-containing amino acid; a radioactive amino acid; a photocaged and/or photoisomerizable amino acid; a biotin or biotin-analogue containing amino acid; a glycosylated or carbohydrate modified amino acid; a keto containing amino acid; amino acids comprising polyethylene glycol or polyether; a heavy atom substituted amino acid (*e.g.*, an amino acid containing deuterium, tritium, ^{13}C, ^{15}N, or ^{18}O); a chemically cleavable or photocleavable amino acid; an amino acid with an elongated side chain; an amino acid containing a toxic group; a sugar substituted amino acid, *e.g.*, a sugar substituted serine or the like; a carbon-linked sugar-containing amino acid; a redox-active amino acid; an α-hydroxy containing acid; an amino thio acid containing amino acid; an α, α disubstituted amino acid; a β-amino acid; a cyclic amino acid other than proline; an O-methyl-L-tyrosine; an L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; a 3-methyl-phenylalanine; a ρ-acetyl-L-phenylalanine; an O-4-allyl-L-tyrosine; a 4-propyl-L-tyrosine; a tri-O-acetyl-GlcNAc β -serine; an L-Dopa; a fluorinated phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-azido-L-phenylalanine; a p-acyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-benzoyl-L-phenylalanine; an L-phosphoserine; a phosphonoserine; a phosphonotyrosine; a p-iodo-phenylalanine; a 4-fluorophenylglycine; a p-bromophenylalanine; a p-amino-L-phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; D- 3-(2-naphthyl)alanine (dNal); an amino-, isopropyl-, or O-allyl-containing phenylalanine analogue; a dopa, 0-methyl-L-tyrosine; a glycosylated amino acid; a p-(propargyloxy)phenylalanine; dimethyl-Lysine; hydroxy-proline; mercaptopropionic acid; methyl-lysine; 3-nitro-tyrosine; norleucine; pyro-glutamic acid; Z (Carbobenzoxyl); ε- Acetyl-Lysine; β -alanine; aminobenzoyl derivative; aminobutyric acid (Abu); citrulline; aminohexanoic acid; aminoisobutyric acid (AIB); cyclohexylalanine; d-cyclohexylalanine; hydroxyproline; nitro-arginine; nitro-phenylalanine; nitro-tyrosine; norvaline; octahydroindole carboxylate; ornithine (Orn); penicillamine (PEN); tetrahydroisoquinoline; acetamidomethyl protected amino acids and pegylated amino acids. Further examples of unnatural amino acids and amino acid analogs can be found in U.S. 20030108885, U.S. 20030082575, US20060019347 (paragraphs 410-418) and the references cited therein. The polypeptides of the invention can include further modifications including those described in US20060019347, paragraph 589. Exempary GCRA peptides which include a n0n-

naturally occurring amino acid include for example SP-368 and SP-369.

In some embodiments, an amino acid can be replaced by a naturally-occurring, non-essential amino acid, *e.g.*, taurine.

Alternatively, the GCRA peptides are cyclic peptides. GCRA cyclic peptide are prepared by methods known in the art. For example, macrocyclization is often accomplished by forming an amide bond between the peptide N- and C-termini, between a side chain and the N- or C-terminus [*e.g.*, with $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ at pH 8.5] (Samson *et al.*, *Endocrinology,* 137: 5182-5185 (1996)), or between two amino acid side chains, such as cysteine. See, *e.g.,* DeGrado, *Adv Protein Chem, 39*: 51-124 (1988). In various aspects the GCRA peptides are [4,12; 7,15] bicycles.

In some GCRA peptides one or both members of one or both pairs of Cys residues which normally form a disulfide bond can be replaced by homocysteine, penicillamine, 3-mercaptoproline (Kolodziej et al. 1996 Int J Pept Protein Res 48:274); β, β dimethylcysteine (Hunt et al. 1993 Int JPept Protein Res 42:249) or diaminopropionic acid (Smith et al. 1978 J Med Chem 2 1:117) to form alternative internal cross-links at the positions of the normal disulfide bonds.

In addition, one or more disulfide bonds can be replaced by alternative covalent cross-links, *e.g.*, an amide linkage (-CH2CH(O)NHCH 2- or -CH2NHCH(O)CH 2-), an ester linkage, a thioester linkage, a lactam bridge , a carbamoyl linkage, a urea linkage, a thiourea linkage, a phosphonate ester linkage, an alkyl linkage (-CH2CH2CH2CH2-), an alkenyl linkage(-CH 2CH=CHCH 2-), an ether linkage (-CH2CH2OCH2- or -CH2OCH2CH2-), a thioether linkage (-CH2CH2SCH2- or - CH2SCH2CH2-), an amine linkage (-CH2CH2NHCH2- or -CH2NHCH 2CH2-) or a thioamide linkage (-CH2CH(S)HNHCH 2- or -CH2NHCH(S)CH 2-). For example, Ledu et al. (Proc Nat'l Acad. Sci. 100:11263-78, 2003) describe methods for preparing lactam and amide cross-links. Exemplary GCRA peptides which include a lactam bridge include for example SP-370.

The GCRA peptides can have one or more conventional polypeptide bonds replaced by an alternative bond. Such replacements can increase the stability of the polypeptide. For example, replacement of the polypeptide bond between a residue amino terminal to an aromatic residue (*e.g.* Tyr, Phe, Trp) with an alternative bond can reduce cleavage by carboxy peptidases

and may increase half-life in the digestive tract. Bonds that can replace polypeptide bonds include: a retro-inverso bond (C(O)-NH instead of NH-C(O); a reduced amide bond (NH-CH2); a thiomethylene bond (S-CH2 or CH2-S); an oxomethylene bond (0-CH 2 or CH2-O); an ethylene bond (CH2-CH2); a thioamide bond (C(S)-NH); a trans-olefine bond (CH=CH); a fiuoro substituted trans-olefme bond (CF=CH); a ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CHR or CHR-C(O) wherein R is H or CH3; and a fluoro-ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CFR or CFR-C(O) wherein R is H or F or CH3.

The GCRA peptides can be modified using standard modifications. Modifications may occur at the amino (N-), carboxy (C-) terminus, internally or a combination of any of the preceeding. In one aspect described herein, there may be more than one type of modification on the polypeptide. Modifications include but are not limited to: acetylation, amidation, biotinylation, cinnamoylation, farnesylation, formylation, myristoylation, palmitoylation, phosphorylation (Ser, Tyr or Thr), stearoylation, succinylation, sulfurylation and cyclisation (via disulfide bridges or amide cyclisation), and modification by Cys3 or Cys5. The GCRA peptides described herein may also be modified by 2, 4-dinitrophenyl (DNP), DNP-lysine, modification by 7-Amino-4-methyl- coumarin (AMC), flourescein, NBD (7-Nitrobenz-2-Oxa-l,3-Diazole), p-nitro-anilide, rhodamine B, EDANS (5-((2-aminoethyl)amino)naphthalene-l- sulfonic acid), dabcyl, dabsyl, dansyl, texas red, FMOC, and Tamra (Tetramethylrhodamine). The GCRA peptides described herein may also be conjugated to, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG); alkyl groups (*e.g.*, C1-C20 straight or branched alkyl groups); fatty acid radicals; combinations of PEG, alkyl groups and fatty acid radicals (*See*, U.S. Patent 6,309,633; Soltero et al., 2001 Innovations in Pharmaceutical Technology 106-110); BSA and KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin). The addition of PEG and other polymers which can be used to modify polypeptides of the invention is described in US20060 19347 section IX.

Also included in the invention are peptides that biologically or functional equivalent to the peptides described herein. The term "biologically equivalent" or functional equivalent" is intended to mean that the compositions of the present invention are capable of demonstrating some or all of the cGMP production modulatory effects.

GCRA peptides can also include derivatives of GCRA peptides which are intended to include hybrid and modified forms of GCRA peptides in which certain amino acids have been

deleted or replaced and modifications such as where one or more amino acids have been changed to a modified amino acid or unusual amino acid and modifications such as glycosylation so long the modified form retains the biological activity of GCRA peptides. By retaining the biological activity, it is meant that cGMP and or apoptosis is induced by the GCRA peptide, although not necessarily at the same level of potency as that of a naturally-occurring GCRA peptide identified.

Preferred variants are those that have conservative amino acid substitutions made at one or more predicted non-essential amino acid residues. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with basic side chains (*e.g.*, lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (*e.g.*, aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (*e.g.*, glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (*e.g.*, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (*e.g.*, threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (*e.g.*, tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus, a predicted nonessential amino acid residue in a GCRA polypeptide is replaced with another amino acid residue from the same side chain family. Alternatively, in another embodiment, mutations can be introduced randomly along all or part of a GCRA coding sequence, such as by saturation mutagenesis, and the resultant mutants can be screened to identify mutants that retain activity.

Also included within the meaning of substantially homologous is any GCRA peptide which may be isolated by virtue of cross-reactivity with antibodies to the GCRA peptide.

PREPARATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

GCRA peptides are easily prepared using modern cloning techniques, or may be synthesized by solid state methods or by site-directed mutagenesis. A GCRA peptide may include dominant negative forms of a polypeptide.

Chemical synthesis may generally be performed using standard solution phase or solid phase peptide synthesis techniques, in which a peptide linkage occurs through the direct condensation of the amino group of one amino acid with the carboxy group of the other amino acid with the elimination of a water molecule. Peptide bond synthesis by direct condensation, as

formulated above, requires suppression of the reactive character of the amino group of the first and of the carboxyl group of the second amino acid. The masking substituents must permit their ready removal, without inducing breakdown of the labile peptide molecule.

In solution phase synthesis, a wide variety of coupling methods and protecting groups may be used (*See*, Gross and Meienhofer, eds., "The Peptides: Analysis, Synthesis, Biology," Vol. 1-4 (Academic Press, 1979); Bodansky and Bodansky, "The Practice of Peptide Synthesis," 2d ed. (Springer Verlag, 1994)). In addition, intermediate purification and linear scale up are possible. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that solution synthesis requires consideration of main chain and side chain protecting groups and activation method. In addition, careful segment selection is necessary to minimize racemization during segment condensation. Solubility considerations are also a factor. Solid phase peptide synthesis uses an insoluble polymer for support during organic synthesis. The polymer-supported peptide chain permits the use of simple washing and filtration steps instead of laborious purifications at intermediate steps. Solid-phase peptide synthesis may generally be performed according to the method of Merrifield et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1963, 85:2149, which involves assembling a linear peptide chain on a resin support using protected amino acids. Solid phase peptide synthesis typically utilizes either the Boc or Fmoc strategy, which are well known in the art.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that, in solid phase synthesis, deprotection and coupling reactions must go to completion and the side-chain blocking groups must be stable throughout the synthesis. In addition, solid phase synthesis is generally most suitable when peptides are to be made on a small scale.

Acetylation of the N-terminal can be accomplished by reacting the final peptide with acetic anhydride before cleavage from the resin. C-amidation is accomplished using an appropriate resin such as methylbenzhydrylamine resin using the Boc technology.

Alternatively the GCRA peptides are produced by modern cloning techniques For example, the GCRA peptides are produced either in bacteria including, without limitation, E. coli, or in other existing systems for polypeptide or protein production (*e.g.*, Bacillus subtilis, baculovirus expression systems using Drosophila Sf9 cells, yeast or filamentous fungal expression systems, mammalian cell expression systems), or they can be chemically synthesized. If the GCRA peptide or variant peptide is to be produced in bacteria, *e.g.*, E. coli, the nucleic

acid molecule encoding the polypeptide may also encode a leader sequence that permits the secretion of the mature polypeptide from the cell. Thus, the sequence encoding the polypeptide can include the pre sequence and the pro sequence of, for example, a naturally-occurring bacterial ST polypeptide. The secreted, mature polypeptide can be purified from the culture medium.

The sequence encoding a GCRA peptide described herein can be inserted into a vector capable of delivering and maintaining the nucleic acid molecule in a bacterial cell. The DNA molecule may be inserted into an autonomously replicating vector (suitable vectors include, for example, pGEM3Z and pcDNA3, and derivatives thereof). The vector nucleic acid may be a bacterial or bacteriophage DNA such as bacteriophage lambda or M13 and derivatives thereof. Construction of a vector containing a nucleic acid described herein can be followed by transformation of a host cell such as a bacterium. Suitable bacterial hosts include but are not limited to, E. coli, B subtilis, Pseudomonas, Salmonella. The genetic construct also includes, in addition to the encoding nucleic acid molecule, elements that allow expression, such as a promoter and regulatory sequences. The expression vectors may contain transcriptional control sequences that control transcriptional initiation, such as promoter, enhancer, operator, and repressor sequences.

A variety of transcriptional control sequences are well known to those in the art. The expression vector can also include a translation regulatory sequence (*e.g.*, an untranslated 5' sequence, an untranslated 3' sequence, or an internal ribosome entry site). The vector can be capable of autonomous replication or it can integrate into host DNA to ensure stability during polypeptide production.

The protein coding sequence that includes a GCRA peptide described herein can also be fused to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide affinity tag, *e.g.*, glutathione S-transferase (GST), maltose E binding protein, protein A, FLAG tag, hexa-histidine, myc tag or the influenza HA tag, in order to facilitate purification. The affinity tag or reporter fusion joins the reading frame of the polypeptide of interest to the reading frame of the gene encoding the affinity tag such that a translational fusion is generated. Expression of the fusion gene results in translation of a single polypeptide that includes both the polypeptide of interest and the affinity tag. In some instances

where affinity tags are utilized, DNA sequence encoding a protease recognition site will be fused between the reading frames for the affinity tag and the polypeptide of interest.

Genetic constructs and methods suitable for production of immature and mature forms of the GCRA peptides and variants described herein in protein expression systems other than bacteria, and well known to those skilled in the art, can also be used to produce polypeptides in a biological system.

The peptides disclosed herein may be modified by attachment of a second molecule that confers a desired property upon the peptide, such as increased half-life in the body, for example, pegylation. Such modifications also fall within the scope of the term "variant" as used herein.

THERAPEUTIC METHODS

The present invention provides for both prophylactic and therapeutic methods of treating a subject at risk of (or susceptible to) a disorder or having a disorder associated that is mediated by guanylate cyclase receptor agonists. Disorders mediated by the guanylate cyclase receptor agonists include gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin

cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

The term "treatment" refers to reducing or alleviating symptoms in a subject, preventing symptoms from worsening or progressing, and/or preventing disease in a subject who is free therefrom. For a given subject, improvement in a symptom, its worsening, regression, or progression may be determined by any objective or subjective measure. Efficacy of the treatment may be measured as an improvement in morbidity or mortality (*e.g.*, lengthening of survival curve for a selected population). Thus, effective treatment would include therapy of existing disease, control of disease by slowing or stopping its progression, prevention of disease occurrence, reduction in the number or severity of symptoms, or a combination thereof. The effect may be shown in a controlled study using one or more statistically significant criteria.

Intracellular cGMP induced by exposing, *e.g.*, contacting a tissue (*e.g.*, gastrointestinals tissue) or cell with GCRA agonists. GC-C receptors are expressed throughout the GI tract starting from esophagus, duodenum, jejunum, ilium, caecum and colon. Human colon cancer cell lines (T81, CaCo-2 and HT-29) also express GC-C receptors. By inducing is meant an increase in cGMP production compared to a tissue or cell that has not been in contact with GCRA peptide or variant. Tissues or cells are directly contacted with a GCRA peptide or variant. Alternatively, the GCRA peptide or variant is administered systemically. GCRA peptide or variant are administered in an amount sufficient to increase intracellular cGMP concentration. cGMP production is measured by a cell-based assay known in the art (25).

Disorders are treated, prevented or alleviated by administering to a subject, *e.g.*, a mammal such as a human in need thereof, a therapeutically effective dose of a GCRA peptide. The GCRA peptides may be in a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, together with

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The term "unit dose form" refers to a single drug delivery entity, *e.g.*, a tablet, capsule, solution or inhalation formulation. The amount of peptide present should be sufficient to have a positive therapeutic effect when administered to a patient (typically, between 10 μg and 3 g). What constitutes a "positive therapeutic effect" will depend upon the particular condition being treated and will include any significant improvement in a condition readily recognized by one of skill in the art.

The GCRA peptides can be administered alone or in combination with other agents. For example the GCRA peptides can be administered in combination with inhibitors of cGMP dependent phosphodiesterase, such as, for example, suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, motapizone, vardenafil or sildenifil; one or more other chemotherapeutic agents; or anti-inflammatory drugs such as, for example, steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), such as aspirin.

Combination therapy can be achieved by administering two or more agents, *e.g.*, a GCRA peptide described herein and another compound, each of which is formulated and administered separately, or by administering two or more agents in a single formulation. Other combinations are also encompassed by combination therapy. For example, two agents can be formulated together and administered in conjunction with a separate formulation containing a third agent. While the two or more agents in the combination therapy can be administered simultaneously, they need not be. For example, administration of a first agent (or combination of agents) can precede administration of a second agent (or combination of agents) by minutes, hours, days, or weeks. Thus, the two or more agents can be administered within minutes of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, or 24 hours of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 days of each other or within 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 weeks of each other. In some cases even longer intervals are possible. While in many cases it is desirable that the two or more agents used in a combination therapy be present in within the patient's body at the same time, this need not be so.

The GCRA peptides described herein may be combined with phosphodiesterase inhibitors, *e.g.*, sulindae sulfone, Zaprinast, sildenafil, vardenafil or tadalafil to further enhance levels of cGMP in the target tissues or organs.

Combination therapy can also include two or more administrations of one or more of the agents used in the combination. For example, if agent X and agent Y are used in a combination,

one could administer them sequentially in any combination one or more times, *e.g.*, in the order X-Y- X, X-X-Y, Y-X-Y,Y-Y-X,X-X-Y-Y, etc.

Combination therapy can also include the administration of one of the GC-C agonist with azothioprine and/or other immunomodulating agents. The immunomodulating agents may include small molecule drugs and biologics such as Remicade, Humaira, Cimzia etc.

Combination therapy can also include the administration of two or more agents via different routes or locations. For example, (a) one agent is administered orally and another agents is administered intravenously or (b) one agent is administered orally and another is administered locally. In each case, the agents can either simultaneously or sequentially. Approximated dosages for some of the combination therapy agents described herein are found in the "BNF Recommended Dose" column of tables on pages 11-17 of WO01/76632 (the data in the tables being attributed to the March 2000 British National Formulary) and can also be found in other standard formularies and other drug prescribing directories. For some drugs, the customary presecribed dose for an indication will vary somewhat from country to country.

The GCRA peptides, alone or in combination, can be combined with any pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or medium. Thus, they can be combined with materials that do not produce an adverse, allergic or otherwise unwanted reaction when administered to a patient. The carriers or mediums used can include solvents, dispersants, coatings, absorption promoting agents, controlled release agents, and one or more inert excipients (which include starches, polyols, granulating agents, microcrystalline cellulose (*e.g.* celphere, Celphere beads®), diluents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents, and the like), etc. If desired, tablet dosages of the disclosed compositions may be coated by standard aqueous or nonaqueous techniques.

A pharmaceutical composition of the invention is formulated to be compatible with its intended route of administration. Examples of routes of administration include parenteral, *e.g.*, intravenous, intradermal, subcutaneous, oral (*e.g.*, inhalation), transdermal (topical), transmucosal, and rectal administration. Solutions or suspensions used for parenteral, intradermal, or subcutaneous application can include the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, polyethylene glycols, glycerine, propylene glycol or other synthetic solvents; antibacterial agents such as benzyl alcohol or methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as

ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates, and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. The pH can be adjusted with acids or bases, such as hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. The parenteral preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion. For intravenous administration, suitable carriers include physiological saline, bacteriostatic water, Cremophor EL™ (BASF, Parsippany, N.J.) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). In all cases, the composition must be sterile and should be fluid to the extent that easy syringeability exists. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), and suitable mixtures thereof. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be achieved by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, ascorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, polyalcohols such as manitol, sorbitol, sodium chloride in the composition. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by including in the composition an agent which delays absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

Sterile injectable solutions can be prepared by incorporating the active compound (*e.g.*, a GCRA agonist) in the required amount in an appropriate solvent with one or a combination of ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the active compound into a sterile vehicle that contains a basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, methods of preparation are vacuum drying and freeze-drying that yields a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

Oral compositions generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier. Such as mannitol, fructooligosaccharides, polyethylene glycol and other excepients. They can be enclosed in gelatin capsules or compressed into tablets. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, troches, or capsules. Oral compositions can also be prepared using a fluid carrier for use as a mouthwash, wherein the compound in the fluid carrier is applied orally and swished and expectorated or swallowed. Pharmaceutically compatible binding agents, and/or adjuvant materials can be included as part of the composition. The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like can contain any of the following ingredients, or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth or gelatin; an excipient such as starch or lactose, a disintegrating agent such as alginic acid, Primogel, or corn starch; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate or Sterotes; a glidant such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; or a flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or orange flavoring.

For administration by inhalation, the compounds are delivered in the form of an aerosol spray from pressured container or dispenser which contains a suitable propellant, *e.g.*, a gas such as carbon dioxide, or a nebulizer.

Systemic administration can also be by transmucosal or transdermal means. For transmucosal or transdermal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art, and include, for example, for transmucosal administration, detergents, bile salts, and fusidic acid derivatives. Transmucosal administration can be accomplished through the use of nasal sprays or suppositories. For transdermal administration, the active compounds are formulated into ointments, salves, gels, or creams as generally known in the art.

The compounds can also be prepared in the form of suppositories (*e.g.*, with conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter and other glycerides) or retention enemas for rectal delivery.

In one embodiment, the active compounds are prepared with carriers that will protect the compound against rapid elimination from the body, such as a controlled release formulation, including implants and microencapsulated delivery systems. Biodegradable, biocompatible polymers can be used, such as ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid,

collagen, polyorthoesters, and polylactic acid. Methods for preparation of such formulations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The materials can also be obtained commercially from Alza Corporation and Nova Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Liposomal suspensions (including liposomes targeted to infected cells with monoclonal antibodies to viral antigens) can also be used as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These can be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art, for example, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,522,811, incorporated fully herein by reference.

It is especially advantageous to formulate oral or parenteral compositions in dosage unit form for ease of administration and uniformity of dosage. Dosage unit form as used herein refers to physically discrete units suited as unitary dosages for the subject to be treated; each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active compound calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier. The specification for the dosage unit forms of the invention are dictated by and directly dependent on the unique characteristics of the active compound and the particular therapeutic effect to be achieved.

The pharmaceutical compositions can be included in a container, pack, or dispenser together with instructions for administration.

Compositions of the present invention may also optionally include other therapeutic ingredients, anti-caking agents, preservatives, sweetening agents, colorants, flavors, desiccants, plasticizers, dyes, glidants, anti-adherents, anti-static agents, surfactants (wetting agents), anti-oxidants, film- coating agents, and the like. Any such optional ingredient must be compatible with the compound described herein to insure the stability of the formulation.

The composition may contain other additives as needed, including for exanple lactose, glucose, fructose, galactose, trehalose, sucrose, maltose, raffnose, maltitol, melezitose, stachyose, lactitol, palatinite, starch, xylitol, mannitol, myoinositol, and the like, and hydrates thereof, and amino acids, for example alanine, glycine and betaine, and polypeptides and proteins, for example albumen.

Examples of excipients for use as the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and the pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers and the aforementioned additional ingredients include, but are not limited to binders, fillers, disintegrants, lubricants, anti-microbial agents, and coating agents such as: BINDERS: corn starch, potato starch, other starches, gelatin, natural and

synthetic gums such as acacia, xanthan, sodium alginate, alginic acid, other alginates, powdered tragacanth, guar gum, cellulose and its derivatives (*e.g.*, ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethyl cellulose calcium, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose), polyvinyl pyrrolidone (*e.g.*, povidone, crospovidone, copovidone, etc), methyl cellulose, Methocel, pre-gelatinized starch (*e.g.*, STARCH 1500® and STARCH 1500 LM®, sold by Colorcon, Ltd.), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose (FMC Corporation, Marcus Hook, PA, USA), or mixtures thereof, FILLERS: talc, calcium carbonate (*e.g.*, granules or powder), dibasic calcium phosphate, tribasic calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate (*e.g.*, granules or powder), microcrystalline cellulose, powdered cellulose, dextrates, kaolin, mannitol, silicic acid, sorbitol, starch, pre-gelatinized starch, dextrose, fructose, honey, lactose anhydrate, lactose monohydrate, lactose and aspartame, lactose and cellulose, lactose and microcrystalline cellulose, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose & guar gum, molasses, sucrose,or mixtures thereof, DISINTEGRANTS: agar-agar, alginic acid, calcium carbonate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, polacrilin potassium, sodium starch glycolate, potato or tapioca starch, other starches, pre-gelatinized starch, clays, other algins, other celluloses, gums (like gellan), low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof, LUBRICANTS: calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, mineral oil, light mineral oil, glycerin, sorbitol, mannitol, polyethylene glycol, other glycols, stearic acid, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium stearyl fumarate, vegetable based fatty acids lubricant, talc, hydrogenated vegetable oil (*e.g.*, peanut oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, sesame oil, olive oil, corn oil and soybean oil), zinc stearate, ethyl oleate, ethyl laurate, agar, syloid silica gel (AEROSIL 200, W.R. Grace Co., Baltimore, MD USA), a coagulated aerosol of synthetic silica (Deaussa Co., Piano, TX USA), a pyrogenic silicon dioxide (CAB-O-SIL, Cabot Co., Boston, MA USA), or mixtures thereof, ANTI-CAKING AGENTS: calcium silicate, magnesium silicate, silicon dioxide, colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, or mixtures thereof, ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS: benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, butyl paraben, cetylpyridinium chloride, cresol, chlorobutanol, dehydroacetic acid, ethylparaben, methylparaben, phenol, phenylethyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, phenylmercuric acetate, phenylmercuric nitrate, potassium sorbate, propylparaben, sodium benzoate, sodium dehydroacetate, sodium propionate, sorbic acid, thimersol, thymo, or mixtures thereof, and COATING AGENTS: sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, ethylcellulose, gelatin, pharmaceutical glaze,

hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (hypromellose), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, methylcellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, shellac, sucrose, titanium dioxide, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, gellan gum, maltodextrin, methacrylates, microcrystalline cellulose and carrageenan or mixtures thereof.

The formulation can also include other excipients and categories thereof including but not limited to L-histidine, Pluronic®, Poloxamers (such as Lutrol® and Poloxamer 188), ascorbic acid, glutathione, permeability enhancers (*e.g.* lipids, sodium cholate, acylcarnitine, salicylates, mixed bile salts, fatty acid micelles, chelators, fatty acid, surfactants, medium chain glycerides), protease inhibitors *(e.g.* soybean trypsin inhibitor, organic acids), pH lowering agents and absorption enhancers effective to promote bioavailability (including but not limited to those described in US6086918 and US5912014), creams and lotions (like maltodextrin and carrageenans); materials for chewable tablets (like dextrose, fructose, lactose monohydrate, lactose and aspartame, lactose and cellulose, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose and guar gum, sorbitol crystalline); parenterals (like mannitol and povidone); plasticizers (like dibutyl sebacate, plasticizers for coatings, polyvinylacetate phthalate); powder lubricants (like glyceryl behenate); soft gelatin capsules (like sorbitol special solution); spheres for coating (like sugar spheres); spheronization agents (like glyceryl behenate and microcrystalline cellulose); suspending/gelling agents (like carrageenan, gellan gum, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, xanthan gum); sweeteners (like aspartame, aspartame and lactose, dextrose, fructose, honey, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, molasses, sorbitol crystalline, sorbitol special solution, sucrose); wet granulation agents (like calcium carbonate, lactose anhydrous, lactose monohydrate, maltodextrin, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, starch), caramel, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, cherry cream flavor and cherry flavor, citric acid anhydrous, citric acid, confectioner's sugar, D&C Red No. 33, D&C Yellow #10 Aluminum Lake, disodium edetate, ethyl alcohol 15%, FD&C Yellow No. 6 aluminum lake, FD&C Blue # 1 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Blue No. 1, FD&C blue no. 2 aluminum lake, FD&C Green No.3, FD&C Red No. 40, FD&C Yellow No. 6 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Yellow No. 6, FD&C Yellow No.10, glycerol palmitostearate, glyceryl monostearate, indigo carmine, lecithin, manitol, methyl and propyl parabens, mono ammonium glycyrrhizinate, natural and artificial orange flavor, pharmaceutical glaze, poloxamer 188, Polydextrose, polysorbate 20, polysorbate 80, polyvidone, pregelatinized corn starch, pregelatinized starch, red

iron oxide, saccharin sodium, sodium carboxymethyl ether, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, sodium phosphate, strawberry flavor, synthetic black iron oxide, synthetic red iron oxide, titanium dioxide, and white wax.

Solid oral dosage forms may optionally be treated with coating systems (*e.g.* Opadry® fx film coating system, for example Opadry® blue (OY-LS-20921), Opadry® white (YS-2-7063), Opadry® white (YS- 1-7040), and black ink (S- 1-8 106).

The agents either in their free form or as a salt can be combined with a polymer such as polylactic-glycoloic acid (PLGA), poly-(I)-lactic-glycolic-tartaric acid (P(I)LGT) (WO 01/12233), polyglycolic acid (U.S. 3,773,919), polylactic acid (U.S. 4,767,628), poly(ε-caprolactone) and poly(alkylene oxide) (U.S. 20030068384) to create a sustained release formulation. Such formulations can be used to implants that release a polypeptide or another agent over a period of a few days, a few weeks or several months depending on the polymer, the particle size of the polymer, and the size of the implant (*See, e.g.*, U.S. 6,620,422). Other sustained release formulations and polymers for use in are described in EP 0 467 389 A2, WO 93/24150, U.S. 5,612,052, WO 97/40085, WO 03/075887, WO 01/01964A2, U.S. 5,922,356, WO 94/155587, WO 02/074247A2, WO 98/25642, U.S. 5,968,895, U.S. 6,180,608, U.S. 20030171296. U.S. 20020176841, U.S. 5,672,659, U.S. 5,893,985, U.S. 5,134,122, U.S. 5,192,741, U.S. 5,192,741, U.S. 4,668,506, U.S. 4,713,244, U.S. 5,445,832 U.S. 4,931,279, U.S. ,5, 980,945, WO 02/058672, WO 9726015, WO 97/04744, and US200200 19446. In such sustained release formulations microparticles (Delie and Blanco-Prieto 2005 Molecule 10:65-80) of polypeptide are combined with microparticles of polymer. One or more sustained release implants can be placed in the large intestine, the small intestine or both. U.S. 6,011,0 1 and WO 94/06452 describe a sustained release formulation providing either polyethylene glycols (*i.e.* PEG 300 and PEG 400) or triacetin. WO 03/053401 describes a formulation which may both enhance bioavailability and provide controlled releaseof the agent within the GI tract. Additional controlled release formulations are described in WO 02/38129, EP 326151, U.S. 5,236,704, WO 02/30398, WO 98/13029; U.S. 20030064105, U.S. 20030138488A1, U.S. 20030216307A1, U.S. 6,667,060, WO 01/49249, WO 01/49311, WO 01/49249, WO 01/49311, and U.S. 5,877,224 materials which may include those described in WO04041195 (including the seal and enteric coating described therein) and pH-sensitive coatings that achieve delivery in the colon including those described in US4,910,021 and WO9001329. US4910021 describes using a pH-

sensitive material to coat a capsule. WO9001329 describes using pH-sensitive coatings on beads containing acid, where the acid in the bead core prolongs dissolution of the pH-sensitive coating. U. S. Patent No. 5,175,003 discloses a dual mechanism polymer mixture composed of pH-sensitive enteric materials and film-forming plasticizers capable of conferring permeability to the enteric material, for use in drug-delivery systems; a matrix pellet composed of a dual mechanism polymer mixture permeated with a drug and sometimes covering a pharmaceutically neutral nucleus; a membrane- coated pellet comprising a matrix pellet coated with a dual mechanism polymer mixture envelope of the same or different composition; and a pharmaceutical dosage form containing matrix pellets. The matrix pellet releases acid-soluble drugs by diffusion in acid pH and by disintegration at pH levels of nominally about 5.0 or higher.

The GCRA peptideds described herein may be formulated in the pH triggered targeted control release systems described in WO04052339. The agents described herein may be formulated according to the methodology described in any of WO03105812 (extruded hyrdratable polymers); WO0243767 (enzyme cleavable membrane translocators); WO03007913 and WO03086297 (mucoadhesive systems); WO02072075 (bilayer laminated formulation comprising pH lowering agent and absorption enhancer); WO04064769 (amidated polypeptides); WO05063156 (solid lipid suspension with pseudotropic and/or thixotropic properties upon melting); WO03035029 and WO03035041 (erodible, gastric retentive dosage forms); US5007790 and US5972389 (sustained release dosage forms); WO041 1271 1 (oral extended release compositions); WO05027878, WO02072033, and WO02072034 (delayed release compositions with natural or synthetic gum); WO05030182 (controlled release formulations with an ascending rate of release); WO05048998 (microencapsulation system); US Patent 5,952,314 (biopolymer); US5,108,758 (glassy amylose matrix delivery); US 5,840,860 (modified starch based delivery). JP10324642 (delivery system comprising chitosan and gastric resistant material such as wheat gliadin or zein); US5,866,619 and US6,368,629 (saccharide containing polymer); US 6,531,152 (describes a drug delivery system containing a water soluble core (Ca pectinate or other water-insoluble polymers) and outer coat which bursts (*e.g.* hydrophobic polymer-Eudragrit)); US 6,234,464; US 6,403,130 (coating with polymer containing casein and high methoxy pectin; WO0174 175 (Maillard reaction product); WO05063206 (solubility increasing formulation); WO040 19872 (transferring fusion proteins).

The GCRA peptides described herein may be formulated using gastrointestinal retention system technology (GIRES; Merrion Pharmaceuticals). GIRES comprises a controlled-release dosage form inside an inflatable pouch, which is placed in a drug capsule for oral administration. Upon dissolution of the capsule, a gas-generating system inflates the pouch in the stomach where it is retained for 16-24 hours, all the time releasing agents described herein.

The GCRA peptides described herein can be formulated in an osmotic device including the ones disclosed in US4,503,030, US5,609,590 and US5,358,502. US4,503,030 discloses an osmotic device for dispensing a drug to certain pH regions of the gastrointestinal tract. More particularly, the invention relates to an osmotic device comprising a wall formed of a semi-permeable pH sensitive composition that surrounds a compartment containing a drug, with a passageway through the wall connecting the exterior of the device with the compartment. The device delivers the drug at a controlled rate in the region of the gastrointestinal tract having a pH of less than 3.5, and the device self- destructs and releases all its drug in the region of the gastrointestinal tract having a pH greater than 3.5, thereby providing total availability for drug absorption. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,609,590 and 5, 358,502 disclose an osmotic bursting device for dispensing a beneficial agent to an aqueous environment. The device comprises a beneficial agent and osmagent surrounded at least in part by a semi-permeable membrane. The beneficial agent may also function as the osmagent. The semi-permeable membrane is permeable to water and substantially impermeable to the beneficial agent and osmagent. A trigger means is attached to the semi-permeable membrane *(e.g.*,joins two capsule halves). The trigger means is activated by a pH of from 3 to 9 and triggers the eventual, but sudden, delivery of the beneficial agent. These devices enable the pH-triggered release of the beneficial agent core as a bolus by osmotic bursting.

EXEMPLARY AGENTS FOR COMBINATION THERAPY

Analgesic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an analgesic agent, *e.g.*, an analgesic compound or an analgesic polypeptide. These polypeptides and compounds can be administered with the GCRA peptides described herein (simultaneously or sequentially). They can also be optionally covalently linked or attached to an agent described herein to create therapeutic conjugates. Among the useful analgesic agents are: Ca channel blockers, 5HT receptor antagonists (for example 5HT3, 5HT4 and 5HTl receptor antagonists),

opioid receptor agonists (loperamide, fedotozine, and fentanyl), NKl receptor antagonists, CCK receptor agonists (*e.g.*, loxiglumide), NKl receptor antagonists, NK3 receptor antagonists, norepinephrine-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (NSRI), vanilloid and cannabanoid receptor agonists, and sialorphin. Analgesics agents in the various classes are described in the literature.

Among the useful analgesic polypeptides are sialorphin-related polypeptides, including those comprising the amino acid sequence QHNPR (SEQ ID NO:), including: VQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPRRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); and RQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:). Sialorphin-related polypeptides bind to neprilysin and inhibit neprilysin- mediated breakdown of substance P and Met-enkephalin. Thus, compounds or polypeptides that are inhibitors of neprilysin are useful analgesic agents which can be administered with the polypeptides described herein in a co-therapy or linked to the polypeptides described herein, *e.g.*, by a covalent bond. Sialophin and related polypeptides are described in U.S. Patent 6,589,750; U.S. 20030078200 Al; and WO 02/051435 A2.

Opioid receptor antagonists and agonists can be administered with the GCRA peptides described herein in co-therapy or linked to the agent described herein, *e.g.*, by a covalent bond. For example, opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone, naltrexone, methyl nalozone, nalmefene, cypridime, beta funaltrexamine, naloxonazine, naltrindole, and nor-binaltorphimine are thought to be useful in the treatment of IBS. It can be useful to formulate opioid antagonists of this type is a delayed and sustained release formulation such that initial release of the antagonist is in the mid to distal small intestine and/or ascending colon. Such antagonists are described in WO 01/32180 A2. Enkephalin pentapeptide (HOE825; Tyr-D-Lys-Gly-Phe-L-homoserine) is an agonist of the mu and delta opioid receptors and is thought to be useful for increasing intestinal motility {Eur. J. Pharm. 219:445, 1992), and this polypeptide can be used in conjunction with the polypeptides described herein. Also useful is trimebutine which is thought to bind to mu/delta/kappa opioid receptors and activate release of motilin and modulate the release of gastrin, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide, gastrin and glucagons. Kappa opioid receptor agonists such as fedotozine, asimadoline, and ketocyclazocine, and compounds described in WO03/097051 and WO05/007626 can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein. In addition, mu opioid receptor agonists such as morphine, diphenyloxylate, frakefamide (H-Tyr-D-Ala-Phe(F)-Phe-NH 2; WO 01/019849 Al) and loperamide can be used.

Tyr-Arg (kyotorphin) is a dipeptide that acts by stimulating the release of met-enkephalins to elicit an analgesic effect (J. Biol. Chem 262:8165, 1987). Kyotorphin can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

Chromogranin-derived polypeptide (CgA 47-66; *See, e.g.*, Ghia et al. 2004 Regulatory polypeptides 119:199) can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

CCK receptor agonists such as caerulein from amphibians and other species are useful analgesic agents that can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

Conotoxin polypeptides represent a large class of analgesic polypeptides that act at voltage gated calcium channels, NMDA receptors or nicotinic receptors. These polypeptides can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Peptide analogs of thymulin (FR Application 2830451) can have analgesic activity and can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

CCK (CCKa or CCKb) receptor antagonists, including loxiglumide and dexloxiglumide (the R- isomer of loxiglumide) (WO 88/05774) can have analgesic activity and can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Other useful analgesic agents include 5-HT4 agonists such as tegaserod (Zelnorm®), mosapride, metoclopramide, zacopride, cisapride, renzapride, benzimidazolone derivatives such as BIMU 1 and BIMU 8, and lirexapride. Such agonists are described in: EP1321 142 Al, WO 03/053432A1, EP 505322 Al, EP 505322 Bl, US 5,510,353, EP 507672 Al, EP 507672 Bl, and US 5,273,983.

Calcium channel blockers such as ziconotide and related compounds described in, for example, EP625162B1, US 5,364,842, US 5,587,454, US 5,824,645, US 5,859,186, US 5,994,305, US 6087,091, US 6,136,786, WO 93/13128 Al, EP 1336409 Al, EP 835126 Al, EP 835126 Bl, US 5,795,864, US 5,891,849, US 6,054,429, WO 97/01351 Al, can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Various antagonists of the NK-I, NK-2, and NK-3 receptors (for a review see Giardina et al. 2003.Drugs 6:758) can be can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NKl receptor antagonists such as: aprepitant (Merck & Co Inc), vofopitant, ezlopitant (Pfizer, Inc.), R-673 (Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd), SR-48968 (Sanofi Synthelabo), CP-122,721 (Pfizer, Inc.), GW679769 (Glaxo Smith Kline), TAK-637 (Takeda/Abbot), SR-14033, and related compounds described in, for example, EP 873753 Al, US 20010006972 Al, US

20030109417 Al, WO 01/52844 Al, can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NK-2 receptor antagonists such as nepadutant (Menarini Ricerche SpA), saredutant (Sanofi- Synthelabo), GW597599 (Glaxo Smith Kline), SR-144190 (Sanofi-Synthelabo) and UK-290795 (Pfizer Inc) can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NK3 receptor antagonists such as osanetant (SR-142801; Sanofi-Synthelabo), SSR-241586, talnetant and related compounds described in, for example, WO 02/094187 A2, EP 876347 Al, WO 97/21680 Al, US 6,277,862, WO 98/1 1090, WO 95/28418, WO 97/19927, and Boden et al. (J Med Chem. 39:1664-75, 1996) can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Norepinephrine-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (NSRI) such as milnacipran and related compounds described in WO 03/077897 Al can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Vanilloid receptor antagonists such as arvanil and related compouds described in WO 01/64212 Al can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

The analgesic polypeptides and compounds can be administered with the polypeptides and agonists described herein (simultaneously or sequentially). The analgesic agents can also be covalently linked to the polypeptides and agonists described herein to create therapeutic conjugates. Where the analgesic is a polypeptide and is covalently linked to an agent described herein the resulting polypeptide may also include at least one trypsin cleavage site. When present within the polypeptide, the analgesic polypeptide may be preceded by (if it is at the carboxy terminus) or followed by (if it is at the amino terminus) a trypsin cleavage site that allows release of the analgesic polypeptide.

In addition to sialorphin-related polypeptides, analgesic polypeptides include: AspPhe, endomorphin-1, endomorphin-2, nocistatin, dalargin, lupron, ziconotide, and substance P.

Agents to Treat Gastrointestinal Disorders

Examples of additional therapeutic agents to treat gastrointestinal and other disorders include agents to treat constipation (*e.g.*, a chloride channel activator such as the bicylic fatty acid, Lubiprostone (formerly known as SPI-0211; Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Bethesda, MD), a laxative (*e.g.* a bulk-forming laxative (*e.g.* nonstarch polysaccharides, Colonel Tablet

(polycarbophil calcium), Plantago Ovata®, Equalactin® (Calcium Polycarbophil)), fiber (*e.g.* FIBERCON® (Calcium Polycarbophil), an osmotic laxative, a stimulant laxative (such as diphenylmethanes (*e.g.* bisacodyl), anthraquinones (*e.g.* cascara, senna), and surfactant laxatives (*e.g.* castor oil, docusates), an emollient/lubricating agent (such as mineral oil, glycerine, and docusates), MiraLax (Braintree Laboratories, Braintree MA), dexloxiglumide (Forest Laboratories, also known as CR 2017 Rottapharm (Rotta Research Laboratorium SpA)), saline laxatives, enemas, suppositories, and CR 3700 (Rottapharm (Rotta Research Laboratorium SpA); acid reducing agents such as proton pump inhibitors (*e.g.*, omeprazole (Prilosec®), esomeprazole (Nexium®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), pantoprazole (Protonix®) and rabeprazole (Aciphex®)) and Histamine H2 -receptor antagonist (also known as H2 receptor blockers including cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine and nizatidine); prokinetic agents including itopride, octreotide, bethanechol, metoclopramide (Reglan®), domperidone (Motilium®), erythromycin (and derivatives thereof) or cisapride (propulsid®); Prokineticin polypeptides homologs, variants and chimeras thereof including those described in US 7,052,674 which can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein; pro-motility agents such as the vasostatin-derived polypeptide, chromogranin A (4-16) (*See, e.g.*, Ghia et al. 2004 Regulatory polypeptides 121:31) or motilin agonists (*e.g.*, GM-611 or mitemcinal fumarate) or nociceptin/Orphanin FQ receptor modulators (US20050169917); other peptides which can bind to and/or activate GC-C including those described in US20050287067; complete or partial 5HT (*e.g.* 5HT1, 5HT2, 5HT3, 5HT4) receptor agonists or antagonists (including 5HT1A antagonists (*e.g.* AGI-OOl (AGI therapeutics), 5HT2B antagonists (*e.g.* PGN 1091 and PGNl 164 (Pharmagene Laboratories Limited), and 5HT4 receptor agonists (such as tegaserod (ZELNORM®), prucalopride, mosapride, metoclopramide, zacopride, cisapride, renzapride, benzimidazolone derivatives such as BIMU 1 and BIMU 8, and lirexapride). Such agonists/modulators are described in: EP1321142 Al, WO 03/053432A1, EP 505322 Al, EP 505322 Bl, US 5,510,353, EP 507672 Al, EP 507672 Bl, US 5,273,983, and US 6,951,867); 5HT3 receptor agonists such as MKC-733; and 5HT3 receptor antagonists such as DDP-225 (MCI-225; Dynogen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), cilansetron (Calmactin®), alosetron (Lotronex®), Ondansetron HCl (Zofran®), Dolasetron (ANZEMET®), palonosetron (Aloxi®), Granisetron (Kytril®), YM060(ramosetron; Astellas Pharma Inc.; ramosetron may be given as a daily dose of 0.002 to 0.02 mg as described in EP01588707) and ATI-7000 (Aryx Therapeutics, Santa Clara CA); muscarinic receptor agonists;

anti-inflammatory agents; antispasmodics including but not limited to anticholinergic drugs (like dicyclomine (*e.g.* Colimex®, Formulex®, Lomine®, Protylol®, Visceral®, Spasmoban®, Bentyl®, Bentylol®), hyoscyamine (*e.g.* IB-Stat®, Nulev®, Levsin®, Levbid®, Levsinex Timecaps®, Levsin/SL®, Anaspaz®, A-Spas S/L®, Cystospaz®, Cystospaz-M®, Donnamar®, Colidrops Liquid Pediatric®, Gastrosed®, Hyco Elixir®, Hyosol®, Hyospaz®, Hyosyne®, Losamine®, Medispaz®, Neosol®, Spacol®, Spasdel®, Symax®, Symax SL®), Donnatal (*e.g.* Donnatal Extentabs®), clidinium (*e.g.* Quarzan, in combination with Librium = Librax), methantheline (*e.g.* Banthine), Mepenzolate (*e.g.* Cantil), homatropine (*e.g.* hycodan, Homapin), Propantheline bromide (*e.g.* Pro-Banthine), Glycopyrrolate (*e.g.* Robinul®, Robinul Forte®), scopolamine (*e.g.* Transderm-Scop®, Transderm-V®), hyosine-N-butylbromide (*e.g.* Buscopan®), Pirenzepine (*e.g.* Gastrozepin®) Propantheline Bromide (*e.g.* Propanthel®), dicycloverine (*e.g.* Merbentyl®), glycopyrronium bromide (*e.g.* Glycopyrrolate®), hyoscine hydrobromide, hyoscine methobromide, methanthelinium, and octatropine); peppermint oil; and direct smooth muscle relaxants like cimetropium bromide, mebeverine (DUSPATAL®, DUSPATALIN®, COLOFAC MR®, COLOTAL®), otilonium bromide (octilonium), pinaverium (*e.g.* Dicetel® (pinaverium bromide; Solvay S. A.)), Spasfon® (hydrated phloroglucinol and trimethylphloroglucinol)and trimebutine (including trimebutine maleate (Modulon®); antidepressants, including but not limited to those listed herein, as well as tricyclic antidepressants like amitriptyline (Elavil®), desipramine (Norpramin®), imipramine (Tofranil®), amoxapine (Asendin®), nortriptyline; the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRTs) like paroxetine (Paxil®), fluoxetine (Prozac®), sertraline (Zoloft®), and citralopram (Celexa®); and others like doxepin (Sinequan®) and trazodone (Desyrel®); centrally-acting analgesic agents such as opioid receptor agonists, opioid receptor antagonists (*e.g.*, naltrexone); agents for the treatment of Inflammatory bowel disease; agents for the treatment of Crohn's disease and/or ulcerative colitis (*e.g.*, alequel (Enzo Biochem, Inc.; Farmingsale, NY), the anti-inflammatory polypeptide RDP58 (Genzyme, Inc.; Cambridge, MA), and TRAFICET-EN™ (ChemoCentryx, Inc.; San Carlos, CA); agents that treat gastrointestinal or visceral pain; agents that increase cGMP levels (as described in US20040121994) like adrenergic receptor antagonists, dopamine receptor agonists and PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitors including but not limited to those disclosed herein; purgatives that draw fluids to the intestine (*e.g.*, VISICOL®, a combination of sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate and sodium phosphate

dibasic anhydrate); Corticotropin Releasing Factor (CRF) receptor antagonists (including NBI-34041 (Neurocrine Biosciences, San Diego, CA), CRH9-41, astressin, R121919 (Janssen Pharmaceutica), CP154,526, NBI-27914, Antalarmin, DMP696 (Bristol-Myers Squibb) CP-316,311 (Pfizer, Inc.), SB723620 (GSK), GW876008 (Neurocrine/Glaxo Smith Kline), ONO-2333Ms (Ono Pharmaceuticals), TS-041 (Janssen), AAG561 (Novartis) and those disclosed in US 5,063,245, US 5,861,398, US20040224964, US20040198726, US20040176400, US20040171607, US20040110815, US20040006066, and US20050209253); glucagon- like polypeptides (glp-1) and analogues thereof (including exendin-4 and GTP-010 (Gastrotech Pharma A)) and inhibitors of DPP-IV (DPP-IV mediates the inactivation of glp-1); tofisopam, enantiomerically-pure R-tofisopam, and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof (US 20040229867); tricyclic anti-depressants of the dibenzothiazepine type including but not limited to Dextofisopam® (Vela Pharmaceuticals), tianeptine (Stablon®) and other agents described in US 6,683,072; (E)-4 (1 ,3bis(cyclohexylmethyl)-1 ,2,34,-tetrahydro-2,6-diono-9H-purin-8-yl)cinnamic acid nonaethylene glycol methyl ether ester and related compounds described in WO 02/067942; the probiotic PROBACTRIX® (The BioBalance Corporation; New York, NY) which contains microorganisms useful in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders; antidiarrheal drugs including but not limited to loperamide (Imodium, Pepto Diarrhea), diphenoxylate with atropine (Lomotil, Lomocot), cholestyramine (Questran, Cholybar), atropine (Co-Phenotrope, Diarsed, Diphenoxylate, Lofene, Logen, Lonox, Vi-Atro, atropine sulfate injection) and Xifaxan® (rifaximin; Salix Pharmaceuticals Ltd), TZP-201(Tranzyme Pharma Inc.), the neuronal acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) blocker AGI-004 (AGI therapeutics), and bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-bismol); anxiolytic drugs including but not limited toAtivan (lorazepam), alprazolam (Xanax®), chlordiazepoxide/clidinium (Librium®, Librax®), clonazepam (Klonopin®), clorazepate (Tranxene®), diazepam (Valium®), estazolam (ProSom®), flurazepam (Dalmane®), oxazepam (Serax®), prazepam (Centrax®), temazepam (Restoril®), triazolam (Halcion®; Bedelix® (Montmorillonite beidellitic; Ipsen Ltd), Solvay SLV332 (ArQule Inc), YKP (SK Pharma), Asimadoline (Tioga Pharmaceuticals/Merck), AGI-003 (AGI Therapeutics); neurokinin antagonists including those described in US20060040950; potassium channel modulators including those described in US7,002,015; the serotonin modulator AZD7371 (AstraZeneca Plc); M3 muscarinic receptor antagonists such as darifenacin (Enablex; Novartis AG and zamifenacin (Pfizer); herbal and natural therapies including but not limited to

acidophilus, chamomile tea, evening primrose oil, fennel seeds,wormwood, comfrey, and compounds of Bao-Ji-Wan (magnolol, honokiol, imperatorin, and isoimperatorin) as in US6923992; and compositions comprising lysine and an anti-stress agent for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome as described in EPO 1550443.

Insulin and Insulin Modulating Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with insulin and related compounds including primate, rodent, or rabbit insulin including biologically active variants thereof including allelic variants, more preferably human insulin available in recombinant form. Sources of human insulin include pharmaceutically acceptable and sterile formulations such as those available from Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, Ind. 46285) as Humulin™ (human insulin rDNA origin). *See*, the THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE, 55.sup.th Ed. (2001) Medical Economics, Thomson Healthcare (disclosing other suitable human insulins).

The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with agents that can boost insulin effects or levels of a subject upon administration, *e.g.* glipizide and/or rosiglitazone. The polypeptides and agonistsdescribed herein can be used in combitherapy with SYMLIN® (pramlintide acetate) and Exenatide® (synthetic exendin-4, a 39 aa polypeptide).

Agents for the Treatment of Postoperative Ileus

The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with agents (*e.g.*, Entereg™ (alvimopan; formerly called ado lor/ ADL 8-2698), conivaptan and related agents describe in US 6,645,959) used for the treatment of postoperative ileus and other disorders.

Anti-Hypertensive Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an anti-hypertensive agent including but not limited to: (1) diuretics, such as thiazides, including chlorthalidone, chlorthiazide, dichlorophenamide, hydroflumethiazide, indapamide, polythiazide, and hydrochlorothiazide; loop diuretics, such as bumetanide, ethacrynic acid, furosemide, and torsemide; potassium sparing agents, such as amiloride, and triamterene; carbonic anhydrase

inhibitors, osmotics(such as glycerin) and aldosterone antagonists, such as spironolactone, epirenone, and the like; (2) beta-adrenergic blockers such as acebutolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bevantolol, bisoprolol, bopindolol, carteolol, carvedilol, celiprolol, esmolol, indenolol, metaprolol, nadolol, nebivolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propanolol, sotalol, tertatolol, tilisolol, and timolol, and the like; (3) calcium channel blockers such as amlodipine, aranidipine, azelnidipine, barnidipine, benidipine, bepridil, cinaldipine, clevidipine, diltiazem, efonidipine, felodipine, gallopamil, isradipine, lacidipine, lemildipine, lercanidipine, nicardipine, nifedipine, nilvadipine, nimodepine, nisoldipine, nitrendipine, manidipine, pranidipine, and verapamil, and the like; (4) angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as benazepril; captopril; ceranapril; cilazapril; delapril; enalapril; enalopril; fosinopril; imidapril; lisinopril; losinopril; moexipril; quinapril; quinaprilat; ramipril; perindopril; perindropril; quanipril; spirapril; tenocapril; trandolapril, and zofenopril, and the like; (5) neutral endopeptidase inhibitors such as omapatrilat, cadoxatril and ecadotril, fosidotril, sampatrilat, AVE7688, ER4030, and the like; (6) endothelin antagonists such as tezosentan, A308165, and YM62899, and the like; (7) vasodilators such as hydralazine, clonidine, minoxidil, and nicotinyl alcohol, and the like; (8) angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as aprosartan, candesartan, eprosartan, irbesartan, losartan, olmesartan, pratosartan, tasosartan, telmisartan, valsartan, and EXP-3137, FI6828K, and RNH6270, and the like; (9) α/β adrenergic blockers such as nipradilol, arotinolol and amosulalol, and the like; (10) alpha 1 blockers, such as terazosin, urapidil, prazosin, tamsulosin, bunazosin, trimazosin, doxazosin, naftopidil, indoramin, WHP 164, and XENOlO, and the like; (11) alpha 2 agonists such as lofexidine, tiamenidine, moxonidine, rilmenidine and guanobenz, and the like; (12) aldosterone inhibitors, and the like; and (13) angiopoietin-2 -binding agents such as those disclosed in WO03/030833. Specific anti-hypertensive agents that can be used in combination with polypeptides and agonists described herein include, but are not limited to: diuretics, such as thiazides (*e.g.*, chlorthalidone, cyclothiazide (CAS RN 2259-96-3), chlorothiazide (CAS RN 72956-09-3, which may be prepared as disclosed in US2809194), dichlorophenamide, hydroflumethiazide, indapamide, polythiazide, bendroflumethazide, methyclothazide, polythiazide, trichlormethazide, chlorthalidone, indapamide, metolazone, quinethazone, althiazide (CAS RN 5588-16-9, which may be prepared as disclosed in British Patent No. 902,658), benzthiazide (CAS RN 91-33-8, which may be prepared as disclosed in US3108097), buthiazide (which may be prepared as disclosed in British Patent Nos. 861 ,367),

and hydrochlorothiazide), loop diuretics (*e.g.* bumetanide, ethacrynic acid, furosemide, and torasemide), potassium sparing agents (*e.g.* amiloride, and triamterene (CAS Number 396-01-0)), and aldosterone antagonists (*e.g.* spironolactone (CAS Number 52-01-7), epirenone, and the like); β-adrenergic blockers such as Amiodarone (Cordarone, Pacerone), bunolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 31969-05-8, Parke-Davis), acebutolol (±N-[3-Acetyl-4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(1 methylethyl)amino]propoxy]phenyl]-butanamide, or (±)-3'-Acetyl-4'-[2-hydroxy -3-(isopropylamino) propoxy] butyranilide), acebutolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Sectral®, Wyeth-Ayerst), alprenolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 13707-88-5 see Netherlands Patent Application No. 6,605,692), atenolol (*e.g.* Tenormin®, AstraZeneca), carteolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Cartrol® Filmtab®, Abbott), Celiprolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 57470-78-7, also see in US4034009), cetamolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 77590-95-5, see also US4059622), labetalol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Normodyne®, Schering), esmolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Brevibloc®, Baxter), levobetaxolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betaxon™ Ophthalmic Suspension, Alcon), levobunolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betagan® Liquifilm® with C CAP® Compliance Cap, Allergan), nadolol (*e.g.* Nadolol, Mylan), practolol (CAS RN 6673-35-4, see also US3408387), propranolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 318-98-9), sotalol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betapace AF™,Berlex), timolol (2-Propanol,l-[(l,l-dimethylethyl)amino]-3-[[4-4(4-morpholinyl)-l,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl]oxy]-, hemihydrate, (S)-, CAS RN 91524-16-2), timolol maleate (S)-l -[(1,1 -dimethylethyl) amino]-3-[[4- (4-morpholinyl)-l,2,5-thiadiazol -3- yl] oxy]-2-propanol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) salt, CAS RN 26921-17-5), bisoprolol (2-Propanol, l-[4-[[2-(l-methylethoxy)ethoxy]-methyl]phenoxyl]-3-[(l-meth- ylethyl)amino]-, (±), CAS RN 66722-44-9), bisoprolol fumarate (such as (±)-l-[4-[[2-(l-Methylethoxy) ethoxy]methyl]phenoxy]-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-2-propanol (E) -2-butenedioate (2:1) (salt), *e.g.*, Zebeta™ , Lederle Consumer), nebivalol (2H-l-Benzopyran-2-methanol, αα'-[iminobis(methylene)]bis[6-fluoro-3,4-dihydro-, CAS RN 99200-09-6 see also U.S. Pat. No. 4,654,362), cicloprolol hydrochloride, such 2-Propanol, l-[4-[2-(cyclopropylmethoxy)ethoxy]phenoxy]-3-[l-methylethyl)amino]-, hydrochloride, A.A.S. RN 63686-79-3), dexpropranolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol,l-[l-methylethy)-amino]-3-(l-naphthalenyloxy)-hydrochloride (CAS RN 13071-11-9), diacetolol hydrochloride (Acetamide, N-[3-acetyl-4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(l-methyl-ethyl)amino]propoxy] [phenyl]-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 69796-04-9), dilevalol hydrochloride (Benzamide, 2-hydroxy-5-[l-hydroxy-2-[l-methyl-3-phenylpropyl)amino]ethyl]-, monohydrochloride, CAS RN 75659-08-4), exaprolol

hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1 -(2-cyclohexylphenoxy)-3 - [(1 -methylethyl)amino] -, hydrochloride CAS RN 59333-90-3), flestolol sulfate (Benzoic acid, 2-fluro-,3-[[2-[aminocarbonyl)amino]- - dimethylethyl]amino]-2-hydroxypropyl ester, (+)- sulfate (1 :1) (salt), CAS RN 88844-73-9; metalol hydrochloride (Methanesulfonamide, N-[4-[l-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)propyl]phenyl]-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 7701-65-7), metoprolol 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2- methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[l-methylethyl)amino]-; CAS RN 37350-58-6), metoprolol tartrate (such as 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-, *e.g.*, Lopressor®, Novartis), parnatolol sulfate (Carbamic acid, [2-[4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]propoxyl]phenyl]-ethyl]-, methyl ester, (±) sulfate (salt) (2:1), CAS RN 59954-01-7), penbutolol sulfate (2-Propanol, l-(2-cyclopentylphenoxy)-3-[l,l-dimethyle- thyl)amino] 1 , (S)-, sulfate (2:1) (salt), CAS RN 38363-32-5), practolol (Acetamide, N-[4-[2- hydroxy-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-propoxy]phenyl]-, CAS RN 6673-35-4;) tiprenolol hydrochloride (Propanol, l-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(methylthio)-phenoxy]-, hydrochloride, (±), CAS RN 39832-43-4), tolamolol (Benzamide, 4-[2-[[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methylphenoxy)-propyl] amino] ethoxyl]-, CAS RN 38103-61-6), bopindolol, indenolol, pindolol, propanolol, tertatolol, and tilisolol, and the like; calcium channel blockers such as besylate salt of amlodipine (such as 3-ethyl-5-methyl-2-(2-aminoethoxymethyl)-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-l ,4-dihydro-6-methyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate benzenesulphonate, *e.g.*, Norvasc®, Pfizer), clentiazem maleate (1,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one, 3-(acetyloxy)-8-chloro-5-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-(2S-cis)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1), see also US4567195), isradipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 4-(4-benzofurazanyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-, methyl 1-methylethyl ester, (±)-4(4-benzofurazanyl)- 1 ,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3 ,5 - pyridinedicarboxylate, see also US4466972); nimodipine (such as is isopropyl (2- methoxyethyl) 1, 4- dihydro -2,6- dimethyl -4- (3-nitrophenyl) -3,5- pyridine - dicarboxylate, *e.g.* Nimotop®, Bayer), felodipine (such as ethyl methyl 4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate- , *e.g.* Plendil® Extended-Release, AstraZeneca LP), nilvadipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-cyano-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-,3-methyl 5-(l-methylethyl) ester, also see US3799934), nifedipine (such as 3, 5 -pyridinedicarboxylic acid,1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester, *e.g.*, Procardia XL® Extended Release Tablets, Pfizer), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as l,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4-methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis., *e.g.*,

Tiazac®, Forest), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetronitrile, (alpha)-[[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)-(1 -methylethyl) hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Isoptin® SR, Knoll Labs), teludipine hydrochloride (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]4-[2-[(lE)-3-(l,l-dimethylethoxy)-3-oxo- l-propenyl]phenyl]-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-, diethyl ester, monohydrochloride) CAS RN 108700-03-4), belfosdil (Phosphonic acid, [2-(2-phenoxy ethyl)- 1,3 -propane- diyl]bis-, tetrabutyl ester CAS RN 103486-79-9), fostedil (Phosphonic acid, [[4-(2-benzothiazolyl)phenyl]methyl]-, diethyl ester CAS RN 75889-62-2), aranidipine, azelnidipine, barnidipine, benidipine, bepridil, cinaldipine, clevidipine, efonidipine, gallopamil, lacidipine, lemildipine, lercanidipine, monatepil maleate (1-Piperazinebutanamide, N-(6, 11 -dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiepin- 11 -yl)$_4$-(4-fluorophenyl)-, (+)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) (±)-N-(6,l l-Dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiep- in-l l-yl)-4-(p- fluorophenyl)-l-piperazinebutyramide maleate (1 :1) CAS RN 132046-06-1), nicardipine, nisoldipine, nitrendipine, manidipine, pranidipine, and the like; T-channel calcium antagonists such as mibefradil; angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as benazepril, benazepril hydrochloride (such as 3-[[l-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3- phenyl-(1 S)-propyl]amino]-2,3 ,4,5-tetrahydro-2-oxo- 1 H - 1 -(3 S)-benzazepine- 1 -acetic acid monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Lotrel®, Novartis), captopril (such as l-[(2S)-3-mercapto-2- methylpropionyl]-L-proline, *e.g.*, Captopril, Mylan, CAS RN 62571-86-2 and others disclosed in US4046889), ceranapril (and others disclosed in US4452790), cetapril (alacepril, Dainippon disclosed in Eur. Therap. Res. 39:671 (1986); 40:543 (1986)), cilazapril (Hoffman-LaRoche) disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 9:39 (1987), indalapril (delapril hydrochloride (2H-1,2,4- Benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide, 3-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl-6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-, 1,1- dioxide CAS RN 2259-96-3); disclosed in US4385051), enalapril (and others disclosed in US4374829), enalopril, enaloprilat, fosinopril, ((such as L-proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[[2-methyl- l-(l-oxopropoxy) propoxy](4-phenylbutyl) phosphinyl]acetyl]-, sodium salt, *e.g.*, Monopril, Bristol-Myers Squibb and others disclosed in US4168267), fosinopril sodium (L- Proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[(R)-[(lS)-2-methyl-l-(l-ox- opropoxy)propox), imidapril, indolapril (Schering, disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 5:643, 655 (1983)), lisinopril (Merck), losinopril, moexipril, moexipril hydrochloride (3-Isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, 2-[(2S)-2-[[(lS)- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]- 1 -oxopropyl]- 1 ,- 2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-, monohydrochloride, (3S)- CAS RN 82586-52-5), quinapril, quinaprilat, ramipril (Hoechsst) disclosed in EP 79022 and Curr. Ther. Res. 40:74

(1986), perindopril erbumine (such as 2S,3aS,7aS- 1 -[(S)-N-[(S)- 1 -Carboxybutyljalanyljhexahydro^-indolinecarboxylic acid, 1 -ethyl ester, compound with tert-butylamine (1 :1), *e.g.*, Aceon®, Solvay), perindopril (Servier, disclosed in Eur. J. clin. Pharmacol. 31 :519 (1987)), quanipril (disclosed in US4344949), spirapril (Schering, disclosed in Acta. Pharmacol. Toxicol. 59 (Supp. 5): 173 (1986)), tenocapril, trandolapril, zofenopril (and others disclosed in US4316906), rentiapril (fentiapril, disclosed in Clin. Exp. Pharmacol. Physiol. 10:131 (1983)), pivopril, YS980, teprotide (Bradykinin potentiator BPP9a CAS RN 35115-60-7), BRL 36,378 (Smith Kline Beecham, see EP80822 and EP60668), MC-838 (Chugai, see CA. 102:72588v and Jap. J. Pharmacol. 40:373 (1986), CGS 14824 (Ciba-Geigy, 3-([l-ethoxycarbonyl-3-phenyl-(IS)-propyl]amino)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-ox- o-l-(3S)-benzazepine-l acetic acid HCl, see U.K. Patent No. 2103614), CGS 16,617 (Ciba- Geigy, 3(S)-[[(lS)-5-amino-l-carboxypentyl]amino]-2,3,4,- 5-tetrahydro-2-oxo-lH-l- benzazepine-1-ethanoic acid, see US4473575), Ru 44570 (Hoechst, see Arzneimittelforschung 34:1254 (1985)), R 31-2201 (Hoffman-LaRoche see FEBS Lett. 165:201 (1984)), CI925 (Pharmacologist 26:243, 266 (1984)), WY-44221 (Wyeth, see J. Med. Chem. 26:394 (1983)), and those disclosed in US2003006922 (paragraph 28), US4337201, US4432971 (phosphonamidates); neutral endopeptidase inhibitors such as omapatrilat (Vanlev®), CGS 30440, cadoxatril and ecadotril, fasidotril (also known as aladotril or alatriopril), sampatrilat, mixanpril, and gemopatrilat, AVE7688, ER4030, and those disclosed in US5362727, US5366973, US5225401, US4722810, US5223516, US4749688, US5552397, US5504080, US5612359, US5525723, EP0599444, EP0481522, EP0599444, EP0595610, EP0534363, EP534396, EP534492, EP0629627; endothelin antagonists such as tezosentan, A308165, and YM62899, and the like; vasodilators such as hydralazine (apresoline), clonidine (clonidine hydrochloride (1H-Imidazol- 2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 4205-91-8), catapres, minoxidil (loniten), nicotinyl alcohol (roniacol), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as 1,5- Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4- methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis, *e.g.*, Tiazac®, Forest), isosorbide dinitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucitol 2,5-dinitrate *e.g.*, Isordil® Titradose®, Wyeth- Ayerst), sosorbide mononitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucito- 1,5-nitrate, an organic nitrate, *e.g.*, Ismo®, Wyeth-Ayerst), nitroglycerin (such as 2,3 propanetriol trinitrate, *e.g.*, Nitrostat® Parke- Davis), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetonitrile, (±)-(alpha)[3-[[2-(3,4 dimethoxypheny

l)ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)- (1 -methylethyl) hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Covera HS® Extended-Release, Searle), chromonar (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3282938), clonitate (Annalen 1870 155), droprenilamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in DE2521113), lidoflazine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3267104); prenylamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3152173), propatyl nitrate (which may be prepared as disclosed in French Patent No. 1,103,113), mioflazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, 3-(aminocarbonyl)$_4$-[4,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)butyl]-N-(2,6- dichlorophenyl)-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 83898-67-3), mixidine (Benzeneethanamine, 3,4- dimethoxy-N-(l-methyl-2-pyrrolidinylidene)- Pyrrolidine, 2-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]- 1 -methyl- l-Methyl-2- [(3, 4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]pyrrolidine CAS RN 27737-38-8), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), isosorbide mononitrate (D-Glucitol, l,4:3,6-dianhydro-, 5-nitrate CAS RN 16051-77-7), erythrityl tetranitrate (1,2,3,4-Butanetetrol, tetranitrate, (2R,3S)-rel-CAS RN 7297-25-8), clonitrate(l,2-Propanediol, 3-chloro-, dinitrate (7CI, 8CI, 9CI) CAS RN 2612-33-1), dipyridamole Ethanol, 2,2',2",2'"-[(4,8-di-l-piperidinylpyrimido[5,4-d]pyrimidine-2,6-diyl)dinitrilo]tetrakis- CAS RN 58-32-2), nicorandil (CAS RN 65141-46-0 3-), pyridinecarboxamide (N-[2-(nitrooxy)ethyl]-Nisoldipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, methyl 2-methylpropyl ester CAS RN 63675-72-9), nifedipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester CAS RN 21829-25-4), perhexiline maleate (Piperidine, 2-(2,2-dicyclohexylethyl)-, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 6724-53-4), oxprenolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1-[(1-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(2-propenyloxy)phenoxy]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 6452-73-9), pentrinitrol (1,3-Propanediol, 2,2-bis[(nitrooxy)methyl]-, mononitrate (ester) CAS RN 1607-17-6), verapamil (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]- methylamino]propyl]-3, 4-dimethoxy-α-(l -methylethyl)- CAS RN 52-53-9) and the like; angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as, aprosartan, zolasartan, olmesartan, pratosartan, FI6828K, RNH6270, candesartan (1 H-Benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,l'-biphenyl]4-yl]methyl]- CAS RN 139481-59-7), candesartan cilexetil ((+/-)-l-(cyclohexylcarbonyloxy)ethyl-2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-lH-benzimidazole carboxylate, CAS RN 145040-37-5, US5703110 and US5196444), eprosartan (3-[l-4-carboxyphenylmethyl)-2-n-butyl-imidazol-5-yl]-(2-thienylmethyl) propenoic acid, US5185351

and US5650650), irbesartan (2-n-butyl-3- [[2'-(lh-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] 1 ,3-diazazspiro[4,4]non-l-en-4-one, US5270317 and US5352788), losartan (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole, potassium salt, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), tasosartan (5,8-dihydro-2,4-dimethyl-8-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,r-biphenyl]4-yl)methyl]-pyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one, US5149699), telmisartan (4'-[(1 ,4-dimethyl-2'-propyl-(2,6'-bi-lH-benzimidazol)-r-yl)]-[1 , 1 '-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid, CAS RN 144701-48-4, US5591762), milfasartan, abitesartan, valsartan (Diovan® (Novartis), (S)-N-valeryl-N-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]valine, US5399578), EXP-3137 (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), 3-(2'-(tetrazol-5-yl)-l,r-biphen-4-yl)methyl-5,7-dimethyl-2-ethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 4'[2-ethyl-4-methyl-6-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[l,2-a]pyridin-2-yl]-benzimidazol-l-yl]-methyl]-l,r-biphenyl]-2- carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-6-(l-methoxy-l-methylethyl)-2-[2'-)lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-ylmethyl] guinazolin-4(3H)-one, 3 - [2 ' -carboxybiphenyl-4-yl)methyl] -2-cyclopropyl-7-methyl- 3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]imidazole-carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5- yl) [1 , 1 ' -biphenyl] -4-yl]methyl]- 1 H-imidazole-5 -carboxylic acid- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl-oxy)ethyl ester potassium salt, dipotassium 2-butyl-4-(methylthio)-l-[[2-[[[(propylamino)carbonyl]amino]-sulfonyl](1,1 '-biphenyl)-4-yl]methyl]-1 H-imidazole-5 -carboxylate, methyl-2-[[4-butyl-2-methyl-6-oxo-5-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-[1,1 '-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl]-l-(6H)- pyrimidinyl]methyl]-3-thiophencarboxylate, 5-[(3,5-dibutyl-lH-l,2,4-triazol-l-yl)methyl]-2-[2- (1 H-tetrazol-5 -ylphenyl)]pyridine, 6-butyl-2-(2-phenylethyl)-5 [[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)[1,1 '- biphenyl]-4-methyl]pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one D,L lysine salt, 5-methyl-7-n-propyl-8-[[2'-(lH- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-[1 ,2,4]-triazolo[1 ,5-c]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, 2,7-diethyl-5- [[2'-(5-tetrazoly)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-5H-pyrazolo[l,5-b][1,2,4]triazole potassium salt, 2-[2- butyl-4,5-dihydro-4-oxo-3-[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-4-biphenylmethyl]-3H-imidazol[4,5- c]pyridine-5-ylmethyl]benzoic acid, ethyl ester, potassium salt, 3-methoxy-2,6-dimethyl-4- [[2'(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-l,l '-biphenyl-4-yl]methoxy]pyridine, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(5-oxo-2,5-dihydro- 1 ,2,4-oxadiazol-3 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] - 1 H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 1 - [N-(2 ' -(1 H- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl-methyl)-N-valerolylaminomethyl)cyclopentane- 1 -carboxylic acid, 7- methyl-2n-propyl-3-[[2' lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-6]pyridine, 2- [5-[(2-

ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine-3-yl)methyl]-2-quinolinyl]sodium benzoate, 2-butyl-6-chloro-4-hydroxymethyl-5 -methyl-3 -[[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]pyridine, 2- [[[2-butyl- 1 - [(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl] - 1 H-imidazol-5 -yl]methyl]amino]benzoic acid tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]pyrimidin-6-one, 4(S)- [4-(carboxymethyl)phenoxy]-N-[2(R)-[4-(2-sulfobenzamido)imidazol- 1 -yl]octanoyl]-L-proline, 1 - (2,6-dimethylphenyl)-4-butyl-l,3-dihydro-3-[[6-[2-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)phenyl]-3-pyridinyl]methyl]-2H-imidazol-2-one, 5 ,8-ethano-5 ,8-dimethyl-2-n-propyl-5 ,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1 - [[2'(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-lH,4H-l,3,4a,8a-tetrazacyclopentanaphthalene-9-one, 4-[l-[2'-(l,2,3,4-tetrazol-5-yl)biphen-4-yl)methylamino]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-trifylquinazoline, 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)imino-5-ethyl-3-[2'-(1H-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl-l,3,4-thiadiazoline, 2-[5-ethyl-3-[2-(lH-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl-l,3,4-thiazoline-2-ylidene]aminocarbonyl-l-cyclopentencarboxylic acid dipotassium salt, and 2-butyl-4-[N-methyl-N-(3 -methylcrotonoyl)amino] - 1 - [[2 ' -(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]- 1 H- imidzole-5 -carboxylic acid 1-ethoxycarbonyloxyethyl ester, those disclosed in patent publications EP475206, EP497150, EP539086, EP539713, EP535463, EP535465, EP542059, EP497121, EP535420, EP407342, EP415886, EP424317, EP435827, EP433983, EP475898, EP490820, EP528762, EP324377, EP323841, EP420237, EP500297, EP426021, EP480204, EP429257, EP430709, EP434249, EP446062, EP505954, EP524217, EP514197, EP514198, EP514193, EP514192, EP450566, EP468372, EP485929, EP503162, EP533058, EP467207 EP399731, EP399732, EP412848, EP453210, EP456442, EP470794, EP470795, EP495626, EP495627, EP499414, EP499416, EP499415, EP511791, EP516392, EP520723, EP520724, EP539066, EP438869, EP505893, EP530702, EP400835, EP400974, EP401030, EP407102, EP411766, EP409332, EP412594, EP419048, EP480659, EP481614, EP490587, EP467715, EP479479, EP502725, EP503838, EP505098, EP505111 EP513,979 EP507594, EP510812, EP511767, EP512675, EP512676, EP512870, EP517357, EP537937, EP534706, EP527534, EP540356, EP461040, EP540039, EP465368, EP498723, EP498722, EP498721, EP515265, EP503785, EP501892, EP519831, EP532410, EP498361, EP432737, EP504888, EP508393, EP508445, EP403159, EP403158, EP425211, EP427463, EP437103, EP481448, EP488532, EP501269, EP500409, EP540400, EP005528, EP028834, EP028833, EP411507, EP425921, EP430300, EP434038, EP442473, EP443568, EP445811, EP459136, EP483683, EP518033, EP520423, EP531876, EP531874, EP392317, EP468470, EP470543, EP502314,

EP529253, EP543263, EP540209, EP449699, EP465323, EP521768, EP415594, WO92/14468, WO93/08171, WO93/08169, WO91/00277, WO91/00281, WO91/14367, WO92/00067, WO92/00977, WO92/20342, WO93/04045, WO93/04046, WO91/15206, WO92/14714, WO92/09600, WO92/16552, WO93/05025, WO93/03018, WO91/07404, WO92/02508, WO92/13853, WO91/19697, WO91/11909, WO91/12001, WO91/11999, WO91/15209, WO91/15479, WO92/20687, WO92/20662, WO92/20661, WO93/01177, WO91/14679, WO91/13063, WO92/13564, WO91/17148, WO91/18888, WO91/19715, WO92/02257, WO92/04335, WO92/05161, WO92/07852, WO92/15577, WO93/03033, WO91/16313, WO92/00068, WO92/02510, WO92/09278, WO9210179, WO92/10180, WO92/10186, WO92/10181, WO92/10097, WO92/10183, WO92/10182, WO92/10187, WO92/10184, WO92/10188, WO92/10180, WO92/10185, WO92/20651, WO93/03722, WO93/06828, WO93/03040, WO92/19211, WO92/22533, WO92/06081, WO92/05784, WO93/00341, WO92/04343, WO92/04059, US5104877, US5187168, US5149699, US5185340, US4880804, US5138069, US4916129, US5153197, US5173494, US5137906, US5155126, US5140037, US5137902, US5157026, US5053329, US5132216, US5057522, US5066586, US5089626, US5049565, US5087702, US5124335, US5102880, US5128327, US5151435, US5202322, US5187159, US5198438, US5182288, US5036048, US5140036, US5087634, US5196537, US5153347, US5191086, US5190942, US5177097, US5212177, US5208234, US5208235, US5212195, US5130439, US5045540, US5041152, and US5210204, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α/β adrenergic blockers such as nipradilol, arotinolol, amosulalol, bretylium tosylate (CAS RN: 61-75-6), dihydroergtamine mesylate (such as ergotaman-3', 6',18-trione,9,-10-dihydro-12'-hydroxy-2'-methyl-5'-(phenylmethyl)-,(5'(α))-, monomethanesulfonate, *e.g.*, DHE 45® Injection, Novartis), carvedilol (such as (±)-l-(Carbazol-4-yloxy)-3-[[2-(o-methoxyphenoxy)ethyl] amino] -2-propanol, *e.g.*, Coreg®, SmithKline Beecham), labetalol (such as 5-[l-hydroxy-2-[(l-methyl-3-phenylpropyl) amino] ethyl]salicylamide monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Normodyne®, Schering), bretylium tosylate (Benzenemethanaminium, 2-bromo-N-ethyl-N,N-dimethyl-, salt with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (1 :1) CAS RN 61-75-6), phentolamine mesylate (Phenol, 3-[[(4,5-dihydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)methyl](4-methylphenyl)amino]-, monomethanesulfonate (salt) CAS RN 65-28-1), solypertine tartrate (5H-l,3-Dioxolo[4,5-f]indole, 7-[2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-l-piperazinyl]ethyl]-, (2R,3R)-2,3-dihydroxybutanedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 5591-43-5), zolertine

hydrochloride (Piperazine, l-phenyl4-[2-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl]-, monohydrochloride (8Cl, 9Cl) CAS RN 7241-94-3) and the like; α adrenergic receptor blockers, such as alfuzosin (CAS RN: 81403-68-1), terazosin, urapidil, prazosin (Minipress®), tamsulosin, bunazosin, trimazosin, doxazosin, naftopidil, indoramin, WHP 164, XENOlO, fenspiride hydrochloride (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3399192), proroxan (CAS RN 33743-96-3), and labetalol hydrochloride and combinations thereof; α 2 agonists such as methyldopa, methyldopa HCL, lofexidine, tiamenidine, moxonidine, rilmenidine, guanobenz, and the like; aldosterone inhibitors, and the like; renin inhibitors including Aliskiren (SPPlOO; Novartis/Speedel); angiopoietin-2-binding agents such as those disclosed in WO03/030833; anti-angina agents such as ranolazine (hydrochloride 1-Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6- dimethylphenyl)-4-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635- 56-6), betaxolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, l-[4-[2 (cyclopropylmethoxy)ethyl]phenoxy]-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 63659-19-8), butoprozine hydrochloride (Methanone, [4-[3(dibutylamino)propoxy]phenyl](2-ethyl-3-indolizinyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 62134-34-3), cinepazet maleatel-Piperazineacetic acid, 4-[l-oxo-3-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-2-propenyl]-, ethyl ester, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 50679-07-7), tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184), verapamilhydrochloride (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]methylamino]propyl]-3 ,4-dimethoxy-α-(1 -methylethyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 152-114), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), and ranolazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)$_4$-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-meth-oxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635-56-6); tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184); adrenergic stimulants such as guanfacine hydrochloride (such as N-amidino-2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl) acetamide hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Tenex® Tablets available from Robins); methyldopa-hydrochlorothiazide (such as levo-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-methylalanine) combined with Hydrochlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H -l,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7- sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide, *e.g.*, the combination as, *e.g.*, Aldoril® Tablets available from Merck), methyldopa-chlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-2H-l, 2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide and methyldopa as described above, *e.g.*, Aldoclor®, Merck), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-

(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride and chlorthalidone (such as 2-chloro-5-(1-hydroxy-3-oxo-1-isoindolinyl) benzenesulfonamide), *e.g.*, Combipres®, Boehringer Ingelheim), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Catapres®, Boehringer Ingelheim), clonidine (lH-Imidazol-2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-CAS RN 4205-90-7), Hyzaar (Merck; a combination of losartan and hydrochlorothiazide), Co-Diovan (Novartis; a combination of valsartan and hydrochlorothiazide, Lotrel (Novartis; a combination of benazepril and amlodipine) and Caduet (Pfizer; a combination of amlodipine and atorvastatin), and those agents disclosed in US20030069221.

Agents for the Treatment of Respiratory Disorders

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with one or more of the following agents useful in the treatment of respiratory and other disorders including but not limited to: (1) β-agonists including but not limited to : albuterol (PRO VENTIL® , S ALBUT AMOl® , VENTOLIN®), bambuterol, bitoterol, clenbuterol, fenoterol, formoterol, isoetharine (BRONKOSOL®, BRONKOMETER®), metaproterenol (ALUPENT®, METAPREL®), pirbuterol (MAXAIR®), reproterol, rimiterol, salmeterol, terbutaline (BRETHAIRE®, BRETHINE®, BRICANYL®), adrenalin, isoproterenol (ISUPREL®), epinephrine bitartrate (PRIMATENE®), ephedrine, orciprenline, fenoterol and isoetharine; (2) steroids, including but not limited to beclomethasone, beclomethasone dipropionate, betamethasone, budesonide, bunedoside, butixocort, dexamethasone, flunisolide, fluocortin, fluticasone, hydrocortisone, methyl prednisone, mometasone, predonisolone, predonisone, tipredane, tixocortal, triamcinolone, and triamcinolone acetonide; (3) β2-agonist-corticosteroid combinations [*e.g.*, salmeterol-fluticasone (AD V AIR®), formoterol-budesonid (S YMBICORT®)] ; (4) leukotriene D4 receptor antagonists/leukotriene antagonists/LTD4 antagonists (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting, reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between leukotrienes and the Cys LTI receptor) including but not limited to: zafhiukast, montelukast, montelukast sodium (SINGULAIR®), pranlukast, iralukast, pobilukast, SKB-106,203 and compounds described as having LTD4 antagonizing activity described in U.S. Patent No. 5,565,473; (5) 5 -lipoxygenase inhibitors and/or leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitors [*e.g.*, zileuton and BAY1005 (CA registry 128253-31-6)]; (6) histamine Hl receptor antagonists/antihistamines (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting,

reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between histamine and its receptor) including but not limited to: astemizole, acrivastine, antazoline, azatadine, azelastine, astamizole, bromopheniramine, bromopheniramine maleate, carbinoxamine, carebastine, cetirizine, chlorpheniramine, chloropheniramine maleate, cimetidine clemastine, cyclizine, cyproheptadine, descarboethoxyloratadine, dexchlorpheniramine, dimethindene, diphenhydramine, diphenylpyraline, doxylamine succinate, doxylamine, ebastine, efletirizine, epinastine, famotidine, fexofenadine, hydroxyzine, hydroxyzine, ketotifen, levocabastine, levocetirizine, levocetirizine, loratadine, meclizine, mepyramine, mequitazine, methdilazine, mianserin, mizolastine, noberastine, norasternizole, noraztemizole, phenindamine, pheniramine, picumast, promethazine, pynlamine, pyrilamine, ranitidine, temelastine, terfenadine, trimeprazine, tripelenamine, and triprolidine; (7) an anticholinergic including but not limited to: atropine, benztropine, biperiden, flutropium, hyoscyamine (*e.g.* Levsin®; Levbid®; Levsin/SL®, Anaspaz®, Levsinex timecaps®, NuLev®), ilutropium, ipratropium, ipratropium bromide, methscopolamine, oxybutinin, rispenzepine, scopolamine, and tiotropium; (8) an anti-tussive including but not limited to: dextromethorphan, codeine, and hydromorphone; (9) a decongestant including but not limited to: pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine; (10) an expectorant including but not limited to: guafenesin, guaicolsulfate, terpin, ammonium chloride, glycerol guaicolate, and iodinated glycerol; (11) a bronchodilator including but not limited to: theophylline and aminophylline; (12) an anti-inflammatory including but not limited to: fluribiprofen, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketoprofen, S-ketroprophen, tenoxicam; (13) a PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitor including but not limited to those disclosed herein; (14) a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody [*e.g.* xolair (also called omalizumab), rhuMab, and talizumab]; (15) a humanized lung surfactant including recombinant forms of surfactant proteins SP-B, SP-C or SP-D [*e.g.* SURFAXIN®, formerly known as dsc-104 (Discovery Laboratories)], (16) agents that inhibit epithelial sodium channels (ENaC) such as amiloride and related compounds; (17) antimicrobial agents used to treat pulmonary infections such as acyclovir, amikacin, amoxicillin, doxycycline, trimethoprin sulfamethoxazole, amphotericin B, azithromycin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin, clarithromycin, cephalosporins(ceffoxitin, cefmetazole etc), ciprofloxacin, ethambutol, gentimycin, ganciclovir, imipenem, isoniazid, itraconazole, penicillin, ribavirin, rifampin, rifabutin,amantadine, rimantidine, streptomycin, tobramycin, and vancomycin; (18) agents that activate chloride secretion through Ca++

dependent chloride channels (such as purinergic receptor (P2Y(2) agonists); (19) agents that decrease sputum viscosity, such as human recombinant DNase 1, (Pulmozyme®); (20) nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (acemetacin, acetaminophen, acetyl salicylic acid, alclofenac, alminoprofen, apazone, aspirin, benoxaprofen, bezpiperylon, bucloxic acid, carprofen, clidanac, diclofenac, diclofenac, diflunisal, diflusinal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenbufen, fenclofenac, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, feprazone, flufenamic acid, flufenisal, flufenisal, fluprofen, flurbiprofen, flurbiprofen, furofenac, ibufenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, indomethacin, indoprofen, isoxepac, isoxicam, ketoprofen, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, mefenamic acid, miroprofen, mofebutazone, naburnetone oxaprozin, naproxen, naproxen, niflumic acid , oxaprozin, oxpinac, oxyphenbutazone, phenacetin, phenylbutazone, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, piroxicam, pirprofen, pranoprofen, sudoxicam, tenoxican, sulfasalazine, sulindac, sulindac, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, tiopinac, tioxaprofen, tolfenamic acid, tolmetin, tolmetin, zidometacin, zomepirac, and zomepirac); and (21) aerosolized antioxidant therapeutics such as S-Nitrosoglutathione.

Anti-obesity agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an anti-obesity agent. Suitable such agents include, but are not limited to: 1 lβ HSD-I (11-beta hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase type 1) inhibitors, such as BVT 3498, BVT 2733, 3-(l-adamantyl)-4-ethyl-5-(ethylthio)- 4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3-(l-adamantyl)-5-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3- adamantanyl-4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,3a- decahydro-l,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a][l l]annulene, and those compounds disclosed in WO01/90091, WOO 1/90090, WOO 1/90092 and WO02/072084; 5HT antagonists such as those in WO03/037871, WO03/037887, and the like; 5HTIa modulators such as carbidopa, benserazide and those disclosed in US6207699, WO03/031439, and the like; 5HT2c (serotonin receptor 2c) agonists, such as BVT933, DPCA37215, IK264, PNU 22394, WAY161503, R-1065, SB 243213 (Glaxo Smith Kline) and YM 348 and those disclosed in US3914250, WO00/77010, WO02/36596, WO02/48124, WO02/10169, WO01/66548, WO02/44152, WO02/51844, WO02/40456, and WO02/40457; 5HT6 receptor modulators, such as those in WO03/030901, WO03/035061, WO03/039547, and the like; acyl-estrogens, such as oleoyl-estrone, disclosed in del Mar-Grasa, M. et al, Obesity

Research, 9:202-9 (2001) and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; anorectic bicyclic compounds such as 1426 (Aventis) and 1954 (Aventis), and the compounds disclosed in WO00/18749, WO01/32638, WO01/62746, WO01/62747, and WO03/015769; CB 1 (cannabinoid-1 receptor) antagonist/inverse agonists such as rimonabant (Acomplia; Sanofi), SR-147778 (Sanofi), SR-141716 (Sanofi), BAY 65-2520 (Bayer), and SLV 319 (Solvay), and those disclosed in patent publications US4973587, US5013837, US5081122, US5112820, US5292736, US5532237, US5624941, US6028084, US6509367, US6509367, WO96/33159, WO97/29079, WO98/31227, WO98/33765, WO98/37061, WO98/41519, WO98/43635, WO98/43636, WO99/02499, WO00/10967, WO00/10968, WO01/09120, WO01/58869, WO01/64632, WO01/64633, WO01/64634, WO01/70700, WO01/96330, WO02/076949, WO03/006007, WO03/007887, WO03/020217, WO03/026647, WO03/026648, WO03/027069, WO03/027076, WO03/027114, WO03/037332, WO03/040107, WO03/086940, WO03/084943 and EP658546; CCK-A (cholecystokinin-A) agonists, such as AR-R 15849, GI 181771 (GSK), JMV-180, A-71378, A-71623 and SR146131 (Sanofi), and those described in US5739106; CNTF (Ciliary neurotrophic factors), such as GI- 181771 (Glaxo-SmithKline), SRI 46131 (Sanofi Synthelabo), butabindide, PD 170,292, and PD 149164 (Pfizer); CNTF derivatives, such as Axokine® (Regeneron), and those disclosed in WO94/09134, WO98/22128, and WO99/43813; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, valine pyrrolidide, NVP-DPP728, LAF237, P93/01, P 3298, TSL 225 (tryptophyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid; disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD26 inhibtors, FE 999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) and the compounds disclosed patent publications. WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279 (Probiodrug), WO99/67278 (Probiodrug), WO99/61431 (Probiodrug), WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000180, WO03/000181, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/004498, WO03/004496,WO03/017936, WO03/024942, WO03/024965, WO03/033524, WO03/037327 and EP1258476; growth hormone secretagogue receptor agonists/antagonists, such as NN703, hexarelin, MK- 0677 (Merck), SM-130686, CP-424391 (Pfizer), LY 444,711 (Eli Lilly), L-692,429 and L- 163,255, and such as those disclosed in USSN 09/662448, US provisional application 60/203335, US6358951, US2002049196, US2002/022637, WO01/56592

and WO02/32888; H3 (histamine H3) antagonist/inverse agonists, such as thioperamide, 3-(1H-imidazol-4- yl)propyl N-(4-pentenyl)carbamate), clobenpropit, iodophenpropit, imoproxifan, GT2394 (Gliatech), and A331440, O-[3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propanol]carbamates (Kiec-Kononowicz, K. et al., Pharmazie, 55:349-55 (2000)), piperidine-containing histamine H3-receptor antagonists (Lazewska, D. et al., Pharmazie, 56:927-32 (2001), benzophenone derivatives and related compounds (Sasse, A. et al., Arch. Pharm.(Weinheim) 334:45-52 (2001)), substituted N- phenylcarbamates (Reidemeister, S. et al., Pharmazie, 55:83-6 (2000)), and proxifan derivatives (Sasse, A. et al., J. Med. Chem.. 43:3335-43 (2000)) and histamine H3 receptor modulators such as those disclosed in WO02/15905, WO03/024928 and WO03/024929; leptin derivatives, such as those disclosed in US5552524, US5552523, US5552522, US5521283, WO96/23513, WO96/23514, WO96/23515, WO96/23516, WO96/23517, WO96/23518, WO96/23519, and WO96/23520; leptin, including recombinant human leptin (PEG-OB, Hoffman La Roche) and recombinant methionyl human leptin (Amgen); lipase inhibitors, such as tetrahydrolipstatin (orlistat/Xenical®), Triton WRl 339, RHC80267, lipstatin, teasaponin, diethylumbelliferyl phosphate, FL-386, WAY-121898, Bay-N-3176, valilactone, esteracin, ebelactone A, ebelactone B, and RHC 80267, and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/77094, US4598089, US4452813, USUS5512565, US5391571, US5602151, US4405644, US4189438, and US4242453; lipid metabolism modulators such as maslinic acid, erythrodiol, ursolic acid uvaol, betulinic acid, betulin, and the like and compounds disclosed in WO03/011267; Mc4r (melanocortin 4 receptor) agonists, such as CHIR86036 (Chiron), ME-10142, ME-10145, and HS-131 (Melacure), and those disclosed in PCT publication Nos. WO99/64002, WO00/74679, WOO 1/991752, WOO 1/25192, WOO 1/52880, WOO 1/74844, WOO 1/70708, WO01/70337, WO01/91752, WO02/059095, WO02/059107, WO02/059108, WO02/059117, WO02/06276, WO02/12166, WO02/11715, WO02/12178, WO02/15909, WO02/38544, WO02/068387, WO02/068388, WO02/067869, WO02/081430, WO03/06604, WO03/007949, WO03/009847, WO03/009850, WO03/013509, and WO03/031410; Mc5r (melanocortin 5 receptor) modulators, such as those disclosed in WO97/19952, WO00/15826, WO00/15790, US20030092041; melanin-concentrating hormone 1 receptor (MCHR) antagonists, such as T-226296 (Takeda), SB 568849, SNP-7941 (Synaptic), and those disclosed in patent publications WOO 1/21169, WO01/82925, WO01/87834, WO02/051809, WO02/06245, WO02/076929, WO02/076947, WO02/04433, WO02/51809, WO02/083134,

WO02/094799, WO03/004027, WO03/13574, WO03/15769, WO03/028641, WO03/035624, WO03/033476, WO03/033480, JP13226269, and JP1437059; mGluR5 modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/029210, WO03/047581, WO03/048137, WO03/051315, WO03/051833, WO03/053922, WO03/059904, and the like; serotoninergic agents, such as fenfluramine (such as Pondimin® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl- alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Robbins), dexfenfluramine (such as Redux® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Interneuron) and sibutramine ((Meridia®, Knoll/Reductil™) including racemic mixtures, as optically pure isomers (+) and (-), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvents, hydrates, clathrates and prodrugs thereof including sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate salts thereof, and those compounds disclosed in US4746680, US4806570, and US5436272, US20020006964, WOO 1/27068, and WOO 1/62341; NE (norepinephrine) transport inhibitors, such as GW 320659, despiramine, talsupram, and nomifensine; NPY 1 antagonists, such as BIBP3226, J-115814, BIBO 3304, LY-357897, CP-671906, GI- 264879A, and those disclosed in US6001836, WO96/14307, WO01/23387, WO99/51600, WO01/85690, WO01/85098, WO01/85173, and WO01/89528; NPY5 (neuropeptide Y Y5) antagonists, such as 152,804, GW-569180A, GW-594884A, GW-587081X, GW-548118X, FR235208, FR226928, FR240662, FR252384, 1229U91, GI-264879A, CGP71683A, LY-377897, LY-366377, PD-160170, SR- 120562A, SR-120819A, JCF-104, and H409/22 and those compounds disclosed in patent publications US6140354, US6191160, US6218408, US6258837, US6313298, US6326375, US6329395, US6335345, US6337332, US6329395, US6340683, EP01010691, EP-01044970, WO97/19682, WO97/20820, WO97/20821, WO97/20822, WO97/20823, WO98/27063, WO00/107409, WO00/185714, WO00/185730, WO00/64880, WO00/68197, WO00/69849, WO/0113917, WO01/09120, WO01/14376, WO01/85714, WO01/85730, WO01/07409, WO01/02379, WO01/23388, WO01/23389, WOO 1/44201, WO01/62737, WO01/62738, WO01/09120, WO02/20488, WO02/22592, WO02/48152, WO02/49648, WO02/051806, WO02/094789, WO03/009845, WO03/014083, WO03/022849, WO03/028726 and Norman et al, J. Med. Chem. 43:4288-4312 (2000); opioid antagonists, such as nalmefene (REVEX ®), 3-methoxynaltrexone, methylnaltrexone, naloxone, and naltrexone (*e.g.* PT901; Pain Therapeutics, Inc.) and those disclosed in US20050004155 and WO00/21509; orexin antagonists, such as SB-334867-A and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/96302, WO01/68609, WO02/44172, WO02/51232,

WO02/51838, WO02/089800, WO02/090355, WO03/023561, WO03/032991, and WO03/037847; PDE inhibitors (*e.g.* compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP and cGMP; possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors) such as those disclosed in patent publications DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EP0112987, EP0116948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, US4963561, US5141931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DE1116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6331543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I- XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577), WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399, as well as PDE5 inhibitors (such as RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra™)), PDE4 inhibitors (such as etazolate, ICI63197, RP73401, imazolidinone

(RO-20-1724), MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), denbufylline, rolipram, oxagrelate, nitraquazone, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, motapizone, lixazinone, indolidan, olprinone, atizoram, KS-506-G, dipamfylline, BMY-43351, atizoram, arofylline, filaminast, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF-107806, piclamilast, RS-17597, RS-25344- 000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, mopidamol, anagrelide, ibudilast, amrinone, pimobendan, cilostazol, quazinone and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide, PDE3 inhibitors (such as ICI153, 100, bemorandane (RWJ 22867), MCI-154, UD-CG 212, sulmazole, ampizone, cilostamide, carbazeran, piroximone, imazodan, CI-930, siguazodan, adibendan, saterinone, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, emoradan, EMD-53998, EMD- 57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, revizinone, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, enoximone and milrinone, PDE3/4 inhibitors (such as benafentrine, trequinsin, ORG-30029, zardaverine, L- 686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and tolafentrine) and other PDE inhibitors (such as vinpocetin, papaverine, enprofylline, cilomilast, fenoximone, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®); Neuropeptide Y2 (NPY2) agonists include but are not limited to: polypeptide YY and fragments and variants thereof (*e.g.* YY3-36 (PYY3-36)(N. Engl. J. Med. 349:941, 2003; IKPEAPGE DASPEELNRY YASLRHYLNL VTRQRY (SEQ ID NO:XXX)) and PYY agonists such as those disclosed in WO02/47712, WO03/026591, WO03/057235, and WO03/027637; serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as, paroxetine, fluoxetine (Prozac™), fluvoxamine, sertraline, citalopram, and imipramine, and those disclosed in US6162805, US6365633, WO03/00663, WOO 1/27060, and WOO 1/162341; thyroid hormone β agonists, such as KB-2611 (KaroBioBMS), and those disclosed in WO02/15845, WO97/21993, WO99/00353, GB98/284425, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,223, and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; UCP-1 (uncoupling protein-1), 2, or 3 activators, such as phytanic acid, 4-[(E)-2-(5, 6,7,8- tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-napthalenyl)-l-propenyl]benzoic acid (TTNPB), retinoic acid, and those disclosed in WO99/00123; β3 (beta adrenergic receptor 3) agonists, such as AJ9677/TAK677 (Dainippon/Takeda), L750355 (Merck), CP331648 (Pfizer), CL-316,243, SB 418790, BRL-37344, L-796568, BMS-196085, BRL-35135A, CGP12177A, BTA-243, GW 427353, Trecadrine, Zeneca D7114, N-5984 (Nisshin Kyorin), LY-377604 (Lilly), SR 59119A, and those disclosed in US5541204, US5770615, US5491134, US5776983, US488064, US5705515,

US5451677, WO94/18161, WO95/29159, WO97/46556, WO98/04526 and WO98/32753, WO01/74782, WO02/32897, WO03/014113, WO03/016276, WO03/016307, WO03/024948, WO03/024953 and WO03/037881; noradrenergic agents including, but not limited to, diethylpropion (such as Tenuate® (1- propanone, 2-(diethylamino)-l -phenyl-, hydrochloride), Merrell), dextroamphetamine (also known as dextroamphetamine sulfate, dexamphetamine, dexedrine, Dexampex, Ferndex, Oxydess II, Robese, Spancap #1), mazindol ((or 5-(p-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-3H- imidazo[2,l-a]isoindol-5-ol) such as Sanorex®, Novartis or Mazanor®, Wyeth Ayerst), phenylpropanolamine (or Benzenemethanol, alpha-(l-aminoethyl)-, hydrochloride), phentermine ((or Phenol, 3-[[4,5-duhydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)ethyl](4-methylpheny-l)amino], monohydrochloride) such as Adipex-P®, Lemmon, FASTIN®, Smith-Kline Beecham and Ionamin®, Medeva), phendimetrazine ((or (2S,3S)-3,4-Dimethyl-2phenylmorpholine L-(+)- tartrate (1 :1)) such as Metra® (Forest) , Plegine® (Wyeth- Ay erst), Prelu-2® (Boehringer Ingelheim), and Statobex® (Lemmon), phendamine tartrate (such as Thephorin® (2,3,4,9- Tetrahydro-2-methyl-9-phenyl-lH-indenol[2,l-c]pyridine L-(+)-tartrate (1 :1)), Hoffmann- LaRoche), methamphetamine (such as Desoxyn®, Abbot ((S)-N, (alpha)-dimethylbenzenecthanamine hydrochloride)), and phendimetrazine tartrate (such as Bontril® Slow-Release Capsules, Amarin (-3,4-Dimethyl-2-phenylmorpholine Tartrate); fatty acid oxidation upregulator/inducers such as Famoxin® (Genset); monamine oxidase inhibitors including but not limited to befloxatone, moclobemide, brofaromine, phenoxathine, esuprone, befol, toloxatone, pirlindol, amiflamine, sercloremine, bazinaprine, lazabemide, milacemide, caroxazone and other certain compounds as disclosed by WO01/12176; and other anti-obesity agents such as 5HT-2 agonists, ACC (acetyl-CoA carboxylase) inhibitors such as those described in WO03/072197, alpha-lipoic acid (alpha-LA), AOD9604, appetite suppressants such as those in WO03/40107, ATL-962 (Alizyme PLC), benzocaine, benzphetamine hydrochloride (Didrex), bladderwrack (focus vesiculosus), BRS3 (bombesin receptor subtype 3) agonists, bupropion, caffeine, CCK agonists, chitosan, chromium, conjugated linoleic acid, corticotropin-releasing hormone agonists, dehydroepiandrosterone, DGATl (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1) inhibitors, DGAT2 (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2) inhibitors, dicarboxylate transporter inhibitors, ephedra, exendin-4 (an inhibitor of glp-1) FAS (fatty acid synthase) inhibitors (such as Cerulenin and C75), fat resorption inhibitors (such as those in WO03/053451, and the like), fatty acid transporter inhibitors, natural water soluble fibers (such as psyllium, plantago, guar, oat, pectin),

galanin antagonists, galega (Goat's Rue, French Lilac), garcinia cambogia, germander (teucrium chamaedrys), ghrelin antibodies and ghrelin antagonists (such as those disclosed in WO01/87335, and WO02/08250), polypeptide hormones and variants thereof which affect the islet cell secretion, such as the hormones of the secretin/gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP)/vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP)/pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP)/glucagon-like polypeptide II (GLP- II)/glicentin/glucagon gene family and/or those of the adrenomedullin/amylin/calcitonin gene related polypeptide (CGRP) gene family includingGLP-1 (glucagon- like polypeptide 1) agonists (*e.g.* (1) exendin-4, (2) those GLP-I molecules described in US20050130891 including GLP- 1(7-34), GLP-l(7-35), GLP-l(7-36) or GLP-l(7-37) in its C-terminally carboxylated or amidated form or as modified GLP-I polypeptides and modifications thereof including those described in paragraphs 17-44 of US20050130891, and derivatives derived from GLP-l-(7- 34)COOH and the corresponding acid amide are employed which have the following general formula: R-NH-HAEGTFTSDVSYLEGQAAKEFIAWLVK-$CONH_2$ wherein R=H or an organic compound having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms. Preferably, R is the residue of a carboxylic acid. Particularly preferred are the following carboxylic acid residues: formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert- butyl.) and glp-1 (glucagon-like polypeptide- 1), glucocorticoid antagonists, glucose transporter inhibitors, growth hormone secretagogues (such as those disclosed and specifically described in US5536716), interleukin-6 (IL-6) and modulators thereof (as in WO03/057237, and the like), L- carnitine, Mc3r (melanocortin 3 receptor) agonists, MCH2R (melanin concentrating hormone 2R) agonist/antagonists, melanin concentrating hormone antagonists, melanocortin agonists (such as Melanotan II or those described in WO 99/64002 and WO 00/74679), nomame herba, phosphate transporter inhibitors, phytopharm compound 57 (CP 644,673), pyruvate, SCD-1 (stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1) inhibitors, T71 (Tularik, Inc., Boulder CO), Topiramate (Topimax®, indicated as an anti-convulsant which has been shown to increase weight loss), transcription factor modulators (such as those disclosed in WO03/026576), β-hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase- 1 inhibitors (β -HSD-I), β-hydroxy-β-methylbutyrate, p57 (Pfizer), Zonisamide (Zonegran™, indicated as an anti-epileptic which has been shown to lead to weight loss), and the agents disclosed in US20030119428 paragraphs 20-26.

Anti-Diabetic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in therapeutic combination with one or more anti-diabetic agents, including but not limited to: PPARγ agonists such as glitazones (*e.g.*, WAY-120,744, AD 5075, balaglitazone, ciglitazone, darglitazone (CP-86325, Pfizer), englitazone (CP-68722, Pfizer), isaglitazone (MIT/J&J), MCC- 555 (Mitsibishi disclosed in US5594016), pioglitazone (such as such as Actos™ pioglitazone; Takeda), rosiglitazone (Avandia™;Smith Kline Beecham), rosiglitazone maleate, troglitazone (Rezulin®, disclosed in US4572912), rivoglitazone (CS-Ol 1, Sankyo), GL-262570 (Glaxo Welcome), BRL49653 (disclosed in WO98/05331), CLX-0921, 5-BTZD, GW-0207, LG- 100641, JJT-501 (JPNT/P&U), L-895645 (Merck), R-119702 (Sankyo/Pfizer), NN-2344 (Dr. Reddy/NN), YM-440 (Yamanouchi), LY-300512, LY-519818, R483 (Roche), T131 (Tularik), and the like and compounds disclosed in US4687777, US5002953, US5741803, US5965584, US6150383, US6150384, US6166042, US6166043, US6172090, US6211205, US6271243, US6288095, US6303640, US6329404, US5994554, W097/10813, WO97/27857, WO97/28115, WO97/28137,WO97/27847, WO00/76488, WO03/000685,WO03/027112,WO03/035602, WO03/048130, WO03/055867, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; biguanides such as metformin hydrochloride (N,N-dimethylimidodicarbonimidic diamide hydrochloride, such as Glucophage™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); metformin hydrochloride with glyburide, such as Glucovance™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); buformin (Imidodicarbonimidic diamide, N-butyl-); etoformine (l-Butyl-2-ethylbiguanide, Schering A. G.); other metformin salt forms (including where the salt is chosen from the group of, acetate, benzoate, citrate, ftimarate, embonate, chlorophenoxyacetate, glycolate, palmoate, aspartate, methanesulphonate, maleate, parachlorophenoxyisobutyrate, formate, lactate, succinate, sulphate, tartrate, cyclohexanecarboxylate, hexanoate, octanoate, decanoate, hexadecanoate, octodecanoate, benzenesulphonate, trimethoxybenzoate, paratoluenesulphonate, adamantanecarboxylate, glycoxylate, glutarnate, pyrrolidonecarboxylate, naphthalenesulphonate, 1-glucosephosphate, nitrate, sulphite, dithionate and phosphate), and phenformin; protein tyrosine phosphatase- IB (PTP-IB) inhibitors, such as A-401,674, KR 61639, OC- 060062, OC-83839, OC-297962, MC52445, MC52453, ISIS 113715, and those disclosed in WO99/585521, WO99/58518, WO99/58522, WO99/61435, WO03/032916, WO03/032982, WO03/041729, WO03/055883, WO02/26707, WO02/26743, JP2002114768, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; sulfonylureas such as acetohexamide (*e.g.* Dymelor, Eli Lilly), carbutamide,

chlorpropamide (*e.g.* Diabinese®, Pfizer), glamilide (Pfizer), gliclazide (*e.g.* Diamcron, Servier Canada Inc), glimepiride (*e.g.* disclosed in US4379785, such as Amaryl , Aventis), glipentide, glipizide (*e.g.* Glucotrol or Glucotrol XL Extended Release, Pfizer), gliquidone, glisolamide, glyburide/glibenclamide (*e.g.* Micronase or Glynase Prestab, Pharmacia & Upjohn and Diabeta, Aventis), tolazamide (*e.g.* Tolinase), and tolbutamide (*e.g.* Orinase), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; meglitinides such as repaglinide (*e.g.* Pranidin®, Novo Nordisk), KAD1229 (PF/Kissei), and nateglinide (*e.g.* Starlix®, Novartis), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α glucoside hydrolase inhibitors (or glucoside inhibitors) such as acarbose (*e.g.* Precose™, Bayer disclosed in US4904769), miglitol (such as GLYSET™, Pharmacia & Upjohn disclosed in US4639436), camiglibose (Methyl 6-deoxy-6-[(2R,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2- (hydroxymethyl)piperidino]-alpha-D-glucopyranoside, Marion Merrell Dow), voglibose (Takeda), adiposine, emiglitate, pradimicin-Q, salbostatin, CKD-711, MDL-25,637, MDL- 73,945, and MOR 14, and the compounds disclosed in US4062950, US4174439, US4254256, US4701559, US4639436, US5192772, US4634765, US5157116, US5504078, US5091418, US5217877, US51091 and WOO 1/47528 (polyamines); α-amylase inhibitors such as tendamistat, trestatin, and Al -3688, and the compounds disclosed in US4451455, US4623714, and US4273765; SGLT2 inhibtors including those disclosed in US6414126 and US6515117; an aP2 inhibitor such as disclosed in US6548529; insulin secreatagogues such as linogliride, A-4166, forskilin, dibutyrl cAMP, isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; fatty acid oxidation inhibitors, such as clomoxir, and etomoxir, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; A2 antagonists, such as midaglizole, isaglidole, deriglidole, idazoxan, earoxan, and fluparoxan, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; insulin and related compounds (*e.g.* insulin mimetics) such as biota, LP-100, novarapid, insulin detemir, insulin lispro, insulin glargine, insulin zinc suspension (lente and ultralente), Lys-Pro insulin, GLP-I (1-36) amide, GLP-I (73-7) (insulintropin, disclosed in US5614492), LY-315902 (Lilly), GLP-I (7-36)-NH2), AL-401 (Autoimmune), certain compositions as disclosed in US4579730, US4849405, US4963526, US5642868, US5763396, US5824638, US5843866, US6153632, US6191105, and WO 85/05029, and primate, rodent, or rabbit insulin including biologically active variants thereof including allelic variants, more preferably human insulin available in recombinant form (sources of human insulin include pharmaceutically acceptable and sterile formulations such as those

available from Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, Ind. 46285) as Humulin™ (human insulin rDNA origin), also see the THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE, 55.sup.th Ed. (2001) Medical Economics, Thomson Healthcare (disclosing other suitable human insulins); non-thiazolidinediones such as JT-501 and farglitazar (GW-2570/GI- 262579), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; PPARα/γ dual agonists such as AR-HO39242 (Aztrazeneca), GW-409544 (Glaxo-Wellcome), BVT-142, CLX-0940, GW-1536, GW-1929, GW-2433, KRP-297 (Kyorin Merck; 5-[(2,4-Dioxo thiazolidinyl)methyl] methoxy-N-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl] methyl]benzamide), L-796449, LR-90, MK-0767 (Merck/Kyorin/Banyu), SB 219994, muraglitazar (BMS), tesaglitzar (Astrazeneca), reglitazar (JTT-501) and those disclosed in WO99/16758, WO99/19313, WO99/20614, WO99/38850, WO00/23415, WO00/23417, WO00/23445, WO00/50414, WO01/00579, WO01/79150, WO02/062799, WO03/004458, WO03/016265, WO03/018010, WO03/033481, WO03/033450, WO03/033453, WO03/043985, WO 031053976, U.S. application Ser. No. 09/664,598, filed Sep. 18, 2000, Murakami et al. Diabetes 47, 1841-1847 (1998), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; other insulin sensitizing drugs; VPAC2 receptor agonists; GLK modulators, such as those disclosed in WO03/015774; retinoid modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/000249; GSK 3β/GSK 3 inhibitors such as 4-[2-(2-bromophenyl)-4-(4-fluorophenyl-lH-imidazol-5- yl]pyridine and those compounds disclosed in WO03/024447, WO03/037869, WO03/037877, WO03/037891, WO03/068773, EP1295884, EP1295885, and the like; glycogen phosphorylase (HGLPa) inhibitors such as CP-368,296, CP-316,819, BAYR3401, and compounds disclosed in WOO 1/94300, WO02/20530, WO03/037864, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof; ATP consumption promotors such as those disclosed in WO03/007990; TRB3 inhibitors; vanilloid receptor ligands such as those disclosed in WO03/049702; hypoglycemic agents such as those disclosed in WO03/015781 and WO03/040114; glycogen synthase kinase 3 inhibitors such as those disclosed in WO03/035663 agents such as those disclosed in WO99/51225, US20030134890, WO01/24786, and WO03/059870; insulin-responsive DNA binding protein-1 (IRDBP-I) as disclosed in WO03/057827, and the like; adenosine A2 antagonists such as those disclosed in WO03/035639, WO03/035640, and the like; PPARδ agonists such as GW 501516, GW 590735, and compounds disclosed in JP10237049 and WO02/14291; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, NVP-DPP728A (1- [[[2-[(5-cyanopyridin-2-

yl)amino]ethyl]amino]acetyl]-2-cyano-(S)-pyrrolidine, disclosed by Hughes et al, Biochemistry, 38(36), 11597-11603, 1999), P32/98, NVP-LAF-237, P3298, TSL225 (tryptophyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), valine pyrrolidide, TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD- 26 inhibitors, FE999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, DPP4, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) ,and the compounds disclosed in US6395767, US6573287, US6395767 (compounds disclosed include BMS-477118, BMS-471211 and BMS 538,305), WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279, WO99/67278, WO99/61431WO03/004498, WO03/004496, EP1258476, WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/000180, and WO03/000181; GLP-1 agonists such as exendin-3 and exendin-4 (including the 39 aa polypeptide synthetic exendin-4 called Exenatide®), and compounds disclosed in US2003087821 and NZ 504256, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; peptides including amlintide and Symlin® (pramlintide acetate); and glycokinase activators such as those disclosed in US2002103199 (fused heteroaromatic compounds) and WO02/48106 (isoindolin-1-one-substituted propionamide compounds).

Phosphodiesterase inhibitors

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor. PDE inhibitors are those compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of c AMP and/or cGMP. Possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors. By way of example, those PDE inhibitors may be mentioned such as are described and/or claimed in the following patent applications and patents: DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792,

DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,963,561, 5,141,931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEl 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6,331,543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I-XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577) and WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399. PDE5 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra®). PDE4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RO-20-1724, MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), DENBUFYLLINE, ROLIPRAM, OXAGRELATE, NITRAQUAZONE, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, MOTAPIZONE, LIXAZINONE, INDOLIDAN, OLPRINONE, ATIZORAM, KS-506-G, DIPAMFYLLINE, BMY-43351, ATIZORAM, AROFYLLINE, FILAMINAST, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF- 107806, PICLAMILAST, RS- 17597, RS-25344-000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, MOPIDAMOL, ANAGRELIDE, IBUDILAST, AMRINONE, PIMOBENDAN, CILOSTAZOL, QUAZINONE and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide. PDE3 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are SULMAZOLE, AMPIZONE, CILOSTAMIDE, CARBAZERAN, PIROXIMONE, IMAZODAN, CI-930, SIGUAZODAN,

ADIBENDAN, SATERINONE, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, EMORADAN, EMD-53998, EMD-57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, REVIZINONE, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, ENOXIMONE and MILRINONE. PDE3/4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are BENAFENTRINE, TREQUINSIN, ORG-30029, ZARDAVERINE, L-686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and TOLAFENTRINE. Other PDE inhibitors include: cilomilast, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®), zaprinast (PDE5 specific).

Anti- Uterine Contractions Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in order to decrease or inhibit uterine contractions) with a tocolytic agent including but not limited to beta-adrenergic agents, magnesium sulfate, prostaglandin inhibitors, and calcium channel blockers.

Anti- Neoplastic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an antineoplastic agents including but not limited to alkylating agents, epipodophyllotoxins, nitrosoureas, antimetabolites, vinca alkaloids, anthracycline antibiotics, nitrogen mustard agents, and the like. Particular anti-neoplastic agents may include tamoxifen, taxol, etoposide and 5-fluorouracil.

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example as in a chemotherapeutic composition) with an antiviral and monoclonal antibody therapies.

Agents to treat Congestive Heart Failure

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in prevention/treatment of congestive heart failure or another method described herein) with the partial agonist of the nociceptin receptor ORL1 described by Dooley et al. (The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 283 (2): 735-741, 1997). The agonist is a hexapeptide having the amino acid sequence Ac- RYY (RK) (WI) (RK)-NH2 ("the Dooley polypeptide"), where the brackets show allowable variation of amino acid residue. Thus Dooley polypeptide can include but are not limited to KYYRWR, RYYRWR, KWRYYR, RYYRWK,

RYYRWK (all-D amin acids), RYYRIK, RYYRIR, RYYKIK, RYYKIR, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWR, RYYRWK, RYYRIK, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWK and KYYRWK, wherein the amino acid residues are in the L-form unless otherwise specified. The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with polypeptide conjugate modifications of the Dooley polypeptide described in WO0198324.

DOSAGE

Dosage levels of active ingredients in a pharmaceutical composition can also be varied so as to achieve a transient or sustained concentration of the compound in a subject, especially in and around the site of inflammation or disease area, and to result in the desired response. It is well within the skill of the art to start doses of the compound at levels lower than required to achieve the desired effect and to gradually increase the dosage until the desired effect is achieved. It will be understood that the specific dose level for any particular subject will depend on a variety of factors, including body weight, general health, diet, natural history of disease, route and scheduling of administration, combination with one or more other drugs, and severity of disease.

An effective dosage of the composition will typically be between about 1 μg and about 10 mg per kilogram body weight, preferably between about 10 μg to 5 mg of the compound per kilogram body weight. Adjustments in dosage will be made using methods that are routine in the art and will be based upon the particular composition being used and clinical considerations.

The guanylate cyclase receptor agonists used in the methods described above may be administered orally, systemically or locally. Dosage forms include preparations for inhalation or injection, solutions, suspensions, emulsions, tablets, capsules, topical salves and lotions, transdermal compositions, other known peptide formulations and pegylated peptide analogs. Agonists may be administered as either the sole active agent or in combination with other drugs, *e.g.*, an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase and anti-inflammatory agent. In all cases, additional drugs should be administered at a dosage that is therapeutically effective using the existing art as a guide. Drugs may be administered in a single composition or sequentially.

Dosage levels of the GCR agonist for use in methods of this invention typically are from about 0.001 mg to about 10,000 mg daily, preferably from about 0.005 mg to about 1,000 mg daily. On the basis of mg/kg daily dose, either given in single or divided doses, dosages typically range from about 0.001/75 mg/kg to about 10,000/75 mg/kg, preferably from about 0.005/75 mg/kg to about 1,000/75 mg/kg.

The total daily dose of each inhibitor can be administered to the patient in a single dose, or in multiple subdoses. Typically, subdoses can be administered two to six times per day, preferably two to four times per day, and even more preferably two to three times per day. Doses can be in immediate release form or sustained release form sufficiently effective to obtain the desired control over the medical condition.

The dosage regimen to prevent, treat, give relief from, or ameliorate a medical condition or disorder, or to otherwise protect against or treat a medical condition with the combinations and compositions of the present invention is selected in accordance with a variety of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, the type, age, weight, sex, diet, and medical condition of the subject, the severity of the disease, the route of administration, pharmacological considerations such as the activity, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and toxicology profiles of the particular inhibitors employed, whether a drug delivery system is utilized, and whether the inhibitors are administered with other active ingredients. Thus, the dosage regimen actually employed may vary widely and therefore deviate from the preferred dosage regimen set forth above.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1: SYNTHESIS AND PURIFICATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

The GCRA peptides were synthesized using standard methods for solid-phase peptide synthesis. Either a Boc/Bzl or Fmoc/tBu protecting group strategy was seleceted depending upon the scale of the peptide to be produced. In the case of smaller quantities, it is possible to get the desired product using an Fmoc/tBu protocol, but for larger quantities (1 g or more), Boc/Bzl is superior.

In each case the GCRA peptide was started by either using a pre-loaded Wang (Fmoc) or Merrifield (Boc) or Pam (Boc) resin. For products with C-terminal Leu, Fmoc-Leu-Wang (D-1115) or Boc-Leu-Pam resin (D-1230) or Boc-Leu-Merrifield (D-1030) Thus, for peptides containing the C-terminal d-Leu, the resin was Fmoc-dLeu-Wang Resin (D-2535) and Boc-dLeu-Merrifield, Boc-dLeu-Pam-Resin (Bachem Product D-1230 and D-1590, respectively) (SP-332 and related analogs). For peptides produced as C-terminal amides, a resin with Ramage linker (Bachem Product D-2200) (Fmoc) or mBHA (Boc) (Bachem Product D-1210 was used and loaded with the C-terminal residue as the first synthetic step.

Fmoc-tBu Overview

Each synthetic cycle consisted deprotection with 20% piperidine in DMF. Resin washes were accomplished with alternating DMF and IpOH to swell and shrink the resin, respectively. Peptide synthesis elongated the chain from the C-terminus to the N-terminus. Activation chemistry for each amino acid was with HBTU/DIEA in a 4 fold excess for 45 minutes. In automated chemistries, each amino acid was double coupled to maximize the coupling efficiency. To insure the correct position of disulfide bonds, the Cys residues were introduced as Cys(Acm) at positions 15 and 7. Cys(Trt) was positioned at Cys4 and Cys12. This protecting group strategy yields the correct topoisomer as the dominant product (75:25). (For enterotoxin analogs, a third disulfide bond protecting group (Mob) was utilized).

For peptides containing C-terminal Aeea (aminoethyloxyethyloxyacetyl) groups, these were coupled to a Ramage amide linker using the same activation chemistry above by using an Fmoc-protected Aeea derivative. The Cys numbering in these cases remains the same and the positioning of the protecting groups as well. For the peptides containing the N-terminal extension of Aeea, the Cys residue numbering will be increased by three Cys4 becomes Cys7, Cys12 becomes Cys15; Cys7 becomes Cys10 and Cys 15 becomes Cys18. The latter pair is protected with Acm and the former pair keeps the Trt groups.

For analogs containing D-amino acid substitutions, these were introduced directly by incorporating the correctly protected derivative at the desired position using the same activation chemistry described in this document. For Fmoc strategies, Fmoc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Fmoc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Fmoc-dAsp(tBu)-OH, Fmoc-dGlu(tBu)-OH and for Boc strategies, Boc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Boc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Boc-dAsp(Chx), Boc-dAsp(Bzl)-OH, Boc-dGlu(Chx)-OH and Boc-dGlu(Bzl)-OH would be utilized.

Each peptide is cleaved from the solid-phase support using a cleavage cocktail of TFA:H2O:Trisisopropylsilane (8.5:0.75:0.75) ml/g of resin for 2 hr at RT. The crude deprotected peptide is filtered to remove the spent resin beads and precipitated into ice-cold diethylether.

Each disulfide bonds was introduced orthogonally. Briefly, the crude synthetic product was dissolved in water containing NH_4OH to increase the pH to 9. Following complete solubilization of the product, the disulfide bond was made between the Trt deprotected Cys residues by titration with H_2O_2. The monocyclic product was purified by RP-HPLC. The purified

mono-cyclic product was subsequently treated with a solution of iodine to simultaneously remove the Acm protecting groups and introduce the second disulfide bond.

For enterotoxin analogs, the Mob group was removed via treatment of the dicyclic product with TFA 85% containing 10% DMSO and 5% thioanisole for 2 hr at RT.

Each product was then purified by RP-HPLC using a combination buffer system of TEAP in H2O versus MeCN, followed by TFA in H2O versus MeCN. Highly pure fractions were combined and lyophilized. The final product was converted to an Acetate salt using either ion exchange with Acetate loaded Dow-Ex resin or using RP-HPLC using a base-wash step with NH_4OAc followed by 1% AcOH in water versus MeCN.

It is also possible to prepare enterotoxin analogs using a random oxidation methodology using Cys(Trt) in Fmoc or Cys(MeB) in Boc. Following cleavage, the disulfide bonds can be formed using disulfide interchange redox pairs such as glutathione (red/ox) and/or cysteine/cystine. This process will yield a folded product that the disulfide pairs must be determined as there would be no way of knowing their position directly.

Boc-Bzl Process

Peptide synthesis is initiated on a Merrifield or Pam pre-loaded resin or with mBHA for peptides produced as C-terminal amides. Each synthetic cycle consists of a deprotection step with 50% TFA in MeCL2. The resin is washed repetitively with MeCl2 and MeOH. The TFA salt formed is neutralized with a base wash of 10% TEA in MeCl2. The resin is washed with MeCl2 and MeOH and lastly with DMF prior to coupling steps. A colorimetric test is conducted to ensure deprotection. Each coupling is mediated with diisopropyl carbodiimide with HOBT to form the active ester. Each coupling is allowed to continue for 2 hr at RT or overnight on difficult couplings. Recouplings are conducted with either Uronium or Phosphonium reagents until a negative colorimetric test is obtained for free primary amines. The resin is then washed with DMF, MeCl2 and MeOH and prepared for the next solid-phase step. Cys protection utilizes Cys(Acm) at positions 7 and 15, and Cys(MeB) at Cys 4 and Cys12.

Cleavage and simultaneous deprotection is accomplished by treatment with HF using anisole as a scavenger (9:1:1) ml:ml:g (resin) at 0°C for 60 min. The peptide is subsequently extracted from the resin and precipitated in ice cold ether. The introduction of disulfide bonds

and purification follows the exact same protocol described above for the *Fmoc-produced* product.

EXAMPLE 2: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED GASTRIC FLUID (SGF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide according to the invention is determined in the presence of simulated gastric fluid (SGF) . GRCA peptide (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF (Proteose peptone (8.3 g/liter; Difco), D-Glucose (3.5 g/liter; Sigma), NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), Porcine bile (final 1 X concentration 0.05 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Lysozyme (final 1 X concentration 0.10 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Pepsin (final 1 X concentration 0.0133 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS). SGF is made on the day of the experiment and the pH is adjusted to 2.0 ± 0.1 using HCl or NaOH as necessary. After the pH adjustment, SGF is sterilized filtered with 0.22 μm membrane filters. SP-304 (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 15, 30, 45, 60 and 120 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are snap frozen in dry ice then are stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate.

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EXAMPLE 3: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED INTESTINAL FLUID (SIF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide is also evaluated against digestion with simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SIF solution was prepared by the method as described in the United States Pharmacopoeia, 24th edition, p2236. The recipe to prepare SIF solution is as described below. The SIF solution contains NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), and Pacreatin 10 mg/ml. The pH is adjusted to 6 and the solution is filter sterilized. A solution of SP-304 (8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 300 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are removed and snap frozen with dry ice and stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate. F

The integrity of GRCA peptide is evaluated by HPLC by essentially using the method described for SGF digestion.

EXAMPLE 4: CYCLIC GMP STIMULATION ASSAYS

The ability of the GCRA peptide to bind to and activate the intestinal GC-C receptor is tested by usingT 84 human colon carcinoma cell line. Human T84 colon carcinoma cells are obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Cells are grown in a 1:1 mixture of Ham's F-12 medium and Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U penicillin/ml, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. The cells are fed fresh medium every third day and split at a confluence of approximately 80%.

Biological activity of the GCRA peptides is assayed as previously reported (15). Briefly, the confluent monolayers of T-84 cells in 24-well plates are washed twice with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), pre-incubated at 37°C for 10 min with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4) and 1 mM isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), followed by incubation with GCRA peptides (0.1 nM to 10 .mu.M) for 30 min. The medium is aspirated, and the reaction is terminated by the addition of 3% perchloric acid. Following centrifugation, and neutralization with 0.1 N NaOH, the supernatant is used directly for measurements of cGMP using an ELISA kit (Caymen Chemical, Ann Arbor, Mich.).

EXAMPLE 5: PEGGYLATED PEPTIDES

The other strategy to render peptides more resistant towards digestions against digestive proteases is to peggylate them at the N- and C-terminal. The peptide GCRA peptide is peggylated with the aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (Aeea) group at the C-terminal (or at the N-terminal or at both termini. Cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells is measured by the method as described above.

EXAMPLE 6: COMBINATION OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE RECEPTOR AGONISTS WITH PHOSPHODIESTERASE INHIBITORS

Regulation of intracellular concentrations of cyclic nucleotides (*i.e.*, cAMP and cGMP) and thus, signaling via these second messengers, is generally considered to be governed by their rates of production versus their rates of destruction within cells. Thus, levels of cGMP in tissues and organs can also be regulated by the levels of expression of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases (cGMP-PDE), which are generally overexpressed in cancer and

inflammatory diseases. Therefore, a combination consisting of an agonist of GC-C with an inhibitor of cGMP-PDE might produce synergistic effect on levels of cGMP in the target tissues and organs.

Sulindac Sulfone (SS) and Zaprinast (ZAP) are two of the known inhibitors of cGMP-PDE and has shown to induce apoptosis in cancer cells via a cGMP-dependent mechanism. SS and ZAP in combination with GCRA peptide is evaluated to see if these PDE inhibitors have any synergistic effect on intracellular accumulation of cGMP

EXAMPLE 7: AN ORAL RANGE-FINDING TOXICITY STUDY IN CYNOMOLGUS MONKEYS.

The objective of the study is to determine the toxicity of the GRCA peptides according to the invention following a single oral gavage administration to the cynomolgus monkey and to allow assessment of reversibility of any changes following a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each GRCA peptide according to the invention will be given at two different dose levels.

Experimental Design

The test (*e.g.*, the GRCA peptides according to the invention) and control/vehicle article will be administered in three phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation period. Each phase will consist of a single oral gavage administration to female cynomolgus monkeys as indicated in the tables below:

Phase 1:

Eight non-naive female cynomolgus monkeys will be transferred from the ITR Spare Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Days	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	0	0	10	2
		4				
2	Test Peptides	1	1	0.1	10	2
		4				
		4				

Following completion of the Phase 1 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for 33 days. Upon completion of the observation period, all monkeys will be transferred back to the ITR Spare Monkey Colony.

Phase 2:

The same eight non-naïve female cynomolgus monkeys as previously used in Phase 1 will be transferred from the ITR Spare Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Day	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	10	1	10	2
2	Test Peptides	1	10	1	10	2

Following completion of the Phase 2 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for a minimum of 7 days.

Route of Administration

The oral route of administration has been chosen because it is a preferred human therapeutic route.

Preparation of Test and Control /Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be prepared fresh on the day of dosing in cold distilled water (maintained in an ice water bath). A sufficient amount of test article powder will be added to the appropriate amount of distilled water in order to achieve the desired concentration. The dose formulations will be mixed by simple inversion.

Analysis of Test Article Concentration and Stability in the Dose Formulations

For possible confirmation of the concentration and stability of the test article in the formulations, representative samples will be taken from the middle of each concentration, including the control/vehicle article on the first day of dosing of each group, as indicated below. Samples will be collected immediately after preparation on Day 1 and again after dosing is completed on that day and will be stored frozen (approximately 80°C nominal) in 20 mL screw

cap vials. Therefore, the remaining dose formulation vials will be returned to the Pharmacy Department as soon as possible after completion of dosing.

Group 1: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 2: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 3: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 4: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

The formulations will be maintained cold in an ice water bath during all sampling procedures.

The formulations will be stirred continuously with a stir bar for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to sampling.

The samples will be retained frozen (approximately -80°C nominal) at ITR until requested by the Sponsor to be shipped to a laboratory designated by the Sponsor for analysis. The samples can be discarded once it is determined by the analyst and Study Director that they are no longer needed. These samples' disposition will be recorded in the raw data.

If analyzed, a Dose Formulation report will be prepared by the Principal Investigator (Formulation analysis) and will be provided to ITR for inclusion in the final report.

Test System

Species/Strain:	Cynomolgus Monkey *(Macaca Fasicularis)*
Source:	orldwide Primates Inc., P.O. Box 971279 Miami, Florida, 33187, USA *and* Covance Research Products Inc. P.O. Box 549 Alice, Texas, 78333, USA
Total No. of monkeys on study:	8 non-naive females
Body Weight Range:	2-4 kg at onset of treatment
Age Range at Start:	Young adult at onset of treatment
Acclimation Period:	The animals will be transferred from ITR's sparc monkey colony. They are therefore, considered to be fully acclimated to the laboratory environment.

The actual age and body weight ranges will be noted in the final report.

Administration of the Test and Control/Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be administered by oral gavage administration using a gavage tube attached to a syringe in three Phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each dosing session will consist of a single oral gavage administration. The gavage tube will be flushed with 3 mL of reverse osmosis water immediately following administration of the dose formulation in order to ensure that the entire dose volume has been delivered to the animal. The dose volume will be 10 mL/kg for all animals, including controls. The actual volume administered to each monkey on Day 1 of each Phase will be calculated using the Day -1 body weights of each Phase.

Dosing formulations will be maintained cold during dose administration by placing them in an ice water bath.

The dosing formulations must be placed on a stir plate for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of dosing and maintained on the stir plate throughout the dosing procedure.

The dosing formulations must be used within 2 hours of preparation.

Clinical Observations

Cage-side clinical signs (ill health, behavioral changes etc.) will be recorded as indicated below except on detailed clinical examination days, where the morning cage-side clinical signs will be replaced by a detailed clinical examination (DCE). During regular cage side clinical signs and detailed examinations, particular attention will be paid to stools with respect to amount of stools produced, description of stools, etc.

Cage side clinical signs will be performed as follows:

During the pretreatment period and during the 7-day (minimum) observation periods: Three times per day with a minimum of 3 hours between each occasion.

On the dosing day of Phase 1: pre-dose, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 2: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 3: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

A detailed clinical examination of each monkey will be performed once at the time of animal transfer and once weekly thereafter.

Animals whose health status is judged to warrant additional evaluation will be examined by a Clinical Veterinarian, or a technician working under the supervision of the Clinical Veterinarian. Any veterinarian-recommended treatments will only be performed once agreement has been obtained from the Study Director. Where possible, the Sponsor will be consulted prior to administration of therapeutic drugs.

Body weights will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Food consumption will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Cages will be cleaned prior to the start of the daily food consumption to ensure no food cookies remain in the cage. Monkeys will be fed 7 cookies before 12pm and 7 cookies after 12pm. The sum of the total number of cookies given for the day will be recorded.

The next morning, a visual check will be performed to see how many cookies are left in the cage. The number of whole cookies remaining in the food hopper or on the tray will be recorded. The number of whole cookies left will be subtracted from the total number of cookies given in order to calculate the number of cookies eaten.

EXAMPLE 8: SUCKLING MOUSE MODEL OF INTESTINAL SECRETION (SUMI ASSAY)

The GCRA peptides described herein can be tested for their ability to increase intestinal secretion using a suckling mouse model of intestinal secretion. In this model a GCRA peptide is administered to suckling mice that are between seven and nine days old. After the mice are sacrificed, the gastrointestinal tract from the stomach to the cecum is dissected ("guts"). The remains ("carcass") as well as the guts are weighed and the ratio of guts to carcass weight is calculated. If the ratio is above 0.09, one can conclude that the test compound increases intestinal secretion. Controls for this assay may include wild-type SP-304, ST polypeptide and Zelnorm®. Phenylbenzoquinone-induced writhing model

The PBQ-induced writhing model can be used to assess pain control activity of the GCRA peptide described herein. This model is described by Siegmund et al. (1957 Proc. Soc. Exp. Bio. Med. 95:729-731). Briefly, one hour after oral dosing with a test compound, *e.g.*, a GCRA peptide, morphine or vehicle, 0.02% phenylbenzoquinone (PBQ) solution (12.5 mL/kg) is injected by intraperitoneal route into the mouse. The number of stretches and writhings are recorded from the 5^{th} to the 10^{th} minute after PBQ injection, and can also be counted between the 35^{th} and 40^{th} minute and between the 60^{th} and 65^{th} minute to provide a kinetic assessment. The results are expressed as the number of stretches and writhings (mean ± SEM) and the percentage of variation of the nociceptive threshold calculated from the mean value of the vehicle-treated group. The statistical significance of any differences between the treated groups and the control group is determined by a Dunnett's test using the residual variance after a one-way analysis of variance ($P< 0.05$) using SigmaStat Software.

EXAMPLE 9 : PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTY DETERMINATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

Serum samples are extracted from the whole blood of exposed (mice dosed orally or intravenously with GCRA peptides (s) described herein) and control mice, then injected directly (10 mL) onto an in-line solid phase extraction (SPE) column (Waters Oasis HLB 25µm column, 2.0 x 15mm direct connect) without further processing. The sample on the SPE column is washed with a 5% methanol, 95% dH_2O solution (2.1 mL/min, 1.0 minute), then loaded onto an 0 analytical column using a valve switch that places the SPE column in an inverted flow path onto the analytical column (Waters Xterra MS C8 5µm IS column, 2.1 x 20mm). The sample is eluted from the analytical column with a reverse phase gradient (Mobile Phase A: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in dH_2O, Mobile Phase B: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in 80% acetonitrile and 20% methanol; 20% B for the first 3 minutes then ramping to 95% B over 4 min. and holding for 2 5 min., all at a flow rate of 0.4 mL/min.). At 9.1 minutes, the gradient returns to the initial conditions of 20%B for 1 min. polypeptide is eluted from the analytical column and is detected by triple-quadrapole mass spectrometry (MRM, 764 (+2 charge state)>182 (+1 charge state) Da; cone voltage = 30V; collision = 20 eV; parent resolution = 2 Da at base peak; daughter resolution = 2 Da at base peak). Instrument response is converted into concentration units by comparison with a standard curve using known amounts of chemically synthesized polypeptide(s) prepared and injected in mouse plasma using the same procedure.

Similarly, pharmacokinetic properties are determined in rats using LCMS methodology. Rat plasma samples containing the GCRA peptide are extracted using a Waters Oasis MAX 96 well solid phase extraction (SPE) plate. A 200 μL volume of rat plasma is mixed with 200 μL of ^{13}Cg, ^{15}N -labeled polypeptide in the well of a prepared SPE plate. The samples are drawn through the stationary phase with 15 mm Hg vacuum. All samples are rinsed with 200 μL of 2% ammonium hydroxide in water followed by 200 μL of 20% methanol in water. The samples are eluted with consecutive 100 μL volumes of 5/20/75 formic acid/water/methanol and 100 μL 5/15/80 formic acid/water/methanol. The samples are dried under nitrogen and resuspended in 100 μL of 20% methanol in water. Samples are analyzed by a Waters Quattro Micro mass spectrometer coupled to a Waters 1525 binary pump with a Waters 2777 autosampler. A 40 μL volume of each sample is injected onto a Thermo Hypersil GOLD C18 column (2.1x50 mm, 5 um). polypeptide is eluted by a gradient over 3 minutes with acetonitrile and water containing 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid. The Quattro Micro mass spectrometer is run in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode using the mass transitions of, for example 764>182 or 682>136. Using this methodology, polypeptide is dosed orally and by IV to rats at 10 mg/kg. Pharmacokinetic properties including area under the curve and bioavailabilty are determined.

EXAMPLE 10: DIURESIS RELATED EXPERIMENTS EFFECT ON DIURESIS AND NATRIURESIS

The effect of GCRA peptides described herein on diuresis and natriuresis can be determined using methodology similar to that described in WO06/001931 (examples 6 (p. 42) and 8 (p.45)). Briefly, the polypeptide/agonist described herein (180-pmol) is infused for 60 min into a group of 5 anesthetized mice or primates. Given an estimated rat plasma volume of 10 mL, the infusion rate is approximately 3 pmol/mL/min. Blood pressure, urine production, and sodium excretion are monitored for approximately 40 minutes prior to the infusion, during the infusion, and for approximately 50 minutes after the infusion to measure the effect of the GCRA peptides on diuresis and natriuresis. For comparison, a control group of five rats is infused with regular saline. Urine and sodium excretion can be assessed. Dose response can also be determined. polypeptide/GC-C agonist described herein is infused intravenously into mice or primates over 60 minutes. Urine is collected at 30 minute intervals up to 180 minutes after termination of polypeptide/GC-C agonist infusion, and urine volume, sodium excretion, and potassium excretion are determined for each collection interval. Blood pressure is monitored continuously.

For each dose a dose-response relationship for urine volume, sodium and potassium excretion can be determined. Plasma concentration of the polypeptide/GC-agonist is also determined before and after iv infusion.

Mouse or Primate Diuresis Experiment: Once an appropriate level of anesthesia has been achieved, a sterile polyurethane catheter is inserted into the urethra and secured using 1 - 2 drops of veterinary bond adhesive applied to urethra/catheter junction. Animals are then dosed with either vehicle or test article via the intravenous or intraperitoneal route. Animals are allowed to regain consciousness, and the volume of urine excreted over a 1-5 hour duration is recorded periodically for each rat.

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We claim:

1. A peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:2-4.

2. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dose comprising a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist peptide having the sequence of any one of NO:2-4 present in a therapeutically effective amount and a pharmacetical carrier, excipient or diluent.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the unit dose form is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a capsule, a solution or inhalation formulation.

4. A method for preventing or treating a condition selected from the group consisting of Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, constipation associated with use of opiate pain killers, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), post surgical constipation, gastroparesis, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders, heartburn, poor gastrointestinal motility , congestive heart failure, hypertension, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), colon cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, liver cancer, salivary gland cancer or skin cancer, bronchitis, tissue inflammation, organ inflammation, respiratory inflammation, asthma, COPD comprising administering toa patient in need thereof, an effective dosage of a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist having the sequence of any one of NO:2-8.

5. A method of claim 4, further comprising administering an effective dose of inhibitor of a cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising administering to said patient an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase either concurrently or sequentially with said guanylate cyclase receptor agonist.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

8. The method of claim 4, futher comprising administering an effective does of at least one anti-inflammatory agent.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein an anti-inflammatory agent is a steroid or nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drug (NISAIDS).

10 The use of any one of the peptides having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:2-8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a human disease.

11. A method of increasing cGMP production in a cell comprising contacting said cell with a peptide selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2-4.

5 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising contacting said cell with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

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(54) Title: AGONISTS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE USEFUL FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL, INFLAMMATION, CANCER AND OTHER DISORDERS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides novel guanylate cyclase-C agonist peptides and their use in the treatment of human diseases including gastrointestinal disorders, inflammation or cancer (e.g., a gastrointestinal cancer). The peptides can be administered either alone or in combination with an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase. The gastrointestinal disorder may be classified as either irritable bowel syndrome, constipation, or excessive acidity etc. The gastrointestinal disease may be classified as either inflammatory bowel disease or other GI condition including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and cancer.

AGONISTS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE USEFUL FOR THE TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS, INFLAMMATION, CANCER AND OTHER DISORDERS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S.S.N. 61/058,892 filed July 16, 2008 the contenst of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the therapeutic use of guanylate cyclase C (GC-C) agonists as a means for enhancing the intracellular production of cGMP. The agonists may be used either alone or in combination with inhibitors of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase to prevent or treat inflammation, cancer and other disorders, particularly of the gastrointestinal tract and the lung.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Uroguanylin, guanylin and bacterial ST peptides are structurally related peptides that bind to a guanylate cyclase receptor and stimulate intracellular production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) (1-6). This results in the activation of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR), an apical membrane channel for efflux of chloride from enterocytes lining the intestinal tract (1-6). Activation of CFTR and the subsequent enhancement of transepithelial secretion of chloride lead to stimulation of sodium and water secretion into the intestinal lumen. Therefore, by serving as paracrine regulators of CFTR activity, cGMP receptor agonists regulate fluid and electrolyte transport in the GI tract (1-6; US patent 5,489,670). Thus, the cGMP-mediated activation of CFTR and the downstream signaling plays an important role in normal functioning of gut physiology. Therefore, any abnormality in this process could potentially lead to gastrointestinal disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, excessive acidity and cancer (25, 26).

The process of epithelial renewal involves the proliferation, migration, differentiation, senescence, and eventual loss of GI cells in the lumen (7, 8). The GI mucosa can be divided into

three distinct zones based on the proliferation index of epithelial cells. One of these zones, the proliferative zone, consists of undifferentiated stem cells responsible for providing a constant source of new cells. The stem cells migrate upward toward the lumen to which they are extruded. As they migrate, the cells lose their capacity to divide and become differentiated for carrying out specialized functions of the GI mucosa (9). Renewal of GI mucosa is very rapid with complete turnover occurring within a 24-48 hour period (9). During this process mutated and unwanted cells are replenished with new cells. Hence, homeostasis of the GI mucosa is regulated by continual maintenance of the balance between proliferation and apoptotic rates (8).

The rates of cell proliferation and apoptosis in the gut epithelium can be increased or decreased in a wide variety of different circumstances, *e.g.*, in response to physiological stimuli such as aging, inflammatory signals, hormones, peptides, growth factors, chemicals and dietary habits. In addition, an enhanced proliferation rate is frequently associated with a reduction in turnover time and an expansion of the proliferative zone (10). The proliferation index has been observed to be much higher in pathological cases of ulcerative colitis and other GI disorders (11). Thus, intestinal hyperplasia is the major promoter of gastrointestinal inflammation and carcinogenesis.

In addition to a role for uroguanylin and guanylin as modulators of intestinal fluid and ion secretion, these peptides may also be involved in the continual renewal of GI mucosa by maintaining the balance between proliferation and apoptosis in cells lining GI mucosa. Therefore, any disruption in this renewal process, due to reduced production of uroguanylin and/or guanylin can lead to GI inflammation and cancer (25, 26). This is consistent with previously published data in WO 01/25266, which suggest a peptide with the active domain of uroguanylin may function as an inhibitor of polyp development in the colon and may constitute a treatment of colon cancer. However, recent data also suggest that uroguanylin also binds to a currently unknown receptor, which is distinct from GC-C receptor (3,4). Knockout mice lacking this guanylate cyclase receptor show resistance to ST peptides in the intestine, but effects of uroguanylin and ST peptides are not disturbed in the kidney *in vivo* (3). These results were further supported by the fact that membrane depolarization induced by guanylin was blocked by genistein, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, whereas hyperpolarization induced by uroguanylin was not effected (12, 13). Thus, it is not clear if the anti-colon cancer and anti-inflammatory activities of uroguanylin and its analogs are mediated through binding to one or both of these receptors.

Inflammatory bowel disease is a general name given to a group of disorders that cause intestines to become inflamed, characterized by red and swollen tissue. Gastrointestinal (GI) inflammation can be a chronic condition and often leads to GI cancer (14). Examples of such inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) include Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (UC). It is estimated that as many as 1,000,000 Americans are afflicted with IBD, with male and female patients appearing to be equally affected. Most cases are diagnosed before age 30, but the disease can occur in the sixth, seventh, and later decades of life.

Crohn's disease is a serious inflammatory disease that predominantly effects ileum and colon, but can also occur in other sections of the GI tract, whereas UC is exclusively an inflammatory disease of the colon, the large intestine (15). Unlike Crohn's disease, in which all layers of the intestine are involved, and in which there can be normal healthy bowel in between patches of diseased bowel, UC affects only the innermost lining (mucosa) of the colon in a continuous manner (16). Depending on which portion of the GI tract is involved, Crohn's disease may be referred to as ileitis, regional enteritis, colitis, etc. Crohn's disease and UC differ from spastic colon or irritable bowel syndrome, which are motility disorders of the GI tract.

While the precise cause of IBD is not known, it is believed that the disruption of the process of continual renewal of GI mucosa may be involved in disease (17,18). The renewal process of the GI lining is an efficient and dynamic process involving the continual proliferation and replenishment of unwanted damaged cells. Proliferation rates of cells lining the GI mucosa are very high, second only to the hematopoietic system. Thus, the balance between proliferation and apoptosis is important to the maintenance of the homeostasis of the GI mucosa (19,20).

The high proliferative index in GI epithelial cells in IBD patients might also be linked with higher incidence of colon cancer in IBD patients. Thus, GC-C agonist might also be useful to delay the onset of IBD into development of colon cancer. The combination of GC-C agonists with PDE inhibitors might be particularly more useful in treatment of IBD and colon cancer.

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is a devastating inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal tract that afflicts 10% of premature infants born weighing less than 1500 grams. Despite modern medical advances, the etiology remains elusive, and morbidity and mortality is unacceptably high, with as many as 10–30% of affected infants succumbing to the disease. Although the pathophysiology is incompletely understood, it is known that prematurity, formula feeding, intestinal ischemia, and bacterial colonization are important risk factors. It has been

suggested that these risk factors initiate the activation of the pro-inflammatory response that ultimately leads to bowel necrosis, and in some cases multi-organ dysfunction syndrome, and death. Multiple inflammatory mediators have been identified that might contribute to this final common pathway. Several of the pro- and anti-inflammatory molecules have been studied in detail in animal models, in humans, and *in vitro*, including IL-6, IL-8, and IL-10 as well as nitric oxide, oxygen free radicals, and numerous others. Previously, we reported that SP-304 ameliorates GI inflammation in experimental models of murine colitis, possibly through downregulation of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-5, IL-17, IL-23 and TNF-a. (Shailubhai et al, 2007 and 2008). Therefore, GC-C agonists such as uroguanylin, guanylin, E.coli enterotoxin ST peptides and their analogs might be used to prevent, control and treat NEC. GC-C agonists may be given either in drinking water or in mother's milk to treat NEC in newborne babies.

GI homeostasis depends on both proliferation and programmed cellular death (apoptosis) of epithelial cells lining the gut mucosa. Hence, cells are continually lost from the villus into the lumen of the gut and are replenished at a substantially equal rate by the proliferation of cells in the crypts, followed by their upward movement to the villus. It has become increasingly apparent that the control of cell death is an equally, if not more, important regulator of cell number and proliferation index (19,20). Reduced rates of apoptosis are often associated with abnormal growth, inflammation, and neoplastic transformation. Thus, both decreased proliferation and/or increased cell death may reduce cell number, whereas increased proliferation and/or reduced cell death may increase the proliferation index of intestinal tissue (20), which may lead to GI inflammatory diseases and cancer.

Uroguanylin and guanylin peptides also appear to promote apoptosis by controlling cellular ion flux. Alterations in apoptosis have been associated with tumor progression to the metastatic phenotype. While a primary gastrointestinal (GI) cancer is limited to the small intestine, colon, and rectum, it may metastasize and spread to such localities as bone, lymph nodes, liver, lung, peritoneum, ovaries, and brain. By enhancing the efflux of K+ and influx of Ca++, uroguanylin and related peptides may promote the death of transformed cells and thereby inhibit metastasis

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and chronic idiopathic constipation are pathological conditions that can cause a great deal of intestinal discomfort and distress but unlike the IBD

diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, IBS does not cause the serious inflammation or changes in bowel tissue and it is not thought to increase the risk of colorectal cancer. In the past, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), celiac disease and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) were regarded as completely separate disorders. Now, with the description of inflammation, albeit low-grade, in IBS, and of symptom overlap between IBS and celiac disease, this contention has come under question. Acute bacterial gastroenteritis is the strongest risk factor identified to date for the subsequent development of postinfective irritable bowel syndrome. Clinical risk factors include prolonged acute illness and the absence of vomiting. A genetically determined susceptibility to inflammatory stimuli may also be a risk factor for irritable bowel syndrome. The underlying pathophysiology indicates increased intestinal permeability and low-grade inflammation, as well as altered motility and visceral sensitivity (27). Serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine [5-HT]) is a key modulator of gut function and is known to play a major role in pathophysiology of IBS. It has been shown that the activity of 5-HT is regulated by cGMP (28). Therefore, based on this observation as well as other effects of cGMP, we believe that GC-C agonists will be useful in the treatment of IBS.

Given the prevalence of inflammatory conditions in Western societies and the attendant risk of developing cancerous lesions from inflamed tissue, particularly intestinal tissue, a need exists to improve the treatment options for inflammatory conditions, particularly of the gastrointestinal tract.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based upon the development of agonists of guanylate cyclase receptor. The agonists are analogs of uroguanylin, guanylin lymphoguanylin and ST peptides and have superior properties such as for example high resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases and/or by other proteolytic enzymes present in the stimulated human intestinal juices and human gastric juices.

The peptides of the invention may be used to treat any condition that responds to enhanced intracellular levels of cGMP. Intracellular levels of cGMP can be increased by enhancing intracellular production of cGMP and/or by inhibition of its degradation by cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases. Among the specific conditions that can be treated or prevented are gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders,

endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity. Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus inflammation (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC); pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema). Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. In addition, GC-C agonist may also be useful to facilitate liver regeneration in liver transplant patients. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

In one aspect, the present invention is directed to a peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequences of represented by Formulas I-III and those listed on Tables 1-IV (i.e., SEQ ID NOs: 1-138) and to therapeutic compositions which contain these peptides. The term "consisting essentially of" includes peptides that are identical to a recited sequence identification number and other sequences that do not differ substantially in terms of either structure or

function. For the purpose of the present application, a peptide differs substantially if its structure varies by more than three amino acids from a peptide of Formulas I-III and those listed on Tables I-IVor if its activation of cellular cGMP production is reduced by more than 50% compared to a control peptide such as uroguanylin, guanylin and lymphoguanylin. Preferably, substantially similar peptides should differ by no more than two amino acids and not differ by more than about 25% with respect to activating cGMP production. The instant peptide sequences comprise at least 12 amino acid residues, preferably between 12 and 26 amino acids in length.

The peptides may be in a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipients or diluents. The term "unit dose form" refers to a single drug delivery entity, *e.g.*, a tablet, capsule, solution or inhalation formulation. The amount of peptide present should be sufficient to have a positive therapeutic effect when administered to a patient (typically, between 100 μg and 3 g). What constitutes a "positive therapeutic effect" will depend upon the particular condition being treated and will include any significant improvement in a condition readily recognized by one of skill in the art. For example, it may constitute a reduction in inflammation, shrinkage of polyps or tumors, a reduction in metastatic lesions, etc.

In yet another aspect, an invention provides administering to said patient an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP-PDE) either concurrently or sequentially with said guanylate cyclase receptor agonist. The cGMP-PDE inhibitor include for example suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and sildenafil. In addition, GC-C agonist peptides may be used in combination with inhibitors of cyclic nucleotide transporters.

Optionally, anti-inflammatory agents are also administered. Anti-inflammatory agents include for example steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS).

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from and are encompassed by the following detailed description and claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention is based upon the development of agonists of guanylate cyclase-C (GC-C). The agonists are analogs of uroguanylin, guanylin, lymphoguanylin and ST peptided and have superior properties such as for example high resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases and/or by other proteolytic enzymes such as

those present in the stimulated human intestinal fluid (SIF)and simulated human gastric fluid (SGF).

The GC-C is expressed on various cells including on gastrointestinal epithelial cells, and on extra-intestinal tissues including kidney, lung, pancreas, pituitary, adrenal, developing liver, heart and male and female reproductive tissues (reviewed in Vaandrager 2002 Mol Cell Biochem 230:73-83). The GC-C is a key regulator of fluid and electrolyte balance in the intestine and kidney. In the intestine, when stimulated, the GC-C causes an increase in intestinal epithelial cGMP. This increase in cGMP causes a decrease in water and sodium absorption and an increase in chloride and potassium ion secretion, leading to changes in intestinal fluid and electrolyte transport and increased intestinal motility.

The gualylate cyclase-C agonists according to the invention include amino acid sequences represented by Formulas I, II, and III as well as those amino acid sequence summarized below in Tables I, II, III and IV. The gualylate cyclase-C agonists according to the invention are collectively refered to herein as "GCRA peptides".

Table I. Analogs of SP-304 and uroguanylin

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula I	C4:C12, C7:C15	Xaa^{1}- Xaa^{2}- Xaa^{3} -Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Maa^{15}-Xaa^{16}	1
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	2
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	3
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	4
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	5
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	6
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	7
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	8
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	9
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Leu^{16}	10

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	11
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	12
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	13
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	14
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	15
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	16
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	17
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	18
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	19
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	20
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	21
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	22
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	23

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	24
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	25
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	26
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	27
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	28
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	29
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	30
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	31
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	32
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	33
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	34
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	35
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	36

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	37
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	38
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	39
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	40
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	41
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	42
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	43
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	44
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	45
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	46
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	47
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	48
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	49

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	50
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	51
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	52
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	53
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	54
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	55
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	56
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	57
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	58
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	59
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	60
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	61
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	62

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	63
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys^{1}-Glu^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	64
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	65

Table 2. Analogs of Guanylin

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula II	C4:C12, C7:C15	Xaa^{1}- Xaa^{2}- Xaa^{3} -Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Maa^{15}	66
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	67
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	68
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	69
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	70
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	71
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	72

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	73
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	74
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	75
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	76
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	77
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	78
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	79
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	80
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	81
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	82
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	83
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	84
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	85

	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	86
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	87
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	88
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	89
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	90
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	91
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	92
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	93
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	94
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	95
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	96
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	97
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	98

Table III. Analogs of Lymphoguanylin

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula III	C4:C12, C7:C15	Xaa^{1}- Xaa^{2}- Xaa^{3} -Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-$Xaa_{n1}{}^{15}$	99
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	100
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	101
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	102
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	103
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	104
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	105
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	106
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	107
	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	108

	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	109
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	110
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	111
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	112
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	113
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	114
	C4:C12	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Tyr[15]	115
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Thr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	116
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Thr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	117
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Thr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	118
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Thr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	119
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Glu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	120
	C4:C12,	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Glu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser	121

	C7:C15		
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Glu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	122
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Glu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	123
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	124
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	125
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	126
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	127
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	128
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	129
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	130
	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	131

Table IV. Analouges of ST Peptides

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	132
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	133
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	134
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	135
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	dAsn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	136
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	137
	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	dAsn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	138

The GCRA peptides described herein bind the guanylate cyclase C (GC-C) and stimulate intracellular production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP). Optionally, the GCRA peptides induce apoptosis. In some aspects, the GCRA peptides stimulate intracellular cGMP production at higher levels than naturally occurring GC-C agonists (*e.g.*, uroguanylin, guanylin, lymphoguanylin and ST peptides) and/or SP-304.

The amino acid sequence of uroguanylin is: Asn-Asp-Asp-Cys-Glu-Leu-Cys-Val-Asn-Val-Ala-Cys-Thr-Gly-Cys-Leu. (SEQ ID NO:139)

The amino acid sequence of guanylin is: Ser-His-Thr-Cys-Glu-Ile-Cys-Ala-Phe-Ala-Ala-Cys-Ala-Gly-Cys. (SEQ ID NO:140)

The amino acid sequence of lymphoguanylin is: Gln-Glu-Glu-Cys-Glu-Leu-Cys-Ile-Asn-Met-Ala-Cys-Thr-Gly-Tyr. (SEQ ID NO:141)

The amino acid sequence of E. coli ST peptide is: Asn- Ser-Ser-Asn-Ser-Ser-Asn-Tyr-Cys-Cys-Glu-Lys-Cys-Cys-Asn-Pro-Ala-Cys-Thr-Gly-Cys-Tyr. (SEQ ID NO:142)

The amino acid sequence of SP-304 is: Asn-Asp-Glu-Cys-Glu-Leu-Cys-Val-Asn-Val-Ala-Cys^{12}-Thr-Lys-Cys-Leu (SEQ ID NO:143)

For example, the GCRA peptides of the invention stimulate 5, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304. The terms induced and stimulated are used interchangeably throughout the specification. The GCRA peptides described herein are more stable than naturally occurring GC-C agonists and/or SP-304. By more stable it is meant that the peptide degrade less and/or more slowly in simulated gastrointestinal fluid and/or simulatd intestinal fluid compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention degrade 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304.

The GCRA peptides described herein have therapeutic value in the treatment of a wide variety of disorders and conditions including for example gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction,

functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); necrotizing enterocolitis; pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

As used herein, the term "guanylate cyclase C (GC-C)" refers to the class of guanylate cyclase C receptor on any cell type to which the inventive agonist peptides or natural agonists described herein bind. As used herein, "intestinal guanylate cyclase receptor" is found exclusively on epithelial cells lining the GI mucosa. Uroguanylin, guanylin, and ST peptides are expected to bind to these receptors and may induce apoptosis. The possibility that there may be different receptors for each agonist peptide is not excluded. Hence, the term refers to the class of guanylate cyclase receptors on epithelial cells lining the GI mucosa.

As used herein, the term "GCR agonist" is meant to refer to peptides and/or other compounds that bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase C and stimulate fluid and electrolyte

transport. This term also covers fragments and pro-peptides that bind to GC-C and stimulate fluid and water secretion.

As used herein, the term "substantially equivalent" is meant to refer to a peptide that has an amino acid sequence equivalent to that of the binding domain where certain residues may be deleted or replaced with other amino acids without impairing the peptide's ability to bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase receptor and stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport.

Addition of carriers (*e.g.*, phosphate-buffered saline or PBS) and other components to the composition of the present invention is well within the level of skill in this art. In addition to the compound, such compositions may contain pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and other ingredients known to facilitate administration and/or enhance uptake. Other formulations, such as microspheres, nanoparticles, liposomes, and immunologically-based systems may also be used in accordance with the present invention. Other examples include formulations with polymers (*e.g.*, 20% w/v polyethylene glycol) or cellulose, or enteric formulations.

The present invention is based upon several concepts. The first is that there is a cGMP-dependent mechanism which regulates the balance between cellular proliferation and apoptosis and that a reduction in cGMP levels, due to a deficiency of uroguanylin/guanylin and/or due to the activation of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases, is an early and critical step in neoplastic transformation. A second concept is that the release of arachidonic acid from membrane phospholipids, which leads to the activation of cytoplasmic phospholipase A2 (cPLA2), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and possibly 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) during the process of inflammation, is down-regulated by a cGMP-dependent mechanism, leading to reduced levels of prostaglandins and leukotrienes, and that increasing intracellular levels of cGMP may therefore produce an anti-inflammatory response. In addition, a cGMP-dependent mechanism, is thought to be involved in the control of proinflammatory processes. Therefore, elevating intracellular levels of cGMP may be used as a means of treating and controlling gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI

tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, ostcoarthritis drugs , ostcoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associatcd with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); necrotizing enterocolitis; pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example COPD and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

Without intending to be bound by any theory, it is envisioned that ion transport across the plasma membrane may prove to be an important regulator of the balance between cell proliferation and apoptosis that will be affected by agents altering cGMP concentrations. Uroguanylin has been shown to stimulate K+ efflux, Ca++ influx and water transport in the gastrointestinal tract (3). Moreover, atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), a peptide that also binds to a specific guanylate cyclase receptor, has also been shown to induce apoptosis in rat mesangial cells, and to induce apoptosis in cardiac myocytes by a cGMP mechanism (21-24).

Binding of the present agonists to a guanylate cyclase receptor stimulates production of cGMP. This ligand-receptor interaction, via activation of a cascade of cGMP-dependent protein kinases and CFTR, induces apoptosis in target cells. Therefore, administration of the novel peptides defined by Formulas I-III and those listed on Tables I-IV are useful in eliminating or, at

least retarding, the onset of gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus inflammation (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); necrotizing enterocolitis; pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

Uroguanylin is a circulating peptide hormone with natriuretic activity and has been found to stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport in a manner similar to another family of heat stable enterotoxins (ST peptides) secreted by pathogenic strains of *E. coli* and other enteric bacteria that activate guanylate cyclase receptor and cause secretory diarrhea. Unlike bacterial ST peptides,

the binding of uroguanylin to guanylate cyclase receptor is dependent on the physiological pH of the gut. Therefore, uroguanylin is expected to regulate fluid and electrolyte transport in a pH dependent manner and without causing severe diarrhea.

GCRA PEPTIDES

In one aspect, the invention provides a GCRA peptide. The GCRA peptides are analogues uroguanylin, guanyli, lymphoguanylin and ST peptides. No particular length is implied by the term "peptide". In some embodiments, the GCRA peptide is less than 25 amino acids in length, *e.g.,* less than or equal to 20, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, or 5 amino acid in length.

The GCRA peptides can be polymers of L-amino acids, D-amino acids, or a combination of both. For example, in various embodiments, the peptides are D retro-inverso peptides. The term "retro-inverso isomer" refers to an isomer of a linear peptide in which the direction of the sequence is reversed and the chirality of each amino acid residue is inverted. *See, e.g.*, Jameson *et al.*, *Nature*, 368, 744-746 (1994); Brady *et al.*, Nature, 368, 692-693 (1994). The net result of combining D-enantiomers and reverse synthesis is that the positions of carbonyl and amino groups in each amide bond are exchanged, while the position of the side-chain groups at each alpha carbon is preserved. Unless specifically stated otherwise, it is presumed that any given L-amino acid sequence of the invention may be made into an D retro-inverso peptide by synthesizing a reverse of the sequence for the corresponding native L-amino acid sequence. For example a GCRA peptide includes the sequence defined by Formulas I-III and those listed on Tables I-IV.

By inducing cGMP production is meant that the GCRA peptide induces the production of intracellular cGMP. Intracellular cGMP is measured by methods known in the art. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention stimulate 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to naturally occurring GC-C agonists. Naturally Optionally, the GCRA peptides of the invention of the invention stimulate 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared SP-304. In further embodiments, the GCRA peptide stimulates apoptosis, *e.g.*, programmed cell death or activate the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR). In some embodimenst the GCRA peptides described herein are more stable than naturally occurring GC-C agonists and/or SP-304. By more stable it is meant that the peptide degrade less and/or more slowly in simulated gastric

fluid and/or simulated intestinal fluid compared to naturally occurring GC-C agonists and/or SP-304. For example, the GCRA peptide of the invention degrade 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GC-C angonists and/or SP-304.

As used herein, the term "AMIDE" is meant to denote that the terminal carboxylic acid is replaced with an amide group, i.e., the terminal COOH is replaced with $CONH_2$.

As used herein, (*e.g.*, in Formulas I- III) X_{aa} is any natural, unnatural amino acid or amino acid analogue; M_{aa} is a Cysteine (Cys), Penicillamine (Pen) homocysteine, or 3-mercaptoproline. Xaa_{n1} is meant to denote an amino acid sequence of any natural, unnatural amino acid or amino acid analogue that is one, or two residues in length. Additionally, any amino acid represented by Xaa, may be an L-amino acid, a D-amino acid, a methylated amino acid, a florinated amino acid or any combination of thereof. Preferablly the amino acid at the N-terminus, C-terminus or both are D-amino acids. Optionally, any GCRA peptide represented by Formulas I-III may contain on or more polyethylene glycol residues at the N- terminus, C-terminus or both. An exemplary polyethylene glycol include aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid and polymers thereof.

In some embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula I. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula I is a glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine or lysine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 and 3 of Formula I is a glutamic acid, or an aspartic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula I is an isoleucine, valine, serine, threonine or tyrosine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8 of Formula I is a valine or isoleucine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula I is a an asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 10 of Formula I is a valine or an methionine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 11 of Formula I is an alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 13 of Formula I is a threonine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 14 of Formula I is a glycine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula I is a leucine, serine or threonine

In alternative embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula II. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula II is a serine or asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 of Formula II is a histidine or an aspartic

acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 3 of Formula II is a threonine or a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 of Formula II is a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula II is an isoleucine, leucine, valine or tyrosine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8, 10, 11, or 13 of Formula II is a alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula II is an asparagine or a phenylalanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 14 of Formula II is a glycine.

In further embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula III. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula III is a glutamine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 or 3 of Formula III is a glutamic acid or a aspartic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 of Formula III is a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula III is threonine, glutamine, tyrosine, isoleucine, or leucine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8 of Formula III is isoleucine or valine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula III is asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 10 of Formula III is methionine or valine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 11 of Formula III is alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 13 of Formula III is a threonione. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula III is a glycine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 15 of Formula III is a tyrosine. Optionally, the amino acid at position 15 of Formula III is two amino acid in length and is Cysteine (Cys), Penicillamine (Pen) homocysteine, or 3-mercaptoproline and serine, leucine or threonine.

In certain embodiments, one or more amino acids of the GCRA peptides can be replaced by a non-naturally occurring amino acid or a naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid analog. There are many amino acids beyond the standard 20 (Ala, Arg, Asn, Asp, Cys, Gln, Glu, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Lys, Met, Phe, Pro, Ser, Thr, Trp, Tyr, and Val). Some are naturally-occurring others are not. (*See*, for example, Hunt, The Non-Protein Amino Acids: In Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Amino Acids, Barrett, Chapman and Hall, 1985). For example, an aromatic amino acid can be replaced by 3,4-dihydroxy-L-phenylalanine, 3-iodo-L-tyrosine, triiodothyronine, L-thyroxine, phenylglycine (Phg) or nor-tyrosine (norTyr). Phg and norTyr and other amino acids including Phe and Tyr can be substituted by, *e.g.*, a halogen, -CH3, -OH, -CH2NH3, -C(O)H, -CH2CH3, - CN, -CH2CH2CH3, -SH, or another group. Any amino acid can be substituted by the D-form of the amino acid.

With regard to non-naturally occurring amino acids or naturally and non-naturally occurring amino acid analogs, a number of substitutions in the polypeptide and agonists described herein are possible alone or in combination.

For example, glutamine residues can be substituted with gamma-Hydroxy-Glu or gamma- Carboxy-Glu. Tyrosine residues can be substituted with an alpha substituted amino acid such as L-alpha-methylphenylalanine or by analogues such as: 3-Amino-Tyr; Tyr(CH3); Tyr(PO3(CH3)2); Tyr(SO3H); beta-Cyclohexyl-Ala; beta-(l-Cyclopentenyl)-Ala; beta-Cyclopentyl-Ala; beta-Cyclopropyl-Ala; beta-Quinolyl-Ala; beta-(2-Thiazolyl)-Ala; beta-(Triazole-l-yl)-Ala; beta-(2-Pyridyl)-Ala; beta-(3-Pyridyl)-Ala; Amino-Phe; Fluoro-Phe; Cyclohexyl-Gly; tBu-Gly; beta-(3-benzothienyl)-Ala; beta-(2-thienyl)-Ala; 5-Methyl-Trp; and A- Methyl-Trp. Proline residues can be substituted with homopro (L-pipecolic acid); hydroxy-Pro; 3,4-Dehydro-Pro; 4-fluoro-Pro; or alpha-methyl-Pro or an N(alpha)-C(alpha) cyclized amino acid analogues with the structure: n = 0, 1, 2, 3 Alanine residues can be substituted with alpha-substitued or N-methylated amino acid such as alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib), L/D-alpha-ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline), L/D-methylvaline, or L/D-alpha-methylleucine or a non-natural amino acid such as beta-fluoro-Ala. Alanine can also be substituted with: n = 0, 1, 2, 3 Glycine residues can be substituted with alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib) or L/D-alpha-ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline).

Further examples of unnatural amino acids include: an unnatural analog of tyrosine; an unnatural analogue of glutamine; an unnatural analogue of phenylalanine; an unnatural analogue of serine; an unnatural analogue of threonine; an alkyl, aryl, acyl, azido, cyano, halo, hydrazine, hydrazide, hydroxyl, alkenyl, alkynl, ether, thiol, sulfonyl, seleno, ester, thioacid, borate, boronate, phospho, phosphono, phosphine, heterocyclic, enone, imine, aldehyde, hydroxylamine, keto, or amino substituted amino acid, or any combination thereof; an amino acid with a photoactivatable cross-linker; a spin-labeled amino acid; a fluorescent amino acid; an amino acid with a novel functional group; an amino acid that covalently or noncovalently interacts with another molecule; a metal binding amino acid; an amino acid that is amidated at a site that is not naturally amidated, a metal-containing amino acid; a radioactive amino acid; a photocaged and/or photoisomerizable amino acid; a biotin or biotin-analogue containing amino acid; a glycosylated or carbohydrate modified amino acid; a keto containing amino acid; amino acids comprising polyethylene glycol or polyether; a heavy atom substituted amino acid (*e.g.*, an

amino acid containing deuterium, tritium, ^{13}C, ^{15}N, or ^{18}O); a chemically cleavable or photocleavable amino acid; an amino acid with an elongated side chain; an amino acid containing a toxic group; a sugar substituted amino acid, *e.g.*, a sugar substituted serine or the like; a carbon-linked sugar-containing amino acid; a redox-active amino acid; an α-hydroxy containing acid; an amino thio acid containing amino acid; an α, α disubstituted amino acid; a β-amino acid; a cyclic amino acid other than proline; an O-methyl-L-tyrosine; an L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; a 3-methyl-phenylalanine; a ρ-acetyl-L-phenylalanine; an O-4-allyl-L-tyrosine; a 4-propyl-L-tyrosine; a tri-O-acetyl-GlcNAc β -serine; an L-Dopa; a fluorinated phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-azido-L-phenylalanine; a p-acyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-benzoyl-L-phenylalanine; an L-phosphoserine; a phosphonoserine; a phosphonotyrosine; a p-iodo-phenylalanine; a 4-fluorophenylglycine; a p-bromophenylalanine; a p-amino-L-phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; D- 3-(2-naphthyl)alanine (dNal); an amino-, isopropyl-, or O-allyl-containing phenylalanine analogue; a dopa, 0-methyl-L-tyrosine; a glycosylated amino acid; a p-(propargyloxy)phenylalanine; dimethyl-Lysine; hydroxy-proline; mercaptopropionic acid; methyl-lysine; 3-nitro-tyrosine; norleucine; pyro-glutamic acid; Z (Carbobenzoxyl); ε- Acetyl-Lysine; β -alanine; aminobenzoyl derivative; aminobutyric acid (Abu); citrulline; aminohexanoic acid; aminoisobutyric acid (AIB); cyclohexylalanine; d-cyclohexylalanine; hydroxyproline; nitro-arginine; nitro-phenylalanine; nitro-tyrosine; norvaline; octahydroindole carboxylate; ornithine (Orn); penicillamine (PEN); tetrahydroisoquinoline; acetamidomethyl protected amino acids and pegylated amino acids. Further examples of unnatural amino acids and amino acid analogs can be found in U.S. 20030108885, U.S. 20030082575, US20060019347 (paragraphs 410-418) and the references cited therein. The polypeptides of the invention can include further modifications including those described in US20060019347, paragraph 589.

In some embodiments, an amino acid can be replaced by a naturally-occurring, non-essential amino acid, *e.g.*, taurine.

Alternatively, the GCRA peptides are cyclic peptides. GCRA cyclic peptide are prepared by methods known in the art. For example, macrocyclization is often accomplished by forming an amide bond between the peptide N- and C-termini, between a side chain and the N- or C-terminus [*e.g.*, with $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ at pH 8.5] (Samson *et al.*, *Endocrinology,* 137: 5182-5185

(1996)), or between two amino acid side chains, such as cysteine. See, *e.g.,* DeGrado, *Adv Protein Chem, 39*: 51-124 (1988). In various aspects the GCRA peptides are [4,12; 7,15] bicycles.

In some GCRA peptides one or both members of one or both pairs of Cys residues which normally form a disulfide bond can be replaced by homocysteine, penicillamine, 3-mercaptoproline (Kolodziej et al. 1996 Int J Pept Protein Res 48:274); β, β dimethylcysteine (Hunt et al. 1993 Int JPept Protein Res 42:249) or diaminopropionic acid (Smith et al. 1978 J Med Chem 2 1:117) to form alternative internal cross-links at the positions of the normal disulfide bonds.

In addition, one or more disulfide bonds can be replaced by alternative covalent cross-links, *e.g.*, an amide linkage (-CH2CH(O)NHCH 2- or -CH2NHCH(O)CH 2-), an ester linkage, a thioester linkage, a lactam bridge , a carbamoyl linkage, a urea linkage, a thiourea linkage, a phosphonate ester linkage, an alkyl linkage (-CH2CH2CH2CH2-), an alkenyl linkage(-CH 2CH=CHCH 2-), an ether linkage (-CH2CH2OCH2- or -CH2OCH2CH2-), a thioether linkage (-CH2CH2SCH2- or - CH2SCH2CH2-), an amine linkage (-CH2CH2NHCH2- or -CH2NHCH 2CH2-) or a thioamide linkage (-CH2CH(S)HNHCH 2- or -CH2NHCH(S)CH 2-). For example, Ledu et al. (Proc Nat'l Acad. Sci. 100:11263-78, 2003) describe methods for preparing lactam and amide cross-links. Exemplary GCRA peptides which include a lactam bridge include for example SP-370.

The GCRA peptides can have one or more conventional polypeptide bonds replaced by an alternative bond. Such replacements can increase the stability of the polypeptide. For example, replacement of the polypeptide bond between a residue amino terminal to an aromatic residue (*e.g.* Tyr, Phe, Trp) with an alternative bond can reduce cleavage by carboxy peptidases and may increase half-life in the digestive tract. Bonds that can replace polypeptide bonds include: a retro-inverso bond (C(O)-NH instead of NH-C(O); a reduced amide bond (NH-CH2); a thiomethylene bond (S-CH2 or CH2-S); an oxomethylene bond (0-CH 2 or CH2-O); an ethylene bond (CH2-CH2); a thioamide bond (C(S)-NH); a trans-olefine bond (CH=CH); a fiuoro substituted trans-olefme bond (CF=CH); a ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CHR or CHR-C(O) wherein R is H or CH3; and a fluoro-ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CFR or CFR-C(O) wherein R is H or F or CH3.

The GCRA peptides can be modified using standard modifications. Modifications may occur at the amino (N-), carboxy (C-) terminus, internally or a combination of any of the preceeding. In one aspect described herein, there may be more than one type of modification on the polypeptide. Modifications include but are not limited to: acetylation, amidation, biotinylation, cinnamoylation, farnesylation, formylation, myristoylation, palmitoylation, phosphorylation (Ser, Tyr or Thr), stearoylation, succinylation, sulfurylation and cyclisation (via disulfide bridges or amide cyclisation), and modification by Cys3 or Cys5. The GCRA peptides described herein may also be modified by 2, 4-dinitrophenyl (DNP), DNP-lysine, modification by 7-Amino-4-methyl- coumarin (AMC), flourescein, NBD (7-Nitrobenz-2-Oxa-l,3-Diazole), p-nitro-anilide, rhodamine B, EDANS (5-((2-aminoethyl)amino)naphthalene-l- sulfonic acid), dabcyl, dabsyl, dansyl, texas red, FMOC, and Tamra (Tetramethylrhodamine). The GCRA peptides described herein may also be conjugated to, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG); alkyl groups (*e.g.*, C1-C20 straight or branched alkyl groups); fatty acid radicals; combinations of PEG, alkyl groups and fatty acid radicals (*See*, U.S. Patent 6,309,633; Soltero et al., 2001 Innovations in Pharmaceutical Technology 106-110); BSA and KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin). The addition of PEG and other polymers which can be used to modify polypeptides of the invention is described in US20060 19347 section IX.

Also included in the invention are peptides that biologically or functional equivalent to the peptides described herein. The term "biologically equivalent" or functional equivalent" is intended to mean that the compositions of the present invention are capable of demonstrating some or all of the cGMP production modulatory effects.

GCRA peptides can also include derivatives of GCRA peptides which are intended to include hybrid and modified forms of GCRA peptides in which certain amino acids have been deleted or replaced and modifications such as where one or more amino acids have been changed to a modified amino acid or unusual amino acid and modifications such as glycosylation so long the modified form retains the biological activity of GCRA peptides. By retaining the biological activity, it is meant that cGMP and or apoptosis is induced by the GCRA peptide, although not necessarily at the same level of potency as that of a naturally-occurring GCRA peptide identified.

Preferred variants are those that have conservative amino acid substitutions made at one or more predicted non-essential amino acid residues. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with basic side chains (*e.g.*, lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (*e.g.*, aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (*e.g.*, glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (*e.g.*, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (*e.g.*, threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (*e.g.*, tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus, a predicted nonessential amino acid residue in a GCRA polypeptide is replaced with another amino acid residue from the same side chain family. Alternatively, in another embodiment, mutations can be introduced randomly along all or part of a GCRA coding sequence, such as by saturation mutagenesis, and the resultant mutants can be screened to identify mutants that retain activity.

Also included within the meaning of substantially homologous is any GCRA peptide which may be isolated by virtue of cross-reactivity with antibodies to the GCRA peptide.

PREPARATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

GCRA peptides are easily prepared using modern cloning techniques, or may be synthesized by solid state methods or by site-directed mutagenesis. A GCRA peptide may include dominant negative forms of a polypeptide.

Chemical synthesis may generally be performed using standard solution phase or solid phase peptide synthesis techniques, in which a peptide linkage occurs through the direct condensation of the amino group of one amino acid with the carboxy group of the other amino acid with the elimination of a water molecule. Peptide bond synthesis by direct condensation, as formulated above, requires suppression of the reactive character of the amino group of the first and of the carboxyl group of the second amino acid. The masking substituents must permit their ready removal, without inducing breakdown of the labile peptide molecule.

In solution phase synthesis, a wide variety of coupling methods and protecting groups may be used (*See*, Gross and Meienhofer, eds., "The Peptides: Analysis, Synthesis, Biology," Vol. 1-4 (Academic Press, 1979); Bodansky and Bodansky, "The Practice of Peptide Synthesis,"

2d ed. (Springer Verlag, 1994)). In addition, intermediate purification and linear scale up are possible. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that solution synthesis requires consideration of main chain and side chain protecting groups and activation method. In addition, careful segment selection is necessary to minimize racemization during segment condensation. Solubility considerations are also a factor. Solid phase peptide synthesis uses an insoluble polymer for support during organic synthesis. The polymer-supported peptide chain permits the use of simple washing and filtration steps instead of laborious purifications at intermediate steps. Solid-phase peptide synthesis may generally be performed according to the method of Merrifield et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1963, 85:2149, which involves assembling a linear peptide chain on a resin support using protected amino acids. Solid phase peptide synthesis typically utilizes either the Boc or Fmoc strategy, which are well known in the art.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that, in solid phase synthesis, deprotection and coupling reactions must go to completion and the side-chain blocking groups must be stable throughout the synthesis. In addition, solid phase synthesis is generally most suitable when peptides are to be made on a small scale.

Acetylation of the N-terminal can be accomplished by reacting the final peptide with acetic anhydride before cleavage from the resin. C-amidation is accomplished using an appropriate resin such as methylbenzhydrylamine resin using the Boc technology.

Alternatively the GCRA peptides are produced by modern cloning techniques For example, the GCRA peptides are produced either in bacteria including, without limitation, E. coli, or in other existing systems for polypeptide or protein production (*e.g.*, Bacillus subtilis, baculovirus expression systems using Drosophila Sf9 cells, yeast or filamentous fungal expression systems, mammalian cell expression systems), or they can be chemically synthesized. If the GCRA peptide or variant peptide is to be produced in bacteria, *e.g.*, E. coli, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide may also encode a leader sequence that permits the secretion of the mature polypeptide from the cell. Thus, the sequence encoding the polypeptide can include the pre sequence and the pro sequence of, for example, a naturally-occurring bacterial ST polypeptide. The secreted, mature polypeptide can be purified from the culture medium.

The sequence encoding a GCRA peptide described herein can be inserted into a vector capable of delivering and maintaining the nucleic acid molecule in a bacterial cell. The DNA molecule may be inserted into an autonomously replicating vector (suitable vectors include, for example, pGEM3Z and pcDNA3, and derivatives thereof). The vector nucleic acid may be a bacterial or bacteriophage DNA such as bacteriophage lambda or M13 and derivatives thereof. Construction of a vector containing a nucleic acid described herein can be followed by transformation of a host cell such as a bacterium. Suitable bacterial hosts include but are not limited to, E. coli, B subtilis, Pseudomonas, Salmonella. The genetic construct also includes, in addition to the encoding nucleic acid molecule, elements that allow expression, such as a promoter and regulatory sequences. The expression vectors may contain transcriptional control sequences that control transcriptional initiation, such as promoter, enhancer, operator, and repressor sequences.

A variety of transcriptional control sequences are well known to those in the art. The expression vector can also include a translation regulatory sequence (*e.g.*, an untranslated 5' sequence, an untranslated 3' sequence, or an internal ribosome entry site). The vector can be capable of autonomous replication or it can integrate into host DNA to ensure stability during polypeptide production.

The protein coding sequence that includes a GCRA peptide described herein can also be fused to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide affinity tag, *e.g.*, glutathione S-transferase (GST), maltose E binding protein, protein A, FLAG tag, hexa-histidine, myc tag or the influenza HA tag, in order to facilitate purification. The affinity tag or reporter fusion joins the reading frame of the polypeptide of interest to the reading frame of the gene encoding the affinity tag such that a translational fusion is generated. Expression of the fusion gene results in translation of a single polypeptide that includes both the polypeptide of interest and the affinity tag. In some instances where affinity tags are utilized, DNA sequence encoding a protease recognition site will be fused between the reading frames for the affinity tag and the polypeptide of interest.

Genetic constructs and methods suitable for production of immature and mature forms of the GCRA peptides and variants described herein in protein expression systems other than bacteria, and well known to those skilled in the art, can also be used to produce polypeptides in a biological system.

The peptides disclosed herein may be modified by attachment of a second molecule that confers a desired property upon the peptide, such as increased half-life in the body, for example, pegylation. Such modifications also fall within the scope of the term "variant" as used herein.

THERAPEUTIC METHODS

The present invention provides for both prophylactic and therapeutic methods of treating a subject at risk of (or susceptible to) a disorder or having a disorder associated that is mediated by guanylate cyclase receptor agonists. Disorders mediated by the guanylate cyclase receptor agonists include gastrointestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, lung disorders, cancer, cardiac disorders, eye disorders, oral disorders, blood disorders, liver disorders, skin disorders, prostate disorders, endocrine disorders, increasing gastrointestinal motility and obesity.Gastointestinal disorders include for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs , osteoporosis drugs; post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders. Inflammatory disorders include tissue and organ inflammation such as kidney inflammation (*e.g.*, nephritis), gastrointestinal system inflammation (*e.g.*, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); necrotizing enterocolitis; pancreatic inflammation (*e.g.*, pancreatis), lung inflammation (*e.g.*, bronchitis or asthma) or skin inflammation (*e.g.*, psoriasis, eczema) . Lung Disorders include for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and fibrosis. Cancer includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases such as for example gastrointestinal cancer, (*e.g.*, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer; lung cancer; thyroid cancer; skin cancer (*e.g.*, melanoma); oral cancer; urinary tract cancer (*e.g.* bladder cancer or kidney cancer); blood cancer (*e.g.* myeloma or leukemia) or prostate cancer. Cardiac disorders include for example, congestive heart failure, trachea cardia hypertension, high cholesterol, or high tryglycerides. Liver disorders include for example cirrhosis and fibrosis. Eye disorders include for example increased intra-ocular pressure, glaucoma, dry eyes retinal degeneration, disorders of tear glands or eye inflammation. Skin disorders include for example

xerosis. Oral disorders include for example dry mouth (xerostomia), Sjögren's syndrome, gum diseases (*e.g.*, periodontal disease), or salivary gland duct blockage or malfunction. Prostate disorders include for example benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Endocrine disorders include for example diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and cystic fibrosis.

The term "treatment" refers to reducing or alleviating symptoms in a subject, preventing symptoms from worsening or progressing, and/or preventing disease in a subject who is free therefrom. For a given subject, improvement in a symptom, its worsening, regression, or progression may be determined by any objective or subjective measure. Efficacy of the treatment may be measured as an improvement in morbidity or mortality (*e.g.*, lengthening of survival curve for a selected population). Thus, effective treatment would include therapy of existing disease, control of disease by slowing or stopping its progression, prevention of disease occurrence, reduction in the number or severity of symptoms, or a combination thereof. The effect may be shown in a controlled study using one or more statistically significant criteria.

Intracellular cGMP induced by exposing, *e.g.*, contacting a tissue (*e.g.*, gastrointestinals tissue) or cell with GCRA agonists. GC-C receptors are expressed throughout the GI tract starting from esophagus, duodenum, jejunum, ilium, caecum and colon. Human colon cancer cell lines (T81, CaCo-2 and HT-29) also express GC-C receptors. By inducing is meant an increase in cGMP production compared to a tissue or cell that has not been in contact with GCRA peptide or variant. Tissues or cells are directly contacted with a GCRA peptide or variant. Alternatively, the GCRA peptide or variant is administered systemically. GCRA peptide or variant are administered in an amount sufficient to increase intracellular cGMP concentration. cGMP production is measured by a cell-based assay known in the art (25).

Disorders are treated, prevented or alleviated by administering to a subject, *e.g.*, a mammal such as a human in need thereof, a therapeutically effective dose of a GCRA peptide. The GCRA peptides may be in a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The term "unit dose form" refers to a single drug delivery entity, *e.g.*, a tablet, capsule, solution or inhalation formulation. The amount of peptide present should be sufficient to have a positive therapeutic effect when administered to a patient (typically, between 10 μg and 3 g). What constitutes a "positive therapeutic effect" will depend upon the particular condition being treated and will include any significant improvement in a condition readily recognized by one of skill in the art.

The GCRA peptides can be administered alone or in combination with other agents. For example the GCRA peptides can be administered in combination with inhibitors of cGMP dependent phosphodiesterase, such as, for example, suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, motapizone, vardenafil or sildenifil; one or more other chemotherapeutic agents; or anti-inflammatory drugs such as, for example, steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), such as aspirin.

Combination therapy can be achieved by administering two or more agents, *e.g.*, a GCRA peptide described herein and another compound, each of which is formulated and administered separately, or by administering two or more agents in a single formulation. Other combinations are also encompassed by combination therapy. For example, two agents can be formulated together and administered in conjunction with a separate formulation containing a third agent. While the two or more agents in the combination therapy can be administered simultaneously, they need not be. For example, administration of a first agent (or combination of agents) can precede administration of a second agent (or combination of agents) by minutes, hours, days, or weeks. Thus, the two or more agents can be administered within minutes of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, or 24 hours of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 days of each other or within 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 weeks of each other. In some cases even longer intervals are possible. While in many cases it is desirable that the two or more agents used in a combination therapy be present in within the patient's body at the same time, this need not be so.

The GCRA peptides described herein may be combined with phosphodiesterase inhibitors, *e.g.*, sulindae sulfone, Zaprinast, sildenafil, vardenafil or tadalafil to further enhance levels of cGMP in the target tissues or organs.

Combination therapy can also include two or more administrations of one or more of the agents used in the combination. For example, if agent X and agent Y are used in a combination, one could administer them sequentially in any combination one or more times, *e.g.*, in the order X-Y- X, X-X-Y, Y-X-Y,Y-Y-X,X-X-Y-Y, etc.

Combination therapy can also include the administration of one of the GC-C agonist with azothioprine and/or other immunomodulating agents. The immunomodulating agents may include small molecule drugs and biologics such as Remicade, Humaira, Cimzia etc.

Combination therapy can also include the administration of two or more agents via different routes or locations. For example, (a) one agent is administered orally and another agents is administered intravenously or (b) one agent is administered orally and another is administered locally. In each case, the agents can either simultaneously or sequentially. Approximated dosages for some of the combination therapy agents described herein are found in the "BNF Recommended Dose" column of tables on pages 11-17 of WO01/76632 (the data in the tables being attributed to the March 2000 British National Formulary) and can also be found in other standard formularies and other drug prescribing directories. For some drugs, the customary presecribed dose for an indication will vary somewhat from country to country.

The GCRA peptides, alone or in combination, can be combined with any pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or medium. Thus, they can be combined with materials that do not produce an adverse, allergic or otherwise unwanted reaction when administered to a patient. The carriers or mediums used can include solvents, dispersants, coatings, absorption promoting agents, controlled release agents, and one or more inert excipients (which include starches, polyols, granulating agents, microcrystalline cellulose (*e.g.* celphere, Celphere beads®), diluents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents, and the like), etc. If desired, tablet dosages of the disclosed compositions may be coated by standard aqueous or nonaqueous techniques.

A pharmaceutical composition of the invention is formulated to be compatible with its intended route of administration. Examples of routes of administration include parenteral, *e.g.*, intravenous, intradermal, subcutaneous, oral (*e.g.*, inhalation), transdermal (topical), transmucosal, and rectal administration. Solutions or suspensions used for parenteral, intradermal, or subcutaneous application can include the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, polyethylene glycols, glycerine, propylene glycol or other synthetic solvents; antibacterial agents such as benzyl alcohol or methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates, and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. The pH can be adjusted with acids or bases, such as hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. The parenteral preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion. For intravenous administration, suitable carriers include physiological saline, bacteriostatic water, Cremophor EL™ (BASF, Parsippany, N.J.) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). In all cases, the composition must be sterile and should be fluid to the extent that easy syringeability exists. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), and suitable mixtures thereof. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be achieved by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, ascorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, polyalcohols such as manitol, sorbitol, sodium chloride in the composition. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by including in the composition an agent which delays absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

Sterile injectable solutions can be prepared by incorporating the active compound (*e.g.*, a GCRA agonist) in the required amount in an appropriate solvent with one or a combination of ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the active compound into a sterile vehicle that contains a basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, methods of preparation are vacuum drying and freeze-drying that yields a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

Oral compositions generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier. Such as mannitol, fructooligosaccharides, polyethylene glycol and other excepients. They can be enclosed in gelatin capsules or compressed into tablets. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of

tablets, troches, or capsules. Oral compositions can also be prepared using a fluid carrier for use as a mouthwash, wherein the compound in the fluid carrier is applied orally and swished and expectorated or swallowed. Pharmaceutically compatible binding agents, and/or adjuvant materials can be included as part of the composition. The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like can contain any of the following ingredients, or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth or gelatin; an excipient such as starch or lactose, a disintegrating agent such as alginic acid, Primogel, or corn starch; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate or Sterotes; a glidant such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; or a flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or orange flavoring.

For administration by inhalation, the compounds are delivered in the form of an aerosol spray from pressured container or dispenser which contains a suitable propellant, *e.g.*, a gas such as carbon dioxide, or a nebulizer.

Systemic administration can also be by transmucosal or transdermal means. For transmucosal or transdermal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art, and include, for example, for transmucosal administration, detergents, bile salts, and fusidic acid derivatives. Transmucosal administration can be accomplished through the use of nasal sprays or suppositories. For transdermal administration, the active compounds are formulated into ointments, salves, gels, or creams as generally known in the art.

The compounds can also be prepared in the form of suppositories (*e.g.*, with conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter and other glycerides) or retention enemas for rectal delivery.

In one embodiment, the active compounds are prepared with carriers that will protect the compound against rapid elimination from the body, such as a controlled release formulation, including implants and microencapsulated delivery systems. Biodegradable, biocompatible polymers can be used, such as ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid, collagen, polyorthoesters, and polylactic acid. Methods for preparation of such formulations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The materials can also be obtained commercially from Alza Corporation and Nova Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Liposomal suspensions (including liposomes targeted to infected cells with monoclonal antibodies to viral antigens) can also be used as

pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These can be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art, for example, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,522,811, incorporated fully herein by reference.

It is especially advantageous to formulate oral or parenteral compositions in dosage unit form for ease of administration and uniformity of dosage. Dosage unit form as used herein refers to physically discrete units suited as unitary dosages for the subject to be treated; each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active compound calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier. The specification for the dosage unit forms of the invention are dictated by and directly dependent on the unique characteristics of the active compound and the particular therapeutic effect to be achieved.

The pharmaceutical compositions can be included in a container, pack, or dispenser together with instructions for administration.

Compositions of the present invention may also optionally include other therapeutic ingredients, anti-caking agents, preservatives, sweetening agents, colorants, flavors, desiccants, plasticizers, dyes, glidants, anti-adherents, anti-static agents, surfactants (wetting agents), anti-oxidants, film- coating agents, and the like. Any such optional ingredient must be compatible with the compound described herein to insure the stability of the formulation.

The composition may contain other additives as needed, including for exanple lactose, glucose, fructose, galactose, trehalose, sucrose, maltose, raffnose, maltitol, melezitose, stachyose, lactitol, palatinite, starch, xylitol, mannitol, myoinositol, and the like, and hydrates thereof, and amino acids, for example alanine, glycine and betaine, and polypeptides and proteins, for example albumen.

Examples of excipients for use as the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and the pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers and the aforementioned additional ingredients include, but are not limited to binders, fillers, disintegrants, lubricants, anti-microbial agents, and coating agents such as: BINDERS: corn starch, potato starch, other starches, gelatin, natural and synthetic gums such as acacia, xanthan, sodium alginate, alginic acid, other alginates, powdered tragacanth, guar gum, cellulose and its derivatives (*e.g.*, ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethyl cellulose calcium, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose), polyvinyl pyrrolidone (*e.g.*, povidone, crospovidone, copovidone, etc), methyl cellulose, Methocel, pre-gelatinized starch

(*e.g.*, STARCH 1500® and STARCH 1500 LM®, sold by Colorcon, Ltd.), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose (FMC Corporation, Marcus Hook, PA, USA), or mixtures thereof, FILLERS: talc, calcium carbonate (*e.g.*, granules or powder), dibasic calcium phosphate, tribasic calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate (*e.g.*, granules or powder), microcrystalline cellulose, powdered cellulose, dextrates, kaolin, mannitol, silicic acid, sorbitol, starch, pre-gelatinized starch, dextrose, fructose, honey, lactose anhydrate, lactose monohydrate, lactose and aspartame, lactose and cellulose, lactose and microcrystalline cellulose, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose & guar gum, molasses, sucrose,or mixtures thereof, DISINTEGRANTS: agar-agar, alginic acid, calcium carbonate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, polacrilin potassium, sodium starch glycolate, potato or tapioca starch, other starches, pre-gelatinized starch, clays, other algins, other celluloses, gums (like gellan), low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, or mixtures thereof, LUBRICANTS: calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, mineral oil, light mineral oil, glycerin, sorbitol, mannitol, polyethylene glycol, other glycols, stearic acid, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium stearyl fumarate, vegetable based fatty acids lubricant, talc, hydrogenated vegetable oil (*e.g.*, peanut oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, sesame oil, olive oil, corn oil and soybean oil), zinc stearate, ethyl oleate, ethyl laurate, agar, syloid silica gel (AEROSIL 200, W.R. Grace Co., Baltimore, MD USA), a coagulated aerosol of synthetic silica (Deaussa Co., Piano, TX USA), a pyrogenic silicon dioxide (CAB-O-SIL, Cabot Co., Boston, MA USA), or mixtures thereof, ANTI-CAKING AGENTS: calcium silicate, magnesium silicate, silicon dioxide, colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, or mixtures thereof, ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS: benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, butyl paraben, cetylpyridinium chloride, cresol, chlorobutanol, dehydroacetic acid, ethylparaben, methylparaben, phenol, phenylethyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, phenylmercuric acetate, phenylmercuric nitrate, potassium sorbate, propylparaben, sodium benzoate, sodium dehydroacetate, sodium propionate, sorbic acid, thimersol, thymo, or mixtures thereof, and COATING AGENTS: sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, ethylcellulose, gelatin, pharmaceutical glaze, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (hypromellose), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, methylcellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, shellac, sucrose, titanium dioxide, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, gellan gum, maltodextrin, methacrylates, microcrystalline cellulose and carrageenan or mixtures thereof.

The formulation can also include other excipients and categories thereof including but not limited to L-histidine, Pluronic®, Poloxamers (such as Lutrol® and Poloxamer 188), ascorbic acid, glutathione, permeability enhancers (*e.g.* lipids, sodium cholate, acylcarnitine, salicylates, mixed bile salts, fatty acid micelles, chelators, fatty acid, surfactants, medium chain glycerides), protease inhibitors *(e.g.* soybean trypsin inhibitor, organic acids), pH lowering agents and absorption enhancers effective to promote bioavailability (including but not limited to those described in US6086918 and US5912014), creams and lotions (like maltodextrin and carrageenans); materials for chewable tablets (like dextrose, fructose, lactose monohydrate, lactose and aspartame, lactose and cellulose, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose and guar gum, sorbitol crystalline); parenterals (like mannitol and povidone); plasticizers (like dibutyl sebacate, plasticizers for coatings, polyvinylacetate phthalate); powder lubricants (like glyceryl behenate); soft gelatin capsules (like sorbitol special solution); spheres for coating (like sugar spheres); spheronization agents (like glyceryl behenate and microcrystalline cellulose); suspending/gelling agents (like carrageenan, gellan gum, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, xanthan gum); sweeteners (like aspartame, aspartame and lactose, dextrose, fructose, honey, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, molasses, sorbitol crystalline, sorbitol special solution, sucrose); wet granulation agents (like calcium carbonate, lactose anhydrous, lactose monohydrate, maltodextrin, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, starch), caramel, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, cherry cream flavor and cherry flavor, citric acid anhydrous, citric acid, confectioner's sugar, D&C Red No. 33, D&C Yellow #10 Aluminum Lake, disodium edetate, ethyl alcohol 15%, FD&C Yellow No. 6 aluminum lake, FD&C Blue # 1 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Blue No. 1, FD&C blue no. 2 aluminum lake, FD&C Green No.3, FD&C Red No. 40, FD&C Yellow No. 6 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Yellow No. 6, FD&C Yellow No.10, glycerol palmitostearate, glyceryl monostearate, indigo carmine, lecithin, manitol, methyl and propyl parabens, mono ammonium glycyrrhizinate, natural and artificial orange flavor, pharmaceutical glaze, poloxamer 188, Polydextrose, polysorbate 20, polysorbate 80, polyvidone, pregelatinized corn starch, pregelatinized starch, red iron oxide, saccharin sodium, sodium carboxymethyl ether, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, sodium phosphate, strawberry flavor, synthetic black iron oxide, synthetic red iron oxide, titanium dioxide, and white wax.

Solid oral dosage forms may optionally be treated with coating systems (*e.g.* Opadry® fx film coating system, for example Opadry® blue (OY-LS-20921), Opadry® white (YS-2-7063), Opadry® white (YS- 1-7040), and black ink (S- 1-8 106).

The agents either in their free form or as a salt can be combined with a polymer such as polylactic-glycoloic acid (PLGA), poly-(I)-lactic-glycolic-tartaric acid (P(I)LGT) (WO 01/12233), polyglycolic acid (U.S. 3,773,919), polylactic acid (U.S. 4,767,628), poly(ε-caprolactone) and poly(alkylene oxide) (U.S. 20030068384) to create a sustained release formulation. Such formulations can be used to implants that release a polypeptide or another agent over a period of a few days, a few weeks or several months depending on the polymer, the particle size of the polymer, and the size of the implant (*See, e.g.*, U.S. 6,620,422). Other sustained release formulations and polymers for use in are described in EP 0 467 389 A2, WO 93/24150, U.S. 5,612,052, WO 97/40085, WO 03/075887, WO 01/01964A2, U.S. 5,922,356, WO 94/155587, WO 02/074247A2, WO 98/25642, U.S. 5,968,895, U.S. 6,180,608, U.S. 20030171296. U.S. 20020176841, U.S. 5,672,659, U.S. 5,893,985, U.S. 5,134,122, U.S. 5,192,741, U.S. 5,192,741, U.S. 4,668,506, U.S. 4,713,244, U.S. 5,445,832 U.S. 4,931,279, U.S. ,5, 980,945, WO 02/058672, WO 9726015, WO 97/04744, and US200200 19446. In such sustained release formulations microparticles (Delie and Blanco-Prieto 2005 Molecule 10:65-80) of polypeptide are combined with microparticles of polymer. One or more sustained release implants can be placed in the large intestine, the small intestine or both. U.S. 6,011,0 1 and WO 94/06452 describe a sustained release formulation providing either polyethylene glycols (*i.e.* PEG 300 and PEG 400) or triacetin. WO 03/053401 describes a formulation which may both enhance bioavailability and provide controlled releaseof the agent within the GI tract. Additional controlled release formulations are described in WO 02/38129, EP 326151, U.S. 5,236,704, WO 02/30398, WO 98/13029; U.S. 20030064105, U.S. 20030138488A1, U.S. 20030216307A1, U.S. 6,667,060, WO 01/49249, WO 01/49311, WO 01/49249, WO 01/49311, and U.S. 5,877,224 materials which may include those described in WO04041195 (including the seal and enteric coating described therein) and pH-sensitive coatings that achieve delivery in the colon including those described in US4,910,021 and WO9001329. US4910021 describes using a pH-sensitive material to coat a capsule. WO9001329 describes using pH-sensitive coatings on beads containing acid, where the acid in the bead core prolongs dissolution of the pH-sensitive coating. U. S. Patent No. 5,175,003 discloses a dual mechanism polymer mixture composed of pH-

sensitive enteric materials and film-forming plasticizers capable of conferring permeability to the enteric material, for use in drug-delivery systems; a matrix pellet composed of a dual mechanism polymer mixture permeated with a drug and sometimes covering a pharmaceutically neutral nucleus; a membrane- coated pellet comprising a matrix pellet coated with a dual mechanism polymer mixture envelope of the same or different composition; and a pharmaceutical dosage form containing matrix pellets. The matrix pellet releases acid-soluble drugs by diffusion in acid pH and by disintegration at pH levels of nominally about 5.0 or higher.

The GCRA peptideds described herein may be formulated in the pH triggered targeted control release systems described in WO04052339. The agents described herein may be formulated according to the methodology described in any of WO03105812 (extruded hyrdratable polymers); WO0243767 (enzyme cleavable membrane translocators); WO03007913 and WO03086297 (mucoadhesive systems); WO02072075 (bilayer laminated formulation comprising pH lowering agent and absorption enhancer); WO04064769 (amidated polypeptides); WO05063156 (solid lipid suspension with pseudotropic and/or thixotropic properties upon melting); WO03035029 and WO03035041 (erodible, gastric retentive dosage forms); US5007790 and US5972389 (sustained release dosage forms); WO041 1271 1 (oral extended release compositions); WO05027878, WO02072033, and WO02072034 (delayed release compositions with natural or synthetic gum); WO05030182 (controlled release formulations with an ascending rate of release); WO05048998 (microencapsulation system); US Patent 5,952,314 (biopolymer); US5,108,758 (glassy amylose matrix delivery); US 5,840,860 (modified starch based delivery). JP10324642 (delivery system comprising chitosan and gastric resistant material such as wheat gliadin or zein); US5,866,619 and US6,368,629 (saccharide containing polymer); US 6,531,152 (describes a drug delivery system containing a water soluble core (Ca pectinate or other water-insoluble polymers) and outer coat which bursts (*e.g.* hydrophobic polymer-Eudragrit)); US 6,234,464; US 6,403,130 (coating with polymer containing casein and high methoxy pectin; WO0174 175 (Maillard reaction product); WO05063206 (solubility increasing formulation); WO040 19872 (transferring fusion proteins).

The GCRA peptides described herein may be formulated using gastrointestinal retention system technology (GIRES; Merrion Pharmaceuticals). GIRES comprises a controlled-release dosage form inside an inflatable pouch, which is placed in a drug capsule for oral administration. Upon dissolution of the capsule, a gas-generating system inflates the pouch in the stomach where

it is retained for 16-24 hours, all the time releasing agents described herein.

The GCRA peptides described herein can be formulated in an osmotic device including the ones disclosed in US4,503,030, US5,609,590 and US5,358,502. US4,503,030 discloses an osmotic device for dispensing a drug to certain pH regions of the gastrointestinal tract. More particularly, the invention relates to an osmotic device comprising a wall formed of a semi-permeable pH sensitive composition that surrounds a compartment containing a drug, with a passageway through the wall connecting the exterior of the device with the compartment. The device delivers the drug at a controlled rate in the region of the gastrointestinal tract having a pH of less than 3.5, and the device self- destructs and releases all its drug in the region of the gastrointestinal tract having a pH greater than 3.5, thereby providing total availability for drug absorption. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,609,590 and 5, 358,502 disclose an osmotic bursting device for dispensing a beneficial agent to an aqueous environment. The device comprises a beneficial agent and osmagent surrounded at least in part by a semi-permeable membrane. The beneficial agent may also function as the osmagent. The semi-permeable membrane is permeable to water and substantially impermeable to the beneficial agent and osmagent. A trigger means is attached to the semi-permeable membrane *(e.g.*,joins two capsule halves). The trigger means is activated by a pH of from 3 to 9 and triggers the eventual, but sudden, delivery of the beneficial agent. These devices enable the pH-triggered release of the beneficial agent core as a bolus by osmotic bursting.

EXEMPLARY AGENTS FOR COMBINATION THERAPY

Analgesic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an analgesic agent, *e.g.*, an analgesic compound or an analgesic polypeptide. These polypeptides and compounds can be administered with the GCRA peptides described herein (simultaneously or sequentially). They can also be optionally covalently linked or attached to an agent described herein to create therapeutic conjugates. Among the useful analgesic agents are: Ca channel blockers, 5HT receptor antagonists (for example 5HT3, 5HT4 and 5HTl receptor antagonists), opioid receptor agonists (loperamide, fedotozine, and fentanyl), NKl receptor antagonists, CCK receptor agonists (*e.g.*, loxiglumide), NKl receptor antagonists, NK3 receptor antagonists, norepinephrine-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (NSRI), vanilloid and cannabanoid receptor agonists, and sialorphin. Analgesics agents in the various classes are described in the literature.

Among the useful analgesic polypeptides are sialorphin-related polypeptides, including those comprising the amino acid sequence QHNPR (SEQ ID NO:), including: VQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); VRGPRRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:); and RQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:). Sialorphin-related polypeptides bind to neprilysin and inhibit neprilysin- mediated breakdown of substance P and Met-enkephalin. Thus, compounds or polypeptides that are inhibitors of neprilysin are useful analgesic agents which can be administered with the polypeptides described herein in a co-therapy or linked to the polypeptides described herein, *e.g.*, by a covalent bond. Sialophin and related polypeptides are described in U.S. Patent 6,589,750; U.S. 20030078200 Al; and WO 02/051435 A2.

Opioid receptor antagonists and agonists can be administered with the GCRA peptides described herein in co-therapy or linked to the agent described herein, *e.g.*, by a covalent bond. For example, opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone, naltrexone, methyl nalozone, nalmefene, cypridime, beta funaltrexamine, naloxonazine, naltrindole, and nor-binaltorphimine are thought to be useful in the treatment of IBS. It can be useful to formulate opioid antagonists of this type is a delayed and sustained release formulation such that initial release of the antagonist is in the mid to distal small intestine and/or ascending colon. Such antagonists are described in WO 01/32180 A2. Enkephalin pentapeptide (HOE825; Tyr-D-Lys-Gly-Phe-L-homoserine) is an agonist of the mu and delta opioid receptors and is thought to be useful for increasing intestinal motility {Eur. J. Pharm. 219:445, 1992), and this polypeptide can be used in conjunction with the polypeptides described herein. Also useful is trimebutine which is thought to bind to mu/delta/kappa opioid receptors and activate release of motilin and modulate the release of gastrin, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide, gastrin and glucagons. Kappa opioid receptor agonists such as fedotozine, asimadoline, and ketocyclazocine, and compounds described in WO03/097051 and WO05/007626 can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein. In addition, mu opioid receptor agonists such as morphine, diphenyloxylate, frakefamide (H-Tyr-D-Ala-Phe(F)-Phe-NH 2; WO 01/019849 Al) and loperamide can be used.

Tyr-Arg (kyotorphin) is a dipeptide that acts by stimulating the release of met-enkephalins to elicit an analgesic effect (J. Biol. Chem 262:8165, 1987). Kyotorphin can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

Chromogranin-derived polypeptide (CgA 47-66; *See, e.g.*, Ghia et al. 2004 Regulatory polypeptides 119:199) can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

CCK receptor agonists such as caerulein from amphibians and other species are useful analgesic agents that can be used with or linked to the GCRA peptides described herein.

Conotoxin polypeptides represent a large class of analgesic polypeptides that act at voltage gated calcium channels, NMDA receptors or nicotinic receptors. These polypeptides can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Peptide analogs of thymulin (FR Application 2830451) can have analgesic activity and can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

CCK (CCKa or CCKb) receptor antagonists, including loxiglumide and dexloxiglumide (the R- isomer of loxiglumide) (WO 88/05774) can have analgesic activity and can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Other useful analgesic agents include 5-HT4 agonists such as tegaserod (Zelnorm®), mosapride, metoclopramide, zacopride, cisapride, renzapride, benzimidazolone derivatives such as BIMU 1 and BIMU 8, and lirexapride. Such agonists are described in: EP1321 142 Al, WO 03/053432A1, EP 505322 Al, EP 505322 Bl, US 5,510,353, EP 507672 Al, EP 507672 Bl, and US 5,273,983.

Calcium channel blockers such as ziconotide and related compounds described in, for example, EP625162B1, US 5,364,842, US 5,587,454, US 5,824,645, US 5,859,186, US 5,994,305, US 6087,091, US 6,136,786, WO 93/13128 Al, EP 1336409 Al, EP 835126 Al, EP 835126 Bl, US 5,795,864, US 5,891,849, US 6,054,429, WO 97/01351 Al, can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Various antagonists of the NK-I, NK-2, and NK-3 receptors (for a review see Giardina et al. 2003.Drugs 6:758) can be can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NKl receptor antagonists such as: aprepitant (Merck & Co Inc), vofopitant, ezlopitant (Pfizer, Inc.), R-673 (Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd), SR-48968 (Sanofi Synthelabo), CP-122,721 (Pfizer, Inc.), GW679769 (Glaxo Smith Kline), TAK-637 (Takeda/Abbot), SR-14033, and related compounds described in, for example, EP 873753 Al, US 20010006972 Al, US 20030109417 Al, WO 01/52844 Al, can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NK-2 receptor antagonists such as nepadutant (Menarini Ricerche SpA), saredutant (Sanofi- Synthelabo), GW597599 (Glaxo Smith Kline), SR-144190 (Sanofi-Synthelabo) and UK-290795 (Pfizer Inc) can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

NK3 receptor antagonists such as osanetant (SR-142801; Sanofi-Synthelabo), SSR-241586, talnetant and related compounds described in, for example, WO 02/094187 A2, EP 876347 Al, WO 97/21680 Al, US 6,277,862, WO 98/1 1090, WO 95/28418, WO 97/19927, and Boden et al. (J Med Chem. 39:1664-75, 1996) can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Norepinephrine-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (NSRI) such as milnacipran and related compounds described in WO 03/077897 Al can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

Vanilloid receptor antagonists such as arvanil and related compouds described in WO 01/64212 Al can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein.

The analgesic polypeptides and compounds can be administered with the polypeptides and agonists described herein (simultaneously or sequentially). The analgesic agents can also be covalently linked to the polypeptides and agonists described herein to create therapeutic conjugates. Where the analgesic is a polypeptide and is covalently linked to an agent described herein the resulting polypeptide may also include at least one trypsin cleavage site. When present within the polypeptide, the analgesic polypeptide may be preceded by (if it is at the carboxy terminus) or followed by (if it is at the amino terminus) a trypsin cleavage site that allows release of the analgesic polypeptide.

In addition to sialorphin-related polypeptides, analgesic polypeptides include: AspPhe, endomorphin-1, endomorphin-2, nocistatin, dalargin, lupron, ziconotide, and substance P.

Agents to Treat Gastrointestinal Disorders

Examples of additional therapeutic agents to treat gastrointestinal and other disorders include agents to treat constipation (*e.g.*, a chloride channel activator such as the bicylic fatty acid, Lubiprostone (formerly known as SPI-0211; Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Bethesda, MD), a laxative (*e.g.* a bulk-forming laxative (*e.g.* nonstarch polysaccharides, Colonel Tablet (polycarbophil calcium), Plantago Ovata®, Equalactin® (Calcium Polycarbophil)), fiber (*e.g.* FIBERCON® (Calcium Polycarbophil), an osmotic laxative, a stimulant laxative (such as

diphenylmethanes (*e.g.* bisacodyl), anthraquinones (*e.g.* cascara, senna), and surfactant laxatives (*e.g.* castor oil, docusates), an emollient/lubricating agent (such as mineral oil, glycerine, and docusates), MiraLax (Braintree Laboratories, Braintree MA), dexloxiglumide (Forest Laboratories, also known as CR 2017 Rottapharm (Rotta Research Laboratorium SpA)), saline laxatives, enemas, suppositories, and CR 3700 (Rottapharm (Rotta Research Laboratorium SpA); acid reducing agents such as proton pump inhibitors (*e.g.*, omeprazole (Prilosec®), esomeprazole (Nexium®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), pantoprazole (Protonix®) and rabeprazole (Aciphex®)) and Histamine H2 -receptor antagonist (also known as H2 receptor blockers including cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine and nizatidine); prokinetic agents including itopride, octreotide, bethanechol, metoclopramide (Reglan®), domperidone (Motilium®), erythromycin (and derivatives thereof) or cisapride (propulsid®); Prokineticin polypeptides homologs, variants and chimeras thereof including those described in US 7,052,674 which can be used with or linked to the polypeptides described herein; pro-motility agents such as the vasostatin-derived polypeptide, chromogranin A (4-16) (*See, e.g.*, Ghia et al. 2004 Regulatory polypeptides 121:31) or motilin agonists (*e.g.*, GM-611 or mitemcinal fumarate) or nociceptin/Orphanin FQ receptor modulators (US20050169917); other peptides which can bind to and/or activate GC-C including those described in US20050287067; complete or partial 5HT (*e.g.* 5HTl, 5HT2, 5HT3, 5HT4) receptor agonists or antagonists (including 5HT1A antagonists (*e.g.* AGI-OOl (AGI therapeutics), 5HT2B antagonists (*e.g.* PGN 1091 and PGNl 164 (Pharmagene Laboratories Limited), and 5HT4 receptor agonists (such as tegaserod (ZELNORM®), prucalopride, mosapride, metoclopramide, zacopride, cisapride, renzapride, benzimidazolone derivatives such as BIMU 1 and BIMU 8, and lirexapride). Such agonists/modulators are described in: EP1321142 Al, WO 03/053432A1, EP 505322 Al, EP 505322 Bl, US 5,510,353, EP 507672 Al, EP 507672 Bl, US 5,273,983, and US 6,951,867); 5HT3 receptor agonists such as MKC-733; and 5HT3 receptor antagonists such as DDP-225 (MCI-225; Dynogen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), cilansetron (Calmactin®), alosetron (Lotronex®), Ondansetron HCl (Zofran®), Dolasetron (ANZEMET®), palonosetron (Aloxi®), Granisetron (Kytril®), YM060(ramosetron; Astellas Pharma Inc.; ramosetron may be given as a daily dose of 0.002 to 0.02 mg as described in EP01588707) and ATI-7000 (Aryx Therapeutics, Santa Clara CA); muscarinic receptor agonists; anti-inflammatory agents; antispasmodics including but not limited to anticholinergic drugs (like dicyclomine (*e.g.* Colimex®, Formulex®, Lomine®, Protylol®, Visceral®, Spasmoban®,

Bentyl®, Bentylol®), hyoscyamine (*e.g.* IB-Stat®, Nulev®, Levsin®, Levbid®, Levsinex Timecaps®, Levsin/SL®, Anaspaz®, A-Spas S/L®, Cystospaz®, Cystospaz-M®, Donnamar®, Colidrops Liquid Pediatric®, Gastrosed®, Hyco Elixir®, Hyosol®, Hyospaz®, Hyosyne®, Losamine®, Medispaz®, Neosol®, Spacol®, Spasdel®, Symax®, Symax SL®), Donnatal (*e.g.* Donnatal Extentabs®), clidinium (*e.g.* Quarzan, in combination with Librium = Librax), methantheline (*e.g.* Banthine), Mepenzolate (*e.g.* Cantil), homatropine (*e.g.* hycodan, Homapin), Propantheline bromide (*e.g.* Pro-Banthine), Glycopyrrolate (*e.g.* Robinul®, Robinul Forte®), scopolamine (*e.g.* Transderm-Scop®, Transderm-V®), hyosine-N-butylbromide (*e.g.* Buscopan®), Pirenzepine (*e.g.* Gastrozepin®) Propantheline Bromide (*e.g.* Propanthel®), dicycloverine (*e.g.* Merbentyl®), glycopyrronium bromide (*e.g.* Glycopyrrolate®), hyoscine hydrobromide, hyoscine methobromide, methanthelinium, and octatropine); peppermint oil; and direct smooth muscle relaxants like cimetropium bromide, mebeverine (DUSPATAL®, DUSPATALIN®, COLOFAC MR®, COLOTAL®), otilonium bromide (octilonium), pinaverium (*e.g.* Dicetel® (pinaverium bromide; Solvay S. A.)), Spasfon® (hydrated phloroglucinol and trimethylphloroglucinol)and trimebutine (including trimebutine maleate (Modulon®); antidepressants, including but not limited to those listed herein, as well as tricyclic antidepressants like amitriptyline (Elavil®), desipramine (Norpramin®), imipramine (Tofranil®), amoxapine (Asendin®), nortriptyline; the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRTs) like paroxetine (Paxil®), fluoxetine (Prozac®), sertraline (Zoloft®), and citralopram (Celexa®); and others like doxepin (Sinequan®) and trazodone (Desyrel®); centrally-acting analgesic agents such as opioid receptor agonists, opioid receptor antagonists (*e.g.*, naltrexone); agents for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease; agents for the treatment of Crohn's disease and/or ulcerative colitis (*e.g.*, alequel (Enzo Biochem, Inc.; Farmingsale, NY), the anti-inflammatory polypeptide RDP58 (Genzyme, Inc.; Cambridge, MA), and TRAFICET-EN™ (ChemoCentryx, Inc.; San Carlos, CA); agents that treat gastrointestinal or visceral pain; agents that increase cGMP levels (as described in US20040121994) like adrenergic receptor antagonists, dopamine receptor agonists and PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitors including but not limited to those disclosed herein; purgatives that draw fluids to the intestine (*e.g.*, VISICOL®, a combination of sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate and sodium phosphate dibasic anhydrate); Corticotropin Releasing Factor (CRF) receptor antagonists (including NBI-34041 (Neurocrine Biosciences, San Diego, CA), CRH9-41, astressin, R121919 (Janssen

Pharmaceutica), CP154,526, NBI-27914, Antalarmin, DMP696 (Bristol-Myers Squibb) CP-316,311 (Pfizer, Inc.), SB723620 (GSK), GW876008 (Neurocrine/Glaxo Smith Klinc), ONO-2333Ms (Ono Pharmaceuticals), TS-041 (Janssen), AAG561 (Novartis) and those disclosed in US 5,063,245, US 5,861,398, US20040224964, US20040198726, US20040176400, US20040171607, US20040110815, US20040066066, and US20050209253); glucagon- like polypeptides (glp-1) and analogues thereof (including exendin-4 and GTP-010 (Gastrotech Pharma A)) and inhibitors of DPP-IV (DPP-IV mediates the inactivation of glp-1); tofisopam, enantiomerically-pure R-tofisopam, and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof (US 20040229867); tricyclic anti-depressants of the dibenzothiazepine type including but not limited to Dextofisopam® (Vela Pharmaceuticals), tianeptine (Stablon®) and other agents described in US 6,683,072; (E)-4 (1 ,3bis(cyclohexylmethyl)-l ,2,34,-tetrahydro-2,6-diono-9H-purin-8-yl)cinnamic acid nonaethylene glycol methyl ether ester and related compounds described in WO 02/067942; the probiotic PROBACTRIX® (The BioBalance Corporation; New York, NY) which contains microorganisms useful in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders; antidiarrheal drugs including but not limited to loperamide (Imodium, Pepto Diarrhea), diphenoxylate with atropine (Lomotil, Lomocot), cholestyramine (Questran, Cholybar), atropine (Co-Phenotrope, Diarsed, Diphenoxylate, Lofene, Logen, Lonox, Vi-Atro, atropine sulfate injection) and Xifaxan® (rifaximin; Salix Pharmaceuticals Ltd), TZP-201(Tranzyme Pharma Inc.), the neuronal acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) blocker AGI-004 (AGI therapeutics), and bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-bismol); anxiolytic drugs including but not limited toAtivan (lorazepam), alprazolam (Xanax®), chlordiazepoxide/clidinium (Librium®, Librax®), clonazepam (Klonopin®), clorazepate (Tranxene®), diazepam (Valium®), estazolam (ProSom®), flurazepam (Dalmane®), oxazepam (Serax®), prazepam (Centrax®), temazepam (Restoril®), triazolam (Halcion®; Bedelix® (Montmorillonite beidellitic; Ipsen Ltd), Solvay SLV332 (ArQule Inc), YKP (SK Pharma), Asimadoline (Tioga Pharmaceuticals/Merck), AGI-003 (AGI Therapeutics); neurokinin antagonists including those described in US20060040950; potassium channel modulators including those described in US7,002,015; the serotonin modulator AZD7371 (AstraZeneca Plc); M3 muscarinic receptor antagonists such as darifenacin (Enablex; Novartis AG and zamifenacin (Pfizer); herbal and natural therapies including but not limited to acidophilus, chamomile tea, evening primrose oil, fennel seeds,wormwood, comfrey, and compounds of Bao-Ji-Wan (magnolol, honokiol, imperatorin, and isoimperatorin) as in

US6923992; and compositions comprising lysine and an anti-stress agent for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome as described in EPO 1550443.

Insulin and Insulin Modulating Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with insulin and related compounds including primate, rodent, or rabbit insulin including biologically active variants thereof including allelic variants, more preferably human insulin available in recombinant form. Sources of human insulin include pharmaceutically acceptable and sterile formulations such as those available from Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, Ind. 46285) as Humulin™ (human insulin rDNA origin). *See*, the THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE, 55.sup.th Ed. (2001) Medical Economics, Thomson Healthcare (disclosing other suitable human insulins).

The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with agents that can boost insulin effects or levels of a subject upon administration, *e.g.* glipizide and/or rosiglitazone. The polypeptides and agonistsdescribed herein can be used in combitherapy with SYMLIN® (pramlintide acetate) and Exenatide® (synthetic exendin-4; a 39 aa polypeptide).

Agents for the Treatment of Postoperative Ileus

The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with agents (*e.g.*, Entereg™ (alvimopan; formerly called ado lor/ ADL 8-2698), conivaptan and related agents describe in US 6,645,959) used for the treatment of postoperative ileus and other disorders.

Anti-Hypertensive Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an anti-hypertensive agent including but not limited to: (1) diuretics, such as thiazides, including chlorthalidone, chlorthiazide, dichlorophenamide, hydroflumethiazide, indapamide, polythiazide, and hydrochlorothiazide; loop diuretics, such as bumetanide, ethacrynic acid, furosemide, and torsemide; potassium sparing agents, such as amiloride, and triamterene; carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, osmotics(such as glycerin) and aldosterone antagonists, such as spironolactone, epirenone, and the like; (2) beta-adrenergic blockers such as acebutolol, atenolol, betaxolol,

bevantolol, bisoprolol, bopindolol, carteolol, carvedilol, celiprolol, esmolol, indenolol, metaprolol, nadolol, nebivolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propanolol, sotalol, tertatolol, tilisolol, and timolol, and the like; (3) calcium channel blockers such as amlodipine, aranidipine, azelnidipine, barnidipine, benidipine, bepridil, cinaldipine, clevidipine, diltiazem, efonidipine, felodipine, gallopamil, isradipine, lacidipine, lemildipine, lercanidipine, nicardipine, nifedipine, nilvadipine, nimodepine, nisoldipine, nitrendipine, manidipine, pranidipine, and verapamil, and the like; (4) angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as benazepril; captopril; ceranapril; cilazapril; delapril; enalapril; enalopril; fosinopril; imidapril; lisinopril; losinopril; moexipril; quinapril; quinaprilat; ramipril; perindopril; perindropril; quanipril; spirapril; tenocapril; trandolapril, and zofenopril, and the like; (5) neutral endopeptidase inhibitors such as omapatrilat, cadoxatril and ecadotril, fosidotril, sampatrilat, AVE7688, ER4030, and the like; (6) endothelin antagonists such as tezosentan, A308165, and YM62899, and the like; (7) vasodilators such as hydralazine, clonidine, minoxidil, and nicotinyl alcohol, and the like; (8) angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as aprosartan, candesartan, eprosartan, irbesartan, losartan, olmesartan, pratosartan, tasosartan, telmisartan, valsartan, and EXP-3137, FI6828K, and RNH6270, and the like; (9) α/β adrenergic blockers such as nipradilol, arotinolol and amosulalol, and the like; (10) alpha 1 blockers, such as terazosin, urapidil, prazosin, tamsulosin, bunazosin, trimazosin, doxazosin, naftopidil, indoramin, WHP 164, and XENOIO, and the like; (11) alpha 2 agonists such as lofexidine, tiamenidine, moxonidine, rilmenidine and guanobenz, and the like; (12) aldosterone inhibitors, and the like; and (13) angiopoietin-2 -binding agents such as those disclosed in WO03/030833. Specific anti-hypertensive agents that can be used in combination with polypeptides and agonists described herein include, but are not limited to: diuretics, such as thiazides (*e.g.*, chlorthalidone, cyclothiazide (CAS RN 2259-96-3), chlorothiazide (CAS RN 72956-09-3, which may be prepared as disclosed in US2809194), dichlorophenamide, hydroflumethiazide, indapamide, polythiazide, bendroflumethazide, methyclothazide, polythiazide, trichlormethazide, chlorthalidone, indapamide, metolazone, quinethazone, althiazide (CAS RN 5588-16-9, which may be prepared as disclosed in British Patent No. 902,658), benzthiazide (CAS RN 91-33-8, which may be prepared as disclosed in US3108097), buthiazide (which may be prepared as disclosed in British Patent Nos. 861 ,367), and hydrochlorothiazide), loop diuretics (*e.g.* bumetanide, ethacrynic acid, furosemide, and torasemide), potassium sparing agents (*e.g.* amiloride, and triamterene (CAS Number 396-01-

O)), and aldosterone antagonists (*e.g.* spironolactone (CAS Number 52-01-7), epirenone, and the like); β-adrenergic blockers such as Amiodarone (Cordarone, Pacerone), bunolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 31969-05-8, Parke-Davis), acebutolol (±N-[3-Acetyl-4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(1 methylethyl)amino]propoxy]phenyl]-butanamide, or (±)-3'-Acetyl-4'-[2-hydroxy -3-(isopropylamino) propoxy] butyranilide), acebutolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Sectral®, Wyeth-Ayerst), alprenolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 13707-88-5 see Netherlands Patent Application No. 6,605,692), atenolol (*e.g.* Tenormin®, AstraZeneca), carteolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Cartrol® Filmtab®, Abbott), Celiprolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 57470-78-7, also see in US4034009), cetamolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 77590-95-5, see also US4059622), labetalol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Normodyne®, Schering), esmolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Brevibloc®, Baxter), levobetaxolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betaxon™ Ophthalmic Suspension, Alcon), levobunolol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betagan® Liquifilm® with C CAP® Compliance Cap, Allergan), nadolol (*e.g.* Nadolol, Mylan), practolol (CAS RN 6673-35-4, see also US3408387), propranolol hydrochloride (CAS RN 318-98-9), sotalol hydrochloride (*e.g.* Betapace AF™,Berlex), timolol (2-Propanol,l-[(1,l-dimethylethyl)amino]-3-[[4-4(4-morpholinyl)-l,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl]oxy]-, hemihydrate, (S)-, CAS RN 91524-16-2), timolol maleate (S)-l -[(1,1 -dimethylethyl) amino]-3-[[4- (4-morpholinyl)-l,2,5-thiadiazol -3- yl] oxy]-2-propanol (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) salt, CAS RN 26921-17-5), bisoprolol (2-Propanol, l-[4-[[2-(l-methylethoxy)ethoxy]-methyl]phenoxyl]-3-[(l-meth- ylethyl)amino]-, (±), CAS RN 66722-44-9), bisoprolol fumarate (such as (±)-l-[4-[[2-(l-Methylethoxy) ethoxy]methyl]phenoxy]-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-2-propanol (E) -2-butenedioate (2:1) (salt), *e.g.*, Zebeta™ , Lederle Consumer), nebivalol (2H-l-Benzopyran-2-methanol, α,α'-[iminobis(methylene)]bis[6-fluoro-3,4-dihydro-, CAS RN 99200-09-6 see also U.S. Pat. No. 4,654,362), cicloprolol hydrochloride, such 2-Propanol, l-[4-[2-(cyclopropylmethoxy)ethoxy]phenoxy]-3-[l-methylethyl)amino]-, hydrochloride, A.A.S. RN 63686-79-3), dexpropranolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol,l-[1-methylethy)-amino]-3-(1-naphthalenyloxy)-hydrochloride (CAS RN 13071-11-9), diacetolol hydrochloride (Acetamide, N-[3-acetyl-4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(l-methyl-ethyl)amino]propoxy] [phenyl]-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 69796-04-9), dilevalol hydrochloride (Benzamide, 2-hydroxy-5-[l-hydroxy-2-[l-methyl-3-phenylpropyl)amino]ethyl]-, monohydrochloride, CAS RN 75659-08-4), exaprolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1 -(2-cyclohexylphenoxy)-3 - [(1 -methylethyl)amino] -, hydrochloride CAS RN 59333-90-3), flestolol sulfate (Benzoic acid, 2-fluro-,3-[[2-

[aminocarbonyl)amino]- - dimethylethyl]amino]-2-hydroxypropyl ester, (+)- sulfate (1 :1) (salt), CAS RN 88844-73-9; metalol hydrochloride (Methanesulfonamide, N-[4-[l-hydroxy-2-(methylamino)propyl]phenyl]-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 7701-65-7), metoprolol 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2- methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[l-methylethyl)amino]-; CAS RN 37350-58-6), metoprolol tartrate (such as 2-Propanol, l-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)phenoxy]-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-, *e.g.*, Lopressor®, Novartis), pamatolol sulfate (Carbamic acid, [2-[4-[2-hydroxy-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]propoxyl]phenyl]-ethyl]-, methyl ester, (±) sulfate (salt) (2:1), CAS RN 59954-01-7), penbutolol sulfate (2-Propanol, l-(2-cyclopentylphenoxy)-3-[l,l-dimethyle- thyl)amino] 1 , (S)-, sulfate (2:1) (salt), CAS RN 38363-32-5), practolol (Acetamide, N-[4-[2- hydroxy-3-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-propoxy]phenyl]-, CAS RN 6673-35-4;) tiprenolol hydrochloride (Propanol, l-[(l-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(methylthio)-phenoxy]-, hydrochloride, (±), CAS RN 39832-43-4), tolamolol (Benzamide, 4-[2-[[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methylphenoxy)-propyl] amino] ethoxyl]-, CAS RN 38103-61-6), bopindolol, indenolol, pindolol, propanolol, tertatolol, and tilisolol, and the like; calcium channel blockers such as besylate salt of amlodipine (such as 3-ethyl-5-methyl-2-(2-aminoethoxymethyl)-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-1 ,4-dihydro-6-methyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate benzenesulphonate, *e.g.*, Norvasc®, Pfizer), clentiazem maleate (1,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one, 3-(acetyloxy)-8-chloro-5-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-(2S-cis)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1), see also US4567195), isradipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 4-(4-benzofurazanyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-, methyl 1-methylethyl ester, (±)-4(4-benzofurazanyl)- 1 ,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3 ,5 - pyridinedicarboxylate, see also US4466972); nimodipine (such as is isopropyl (2- methoxyethyl) 1, 4- dihydro -2,6- dimethyl -4- (3-nitrophenyl) -3,5- pyridine - dicarboxylate, *e.g.* Nimotop®, Bayer), felodipine (such as ethyl methyl 4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate- , *e.g.* Plendil® Extended-Release, AstraZeneca LP), nilvadipine (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-cyano-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-,3-methyl 5-(l-methylethyl) ester, also see US3799934), nifedipine (such as 3, 5 -pyridinedicarboxylic acid,l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester, *e.g.*, Procardia XL® Extended Release Tablets, Pfizer), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as l,5-Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4-methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis., *e.g.*, Tiazac®, Forest), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetronitrile, (alpha)-[[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)-(1 -methylethyl)

hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Isoptin® SR, Knoll Labs), teludipine hydrochloride (3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]4-[2-[(lE)-3-(l,l-dimethylethoxy)-3-oxo- l-propenyl]phenyl]-l,4-dihydro-6-methyl-, diethyl ester, monohydrochloride) CAS RN 108700-03-4), belfosdil (Phosphonic acid, [2-(2-phenoxy ethyl)- 1,3 -propane- diyl]bis-, tetrabutyl ester CAS RN 103486-79-9), fostedil (Phosphonic acid, [[4-(2-benzothiazolyl)phenyl]methyl]-, diethyl ester CAS RN 75889-62-2), aranidipine, azelnidipine, barnidipine, benidipine, bepridil, cinaldipine, clevidipine, efonidipine, gallopamil, lacidipine, lemildipine, lercanidipine, monatepil maleate (1-Piperazinebutanamide, N-(6, 11 -dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiepin- 11 -yl)$_4$-(4-fluorophenyl)-, (+)-, (Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) (±)-N-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo(b,e)thiep- in-l l-yl)-4-(p- fluorophenyl)-l-piperazinebutyramide maleate (1 :1) CAS RN 132046-06-1), nicardipine, nisoldipine, nitrendipine, manidipine, pranidipine, and the like; T-channel calcium antagonists such as mibefradil; angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as benazepril, benazepril hydrochloride (such as 3-[[l-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3- phenyl-(1 S)-propyl]amino}-2,3 ,4,5-tetrahydro-2-oxo- 1 H - 1 -(3 S)-benzazepine- 1 -acetic acid monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Lotrel®, Novartis), captopril (such as l-[(2S)-3-mercapto-2- methylpropionyl]-L-proline, *e.g.*, Captopril, Mylan, CAS RN 62571-86-2 and others disclosed in US4046889), ceranapril (and others disclosed in US4452790), cetapril (alacepril, Dainippon disclosed in Eur. Therap. Res. 39:671 (1986); 40:543 (1986)), cilazapril (Hoffman-LaRoche) disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 9:39 (1987), indalapril (delapril hydrochloride (2H-1,2,4- Benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide, 3-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-yl-6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-, 1,1- dioxide CAS RN 2259-96-3); disclosed in US4385051), enalapril (and others disclosed in US4374829), enalopril, enaloprilat, fosinopril, ((such as L-proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[[2-methyl- l-(l-oxopropoxy) propoxy](4-phenylbutyl) phosphinyl]acetyl]-, sodium salt, *e.g.*, Monopril, Bristol-Myers Squibb and others disclosed in US4168267), fosinopril sodium (L- Proline, 4-cyclohexyl-l-[[(R)-[(lS)-2-methyl-l-(l-ox- opropoxy)propox), imidapril, indolapril (Schering, disclosed in J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 5:643, 655 (1983)), lisinopril (Merck), losinopril, moexipril, moexipril hydrochloride (3-Isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, 2-[(2S)-2-[[(lS)- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]- 1 -oxopropyl]- 1 ,- 2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-, monohydrochloride, (3S)- CAS RN 82586-52-5), quinapril, quinaprilat, ramipril (Hoechsst) disclosed in EP 79022 and Curr. Ther. Res. 40:74 (1986), perindopril erbumine (such as 2S,3aS,7aS- 1 -[(S)-N-[(S)- 1 -Carboxybutyl]alanyl]hexahydro^-indolinecarboxylic acid, 1 -ethyl ester, compound with tert-

butylamine (1 :1), *e.g.*, Aceon®, Solvay), perindopril (Servier, disclosed in Eur. J. clin. Pharmacol. 31 :519 (1987)), quanipril (disclosed in US4344949), spirapril (Schering, disclosed in Acta. Pharmacol. Toxicol. 59 (Supp. 5): 173 (1986)), tenocapril, trandolapril, zofenopril (and others disclosed in US4316906), rentiapril (fentiapril, disclosed in Clin. Exp. Pharmacol. Physiol. 10:131 (1983)), pivopril, YS980, teprotide (Bradykinin potentiator BPP9a CAS RN 35115-60-7), BRL 36,378 (Smith Kline Beecham, see EP80822 and EP60668), MC-838 (Chugai, see CA. 102:72588v and Jap. J. Pharmacol. 40:373 (1986), CGS 14824 (Ciba-Geigy, 3-([l-ethoxycarbonyl-3-phenyl-(lS)-propyl]amino)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-ox- o-l-(3S)-benzazepine-l acetic acid HCl, see U.K. Patent No. 2103614), CGS 16,617 (Ciba- Geigy, 3(S)-[[(lS)-5-amino-l-carboxypentyl]amino]-2,3,4,- 5-tetrahydro-2-oxo-lH-l- benzazepine-1-ethanoic acid, see US4473575), Ru 44570 (Hoechst, see Arzneimittelforschung 34:1254 (1985)), R 31-2201 (Hoffman-LaRoche see FEBS Lett. 165:201 (1984)), CI925 (Pharmacologist 26:243, 266 (1984)), WY-44221 (Wyeth, see J. Med. Chem. 26:394 (1983)), and those disclosed in US2003006922 (paragraph 28), US4337201, US4432971 (phosphonamidates); neutral endopeptidase inhibitors such as omapatrilat (Vanlev®), CGS 30440, cadoxatril and ecadotril, fasidotril (also known as aladotril or alatriopril), sampatrilat, mixanpril, and gemopatrilat, AVE7688, ER4030, and those disclosed in US5362727, US5366973, US5225401, US4722810, US5223516, US4749688, US5552397, US5504080, US5612359, US5525723, EP0599444, EP0481522, EP0599444, EP0595610, EP0534363, EP534396, EP534492, EP0629627; endothelin antagonists such as tezosentan, A308165, and YM62899, and the like; vasodilators such as hydralazine (apresoline), clonidine (clonidine hydrochloride (1H-Imidazol- 2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 4205-91-8), catapres, minoxidil (loniten), nicotinyl alcohol (roniacol), diltiazem hydrochloride (such as 1,5- Benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,-3-dihydro-2(4- methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis, *e.g.*, Tiazac®, Forest), isosorbide dinitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucitol 2,5-dinitrate *e.g.*, Isordil® Titradose®, Wyeth- Ayerst), sosorbide mononitrate (such as l,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-glucito- 1,5-nitrate, an organic nitrate, *e.g.*, Ismo®, Wyeth-Ayerst), nitroglycerin (such as 2,3 propanetriol trinitrate, *e.g.*, Nitrostat® Parke- Davis), verapamil hydrochloride (such as benzeneacetonitrile, (±)-(alpha)[3-[[2-(3,4 dimethoxypheny l)ethyl]methylamino]propyl] -3 ,4-dimethoxy-(alpha)- (1 -methylethyl) hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Covera HS® Extended-Release, Searle), chromonar (which may be prepared as disclosed in

US3282938), clonitate (Annalen 1870 155), droprenilamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in DE2521113), lidoflazine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3267104); prenylamine (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3152173), propatyl nitrate (which may be prepared as disclosed in French Patent No. 1,103,113), mioflazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, 3-(aminocarbonyl)$_4$-[4,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)butyl]-N-(2,6- dichlorophenyl)-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 83898-67-3), mixidine (Benzeneethanamine, 3,4- dimethoxy-N-(l-methyl-2-pyrrolidinylidene)- Pyrrolidine, 2-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]- 1 -methyl- l-Methyl-2- [(3, 4-dimethoxyphenethyl)imino]pyrrolidine CAS RN 27737-38-8), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), isosorbide mononitrate (D-Glucitol, l,4:3,6-dianhydro-, 5-nitrate CAS RN 16051-77-7), erythrityl tetranitrate (1,2,3,4-Butanetetrol, tetranitrate, (2R,3S)-rel-CAS RN 7297-25-8), clonitrate(l,2-Propanediol, 3-chloro-, dinitrate (7CI, 8CI, 9CI) CAS RN 2612-33-1), dipyridamole Ethanol, 2,2',2",2"'-[(4,8-di-l-piperidinylpyrimido[5,4-d]pyrimidine-2,6-diyl)dinitrilo]tetrakis- CAS RN 58-32-2), nicorandil (CAS RN 65141-46-0 3-), pyridinecarboxamide (N-[2-(nitrooxy)ethyl]-Nisoldipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, methyl 2-methylpropyl ester CAS RN 63675-72-9), nifedipine3,5-Pyridinedicarboxylic acid, l,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-, dimethyl ester CAS RN 21829-25-4), perhexiline maleate (Piperidine, 2-(2,2-dicyclohexylethyl)-, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 6724-53-4), oxprenolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, 1-[(1-methylethyl)amino]-3-[2-(2-propenyloxy)phenoxy]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 6452-73-9), pentrinitrol (1,3-Propanediol, 2,2-bis[(nitrooxy)methyl]-, mononitrate (ester) CAS RN 1607-17-6), verapamil (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]- methylamino]propyl]-3, 4-dimethoxy-α-(1 -methylethyl)- CAS RN 52-53-9) and the like; angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as, aprosartan, zolasartan, olmesartan, pratosartan, F16828K, RNH6270, candesartan (1 H-Benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,l'-biphenyl]4-yl]methyl]- CAS RN 139481-59-7), candesartan cilexetil ((+/-)-l-(cyclohexylcarbonyloxy)ethyl-2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]-lH-benzimidazole carboxylate, CAS RN 145040-37-5, US5703110 and US5196444), eprosartan (3-[l-4-carboxyphenylmethyl)-2-n-butyl-imidazol-5-yl]-(2-thienylmethyl) propenoic acid, US5185351 and US5650650), irbesartan (2-n-butyl-3- [[2'-(lh-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] 1 ,3-diazazspiro[4,4]non-l-en-4-one, US5270317 and US5352788), losartan (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-5-

hydroxymethyl-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole, potassium salt, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), tasosartan (5,8-dihydro-2,4-dimethyl-8-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)[l,r-biphenyl]4-yl)methyl]-pyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidin-7(6H)-one, US5149699), telmisartan (4'-[(1 ,4-dimethyl-2'-propyl-(2,6'-bi-lH-benzimidazol)-r-yl)]-[1 , 1 '-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid, CAS RN 144701-48-4, US5591762), milfasartan, abitesartan, valsartan (Diovan® (Novartis), (S)-N-valeryl-N-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]valine, US5399578), EXP-3137 (2-N-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)-methyl]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid, US5138069, US5153197 and US5128355), 3-(2'-(tetrazol-5-yl)-l,r-biphen-4-yl)methyl-5,7-dimethyl-2-ethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 4'[2-ethyl-4-methyl-6-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[l,2-a]pyridin-2-yl]-benzimidazol-l-yl]-methyl]-l,r-biphenyl]-2- carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-6-(1-methoxy-l-methylethyl)-2-[2'-)lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-ylmethyl] guinazolin-4(3H)-one, 3 - [2 ' -carboxybiphenyl-4-yl)methyl] -2-cyclopropyl-7-methyl- 3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[(2'-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]imidazole-carboxylic acid, 2-butyl-4-chloro-l-[[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5- yl) [1 , 1 ' -biphenyl] -4-yl]methyl]- 1 H-imidazole-5 -carboxylic acid- 1 -(ethoxycarbonyl-oxy)ethyl ester potassium salt, dipotassium 2-butyl-4-(methylthio)-l-[[2-[[[(propylamino)carbonyl]amino]-sulfonyl](l,l '-biphenyl)-4-yl]methyl]-l H-imidazole-5 -carboxylate, methyl-2-[[4-butyl-2-methyl-6-oxo-5-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-[l,l '-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl]-l-(6H)- pyrimidinyl]methyl]-3-thiophencarboxylate, 5-[(3,5-dibutyl-lH-1,2,4-triazol-l-yl)methyl]-2-[2- (1 H-tetrazol-5 -ylphenyl)]pyridine, 6-butyl-2-(2-phenylethyl)-5 [[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)[1,1 '- biphenyl]-4-methyl]pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one D,L lysine salt, 5-methyl-7-n-propyl-8-[[2'-(lH- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-[1 ,2,4]-triazolo[1 ,5-c]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, 2,7-diethyl-5- [[2'-(5-tetrazoly)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-5H-pyrazolo[l,5-b][1,2,4]triazole potassium salt, 2-[2- butyl-4,5-dihydro-4-oxo-3-[2'-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-4-biphenylmethyl]-3H-imidazol[4,5- c]pyridine-5-ylmethyl]benzoic acid, ethyl ester, potassium salt, 3-methoxy-2,6-dimethyl-4- [[2'(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)-l,l '-biphenyl-4-yl]methoxy]pyridine, 2-ethoxy-l-[[2'-(5-oxo-2,5-dihydro- 1 ,2,4-oxadiazol-3 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl] - 1 H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid, 1 - [N-(2 ' -(1 H- tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl-methyl)-N-valerolylaminomethyl)cyclopentane- 1 -carboxylic acid, 7- methyl-2n-propyl-3-[[2' lH-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-3H-imidazo[4,5-6]pyridine, 2- [5-[(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine-3-yl)methyl]-2-quinolinyl]sodium benzoate, 2-butyl-6-chloro-4-hydroxymethyl-5 -methyl-3 -[[2'-(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-

yl]methyl]pyridine, 2- [[[2-butyl- 1 - [(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl] - 1 H-imidazol-5 - yl]methyl]amino]benzoic acid tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]pyrimidin-6-one, 4(S)- [4-(carboxymethyl)phenoxy]-N-[2(R)-[4-(2-sulfobenzamido)imidazol- 1 -yl]octanoyl]-L-proline, 1 - (2,6-dimethylphenyl)-4-butyl-l,3-dihydro-3-[[6-[2-(lH-tetrazol-5-yl)phenyl]-3-pyridinyl]methyl]-2H-imidazol-2-one, 5 ,8-ethano-5 ,8-dimethyl-2-n-propyl-5 ,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1 - [[2'(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-lH,4H-l,3,4a,8a-tetrazacyclopentanaphthalene-9-one, 4-[l-[2'-(l,2,3,4-tetrazol-5-yl)biphen-4-yl)methylamino]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-trifylquinazoline, 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)imino-5-ethyl-3-[2'-(lH-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl-l,3,4-thiadiazoline, 2-[5-ethyl-3-[2-(lH-tetrazole-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl-l,3,4-thiazoline-2-ylidene]aminocarbonyl-l-cyclopentencarboxylic acid dipotassium salt, and 2-butyl-4-[N-methyl-N-(3 -methylcrotonoyl)amino] - 1 - [[2 ' -(1 H-tetrazol-5 -yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]- 1 H- imidzole-5 -carboxylic acid 1-ethoxycarbonyloxyethyl ester, those disclosed in patent publications EP475206, EP497150, EP539086, EP539713, EP535463, EP535465, EP542059, EP497121, EP535420, EP407342, EP415886, EP424317, EP435827, EP433983, EP475898, EP490820, EP528762, EP324377, EP323841, EP420237, EP500297, EP426021, EP480204, EP429257, EP430709, EP434249, EP446062, EP505954, EP524217, EP514197, EP514198, EP514193, EP514192, EP450566, EP468372, EP485929, EP503162, EP533058, EP467207 EP399731, EP399732, EP412848, EP453210, EP456442, EP470794, EP470795, EP495626, EP495627, EP499414, EP499416, EP499415, EP511791, EP516392, EP520723, EP520724, EP539066, EP438869, EP505893, EP530702, EP400835, EP400974, EP401030, EP407102, EP411766, EP409332, EP412594, EP419048, EP480659, EP481614, EP490587, EP467715, EP479479, EP502725, EP503838, EP505098, EP505111 EP513,979 EP507594, EP510812, EP511767, EP512675, EP512676, EP512870, EP517357, EP537937, EP534706, EP527534, EP540356, EP461040, EP540039, EP465368, EP498723, EP498722, EP498721, EP515265, EP503785, EP501892, EP519831, EP532410, EP498361, EP432737, EP504888, EP508393, EP508445, EP403159, EP403158, EP425211, EP427463, EP437103, EP481448, EP488532, EP501269, EP500409, EP540400, EP005528, EP028834, EP028833, EP411507, EP425921, EP430300, EP434038, EP442473, EP443568, EP445811, EP459136, EP483683, EP518033, EP520423, EP531876, EP531874, EP392317, EP468470, EP470543, EP502314, EP529253, EP543263, EP540209, EP449699, EP465323, EP521768, EP415594, WO92/14468, WO93/08171, WO93/08169, WO91/00277, WO91/00281, WO91/14367, WO92/00067,

WO92/00977, WO92/20342, WO93/04045, WO93/04046, WO91/15206, WO92/14714, WO92/09600, WO92/16552, WO93/05025, WO93/03018, WO91/07404, WO92/02508, WO92/13853, WO91/19697, WO91/11909, WO91/12001, WO91/11999, WO91/15209, WO91/15479, WO92/20687, WO92/20662, WO92/20661, WO93/01177, WO91/14679, WO91/13063, WO92/13564, WO91/17148, WO91/18888, WO91/19715, WO92/02257, WO92/04335, WO92/05161, WO92/07852, WO92/15577, WO93/03033, WO91/16313, WO92/00068, WO92/02510, WO92/09278, WO9210179, WO92/10180, WO92/10186, WO92/10181, WO92/10097, WO92/10183, WO92/10182, WO92/10187, WO92/10184, WO92/10188, WO92/10180, WO92/10185, WO92/20651, WO93/03722, WO93/06828, WO93/03040, WO92/19211, WO92/22533, WO92/06081, WO92/05784, WO93/00341, WO92/04343, WO92/04059, US5104877, US5187168, US5149699, US5185340, US4880804, US5138069, US4916129, US5153197, US5173494, US5137906, US5155126, US5140037, US5137902, US5157026, US5053329, US5132216, US5057522, US5066586, US5089626, US5049565, US5087702, US5124335, US5102880, US5128327, US5151435, US5202322, US5187159, US5198438, US5182288, US5036048, US5140036, US5087634, US5196537, US5153347, US5191086, US5190942, US5177097, US5212177, US5208234, US5208235, US5212195, US5130439, US5045540, US5041152, and US5210204, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α/β adrenergic blockers such as nipradilol, arotinolol, amosulalol, bretylium tosylate (CAS RN: 61-75-6), dihydroergtamine mesylate (such as ergotaman-3', 6',18-trione,9,-10-dihydro-12'-hydroxy-2'-methyl-5'-(phenylmethyl)-,(5'(α))-, monomethanesulfonate, *e.g.*, DHE 45® Injection, Novartis), carvedilol (such as (±)-1-(Carbazol-4-yloxy)-3-[[2-(o-methoxyphenoxy)ethyl] amino] -2-propanol, *e.g.*, Coreg®, SmithKline Beecham), labetalol (such as 5-[1-hydroxy-2-[(1-methyl-3-phenylpropyl) amino] ethyljsalicylamide monohydrochloride, *e.g.*, Normodyne®, Schering), bretylium tosylate (Benzenemethanaminium, 2-bromo-N-ethyl-N,N-dimethyl-, salt with 4-methylbenzenesulfonic acid (1 :1) CAS RN 61-75-6), phentolamine mesylate (Phenol, 3-[[(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methyl](4-methylphenyl)amino]-, monomethanesulfonate (salt) CAS RN 65-28-1), solypertine tartrate (5H-1,3-Dioxolo[4,5-f]indole, 7-[2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]-, (2R,3R)-2,3-dihydroxybutanedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 5591-43-5), zolertine hydrochloride (Piperazine, 1-phenyl4-[2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)ethyl]-, monohydrochloride (8Cl, 9Cl) CAS RN 7241-94-3) and the like; α adrenergic receptor blockers, such as alfuzosin (CAS RN:

81403-68-1), terazosin, urapidil, prazosin (Minipress®), tamsulosin, bunazosin, trimazosin, doxazosin, naftopidil, indoramin, WHP 164, XENOlO, fenspiride hydrochloride (which may be prepared as disclosed in US3399192), proroxan (CAS RN 33743-96-3), and labetalol hydrochloride and combinations thereof; α 2 agonists such as methyldopa, methyldopa HCL, lofexidine, tiamenidine, moxonidine, rilmenidine, guanobenz, and the like; aldosterone inhibitors, and the like; renin inhibitors including Aliskiren (SPPlOO; Novartis/Speedel); angiopoietin-2-binding agents such as those disclosed in WO03/030833; anti-angina agents such as ranolazine (hydrochloride 1-Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6- dimethylphenyl)-4-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635- 56-6), betaxolol hydrochloride (2-Propanol, l-[4-[2 (cyclopropylmethoxy)ethyl]phenoxy]-3-[(l- methylethyl)amino]-, hydrochloride CAS RN 63659-19-8), butoprozine hydrochloride (Methanone, [4-[3(dibutylamino)propoxy]phenyl](2-ethyl-3-indolizinyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 62134-34-3), cinepazet maleatel-Piperazineacetic acid, 4-[l-oxo-3-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-2-propenyl]-, ethyl ester, (2Z)-2-butenedioate (1 :1) CAS RN 50679-07-7), tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184), verapamilhydrochloride (Benzeneacetonitrile, α-[3-[[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]methylamino]propyl]-3 ,4-dimethoxy-α-(1 -methylethyl)-, monohydrochloride CAS RN 152-114), molsidomine (1,2,3-Oxadiazolium, 5-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]-3-(4-morpholinyl)-, inner salt CAS RN 25717-80-0), and ranolazine hydrochloride (1 -Piperazineacetamide, N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)$_4$-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-, dihydrochloride CAS RN 95635-56-6); tosifen (Benzenesulfonamide, 4-methyl-N-[[[(lS)-l-methyl-2-phenylethyl]amino]carbonyl]- CAS RN 32295-184); adrenergic stimulants such as guanfacine hydrochloride (such as N-amidino-2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl) acetamide hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Tenex® Tablets available from Robins); methyldopa-hydrochlorothiazide (such as levo-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-methylalanine) combined with Hydrochlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-3,4-dihydro-2H -l,2,4-benzothiadiazine-7- sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide, *e.g.*, the combination as, *e.g.*, Aldoril® Tablets available from Merck), methyldopa-chlorothiazide (such as 6-chloro-2H-l, 2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide and methyldopa as described above, *e.g.*, Aldoclor®, Merck), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride and chlorthalidone (such as 2-chloro-5-(l-hydroxy-3-oxo-l-isoindolinyl) benzenesulfonamide), *e.g.*, Combipres®, Boehringer

Ingelheim), clonidine hydrochloride (such as 2-(2,6-dichlorophenylamino)-2-imidazoline hydrochloride, *e.g.*, Catapres®, Bochringer Ingelheim), clonidine (lH-Imidazol-2-amine, N-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)4,5-dihydro-CAS RN 4205-90-7), Hyzaar (Merck; a combination of losartan and hydrochlorothiazide), Co-Diovan (Novartis; a combination of valsartan and hydrochlorothiazide, Lotrel (Novartis; a combination of benazepril and amlodipine) and Caduet (Pfizer; a combination of amlodipine and atorvastatin), and those agents disclosed in US20030069221.

Agents for the Treatment of Respiratory Disorders

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with one or more of the following agents useful in the treatment of respiratory and other disorders including but not limited to: (1) β-agonists including but not limited to : albuterol (PRO VENTIL® , S ALBUT AMOl® , VENTOLIN®), bambuterol, bitoterol, clenbuterol, fenoterol, formoterol, isoetharine (BRONKOSOL®, BRONKOMETER®), metaproterenol (ALUPENT®, METAPREL®), pirbuterol (MAXAIR®), reproterol, rimiterol, salmeterol, terbutaline (BRETHAIRE®, BRETHINE®, BRICANYL®), adrenalin, isoproterenol (ISUPREL®), epinephrine bitartrate (PRIMATENE®), ephedrine, orciprenline, fenoterol and isoetharine; (2) steroids, including but not limited to beclomethasone, beclomethasone dipropionate, betamethasone, budesonide, bunedoside, butixocort, dexamethasone, flunisolide, fluocortin, fluticasone, hydrocortisone, methyl prednisone, mometasone, predonisolone, predonisone, tipredane, tixocortal, triamcinolone, and triamcinolone acetonide; (3) β2-agonist-corticosteroid combinations [*e.g.*, salmeterol-fluticasone (AD V AIR®), formoterol-budesonid (S YMBICORT®)] ; (4) leukotriene D4 receptor antagonists/leukotriene antagonists/LTD4 antagonists (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting, reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between leukotrienes and the Cys LTI receptor) including but not limited to: zafhiukast, montelukast, montelukast sodium (SINGULAIR®), pranlukast, iralukast, pobilukast, SKB-106,203 and compounds described as having LTD4 antagonizing activity described in U.S. Patent No. 5,565,473; (5) 5 -lipoxygenase inhibitors and/or leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitors [*e.g.*, zileuton and BAY1005 (CA registry 128253-31-6)]; (6) histamine Hl receptor antagonists/antihistamines (i.e., any compound that is capable of blocking, inhibiting, reducing or otherwise interrupting the interaction between histamine and its receptor) including but not limited to: astemizole, acrivastine, antazoline, azatadine, azelastine, astamizole,

bromopheniramine, bromopheniramine maleate, carbinoxamine, carebastine, cetirizine, chlorpheniramine, chloropheniramine maleate, cimetidine cicmastine, cyclizine, cyproheptadine, descarboethoxyloratadine, dexchlorpheniramine, dimethindene, diphenhydramine, diphenylpyraline, doxylamine succinate, doxylamine, ebastine, efletirizine, epinastine, famotidine, fexofenadine, hydroxyzine, hydroxyzine, ketotifen, levocabastine, levocetirizine, levocetirizine, loratadine, meclizine, mepyramine, mequitazine, methdilazine, mianserin, mizolastine, noberastine, norasternizole, noraztemizole, phenindamine, pheniramine, picumast, promethazine, pynlamine, pyrilamine, ranitidine, temelastine, terfenadine, trimeprazine, tripelenamine, and triprolidine; (7) an anticholinergic including but not limited to: atropine, benztropine, biperiden, flutropium, hyoscyamine (*e.g.* Levsin®; Levbid®; Levsin/SL®, Anaspaz®, Levsinex timecaps®, NuLev®), ilutropium, ipratropium, ipratropium bromide, methscopolamine, oxybutinin, rispenzepine, scopolamine, and tiotropium; (8) an anti-tussive including but not limited to: dextromethorphan, codeine, and hydromorphone; (9) a decongestant including but not limited to: pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine; (10) an expectorant including but not limited to: guafenesin, guaicolsulfate, terpin, ammonium chloride, glycerol guaicolate, and iodinated glycerol; (11) a bronchodilator including but not limited to: theophylline and aminophylline; (12) an anti-inflammatory including but not limited to: fluribiprofen, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketoprofen, S-ketroprophen, tenoxicam; (13) a PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitor including but not limited to those disclosed herein; (14) a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody [*e.g.* xolair (also called omalizumab), rhuMab, and talizumab]; (15) a humanized lung surfactant including recombinant forms of surfactant proteins SP-B, SP-C or SP-D [*e.g.* SURFAXIN®, formerly known as dsc-104 (Discovery Laboratories)], (16) agents that inhibit epithelial sodium channels (ENaC) such as amiloride and related compounds; (17) antimicrobial agents used to treat pulmonary infections such as acyclovir, amikacin, amoxicillin, doxycycline, trimethoprin sulfamethoxazole, amphotericin B, azithromycin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin, clarithromycin, cephalosporins(ceffoxitin, cefmetazole etc), ciprofloxacin, ethambutol, gentimycin, ganciclovir, imipenem, isoniazid, itraconazole, penicillin, ribavirin, rifampin, rifabutin,amantadine, rimantidine, streptomycin, tobramycin, and vancomycin; (18) agents that activate chloride secretion through Ca++ dependent chloride channels (such as purinergic receptor (P2Y(2) agonists); (19) agents that decrease sputum viscosity, such as human recombinant DNase 1, (Pulmozyme®); (20)

nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (acemetacin, acetaminophen, acetyl salicylic acid, alclofenac, alminoprofen, apazone, aspirin, benoxaprofen, bezpiperylon, bucloxic acid, carprofen, clidanac, diclofenac, diclofenac, diflunisal, diflusinal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenbufen, fenclofenac, fenclozic acid, fenoprofen, fentiazac, feprazone, flufenamic acid, flufenisal, flufenisal, fluprofen, flurbiprofen, flurbiprofen, furofenac, ibufenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, indomethacin, indoprofen, isoxepac, isoxicam, ketoprofen, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, mefenamic acid, miroprofen, mofebutazone, nabumetone oxaprozin, naproxen, naproxen, niflumic acid , oxaprozin, oxpinac, oxyphenbutazone, phenacetin, phenylbutazone, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, piroxicam, pirprofen, pranoprofen, sudoxicam, tenoxican, sulfasalazine, sulindac, sulindac, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, tiopinac, tioxaprofen, tolfenamic acid, tolmetin, tolmetin, zidometacin, zomepirac, and zomepirac); and (21) aerosolized antioxidant therapeutics such as S-Nitrosoglutathione.

Anti-obesity agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an anti-obesity agent. Suitable such agents include, but are not limited to: 1 lβ HSD-I (11-beta hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase type 1) inhibitors, such as BVT 3498, BVT 2733, 3-(l-adamantyl)-4-ethyl-5-(ethylthio)- 4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3-(l-adamantyl)-5-(3,4,5- trimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3- adamantanyl-4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,3a- decahydro-l,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a][l l]annulene, and those compounds disclosed in WO01/90091, WOO 1/90090, WOO 1/90092 and WO02/072084; 5HT antagonists such as those in WO03/037871, WO03/037887, and the like; 5HTIa modulators such as carbidopa, benserazide and those disclosed in US6207699, WO03/031439, and the like; 5HT2c (serotonin receptor 2c) agonists, such as BVT933, DPCA37215, IK264, PNU 22394, WAY161503, R-1065, SB 243213 (Glaxo Smith Kline) and YM 348 and those disclosed in US3914250, WO00/77010, WO02/36596, WO02/48124, WO02/10169, WO01/66548, WO02/44152, WO02/51844, WO02/40456, and WO02/40457; 5HT6 receptor modulators, such as those in WO03/030901, WO03/035061, WO03/039547, and the like; acyl-estrogens, such as oleoyl-estrone, disclosed in del Mar-Grasa, M. et al, Obesity Research, 9:202-9 (2001) and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; anorectic bicyclic compounds such as 1426 (Aventis) and 1954 (Aventis), and the compounds disclosed in

WO00/18749, WO01/32638, WO01/62746, WO01/62747, and WO03/015769; CB 1 (cannabinoid-1 receptor) antagonist/inverse agonists such as rimonabant (Acomplia; Sanofi), SR-147778 (Sanofi), SR-141716 (Sanofi), BAY 65-2520 (Bayer), and SLV 319 (Solvay), and those disclosed in patent publications US4973587, US5013837, US5081122, US5112820, US5292736, US5532237, US5624941, US6028084, US6509367, US6509367, WO96/33159, WO97/29079, WO98/31227, WO98/33765, WO98/37061, WO98/41519, WO98/43635, WO98/43636, WO99/02499, WO00/10967, WO00/10968, WO01/09120, WO01/58869, WO01/64632, WO01/64633, WO01/64634, WO01/70700, WO01/96330, WO02/076949, WO03/006007, WO03/007887, WO03/020217, WO03/026647, WO03/026648, WO03/027069, WO03/027076, WO03/027114, WO03/037332, WO03/040107, WO03/086940, WO03/084943 and EP658546; CCK-A (cholecystokinin-A) agonists, such as AR-R 15849, GI 181771 (GSK), JMV-180, A-71378, A-71623 and SR146131 (Sanofi), and those described in US5739106; CNTF (Ciliary neurotrophic factors), such as GI- 181771 (Glaxo-SmithKline), SRI 46131 (Sanofi Synthelabo), butabindide, PD 170,292, and PD 149164 (Pfizer); CNTF derivatives, such as Axokine® (Regeneron), and those disclosed in WO94/09134, WO98/22128, and WO99/43813; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, valine pyrrolidide, NVP-DPP728, LAF237, P93/01, P 3298, TSL 225 (tryptophyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid; disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD26 inhibtors, FE 999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) and the compounds disclosed patent publications. WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279 (Probiodrug), WO99/67278 (Probiodrug), WO99/61431 (Probiodrug), WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000180, WO03/000181, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/004498, WO03/004496,WO03/017936, WO03/024942, WO03/024965, WO03/033524, WO03/037327 and EP1258476; growth hormone secretagogue receptor agonists/antagonists, such as NN703, hexarelin, MK- 0677 (Merck), SM-130686, CP-424391 (Pfizer), LY 444,711 (Eli Lilly), L-692,429 and L- 163,255, and such as those disclosed in USSN 09/662448, US provisional application 60/203335, US6358951, US2002049196, US2002/022637, WO01/56592 and WO02/32888; H3 (histamine H3) antagonist/inverse agonists, such as thioperamide, 3-(1H-imidazol-4- yl)propyl N-(4-pentenyl)carbamate), clobenpropit, iodophenpropit, imoproxifan,

GT2394 (Gliatech), and A331440, O-[3-(lH-imidazol-4-yl)propanol]carbamates (Kiec-Kononowicz, K. et al., Pharmazie, 55:349-55 (2000)), piperidine-containing histamine H3-receptor antagonists (Lazewska, D. et al., Pharmazie, 56:927-32 (2001), benzophenone derivatives and related compounds (Sasse, A. et al., Arch. Pharm.(Weinheim) 334:45-52 (2001)), substituted N- phenylcarbamates (Reidemeister, S. et al., Pharmazie, 55:83-6 (2000)), and proxifan derivatives (Sasse, A. et al., J. Med. Chem.. 43:3335-43 (2000)) and histamine H3 receptor modulators such as those disclosed in WO02/15905, WO03/024928 and WO03/024929; leptin derivatives, such as those disclosed in US5552524, US5552523, US5552522, US5521283, WO96/23513, WO96/23514, WO96/23515, WO96/23516, WO96/23517, WO96/23518, WO96/23519, and WO96/23520; leptin, including recombinant human leptin (PEG-OB, Hoffman La Roche) and recombinant methionyl human leptin (Amgen); lipase inhibitors, such as tetrahydrolipstatin (orlistat/Xenical®), Triton WRI 339, RHC80267, lipstatin, teasaponin, diethylumbelliferyl phosphate, FL-386, WAY-121898, Bay-N-3176, valilactone, esteracin, ebelactone A, ebelactone B, and RHC 80267, and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/77094, US4598089, US4452813, USUS5512565, US5391571, US5602151, US4405644, US4189438, and US4242453; lipid metabolism modulators such as maslinic acid, erythrodiol, ursolic acid uvaol, betulinic acid, betulin, and the like and compounds disclosed in WO03/011267; Mc4r (melanocortin 4 receptor) agonists, such as CHIR86036 (Chiron), ME-10142, ME-10145, and HS-131 (Melacure), and those disclosed in PCT publication Nos. WO99/64002, WO00/74679, WOO 1/991752, WOO 1/25192, WOO 1/52880, WOO 1/74844, WOO 1/70708, WO01/70337, WO01/91752, WO02/059095, WO02/059107, WO02/059108, WO02/059117, WO02/06276, WO02/12166, WO02/11715, WO02/12178, WO02/15909, WO02/38544, WO02/068387, WO02/068388, WO02/067869, WO02/081430, WO03/06604, WO03/007949, WO03/009847, WO03/009850, WO03/013509, and WO03/031410; Mc5r (melanocortin 5 receptor) modulators, such as those disclosed in WO97/19952, WO00/15826, WO00/15790, US20030092041; melanin-concentrating hormone 1 receptor (MCHR) antagonists, such as T-226296 (Takeda), SB 568849, SNP-7941 (Synaptic), and those disclosed in patent publications WOO 1/21169, WO01/82925, WO01/87834, WO02/051809, WO02/06245, WO02/076929, WO02/076947, WO02/04433, WO02/51809, WO02/083134, WO02/094799, WO03/004027, WO03/13574, WO03/15769, WO03/028641, WO03/035624, WO03/033476, WO03/033480, JP13226269, and JP1437059; mGluR5 modulators such as those

disclosed in WO03/029210, WO03/047581, WO03/048137, WO03/051315, WO03/051833, WO03/053922, WO03/059904, and the like; serotoninergic agents, such as fenfluramine (such as Pondimin® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl- alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Robbins), dexfenfluramine (such as Redux® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Interneuron) and sibutramine ((Meridia®, Knoll/Reductil™) including racemic mixtures, as optically pure isomers (+) and (-), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvents, hydrates, clathrates and prodrugs thereof including sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate salts thereof, and those compounds disclosed in US4746680, US4806570, and US5436272, US20020006964, WO 1/27068, and WO 1/62341; NE (norepinephrine) transport inhibitors, such as GW 320659, despiramine, talsupram, and nomifensine; NPY 1 antagonists, such as BIBP3226, J-115814, BIBO 3304, LY-357897, CP-671906, GI- 264879A, and those disclosed in US6001836, WO96/14307, WO01/23387, WO99/51600, WO01/85690, WO01/85098, WO01/85173, and WO01/89528; NPY5 (neuropeptide Y Y5) antagonists, such as 152,804, GW-569180A, GW-594884A, GW-587081X, GW-548118X, FR235208, FR226928, FR240662, FR252384, 1229U91, GI-264879A, CGP71683A, LY-377897, LY-366377, PD-160170, SR- 120562A, SR-120819A, JCF-104, and H409/22 and those compounds disclosed in patent publications US6140354, US6191160, US6218408, US6258837, US6313298, US6326375, US6329395, US6335345, US6337332, US6329395, US6340683, EP01010691, EP-01044970, WO97/19682, WO97/20820, WO97/20821, WO97/20822, WO97/20823, WO98/27063, WO00/107409, WO00/185714, WO00/185730, WO00/64880, WO00/68197, WO00/69849, WO/0113917, WO01/09120, WO01/14376, WO01/85714, WO01/85730, WO01/07409, WO01/02379, WO01/23388, WO01/23389, WO0 1/44201, WO01/62737, WO01/62738, WO01/09120, WO02/20488, WO02/22592, WO02/48152, WO02/49648, WO02/051806, WO02/094789, WO03/009845, WO03/014083, WO03/022849, WO03/028726 and Norman et al, J. Med. Chem. 43:4288-4312 (2000); opioid antagonists, such as nalmefene (REVEX ®), 3-methoxynaltrexone, methylnaltrexone, naloxone, and naltrexone (*e.g.* PT901; Pain Therapeutics, Inc.) and those disclosed in US20050004155 and WO00/21509; orexin antagonists, such as SB-334867-A and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/96302, WO01/68609, WO02/44172, WO02/51232, WO02/51838, WO02/089800, WO02/090355, WO03/023561, WO03/032991, and WO03/037847; PDE inhibitors (*e.g.* compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP

(cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP and cGMP; possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors) such as those disclosed in patent publications DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, US4963561, US5141931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEl 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6331543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I- XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577), WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399, as well as PDE5 inhibitors (such as RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra™)), PDE4 inhibitors (such as etazolate, ICI63197, RP73401, imazolidinone (RO-20-1724), MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), denbufylline, rolipram, oxagrelate, nitraquazone, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, motapizone, lixazinone, indolidan,

olprinone, atizoram, KS-506-G, dipamfylline, BMY-43351, atizoram, arofylline, filaminast, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF-107806, piclamilast, RS-17597, RS-25344- 000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, mopidamol, anagrelide, ibudilast, amrinone, pimobendan, cilostazol, quazinone and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide, PDE3 inhibitors (such as ICI153, 100, bemorandane (RWJ 22867), MCI-154, UD-CG 212, sulmazole, ampizone, cilostamide, carbazeran, piroximone, imazodan, CI-930, siguazodan, adibendan, saterinone, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, emoradan, EMD-53998, EMD- 57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, revizinone, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, enoximone and milrinone, PDE3/4 inhibitors (such as benafentrine, trequinsin, ORG-30029, zardaverine, L- 686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and tolafentrine) and other PDE inhibitors (such as vinpocetin, papaverine, enprofylline, cilomilast, fenoximone, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®); Neuropeptide Y2 (NPY2) agonists include but are not limited to: polypeptide YY and fragments and variants thereof (*e.g.* YY3-36 (PYY3-36)(N. Engl. J. Med. 349:941, 2003; IKPEAPGE DASPEELNRY YASLRHYLNL VTRQRY (SEQ ID NO:XXX)) and PYY agonists such as those disclosed in WO02/47712, WO03/026591, WO03/057235, and WO03/027637; serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as, paroxetine, fluoxetine (Prozac™), fluvoxamine, sertraline, citalopram, and imipramine, and those disclosed in US6162805, US6365633, WO03/00663, WOO 1/27060, and WOO 1/162341; thyroid hormone β agonists, such as KB-2611 (KaroBioBMS), and those disclosed in WO02/15845, WO97/21993, WO99/00353, GB98/284425, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,223, and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; UCP-I (uncoupling protein-1), 2, or 3 activators, such as phytanic acid, 4-[(E)-2-(5, 6,7,8- tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-napthalenyl)-l-propenyl]benzoic acid (TTNPB), retinoic acid, and those disclosed in WO99/00123; β3 (beta adrenergic receptor 3) agonists, such as AJ9677/TAK677 (Dainippon/Takeda), L750355 (Merck), CP331648 (Pfizer), CL-316,243, SB 418790, BRL-37344, L-796568, BMS-196085, BRL-35135A, CGP12177A, BTA-243, GW 427353, Trecadrine, Zeneca D7114, N-5984 (Nisshin Kyorin), LY-377604 (Lilly), SR 59119A, and those disclosed in US5541204, US5770615, US5491134, US5776983, US488064, US5705515, US5451677, WO94/18161, WO95/29159, WO97/46556, WO98/04526 and WO98/32753, WO01/74782, WO02/32897, WO03/014113, WO03/016276, WO03/016307, WO03/024948,

WO03/024953 and WO03/037881; noradrenergic agents including, but not limited to, diethylpropion (such as Tenuate® (1- propanone, 2-(diethylamino)-l -phenyl-, hydrochloride), Merrell), dextroamphetamine (also known as dextroamphetamine sulfate, dexamphetamine, dexedrine, Dexampex, Ferndex, Oxydess II, Robese, Spancap #1), mazindol ((or 5-(p-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-3H- imidazo[2,l-a]isoindol-5-ol) such as Sanorex®, Novartis or Mazanor®, Wyeth Ayerst), phenylpropanolamine (or Benzenemethanol, alpha-(l-aminoethyl)-, hydrochloride), phentermine ((or Phenol, 3-[[4,5-duhydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)ethyl](4-methylpheny-l)amino], monohydrochloride) such as Adipex-P®, Lemmon, FASTIN®, Smith-Kline Beecham and Ionamin®, Medeva), phendimetrazine ((or (2S,3S)-3,4-Dimethyl-2phenylmorpholine L-(+)- tartrate (1 :1)) such as Metra® (Forest) , Plegine® (Wyeth- Ay erst), Prelu-2® (Bochringer Ingelheim), and Statobex® (Lemmon), phendamine tartrate (such as Thephorin® (2,3,4,9- Tetrahydro-2-methyl-9-phenyl-lH-indenol[2,l-c]pyridine L-(+)-tartrate (1 :1)), Hoffmann- LaRoche), methamphetamine (such as Desoxyn®, Abbot ((S)-N, (alpha)-dimethylbenzenecethanamine hydrochloride)), and phendimetrazine tartrate (such as Bontril® Slow-Release Capsules, Amarin (-3,4-Dimethyl-2-phenylmorpholine Tartrate); fatty acid oxidation upregulator/inducers such as Famoxin® (Genset); monamine oxidase inhibitors including but not limited to befloxatone, moclobemide, brofaromine, phenoxathine, esuprone, befol, toloxatone, pirlindol, amiflamine, sercloremine, bazinaprine, lazabemide, milacemide, caroxazone and other certain compounds as disclosed by WO01/12176; and other anti-obesity agents such as 5HT-2 agonists, ACC (acetyl-CoA carboxylase) inhibitors such as those described in WO03/072197, alpha-lipoic acid (alpha-LA), AOD9604, appetite suppressants such as those in WO03/40107, ATL-962 (Alizyme PLC), benzocaine, benzphetamine hydrochloride (Didrex), bladderwrack (focus vesiculosus), BRS3 (bombesin receptor subtype 3) agonists, bupropion, caffeine, CCK agonists, chitosan, chromium, conjugated linoleic acid, corticotropin-releasing hormone agonists, dehydroepiandrosterone, DGATI (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1) inhibitors, DGAT2 (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2) inhibitors, dicarboxylate transporter inhibitors, ephedra, exendin-4 (an inhibitor of glp-1) FAS (fatty acid synthase) inhibitors (such as Cerulenin and C75), fat resorption inhibitors (such as those in WO03/053451, and the like), fatty acid transporter inhibitors, natural water soluble fibers (such as psyllium, plantago, guar, oat, pectin), galanin antagonists, galega (Goat's Rue, French Lilac), garcinia cambogia, germander (teucrium chamaedrys), ghrelin antibodies and ghrelin antagonists (such as those disclosed in

WO01/87335, and WO02/08250), polypeptide hormones and variants thereof which affect the islet cell secretion, such as the hormones of the secretin/gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP)/vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP)/pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP)/glucagon-like polypeptide II (GLP- II)/glicentin/glucagon gene family and/or those of the adrenomedullin/amylin/calcitonin gene related polypeptide (CGRP) gene family includingGLP-1 (glucagon- like polypeptide 1) agonists (*e.g.* (1) exendin-4, (2) those GLP-1 molecules described in US20050130891 including GLP- 1(7-34), GLP-l(7-35), GLP-l(7-36) or GLP-l(7-37) in its C-terminally carboxylated or amidated form or as modified GLP-1 polypeptides and modifications thereof including those described in paragraphs 17-44 of US20050130891, and derivatives derived from GLP-l-(7- 34)COOH and the corresponding acid amide are employed which have the following general formula: R-NH-HAEGTFTSDVSYLEGQAAKEFIAWLVK-$CONH_2$ wherein R=H or an organic compound having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms. Preferably, R is the residue of a carboxylic acid. Particularly preferred are the following carboxylic acid residues: formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert- butyl.) and glp-1 (glucagon-like polypeptide- 1), glucocorticoid antagonists, glucose transporter inhibitors, growth hormone secretagogues (such as those disclosed and specifically described in US5536716), interleukin-6 (IL-6) and modulators thereof (as in WO03/057237, and the like), L- carnitine, Me3r (melanocortin 3 receptor) agonists, MCH2R (melanin concentrating hormone 2R) agonist/antagonists, melanin concentrating hormone antagonists, melanocortin agonists (such as Melanotan II or those described in WO 99/64002 and WO 00/74679), nomame herba, phosphate transporter inhibitors, phytopharm compound 57 (CP 644,673), pyruvate, SCD-1 (stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1) inhibitors, T71 (Tularik, Inc., Boulder CO), Topiramate (Topimax®, indicated as an anti-convulsant which has been shown to increase weight loss), transcription factor modulators (such as those disclosed in WO03/026576), β-hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase- 1 inhibitors (β -HSD-I), β-hydroxy-β-methylbutyrate, p57 (Pfizer), Zonisamide (Zonegran™, indicated as an anti-epileptic which has been shown to lead to weight loss), and the agents disclosed in US20030119428 paragraphs 20-26.

Anti-Diabetic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in therapeutic combination with one or more anti-diabetic agents, including but not limited to: PPARγ agonists such as glitazones (*e.g.*,

WAY-120,744, AD 5075, balaglitazone, ciglitazone, darglitazone (CP-86325, Pfizer), englitazone (CP-68722, Pfizer), isaglitazone (MIT/J&J), MCC- 555 (Mitsibishi disclosed in US5594016), pioglitazone (such as such as Actos™ pioglitazone; Takeda), rosiglitazone (Avandia™;Smith Kline Beecham), rosiglitazone maleate, troglitazone (Rezulin®, disclosed in US4572912), rivoglitazone (CS-Ol 1, Sankyo), GL-262570 (Glaxo Welcome), BRL49653 (disclosed in WO98/05331), CLX-0921, 5-BTZD, GW-0207, LG- 100641, JJT-501 (JPNT/P&U), L-895645 (Merck), R-119702 (Sankyo/Pfizer), NN-2344 (Dr. Reddy/NN), YM-440 (Yamanouchi), LY-300512, LY-519818, R483 (Roche), T131 (Tularik), and the like and compounds disclosed in US4687777, US5002953, US5741803, US5965584, US6150383, US6150384, US6166042, US6166043, US6172090, US6211205, US6271243, US6288095, US6303640, US6329404, US5994554, W097/10813, WO97/27857, WO97/28115, WO97/28137,WO97/27847, WO00/76488, WO03/000685,WO03/027112,WO03/035602, WO03/048130, WO03/055867, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; biguanides such as metformin hydrochloride (N,N-dimethylimidodicarbonimidic diamide hydrochloride, such as Glucophage™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); metformin hydrochloride with glyburide, such as Glucovance™, Bristol-Myers Squibb); buformin (Imidodicarbonimidic diamide, N-butyl-); etoformine (l-Butyl-2-ethylbiguanide, Schering A. G.); other metformin salt forms (including where the salt is chosen from the group of, acetate, benzoate, citrate, ftimarate, embonate, chlorophenoxyacetate, glycolate, palmoate, aspartate, methanesulphonate, maleate, parachlorophenoxyisobutyrate, formate, lactate, succinate, sulphate, tartrate, cyclohexanecarboxylate, hexanoate, octanoate, decanoate, hexadecanoate, octodecanoate, benzenesulphonate, trimethoxybenzoate, paratoluenesulphonate, adamantanecarboxylate, glycoxylate, glutarnate, pyrrolidonecarboxylate, naphthalenesulphonate, 1-glucosephosphate, nitrate, sulphite, dithionate and phosphate), and phenformin; protein tyrosine phosphatase- IB (PTP-IB) inhibitors, such as A-401,674, KR 61639, OC- 060062, OC-83839, OC-297962, MC52445, MC52453, ISIS 113715, and those disclosed in WO99/585521, WO99/58518, WO99/58522, WO99/61435, WO03/032916, WO03/032982, WO03/041729, WO03/055883, WO02/26707, WO02/26743, JP2002114768, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; sulfonylureas such as acetohexamide (*e.g.* Dymelor, Eli Lilly), carbutamide, chlorpropamide (*e.g.* Diabinese®, Pfizer), gliamilide (Pfizer), gliclazide (*e.g.* Diamcron, Servier Canada Inc), glimepiride (*e.g.* disclosed in US4379785, such as Amaryl , Aventis), glipentide,

glipizide (*e.g.* Glucotrol or Glucotrol XL Extended Release, Pfizer), gliquidone, glisolamide, glyburide/glibenclamide (*e.g.* Micronase or Glynase Prestab, Pharmacia & Upjohn and Diabeta, Aventis), tolazamide (*e.g.* Tolinase), and tolbutamide (*e.g.* Orinase), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; meglitinides such as repaglinide (*e.g.* Prandin®, Novo Nordisk), KAD1229 (PF/Kissei), and nateglinide (*e.g.* Starlix®, Novartis), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; α glucoside hydrolase inhibitors (or glucoside inhibitors) such as acarbose (*e.g.* Precose™, Bayer disclosed in US4904769), miglitol (such as GLYSET™, Pharmacia & Upjohn disclosed in US4639436), camiglibose (Methyl 6-deoxy-6-[(2R,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2- (hydroxymethyl)piperidino]-alpha-D-glucopyranoside, Marion Merrell Dow), voglibose (Takeda), adiposine, emiglitate, pradimicin-Q, salbostatin, CKD-711, MDL-25,637, MDL- 73,945, and MOR 14, and the compounds disclosed in US4062950, US4174439, US4254256, US4701559, US4639436, US5192772, US4634765, US5157116, US5504078, US5091418, US5217877, US51091 and WOO 1/47528 (polyamines); α-amylase inhibitors such as tendamistat, trestatin, and Al -3688, and the compounds disclosed in US4451455, US4623714, and US4273765; SGLT2 inhibtors including those disclosed in US6414126 and US6515117; an aP2 inhibitor such as disclosed in US6548529; insulin secreatagogues such as linogliride, A-4166, forskilin, dibutyrl cAMP, isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; fatty acid oxidation inhibitors, such as clomoxir, and etomoxir, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; A2 antagonists, such as midaglizole, isaglidole, deriglidole, idazoxan, earoxan, and fluparoxan, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; insulin and related compounds (*e.g.* insulin mimetics) such as biota, LP-100, novarapid, insulin detemir, insulin lispro, insulin glargine, insulin zinc suspension (lente and ultralente), Lys-Pro insulin, GLP-I (1-36) amide, GLP-I (73-7) (insulintropin, disclosed in US5614492), LY-315902 (Lilly), GLP-I (7-36)-NH2), AL-401 (Autoimmune), certain compositions as disclosed in US4579730, US4849405, US4963526, US5642868, US5763396, US5824638, US5843866, US6153632, US6191105, and WO 85/05029, and primate, rodent, or rabbit insulin including biologically active variants thereof including allelic variants, more preferably human insulin available in recombinant form (sources of human insulin include pharmaceutically acceptable and sterile formulations such as those available from Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, Ind. 46285) as Humulin™ (human insulin rDNA origin), also see the THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE, 55.sup.th Ed. (2001) Medical

Economics, Thomson Healthcare (disclosing other suitable human insulins); non-thiazolidinediones such as JT-501 and farglitazar (GW-2570/GI- 262579), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; PPARα/γ dual agonists such as AR-HO39242 (Aztrazeneca), GW-409544 (Glaxo-Wellcome), BVT-142, CLX-0940, GW-1536, GW-1929, GW-2433, KRP-297 (Kyorin Merck; 5-[(2,4-Dioxo thiazolidinyl)methyl] methoxy-N-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl] methyl]benzamide), L-796449, LR-90, MK-0767 (Merck/Kyorin/Banyu), SB 219994, muraglitazar (BMS), tesaglitzar (Astrazeneca), reglitazar (JTT-501) and those disclosed in WO99/16758, WO99/19313, WO99/20614, WO99/38850, WO00/23415, WO00/23417, WO00/23445, WO00/50414, WO01/00579, WO01/79150, WO02/062799, WO03/004458, WO03/016265, WO03/018010, WO03/033481, WO03/033450, WO03/033453, WO03/043985, WO 031053976, U.S. application Ser. No. 09/664,598, filed Sep. 18, 2000, Murakami et al. Diabetes 47, 1841-1847 (1998), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; other insulin sensitizing drugs; VPAC2 receptor agonists; GLK modulators, such as those disclosed in WO03/015774; retinoid modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/000249; GSK 3β/GSK 3 inhibitors such as 4-[2-(2-bromophenyl)-4-(4-fluorophenyl-lH-imidazol-5- yl]pyridine and those compounds disclosed in WO03/024447, WO03/037869, WO03/037877, WO03/037891, WO03/068773, EP1295884, EP1295885, and the like; glycogen phosphorylase (HGLPa) inhibitors such as CP-368,296, CP-316,819, BAYR3401, and compounds disclosed in WOO 1/94300, WO02/20530, WO03/037864, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof; ATP consumption promotors such as those disclosed in WO03/007990; TRB3 inhibitors; vanilloid receptor ligands such as those disclosed in WO03/049702; hypoglycemic agents such as those disclosed in WO03/015781 and WO03/040114; glycogen synthase kinase 3 inhibitors such as those disclosed in WO03/035663 agents such as those disclosed in WO99/51225, US20030134890, WO01/24786, and WO03/059870; insulin-responsive DNA binding protein-1 (IRDBP-I) as disclosed in WO03/057827, and the like; adenosine A2 antagonists such as those disclosed in WO03/035639, WO03/035640, and the like; PPARδ agonists such as GW 501516, GW 590735, and compounds disclosed in JP10237049 and WO02/14291; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, NVP-DPP728A (1- [[[2-[(5-cyanopyridin-2-yl)amino]ethyl]amino]acetyl]-2-cyano-(S)-pyrrolidine, disclosed by Hughes et al, Biochemistry, 38(36), 11597-11603, 1999), P32/98, NVP-LAF-237, P3298, TSL225 (tryptophyl-l,2,3,4-

tetrahydro-isoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), valine pyrrolidide, TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD- 26 inhibitors, FE999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, DPP4, SDZ 274-444, 2-cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) ,and the compounds disclosed in US6395767, US6573287, US6395767 (compounds disclosed include BMS-477118, BMS-471211 and BMS 538,305), WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279, WO99/67278, WO99/61431WO03/004498, WO03/004496, EP1258476, WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/000180, and WO03/000181; GLP-I agonists such as exendin-3 and exendin-4 (including the 39 aa polypeptide synthetic exendin-4 called Exenatide®), and compounds disclosed in US2003087821 and NZ 504256, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; peptides including amlintide and Symlin® (pramlintide acetate); and glycokinase activators such as those disclosed in US2002103199 (fused heteroaromatic compounds) and WO02/48106 (isoindolin-1-one-substituted propionamide compounds).

Phosphodiesterase inhibitors

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor. PDE inhibitors are those compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of c AMP and/or cGMP. Possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors. By way of example, those PDE inhibitors may be mentioned such as are described and/or claimed in the following patent applications and patents: DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918,

EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,963,561, 5,141,931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEI 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6,331,543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I-XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577) and WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399. PDE5 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra®). PDE4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RO-20-1724, MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), DENBUFYLLINE, ROLIPRAM, OXAGRELATE, NITRAQUAZONE, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, MOTAPIZONE, LIXAZINONE, INDOLIDAN, OLPRINONE, ATIZORAM, KS-506-G, DIPAMFYLLINE, BMY-43351, ATIZORAM, AROFYLLINE, FILAMINAST, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF- 107806, PICLAMILAST, RS- 17597, RS-25344-000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, MOPIDAMOL, ANAGRELIDE, IBUDILAST, AMRINONE, PIMOBENDAN, CILOSTAZOL, QUAZINONE and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide. PDE3 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are SULMAZOLE, AMPIZONE, CILOSTAMIDE, CARBAZERAN, PIROXIMONE, IMAZODAN, CI-930, SIGUAZODAN, ADIBENDAN, SATERINONE, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, EMORADAN, EMD-53998, EMD-57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, REVIZINONE, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-

63291, ENOXIMONE and MILRINONE. PDE3/4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are BENAFENTRINE, TREQUINSIN, ORG-30029, ZARDAVERINE, L-686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and TOLAFENTRINE. Other PDE inhibitors include: cilomilast, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®), zaprinast (PDE5 specific).

Anti- Uterine Contractions Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in order to decrease or inhibit uterine contractions) with a tocolytic agent including but not limited to beta-adrenergic agents, magnesium sulfate, prostaglandin inhibitors, and calcium channel blockers.

Anti- Neoplastic Agents

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy with an antineoplastic agents including but not limited to alkylating agents, epipodophyllotoxins, nitrosoureas, antimetabolites, vinca alkaloids, anthracycline antibiotics, nitrogen mustard agents, and the like. Particular anti-neoplastic agents may include tamoxifen, taxol, etoposide and 5-fluorouracil.

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example as in a chemotherapeutic composition) with an antiviral and monoclonal antibody therapies.

Agents to treat Congestive Heart Failure

The GCRA peptides described herein can be used in combination therapy (for example, in prevention/treatment of congestive heart failure or another method described herein) with the partial agonist of the nociceptin receptor ORL1 described by Dooley et al. (The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 283 (2): 735-741, 1997). The agonist is a hexapeptide having the amino acid sequence Ac- RYY (RK) (WI) (RK)-NH2 ("the Dooley polypeptide"), where the brackets show allowable variation of amino acid residue. Thus Dooley polypeptide can include but are not limited to KYYRWR, RYYRWR, KWRYYR, RYYRWK, RYYRWK (all-D amin acids), RYYRIK, RYYRIR, RYYKIK, RYYKIR, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWR, RYYRWK, RYYRIK, RYYKWR, RYYKWK, RYYRWK and

KYYRWK, wherein the amino acid residues are in the L-form unless otherwise specified. The GCRA peptides described herein can also be used in combination therapy with polypeptide conjugate modifications of the Dooley polypeptide described in WO0198324.

DOSAGE

Dosage levels of active ingredients in a pharmaceutical composition can also be varied so as to achieve a transient or sustained concentration of the compound in a subject, especially in and around the site of inflammation or disease area, and to result in the desired response. It is well within the skill of the art to start doses of the compound at levels lower than required to achieve the desired effect and to gradually increase the dosage until the desired effect is achieved. It will be understood that the specific dose level for any particular subject will depend on a variety of factors, including body weight, general health, diet, natural history of disease, route and scheduling of administration, combination with one or more other drugs, and severity of disease.

An effective dosage of the composition will typically be between about 1 μg and about 10 mg per kilogram body weight, preferably between about 10 μg to 5 mg of the compound per kilogram body weight. Adjustments in dosage will be made using methods that are routine in the art and will be based upon the particular composition being used and clinical considerations.

The guanylate cyclase receptor agonists used in the methods described above may be administered orally, systemically or locally. Dosage forms include preparations for inhalation or injection, solutions, suspensions, emulsions, tablets, capsules, topical salves and lotions, transdermal compositions, other known peptide formulations and pegylated peptide analogs. Agonists may be administered as either the sole active agent or in combination with other drugs, *e.g.*, an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase and anti-inflammatory agent. In all cases, additional drugs should be administered at a dosage that is therapeutically effective using the existing art as a guide. Drugs may be administered in a single composition or sequentially.

Dosage levels of the GCR agonist for use in methods of this invention typically are from about 0.001 mg to about 10,000 mg daily, preferably from about 0.005 mg to about 1,000 mg daily. On the basis of mg/kg daily dose, either given in single or divided doses, dosages typically range from about 0.001/75 mg/kg to about 10,000/75 mg/kg, preferably from about 0.005/75 mg/kg to about 1,000/75 mg/kg.

The total daily dose of each inhibitor can be administered to the patient in a single dose, or in multiple subdoses. Typically, subdoses can be administered two to six times per day,

preferably two to four times per day, and even more preferably two to three times per day. Doses can be in immediate release form or sustained release form sufficiently effective to obtain the desired control over the medical condition.

The dosage regimen to prevent, treat, give relief from, or ameliorate a medical condition or disorder, or to otherwise protect against or treat a medical condition with the combinations and compositions of the present invention is selected in accordance with a variety of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, the type, age, weight, sex, diet, and medical condition of the subject, the severity of the disease, the route of administration, pharmacological considerations such as the activity, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and toxicology profiles of the particular inhibitors employed, whether a drug delivery system is utilized, and whether the inhibitors are administered with other active ingredients. Thus, the dosage regimen actually employed may vary widely and therefore deviate from the preferred dosage regimen set forth above.

EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1: SYNTHESIS AND PURIFICATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

The GCRA peptides were synthesized using standard methods for solid-phase peptide synthesis. Either a Boc/Bzl or Fmoc/tBu protecting group strategy was seleceted depending upon the scale of the peptide to be produced. In the case of smaller quantities, it is possible to get the desired product using an Fmoc/tBu protocol, but for larger quantities (1 g or more), Boc/Bzl is superior.

In each case the GCRA peptide was started by either using a pre-loaded Wang (Fmoc) or Merrifield (Boc) or Pam (Boc) resin. For products with C-terminal Leu, Fmoc-Leu-Wang (D-1115) or Boc-Leu-Pam resin (D-1230) or Boc-Leu-Merrifield (D-1030) Thus, for peptides containing the C-terminal d-Leu, the resin was Fmoc-dLeu-Wang Resin (D-2535) and Boc-dLeu-Merrifield, Boc-dLeu-Pam-Resin (Bachem Product D-1230 and D-1590, respectively) (SP-332 and related analogs). For peptides produced as C-terminal amides, a resin with Ramage linker (Bachem Product D-2200) (Fmoc) or mBHA (Boc) (Bachem Product D-1210 was used and loaded with the C-terminal residue as the first synthetic step.

Fmoc-tBu Overview

Each synthetic cycle consisted deprotection with 20% piperidine in DMF. Resin washes were accomplished with alternating DMF and IpOH to swell and shrink the resin, respectively. Peptide synthesis elongated the chain from the C-terminus to the N-terminus. Activation chemistry for each amino acid was with HBTU/DIEA in a 4 fold excess for 45 minutes. In automated chemistries, each amino acid was double coupled to maximize the coupling efficiency. To insure the correct position of disulfide bonds, the Cys residues were introduced as Cys(Acm) at positions 15 and 7. Cys(Trt) was positioned at Cys4 and Cys12. This protecting group strategy yields the correct topoisomer as the dominant product (75:25). (For enterotoxin analogs, a third disulfide bond protecting group (Mob) was utilized).

For peptides containing C-terminal Aeea (aminoethyloxyethyloxyacetyl) groups, these were coupled to a Ramage amide linker using the same activation chemistry above by using an Fmoc-protected Aeea derivative. The Cys numbering in these cases remains the same and the positioning of the protecting groups as well. For the peptides containing the N-terminal extension of Aeea, the Cys residue numbering will be increased by three Cys4 becomes Cys7, Cys12 becomes Cys15; Cys7 becomes Cys10 and Cys 15 becomes Cys18. The latter pair is protected with Acm and the former pair keeps the Trt groups.

For analogs containing D-amino acid substitutions, these were introduced directly by incorporating the correctly protected derivative at the desired position using the same activation chemistry described in this document. For Fmoc strategies, Fmoc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Fmoc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Fmoc-dAsp(tBu)-OH, Fmoc-dGlu(tBu)-OH and for Boc strategies, Boc-dAsn(Xan)-OH, Boc-dAsn(Trt)-OH, Boc-dAsp(Chx), Boc-dAsp(Bzl)-OH, Boc-dGlu(Chx)-OH and Boc-dGlu(Bzl)-OH would be utilized.

Each peptide is cleaved from the solid-phase support using a cleavage cocktail of TFA:H2O:Trisisopropylsilane (8.5:0.75:0.75) ml/g of resin for 2 hr at RT. The crude deprotected peptide is filtered to remove the spent resin beads and precipitated into ice-cold diethylether.

Each disulfide bonds was introduced orthogonally. Briefly, the crude synthetic product was dissolved in water containing NH_4OH to increase the pH to 9. Following complete solubilization of the product, the disulfide bond was made between the Trt deprotected Cys residues by titration with H_2O_2. The monocyclic product was purified by RP-HPLC. The purified mono-cyclic product was subsequently treated with a solution of iodine to simultaneously remove the Acm protecting groups and introduce the second disulfide bond.

For enterotoxin analogs, the Mob group was removed via treatment of the dicyclic product with TFA 85% containing 10% DMSO and 5% thioanisole for 2 hr at RT.

Each product was then purified by RP-HPLC using a combination buffer system of TEAP in H2O versus MeCN, followed by TFA in H2O versus MeCN. Highly pure fractions were combined and lyophilized. The final product was converted to an Acetate salt using either ion exchange with Acetate loaded Dow-Ex resin or using RP-HPLC using a base-wash step with NH_4OAc followed by 1% AcOH in water versus MeCN.

It is also possible to prepare enterotoxin analogs using a random oxidation methodology using Cys(Trt) in Fmoc or Cys(MeB) in Boc. Following cleavage, the disulfide bonds can be formed using disulfide interchange redox pairs such as glutathione (red/ox) and/or cysteine/cystine. This process will yield a folded product that the disulfide pairs must be determined as there would be no way of knowing their position directly.

Boc-Bzl Process

Peptide synthesis is initiated on a Merrifield or Pam pre-loaded resin or with mBHA for peptides produced as C-terminal amides. Each synthetic cycle consists of a deprotection step with 50% TFA in MeCL2. The resin is washed repetitively with MeCl2 and MeOH. The TFA salt formed is neutralized with a base wash of 10% TEA in MeCl2. The resin is washed with MeCl2 and MeOH and lastly with DMF prior to coupling steps. A colorimetric test is conducted to ensure deprotection. Each coupling is mediated with diisopropyl carbodiimide with HOBT to form the active ester. Each coupling is allowed to continue for 2 hr at RT or overnight on difficult couplings. Recouplings are conducted with either Uronium or Phosphonium reagents until a negative colorimetric test is obtained for free primary amines. The resin is then washed with DMF, MeCl2 and MeOH and prepared for the next solid-phase step. Cys protection utilizes Cys(Acm) at positions 7 and 15, and Cys(MeB) at Cys 4 and Cys12.

Cleavage and simultaneous deprotection is accomplished by treatment with HF using anisole as a scavenger (9:1:1) ml:ml:g (resin) at 0°C for 60 min. The peptide is subsequently extracted from the resin and precipitated in ice cold ether. The introduction of disulfide bonds and purification follows the exact same protocol described above for the *Fmoc-produced* product.

EXAMPLE 2: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED GASTRIC FLUID (SGF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide according to the invention is determined in the presence of simulated gastric fluid (SGF) . GRCA peptide (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF (Proteose peptone (8.3 g/liter; Difco), D-Glucose (3.5 g/liter; Sigma), NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), Porcine bile (final 1 X concentration 0.05 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Lysozyme (final 1 X concentration 0.10 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS, Pepsin (final 1 X concentration 0.0133 g/liter; Sigma) in PBS). SGF is made on the day of the experiment and the pH is adjusted to 2.0 ± 0.1 using HCl or NaOH as necessary. After the pH adjustment, SGF is sterilized filtered with 0.22 μm membrane filters. SP-304 (final concentration of 8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 15, 30, 45, 60 and 120 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are snap frozen in dry ice then are stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate.

EXAMPLE 3: *IN VITRO* PROTEOLYTIC STABILITY USING SIMULATED INTESTINAL FLUID (SIF) DIGESTION

The stability of the GRCA peptide is also evaluated against digestion with simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SIF solution was prepared by the method as described in the United States Pharmacopoeia, 24th edition, p2236. The recipe to prepare SIF solution is as described below. The SIF solution contains NaCl (2.05 g/liter; Sigma), KH_2PO_4 (0.6 g/liter; Sigma), $CaCl_2$ (0.11 g/liter), KCl (0.37 g/liter; Sigma), and Pacreatin 10 mg/ml. The pH is adjusted to 6 and the solution is filter sterilized. A solution of SP-304 (8.5 mg/ml) is incubated in SGF at 37°C for 0, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 300 min in triplicate aliquots. Following incubations, samples are removed and snap frozen with dry ice and stored in a -80°C freezer until they are assayed in duplicate. F

The integrity of GRCA peptide is evaluated by HPLC by essentially using the method described for SGF digestion.

EXAMPLE 4: CYCLIC GMP STIMULATION ASSAYS

The ability of the GCRA peptide to bind to and activate the intestinal GC-C receptor is tested by usingT 84 human colon carcinoma cell line. Human T84 colon carcinoma cells are obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Cells are grown in a 1:1 mixture of Ham's

F-12 medium and Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U penicillin/ml, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. The cells are fed fresh medium every third day and split at a confluence of approximately 80%.

Biological activity of the GCRA peptides is assayed as previously reported (15). Briefly, the confluent monolayers of T-84 cells in 24-well plates are washed twice with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), pre-incubated at 37°C for 10 min with 250 µl of DMEM containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4) and 1 mM isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), followed by incubation with GCRA peptides (0.1 nM to 10 .mu.M) for 30 min. The medium is aspirated, and the reaction is terminated by the addition of 3% perchloric acid. Following centrifugation, and neutralization with 0.1 N NaOH, the supernatant is used directly for measurements of cGMP using an ELISA kit (Caymen Chemical, Ann Arbor, Mich.).

EXAMPLE 5: PEGGYLATED PEPTIDES

The other strategy to render peptides more resistant towards digestions against digestive proteases is to peggylate them at the N- and C-terminal. The peptide GCRA peptide is peggylated with the aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (Aeea) group at the C-terminal (or at the N-terminal or at both termini. Cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells is measured by the method as described above.

EXAMPLE 6: COMBINATION OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE RECPTOR AGONISTS WITH PHOSPHODIESTERASE INHIBITORS

Regulation of intracellular concentrations of cyclic nucleotides (*i.e.*, cAMP and cGMP) and thus, signaling via these second messengers, is generally considered to be governed by their rates of production versus their rates of destruction within cells. Thus, levels of cGMP in tissues and organs can also be regulated by the levels of expression of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterases (cGMP-PDE), which are generally overexpressed in cancer and inflammatory diseases. Therefore, a combination consisting of an agonist of GC-C with an inhibitor of cGMP-PDE might produce synergistic effect on levels of cGMP in the target tissues and organs.

Sulindac Sulfone (SS) and Zaprinast (ZAP) are two of the known inhibitors of cGMP-PDE and has shown to induce apoptosis in cancer cells via a cGMP-dependent mechanism. SS and ZAP in combination with GCRA peptide is evaluated to see if these PDE inhibitors have any synergistic effect on intracellular accumulation of cGMP

EXAMPLE 7: AN ORAL RANGE-FINDING TOXICITY STUDY IN CYNOMOLGUS MONKEYS.

The objective of the study is to determine the toxicity of the GRCA peptides according to the invention following a single oral gavage administration to the cynomolgus monkey and to allow assessment of reversibility of any changes following a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each GRCA peptide according to the invention will be given at two different dose levels.

Experimental Design

The test (*e.g.*, the GRCA peptides according to the invention) and control/vehicle article will be administered in three phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation period. Each phase will consist of a single oral gavage administration to female cynomolgus monkeys as indicated in the tables below:

Phase 1:

Eight non-naive female cynomolgus monkeys will be transferred from the ITR Spare Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Days	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	0	0	10	2
		4				
2	Test Peptides	1	1	0.1	10	2
		4				
		4				

Following completion of the Phase 1 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for 33 days. Upon completion of the observation period, all monkeys will be transferred back to the ITR Spare Monkey Colony.

Phase 2:

The same eight non-naïve female cynomolgus monkeys as previously used in Phase 1 will be transferred from the ITR Sparc Monkey colony and assigned to four dose groups as follows:

Group Number	Group Designation	Study Day	Dose Level (mg/kg)	Dose Concentration (mg/mL)	Dose Volume (mL/kg)	Number of Animals (Females)
1	Control/Vehicle	1	10	1	10	2
2	Test Peptides	1	10	1	10	2

Following completion of the Phase 2 dosing, all monkeys will be observed for a minimum of 7 days.

Route of Administration

The oral route of administration has been chosen because it is a preferred human therapeutic route.

Preparation of Test and Control /Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be prepared fresh on the day of dosing in cold distilled water (maintained in an ice water bath). A sufficient amount of test article powder will be added to the appropriate amount of distilled water in order to achieve the desired concentration. The dose formulations will be mixed by simple inversion.

Analysis of Test Article Concentration and Stability in the Dose Formulations

For possible confirmation of the concentration and stability of the test article in the formulations, representative samples will be taken from the middle of each concentration, including the control/vehicle article on the first day of dosing of each group, as indicated below. Samples will be collected immediately after preparation on Day 1 and again after dosing is completed on that day and will be stored frozen (approximately 80°C nominal) in 20 mL screw cap vials. Therefore, the remaining dose formulation vials will be returned to the Pharmacy Department as soon as possible after completion of dosing.

Group 1: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 2: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 3: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

Group 4: 1.5 mL in duplicate from the middle on Day 1 (pre-dose and post-dose).

The formulations will be maintained cold in an ice water bath during all sampling procedures.

The formulations will be stirred continuously with a stir bar for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to sampling.

The samples will be retained frozen (approximately -80°C nominal) at ITR until requested by the Sponsor to be shipped to a laboratory designated by the Sponsor for analysis. The samples can be discarded once it is determined by the analyst and Study Director that they are no longer needed. These samples' disposition will be recorded in the raw data.

If analyzed, a Dose Formulation report will be prepared by the Principal Investigator (Formulation analysis) and will be provided to ITR for inclusion in the final report.

Test System

Species/Strain:	Cynomolgus Monkey *(Macaca Fasicularis)*
Source:	orldwide Primates Inc., P.O. Box 971279 Miami, Florida, 33187, USA *and*
	Covance Research Products Inc. P.O. Box 549 Alice, Texas, 78333, USA
Total No. of monkeys on study:	8 non-naive females
Body Weight Range:	2-4 kg at onset of treatment
Age Range at Start:	Young adult at onset of treatment
Acclimation Period:	The animals will be transferred from ITR's spare monkey colony. They are therefore, considered to be fully acclimated to the laboratory environment.

The actual age and body weight ranges will be noted in the final report.

Administration of the Test and Control/Vehicle Articles

The test and control/vehicle articles will be administered by oral gavage administration using a gavage tube attached to a syringe in three Phases separated by a minimum 7-day observation/washout period. Each dosing session will consist of a single oral gavage administration. The gavage tube will be flushed with 3 mL of reverse osmosis water immediately following administration of the dose formulation in order to ensure that the entire dose volume has been delivered to the animal. The dose volume will be 10 mL/kg for all animals, including controls. The actual volume administered to each monkey on Day 1 of each Phase will be calculated using the Day -1 body weights of each Phase.

Dosing formulations will be maintained cold during dose administration by placing them in an ice water bath.

The dosing formulations must be placed on a stir plate for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of dosing and maintained on the stir plate throughout the dosing procedure.

The dosing formulations must be used within 2 hours of preparation.

Clinical Observations

Cage-side clinical signs (ill health, behavioral changes etc.) will be recorded as indicated below except on detailed clinical examination days, where the morning cage-side clinical signs will be replaced by a detailed clinical examination (DCE). During regular cage side clinical signs and detailed examinations, particular attention will be paid to stools with respect to amount of stools produced, description of stools, etc.

Cage side clinical signs will be performed as follows:

During the pretreatment period and during the 7-day (minimum) observation periods: Three times per day with a minimum of 3 hours between each occasion.

On the dosing day of Phase 1: pre-dose, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 2: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

On the dosing day of Phase 3: pre-dose, continuously for the first 4 hours post-dose and at 6, 8 and 24 hours post-dosing

A detailed clinical examination of each monkey will be performed once at the time of animal transfer and once weekly thereafter.

Animals whose health status is judged to warrant additional evaluation will be examined by a Clinical Veterinarian, or a technician working under the supervision of the Clinical Veterinarian. Any veterinarian-recommended treatments will only be performed once agreement has been obtained from the Study Director. Where possible, the Sponsor will be consulted prior to administration of therapeutic drugs.

Body weights will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Food consumption will be recorded for all animals once daily from the day of transfer through to the end of the study.

Cages will be cleaned prior to the start of the daily food consumption to ensure no food cookies remain in the cage. Monkeys will be fed 7 cookies before 12pm and 7 cookies after 12pm. The sum of the total number of cookies given for the day will be recorded.

The next morning, a visual check will be performed to see how many cookies are left in the cage. The number of whole cookies remaining in the food hopper or on the tray will be recorded. The number of whole cookies left will be subtracted from the total number of cookies given in order to calculate the number of cookies eaten.

EXAMPLE 8: SUCKLING MOUSE MODEL OF INTESTINAL SECRETION (SUMI ASSAY)

The GCRA peptides described herein can be tested for their ability to increase intestinal secretion using a suckling mouse model of intestinal secretion. In this model a GCRA peptide is administered to suckling mice that are between seven and nine days old. After the mice are sacrificed, the gastrointestinal tract from the stomach to the cecum is dissected ("guts"). The remains ("carcass") as well as the guts are weighed and the ratio of guts to carcass weight is calculated. If the ratio is above 0.09, one can conclude that the test compound increases intestinal secretion. Controls for this assay may include wild-type SP-304, ST polypeptide and Zelnorm®. Phenylbenzoquinone-induced writhing model

The PBQ-induced writhing model can be used to assess pain control activity of the GCRA peptide described herein. This model is described by Siegmund et al. (1957 Proc. Soc. Exp. Bio. Med. 95:729-731). Briefly, one hour after oral dosing with a test compound, *e.g.*, a GCRA peptide, morphine or vehicle, 0.02% phenylbenzoquinone (PBQ) solution (12.5 mL/kg) is injected by intraperitoneal route into the mouse. The number of stretches and writhings are recorded from the 5th to the 10th minute after PBQ injection, and can also be counted between the 35th and 40th minute and between the 60th and 65th minute to provide a kinetic assessment. The results are expressed as the number of stretches and writhings (mean ± SEM) and the percentage of variation of the nociceptive threshold calculated from the mean value of the vehicle-treated group. The statistical significance of any differences between the treated groups and the control group is determined by a Dunnett's test using the residual variance after a one-way analysis of variance ($P < 0.05$) using SigmaStat Software.

EXAMPLE 9 : PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTY DETERMINATION OF GCRA PEPTIDES

Serum samples are extracted from the whole blood of exposed (mice dosed orally or intravenously with GCRA peptides (s) described herein) and control mice, then injected directly (10 mL) onto an in-line solid phase extraction (SPE) column (Waters Oasis HLB 25µm column, 2.0 x 15mm direct connect) without further processing. The sample on the SPE column is washed with a 5% methanol, 95% dH_2O solution (2.1 mL/min, 1.0 minute), then loaded onto an 0 analytical column using a valve switch that places the SPE column in an inverted flow path onto the analytical column (Waters Xterra MS C8 5µm IS column, 2.1 x 20mm). The sample is eluted from the analytical column with a reverse phase gradient (Mobile Phase A: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in dH_2O, Mobile Phase B: 10 mM ammonium hydroxide in 80% acetonitrile and 20% methanol; 20% B for the first 3 minutes then ramping to 95% B over 4 min. and holding for 2 5 min., all at a flow rate of 0.4 mL/min.). At 9.1 minutes, the gradient returns to the initial conditions of 20%B for 1 min. polypeptide is eluted from the analytical column and is detected by triple-quadrapole mass spectrometry (MRM, 764 (+2 charge state)>182 (+1 charge state) Da; cone voltage = 30V; collision = 20 eV; parent resolution = 2 Da at base peak; daughter resolution = 2 Da at base peak). Instrument response is converted into concentration units by comparison with a standard curve using known amounts of chemically synthesized polypeptide(s) prepared and injected in mouse plasma using the same procedure.

Similarly, pharmacokinetic properties are determined in rats using LCMS methodology. Rat plasma samples containing the GCRA peptide are extracted using a Waters Oasis MAX 96 well solid phase extraction (SPE) plate. A 200 µL volume of rat plasma is mixed with 200 µL of ^{13}Cg, ^{15}N -labeled polypeptide in the well of a prepared SPE plate. The samples are drawn through the stationary phase with 15 mm Hg vacuum. All samples are rinsed with 200 µL of 2% ammonium hydroxide in water followed by 200 µL of 20% methanol in water. The samples are eluted with consecutive 100 µL volumes of 5/20/75 formic acid/water/methanol and 100 µL 5/15/80 formic acid/water/methanol. The samples are dried under nitrogen and resuspended in 100 µL of 20% methanol in water. Samples are analyzed by a Waters Quattro Micro mass spectrometer coupled to a Waters 1525 binary pump with a Waters 2777 autosampler. A 40 µL volume of each sample is injected onto a Thermo Hypersil GOLD C18 column (2.1x50 mm, 5 um). polypeptide is eluted by a gradient over 3 minutes with acetonitrile and water containing 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid. The Quattro Micro mass spectrometer is run in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode using the mass transitions of, for example 764>182 or 682>136. Using this methodology, polypeptide is dosed orally and by IV to rats at 10 mg/kg. Pharmacokinetic properties including area under the curve and bioavailabilty are determined.

EXAMPLE 10: DIURESIS RELATED EXPERIMENTS EFFECT ON DIURESIS AND NATRIURESIS

The effect of GCRA peptides described herein on diuresis and natriuresis can be determined using methodology similar to that described in WO06/001931 (examples 6 (p. 42) and 8 (p.45)). Briefly, the polypeptide/agonist described herein (180-pmol) is infused for 60 min into a group of 5 anesthetized mice or primates. Given an estimated rat plasma volume of 10 mL, the infusion rate is approximately 3 pmol/mL/min. Blood pressure, urine production, and sodium excretion are monitored for approximately 40 minutes prior to the infusion, during the infusion, and for approximately 50 minutes after the infusion to measure the effect of the GCRA peptides on diuresis and natriuresis. For comparison, a control group of five rats is infused with regular saline. Urine and sodium excretion can be assessed. Dose response can also be determined. polypeptide/GC-C agonist described herein is infused intravenously into mice or primates over 60 minutes. Urine is collected at 30 minute intervals up to 180 minutes after termination of polypeptide/GC-C agonist infusion, and urine volume, sodium excretion, and potassium excretion are determined for each collection interval. Blood pressure is monitored continuously.

For each dose a dose-response relationship for urine volume, sodium and potassium excretion can be determined. Plasma concentration of the polypeptide/GC-agonist is also determined before and after iv infusion.

Mouse or Primate Diuresis Experiment: Once an appropriate level of anesthesia has been achieved, a sterile polyurethane catheter is inserted into the urethra and secured using 1 - 2 drops of veterinary bond adhesive applied to urethra/catheter junction. Animals are then dosed with either vehicle or test article via the intravenous or intraperitoneal route. Animals are allowed to regain consciousness, and the volume of urine excreted over a 1-5 hour duration is recorded periodically for each rat.

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We claim:

1. A peptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:1-138.

2. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dose comprising a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist peptide having the sequence of any one of NO:1-138 present in a therapeutically effective amount and a pharmacetical carrier, excipient or diluent.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the unit dose form is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a capsule, a solution or inhalation formulation.

4. A method for preventing or treating a condition selected from the group consisting of Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), non-ulcer dyspepsia chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, constipation associated with use of opiate pain killers, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), post surgical constipation, gastroparesis, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders, heartburn, poor gastrointestinal motility , congestive heart failure, hypertension, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), colon cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, liver cancer, salivary gland cancer or skin cancer, bronchitis, tissue inflammation, organ inflammation, respiratory inflammation, asthma, COPD comprising administering toa patient in need thereof, an effective dosage of a guanylate cyclase receptor agonist having the sequence of any one of NO:1-138.

5. A method of claim 4, further comprising administering an effective dose of inhibitor of a cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising administering to said patient an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase either concurrently or sequentially with said guanylate cyclase receptor agonist.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

8. The method of claim 4, futher comprising administering an effective does of at least one anti-inflammatory agent.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein an anti-inflammatory agent is a steroid or nonsteroid anti-inflammatory drug (NISAIDS).

10 The use of any one of the peptides having the sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO:1-131 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a human disease.

11. A method of increasing cGMP production in a cell comprising contacting said cell with a peptide selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1-138.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising contacting said cell with a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

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(54) **Title**: STABLE SOLID FORMULATION OF THERAPEUTIC POLYPEPTIDES SUITABLE FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION

(57) **Abstract**: Solid, stable formulations of therapeutic polypeptide suitable for oral administration are described herein as are methods for preparing such formulations. The therapeutic polypeptide formulations described herein are stable and have a sufficient shelf life for manufacturing, storing and distributing the drug.

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TABLE SOLID FORMULATION OF THERAPEUTIC POLYPEPTIDES SUITABLE FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION

FIELD

This disclosure concerns solid formulations of therapeutic polypeptides suitable for oral administration and methods for preparing such formulations.

PRIORITY CLAIM

This application claims priority to United States Application Serial No. 61/094,370, filed September 04, 2008. The entire contents of the aforementioned application are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

Many therapeutic polypeptides are formulated in aqueous solution because they are most active in this form. However, most polypeptides are not particularly stable in aqueous solution, such that the formulations often have a short half-life and require refrigeration. Although aqueous solutions of polypeptides can be dried by freeze-drying, spray-drying or other methods, such dried formulations may also be unstable and have reduced activity relative to an aqueous solution of the polypeptide. Typical break-down mechanisms that occur both in aqueous solution and in dried formulations include aggregation and oxidative or hydrolytic degradation. Thus, the majority of therapeutic polypeptides, whether in aqueous solution or dried, are stored under refrigerated conditions due to their limited stability.

SUMMARY

Solid, stable formulations of therapeutic polypeptides are described herein as are methods for preparing such formulations. The formulations described herein contain a therapeutic polypeptide.

The therapeutic polypeptide formulations described herein can be stable and can have a sufficient shelf life for manufacturing, storing and distributing the drug. For example, formulations described herein are expected to have a shelf life of at least 12 months at room temperature storage conditions (e.g., 25°C/60% relative humidity (RH)). In further embodiments, the formulations described herein are expected to have a shelf life of at least 18 months or at least 24 months at room temperature storage conditions (e.g., 25°C/60% RH). Thus, when assessed in an assay on a weight/weight basis as determined by high pressure

liquid chromatography (HPLC) against a therapeutic polypeptide reference standard, ≥ 95% of the original amount of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition remains after three months when packaged samples are stored at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH). In further embodiments, ≥ 90% of the original amount of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition remains after at least 6 months when packaged samples are stored at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH). In addition, chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide as determined as area percent by HPLC remains at ≥ 95% over the course of at least three months when packaged samples are stored at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH). In further embodiments, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide as determined by area percent by HPLC remains at ≥ 90% over the course of at least 6 months when packaged samples are stored at accelerated conditions (40 °C/75% RH). Thus, for example, no more than about 10% of the therapeutic polypeptide undergoes degradation to other products.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 18 months or 24

months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4% or 2% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic

polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the sealed container at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 18 months or 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity. In another embodiment, the invention comprises a sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the

sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity. In a further embodiment, the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after 3 months or 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

The assay value on a weight/weight basis ("weight/weight assay") may be determined by comparing, e.g., by HPLC, the amount of therapeutic polypeptide in a sample, to a therapeutic polypeptide reference standard. As used herein, the weight of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition after storage at room temperature or accelerated conditions at a specified time point (e.g., three or six months of storage under accelerated conditions [40°C/75% RH] or 12, 18 or 24 months of storage under room temperature conditions [25 °C/60% RH]) is compared to the weight of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition at an initial time (e.g., the time when the pharmaceutical composition is released for clinical or patient use ("the release date")) to provide the weight/weight assay value. For example, the weight of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition is measured after storage for a specified time at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH) and compared to the weight of therapeutic polypeptide that was present in the sample at the release date. In another example, the weight of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition is measured after storage for a specified time at room temperature conditions (25°C/60% RH) and compared to the weight of therapeutic polypeptide that was present in the sample at the release date. Thus, the phrase "$\geq$ 90% of the original amount of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition remains after at least 6 months when packaged samples are stored at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH)" means the weight of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition measured in an assay on a weight/weight basis as determined by HPLC after at least 6 months storage at accelerated conditions is $\geq$ 90% of the amount of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition present at the initial time (e.g., the release date of the therapeutic polypeptide composition).

Chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide may be assessed by performing HPLC under the conditions described herein. The area under the therapeutic polypeptide peak is measured and compared to the total area under all peaks excluding the solvent peak and any non-polypeptide related peaks (i.e., peaks associated with excipients that may be observed in a placebo). As used herein, the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition after storage at room temperature or accelerated conditions at a specified time point (e.g., three or six months of storage under accelerated conditions [40°C/75% RH] or 12, 18 or 24 months of storage under room temperature conditions [25 °C/60% RH]) is compared to the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition at an

initial time (e.g., the time when the pharmaceutical composition is released for clinical or patient use ("the release date")) to provide the chromatographic purity value. For example, the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition is measured after storage for a specified time at accelerated conditions (40°C/75% RH) and compared to the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition at the release date. In another example, the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in a composition is measured after storage for a specified time at room temperature conditions (25°C/60% RH) and compared to the chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide in the composition at the release date.

This disclosure features a method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the method comprising: (a) providing a solution, e.g., an aqueous solution ("the coating solution"), comprising: (i) purified therapeutic polypeptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; (ii) a cation selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} and/or a sterically hindered primary amine (e.g., leucine) and, optionally, (iii) a pharmaceutically acceptable binder; and (b) applying the coating solution to a pharmaceutically acceptable filler to generate polypeptide-coated filler (e.g., by spraying, mixing or coating the pharmaceutically acceptable filler with the coating solution). The method can optionally include one or more of: (i) blending the polypeptide-coated filler with a pharmaceutically acceptable glidant, a pharmaceutically acceptable lubricant or a pharmaceutically acceptable additive that acts as both a glidant and lubricant; (ii) blending the polypeptide-coated filler with filler that is not polypeptide-coated, (iii) blending the polypeptide-coated filler with other additives; (iii) applying a pharmaceutically acceptable coating additive to the polypeptide-coated filler. The final pharmaceutical composition can be placed into capsules (e.g., gelatin capsule) or used to form tablets.

In some embodiments, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, therapeutic polypeptide and one or more agents selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} and a sterically hindered primary amine, wherein the agent improves at least one attribute of the composition, relative to a pharmaceutical composition without the agent. In further embodiments, the agent is Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} or Zn^{2+}. In a further embodiment, the agent is Ca^{2+}. In another embodiment, the agent is a sterically hindered primary amine. In a further embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid. In yet a further embodiment, the amino acid is a naturally-occurring amino acid. In a still further embodiment, the naturally-occurring amino acid is

selected from the group consisting of: histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, leucine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, isoleucine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine, and valine; yet further, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine, isoleucine, alanine or methionine; in another embodiment, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine or methionine; still further, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine. In another embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine is a non-naturally occurring amino acid (e.g., 1-aminocyclohexane carboxylic acid). In a further embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine is cyclohexylamine, 2-methylbutylamine or chitosan. In another embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine can be a mixture of more than one sterically hindered primary amine. For example, the sterically hindered primary amine may be a mixture of two or more amino acids. In further embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide is a mixture of two or more therapeutic polypeptides.

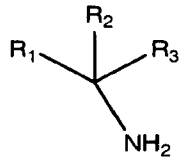
In other embodiments, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, therapeutic polypeptide, a cation selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} and a sterically hindered primary amine. In one embodiment, the cation is Ca^{2+}. In another embodiment, the cation is a mixture of two or three of Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} and Zn^{2+}. In a further embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable binder and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable glidant, lubricant or additive that acts as both a glidant and lubricant and/or an antioxidant. In a further embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid. In yet a further embodiment, the amino acid is a naturally-occurring amino acid. In a still further embodiment, the naturally-occurring amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, leucine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, isoleucine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine, and valine; yet further, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine, isoleucine, alanine or methionine; in another embodiment, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine or methionine; still further, the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine. In another embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine can be a mixture of more than one sterically hindered primary amines. For example, the sterically hindered primary amine may be a mixture of two or more amino acids.

In some cases the molar ratio of cation:sterically hindered primary amine:therapeutic polypeptide (e.g., Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide) in the aqueous solution applied to the carrier is 5-100:5-50:1. It can be desirable for the molar ratio of cation:sterically hindered

primary amine (e.g., Ca^{2+}:leucine) to be equal to or greater than 2:1 (e.g., between 5:1 and 2:1). Thus, in some cases the molar ratio of cation:sterically hindered primary amine:therapeutic polypeptide (e.g., Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide) applied to the carrier is 100:50:1, 100:30:1, 80:40:1, 80:30:1, 80:20:1, 60:30:1, 60:20:1, 50:30:1, 50:20:1, 40:20:1, 20:20:1, 10:10:1, 10:5:1 or 5:10:1. When binder, e.g., methylcellulose, is present in the therapeutic polypeptide solution applied to the carrier it can be present at 0.5% - 2.5% by weight (e.g., 0.7%-1.7% or 0.7% - 1% or 1.5% or 0.7%).

The weight of therapeutic polypeptide applied to a given weight of filler (e.g., microcrystalline cellulose) can vary from about 0.02:100 to about 2.67:100. Thus, about 0.05 mg to about 6.0 mg of therapeutic polypeptide can be applied to 225 mg of filler. In a further embodiment, the weight of therapeutic polypeptide applied to a given weight of filler is about 0.05 mg to about 2.0 mg of therapeutic polypeptide (e.g., 0.1, 0.2, 0.3. 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7 mg peptide for 225 mg of filler).

In various embodiments: the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid (e.g., a naturally-occurring amino acid or a naturally-occurring amino acid selected from histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, leucine, isoleucine, tryptophan, glycine or valine). In other cases the sterically hindered primary amine is a non-naturally occurring amino acid (e.g., lanthionine, theanine or 1-aminocyclohexane carboxylic acid). In a further embodiment, the sterically hindered primary amine is cyclohexylamine or 2-methylbutylamine. In other cases, the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino sugar (e.g., chitosan or glucosamine).



In some cases, the sterically hindered primary amine has the formula: , wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from: H; –C(O)OH; C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted by $–CO_2H$, $–CONH_2$, or a 5-10 membered aryl or heteroaryl; C_1-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxyalkyl, wherein any of the alkyl or aryl groups above can be singly or multiply substituted with halogen or $–NH_2$, and provided that no more than two of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H. In a further embodiment, no more than one of R_1, R_2 and R_3 is H.

In various cases: the antioxidant is selected from BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole), BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), vitamin E, propyl gallate, ascorbic acid and salts or esters thereof, tocopherol and esters thereof, alpha-lipoic acid, beta-carotene; the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is polyvinyl alcohol; the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is selected

from: a starch (e.g., corn starch, pre-gelatinized potato starch, rice starch, wheat starch, and sodium starch glycollate), maltodextrin and a cellulose ether (e.g., methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose); the pharmaceutically acceptable filler is cellulose (e.g., microfine cellulose or microcrystalline cellulose); the pharmaceutically acceptable filler is a sugar or a sugar alcohol (e.g., mannitol, isomalt, sorbitol, dextrose, xylitol, sucrose and lactose); the filler comprises particles having an average diameter between 50 μm and 1000 μm; the lubricant and/or glidant is selected from: talc, leucine, magnesium stearate, stearic acid and polyvinyl alcohol; and the lubricant and/or glidant is selected from: calcium stearate, mineral oil, vegetable oil, PEG (e.g., PEG that is liquid or solid at room temperature), sodium benzoate, and sodium lauryl sulfate.

In some cases, the therapeutic polypeptide solution used in a method for preparing the formulation has a pH below 7 (e.g., a pH between 1 and 3 or a pH between about 1.5 and about 2.5). The pH can be adjusted with, e.g., phosphoric acid. In some cases, the solution is buffered. Various pharmaceutically acceptable buffers can be used (e.g., phosphate buffer).

In some cases, the therapeutic polypeptide solution used in a method for preparing the formulation comprises both a cation (e.g., $CaCl_2$) and a sterically hindered primary amine (e.g., leucine).

In some cases the therapeutic polypeptide solution comprises $CaCl_2$ and leucine; the binder is methylcellulose; the filler is microcrystalline cellulose; the glidant and/or lubricant comprises talc or leucine.

In certain embodiments the therapeutic polypeptide does not comprise or consist of the amino acid sequence CCEYCCNPACTGCY. In certain embodiments, the therapeutic polypeptide does not comprise or consist of a GC-C receptors agonist polypeptide.

Also featured is a pharmaceutical composition prepared by any of the methods described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

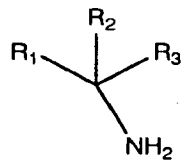
Compositions containing a therapeutic polypeptide can include any therapeutic polypeptide, for example, which include, but are not limited to, bone morphogenic proteins, insulin, colchicine, glucagon, thyroid stimulating hormone, parathyroid and pituitary hormones, calcitonin, renin, prolactin, corticotrophin, thyrotropic hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, chorionic gonadotropin, gonadotropin releasing hormone, bovine somatotropin, porcine somatotropin, oxytocin, vasopressin, GRF, somatostatin, lypressin, pancreozymin, luteinizing

hormone, LHRH, LHRH agonists and antagonists, leuprolide, interferons such as interferon alpha-2a, interferon alpha-2b, and consensus interferon, interleukins, growth hormones such as human growth hormone and its derivatives such as methione-human growth hormone and des-phenylalanine human growth hormone, parathyroid hormone, bovine growth hormone and porcine growth hormone, fertility inhibitors such as the prostaglandins, fertility promoters, growth factors such as epidermal growth factors (EGF), platelet-derived growth factors (PDGF), fibro-blast growth factors (FGF), transforming growth factors-alpha (TGF-α), transforming growth factors-beta (TGF-β), erythropoietin (EPO), insulin-like growth factor-I-(IGF-I), insulin-like growth factor-II (IGF-II), interleukin-1, interleukin-2, interleukin-6, interleukin-8, tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α), tumor necrosis factor-beta (TNFβ), Interferon-alpha (INF-α), Interferon-beta (INF-β), Interferon-gamma (INF-γ), Interferon-omega (INF-Ω), colony stimulating factors (CSF), vascular cell growth factor (VEGF), thrombopoietin (TPO), stromal cell-derived factors (SDF), placenta growth factor (PIGF), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), glial-derived neurotropin factor (GDNF), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), ciliary neurotropic factor (CNTF), bone growth factor, transforming growth factor, bone morphogeneic proteins (BMP), coagulation factors, human pancreas hormone releasing factor, analogs and derivatives of these polypeptides, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of these compounds, or their analogs or derivatives. In cetain embodiments, the therapeutic polypeptide may be a mixture of two or more therapeutic polypeptides described herein.

In some embodiments, the solid, stable formulation of the therapeutic polypeptide is administered orally. In other embodiments, the solid, stable formulation is solubilized in an appropriate excipient for administration by other routes. For example, the formulation may be solubilized and the therapeutic polypeptide may be administered, e.g., by intravenous injection, intramuscular injection, subcutaneous injection, intraperitoneal injection, topical, sublingual, intraarticular (in the joints), intradermal, buccal, ophthalmic (including intraocular), intranasaly (including using a cannula), intraspinally or intrathecally. In one embodiment, the therapeutic polypeptide composition is provided in a discrete unit, a unit dosage form, (e.g., a tablet, a capsule, a sachet) that is effective at such dosage either for administration orally or for solubilization and subsequent administration by other routes. In another embodiment, the therapeutic polypeptide is provided in a unit dosage form either for administration orally or for solubilization for subsequent administration by other routes, wherein the unit dosage form provides multiple effective dosages (i.e., each unit dosage form provides more than one effective dosages of the therapeutic polypeptide). In another

embodiment, the therapeutic polypeptide is provided in a unit dosage form that provides an effective dosage with multiple unit dosage forms either for administration orally or for solubilization and subsequent administration by other routes. In certain embodiments, the unit dosage form and daily dose are equivalent. In various embodiments, the unit dosage form is administered orally with food at anytime of the day, without food at anytime of the day, with food after an overnight fast (e.g. with breakfast). In various embodiments, the unit dosage form is administered once a day, twice a day or three times a day either orally or via another route. In various embodiments, the unit dosage form is administered once a week, twice a week, three times a week, once every two weeks, once every three weeks, once every four weeks, once a month, once every two months, once every three months, or once every six months either orally or via another route. The unit dosage form can optionally comprise other additives. In some embodiments, one, two or three unit dosage forms will contain the dose of therapeutic polypeptide. The precise amount of compound administered to a patient will be the responsibility of the attendant physician. However, the dose employed will depend on a number of factors, including the age and sex of the patient, the precise disorder being treated, and its severity.

A cation of the invention may be provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt i.e., a cation with an appropriate counterion. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts that may be used in the invention include, without limitation, magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, zinc chloride, zinc phosphate, zinc sulfate, manganese acetate, manganese chloride, manganese phosphate, manganese sulfate, potassium acetate, potassium chloride, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate, sodium sulfate, aluminum acetate, aluminum chloride, aluminum phosphate or aluminum sulfate. In one embodiment, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt that may be used is calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and zinc acetate.



As used herein, the sterically hindered primary amine has the formula: , wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from: H; –C(O)OH; C1-C6 alkyl, optionally substituted by $–CO_2H$, $–CONH_2$, or a 5-10 membered aryl or heteroaryl; C1-C6 alkoxyalkyl; or C1-C6 thioalkoxyalkyl, wherein any of the alkyl or aryl groups above can be

singly or multiply substituted with halogen or $-NH_2$, and provided that no more than two of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H. In a further embodiment, no more than one of R_1, R_2 and R_3 is H.

The term "alkyl", as used herein, refers to a saturated linear or branched-chain monovalent hydrocarbon radical. Unless otherwise specified, an alkyl group contains 1-20 carbon atoms (e.g., 1-20 carbon atoms, 1-10 carbon atoms, 1-8 carbon atoms, 1-6 carbon atoms, 1-4 carbon atoms or 1-3 carbon atoms). Examples of alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl and the like.

The terms C_{n-m} "alkoxyalkyl" and C_{n-m} "thioalkoxyalkyl" mean alkyl, substituted with one or more alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups, as the case may be, wherein the combined total number of carbons of the alkyl and alkoxy groups, or alkyl and thioalkoxy groups, combined, as the case may be, is between the values of n and m. For example, a C_{4-6} alkoxyalkyl has a total of 4-6 carbons divided between the alkyl and alkoxy portion; e.g. it can be $-CH_2OCH_2CH_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_3$ or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2OCH_3$.

As used herein, the term "aryl" (as in "aryl ring" or "aryl group"), used alone or as part of a larger moiety, refers to a carbocyclic ring system wherein at least one ring in the system is aromatic and has a single point of attachment to the rest of the molecule. Unless otherwise specified, an aryl group may be monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic and contain 6-18 ring members. Examples of aryl rings include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, tetralin, fluorenyl, and anthracenyl.

The term "heteroaryl" (or "heteroaromatic" or "heteroaryl group" or "aromatic heterocycle") used alone or as part of a larger moiety as in "heteroaralkyl" or "heteroarylalkoxy" refers to a ring system wherein at least one ring in the system is aromatic and contains one or more heteroatoms, wherein each ring in the system contains 3 to 7 ring members and which has a single point of attachment to the rest of the molecule. Unless otherwise specified, a heteroaryl ring system may be monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic and have a total of five to fourteen ring members. In one embodiment, all rings in a heteroaryl system are aromatic. Also included in this definition are heteroaryl radicals where the heteroaryl ring is fused with one or more aromatic or non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic rings, or combinations thereof, as long as the radical or point of attachment is in the heteroaryl ring. Bicyclic 6,5 heteroaromatic system, as used herein, for example, is a six membered heteroaromatic ring fused to a second five membered ring wherein the radical or point of attachment is on the six membered ring.

Heteroaryl rings include, but are not limited to the following monocycles: 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, N-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 3-isoxazolyl, 4-isoxazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, N-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl (e.g., 3-pyridazinyl), 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl, tetrazolyl (e.g., 5-tetrazolyl), triazolyl (e.g., 2-triazolyl and 5-triazolyl), 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, pyrazolyl (e.g., 2-pyrazolyl), isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, and the following bicycles: benzimidazolyl, benzofuryl, benzothiophenyl, benzopyrazinyl, benzopyranonyl, indolyl (e.g., 2-indolyl), purinyl, quinolinyl (e.g., 2-quinolinyl, 3-quinolinyl, 4-quinolinyl), and isoquinolinyl (e.g., 1-isoquinolinyl, 3-isoquinolinyl, or 4-isoquinolinyl).

As used herein, the term "binder" refers to any pharmaceutically acceptable binder that may be used in the practice of the invention. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable binders include, without limitation, corn starch, potato starch, other starches, gelatin, natural and synthetic gums such as acacia, powdered tragacanth, guar gum, cellulose and its derivatives (e.g., ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethyl cellulose calcium, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose), polyvinyl pyrrolidone (e.g., polyvinyl pyrrolidone K30), methyl cellulose, pre-gelatinized starch (e.g., STARCH 1500® and STARCH 1500 LM®, sold by Colorcon, Ltd.), hypromellose (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose), microcrystalline cellulose (e.g. AVICEL™, such as, AVICEL-PH-101™, -103™ and -105™, sold by FMC Corporation, Marcus Hook, PA, USA), and mixtures thereof.

As used herein, the term "filler" refers to any pharmaceutically acceptable filler that may be used in the practice of the invention. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable fillers include, without limitation, talc, calcium carbonate (e.g., granules or powder), dibasic calcium phosphate, tribasic calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate (e.g., granules or powder), microcrystalline cellulose (e.g., Avicel PH101), powdered cellulose, dextrates, kaolin, mannitol, silicic acid, sorbitol, starch, pre-gelatinized starch, lactose, glucose, fructose, galactose, trehalose, sucrose, maltose, raffinose, maltitol, melezitose, stachyose, lactitol, palatinite, xylitol, mannitol, myoinositol, and mixtures thereof.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable fillers that may be particularly used for coating with therapeutic polypeptide include, without limitation, talc, microcrystalline cellulose (e.g., Avicel PH101),, powdered cellulose, dextrates, kaolin, mannitol, silicic acid, sorbitol, starch, pre-gelatinized starch, lactose, glucose, fructose, galactose, trehalose,

sucrose, maltose, isomalt, dibasic calcium phosphate, raffinose, maltitol, melezitose, stachyose, lactitol, palatinite, xylitol, mannitol, myoinositol, and mixtures thereof.

As used herein, the term "additives" refers to any pharmaceutically acceptable additive. Pharmaceutically acceptable additives include, without limitation, disintegrants, dispersing additives, lubricants, glidants, antioxidants, coating additives, diluents, surfactants, flavoring additives, humectants, absorption promoting additives, controlled release additives, anti-caking additives, anti-microbial agents (e.g., preservatives), colorants, desiccants, plasticizers and dyes.

As used herein, an "excipient" is any pharmaceutically acceptable additive, filler, binder or agent.

As used herein, "purified therapeutic polypeptide" is therapeutic polypeptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof that is greater than or equal to 95 percent pure. therapeutic polypeptide purity can be measured, for example, by chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide using HPLC.

In some embodiments, the therapeutic polypeptide composition is provided in a solid form for oral administration. Examples of such forms include, without limitation, a tablet, a sachet, a pellet, a capsule or a powder. In some embodiments, the compositions can be used to create unit dosages forms, e.g., tablets, capsules, sachets or pellets. Orally administered compositions can include, for example, binders, lubricants, inert diluents, lubricating, surface active or dispersing additives, flavoring additives, and humectants. Orally administered formulations such as tablets may optionally be coated or scored and may be formulated so as to provide sustained, delayed or controlled release of the therapeutic polypeptide therein. The therapeutic polypeptide can be co-administered or co-formulated with other medications.

The compositions can include, for example, various additional solvents, dispersants, coatings, absorption promoting additives, controlled release additives, and one or more inert additives (which include, for example, starches, polyols, granulating additives, microcrystalline cellulose, diluents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating additives, and the like), etc. If desired, tablet dosages of the disclosed compositions may be coated by standard aqueous or non-aqueous techniques. Compositions can also include, for example, anti-caking additives, preservatives, sweetening additives, colorants, flavors, desiccants, plasticizers, dyes, and the like.

Suitable disintegrants include, for example, agar-agar, calcium carbonate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, povidone, polacrilin potassium, sodium starch glycolate, potato or tapioca starch, other starches, pre-gelatinized

starch, clays, other algins, other celluloses, gums, and mixtures thereof.

Suitable lubricants include, for example, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, mineral oil, light mineral oil, glycerin, sorbitol, mannitol, polyethylene glycol, other glycols, stearic acid, sodium lauryl sulfate, talc, hydrogenated vegetable oil (e.g., peanut oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, sesame oil, olive oil, corn oil and soybean oil), zinc stearate, ethyl oleate, ethyl laurate, agar, syloid silica gel (AEROSIL 200, W.R. Grace Co., Baltimore, MD USA), a coagulated aerosol of synthetic silica (Evonik Degussa Co., Plano, TX USA), a pyrogenic silicon dioxide (CAB-O-SIL, Cabot Co., Boston, MA USA), and mixtures thereof.

Suitable anti-caking additives include, for example, calcium silicate, magnesium silicate, silicon dioxide, colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, and mixtures thereof.

Suitable anti-microbial additives that may be used, e.g., as a preservative for the therapeutic polypeptide compositions, include, for example, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, butyl paraben, cetylpyridinium chloride, cresol, chlorobutanol, dehydroacetic acid, ethylparaben, methylparaben, phenol, phenylethyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, phenylmercuric acetate, phenylmercuric nitrate, potassium sorbate, propylparaben, sodium benzoate, sodium dehydroacetate, sodium propionate, sorbic acid, thimersol, thymo, and mixtures thereof.

Suitable coating additives include, for example, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, ethylcellulose, gelatin, pharmaceutical glaze, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, methylcellulose, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, shellac, sucrose, titanium dioxide, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, and mixtures thereof.

In certain embodiments, suitable additives for the therapeutic polypeptide composition include one or more of sucrose, talc, magnesium stearate, crospovidone or BHA.

In certain embodiments, the term "95%" may be 95.0%, the term "90%" may be 90.0%, the term "10%" may be 10.0%, the term "9%" may be 9.0%, the term "8%" may be 8.0%, the term "7%" may be 7.0%, the term "6%" may be 6.0%, the term "5%" may be 5.0%, the term "4%" may be 4.0%, the term "3%" may be 3.0%, the term "2%" may be 2.0%, and the term "1%" may be 1.0%.

In certain embodiments, the therapeutic polypeptide composition is provided in a unit dosage form. In some embodiments, the unit dosage form is a capsule, a tablet, a sachet, a pellet or a powder. In one such embodiment, the unit dosage form is a capsule or tablet. Such unit dosage forms may be contained in a container such as, without limitation, a paper

or cardboard box, a glass or plastic bottle or jar, a re-sealable bag (for example, to hold a "refill" of tablets for placement into a different container), or a blister pack with individual doses for pressing out of the pack according to a therapeutic schedule. It is feasible that more than one container can be used together in a single package to provide a single dosage form. For example, tablets or capsules may be contained in a bottle which is in turn contained within a box. In some embodiments, the unit dosage forms are provided in a container further comprising a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the unit dosage forms, e.g., a quantity of tablets or capsules, are provided in a container, e.g., a bottle, jar or re-sealable bag, containing a desiccant. In a further embodiment, the container containing the unit dosage forms is packaged with administration or dosage instructions. In certain embodiments, the therapeutic polypeptide composition is provided in a kit. The therapeutic polypeptide composition described herein and combination therapy agents can be packaged as a kit that includes single or multiple doses of two or more agents, each packaged or formulated individually, or single or multiple doses of two or more agents packaged or formulated in combination. Thus, the therapeutic polypeptide composition can be present in first container, and the kit can optionally include one or more agents in a second container. The container or containers are placed within a package, and the package can optionally include administration or dosage instructions.

EXAMPLES

A therapeutic polypeptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof may be produced and purified using standard techniques known in the art, e.g., chemical synthesis or recombinant expression followed by and purification using standard techniques.

Example 1: Formulation Method A

Preparation of the Coating Solution: Approximately 32 g to 42 g of purified water is mixed with hydrochloric acid to create a solution with a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. The cation, if used, is added to the solution in a quantity to provide the desired concentration, and the solution is mixed for sufficient time to produce a clear solution. The sterically hindered primary amine, if used, is added to the solution in a quantity to provide the desired concentration, and the solution is mixed for sufficient time to produce a clear solution. Other additives, such as antioxidants, are then added, if desired. The pH of the solution is tested, and hydrochloric acid is added, if necessary, to produce a solution having a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. The binder is then added to the solution and the mixture is then stirred for sufficient

time to achieve a clear solution. The desired amount of therapeutic polypeptide is added to the solution and mixed for 30-100 minutes to provide the coating solution.

Preparation of the Active Beads: Approximately 30-36 g of dried microcrystalline cellulose beads are added to a Mini Column Fluid Bed Coater. The microcrystalline cellulose beads are fluidized and heated prior to layering. Next, the coating solution is layered to the beads. The spraying temperature is controlled between 24°C and 55°C by controlling inlet temperature, spray rate, atomization pressure, and air volume. After the entire coating solution is layered to the beads, the beads are dried. The product of this process is referred to as active beads.

Example 2: Formulation Method B

Preparation of the Coating Solution: Approximately 8.3 kg of purified water is mixed with hydrochloric acid to create a solution with a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. The cation, if used, is added to the solution in a quantity to provide the desired concentration, and the solution is mixed for sufficient time to produce a clear solution. The sterically hindered primary amine, if used, is added to the solution in a quantity to provide the desired concentration, and the solution is mixed for sufficient time to produce a clear solution. Other additives, such as antioxidants, are then added, if desired. The binder is then added to the solution and the solution is mixed for sufficient time to achieve a clear solution. The pH of the solution is tested, and hydrochloric acid is added if necessary to produce a solution having a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. This is Solution 1. Approximately 8.3 kg of purified water is mixed with hydrochloric acid to create a solution with a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. The desired amount of therapeutic polypeptide is added to the solution and mixed for 10 to 30 minutes. The pH of the solution is tested, and hydrochloric acid is added if necessary to produce a solution having a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. This is Solution 2. Solution 1 and Solution 2 are then mixed together. The pH of the solution is tested, and hydrochloric acid is added if necessary to produce a solution having a pH between 1.5 and 2.0. This is the coating solution.

Preparation of the Active Beads: Approximately 24.19 kg of microcrystalline cellulose beads are added to a Wurster Column of a Glatt GPCG-30 Fluid Bed. The microcrystalline cellulose beads are fluidized and heated to product temperature of 45-47°C. Next, the coating solution is layered to the beads. The product spraying temperature is controlled between 37°C and 47°C by controlling inlet temperature, spray rate, atomization pressure, and air volume. After the entire coating solution is layered to the beads, the beads

are dried with a product drying temperature of 37°C to 47°C. The product of this process is referred to as active beads.

Example 3: Preparation of capsules containing a therapeutic polypeptide formulation

The therapeutic polypeptide content on active beads may be measured as described below or by other equivalent methods.

To form capsules suitable for oral administration, an appropriate amount of active beads is used to fill gelatin capsules (e.g., Size 2 gelatin capsules). An appropriate amount of active beads may contain 50 μg to 2 mg therapeutic polypeptide per capsule with a range of ± 5%. In another embodiment, an appropriate amount of active beads to fill a desired number of gelatin capsules is placed in a container. One or more pharmaceutically acceptable fillers or other pharmaceutically acceptable additives may be added, if desired, to the container. In some embodiments, a filler or additive is talc, leucine, microcrystalline cellulose or mannitol. The contents of the container are blended and the mixture is used to fill gelatin capsules with an appropriate amount of active beads containing therapeutic polypeptide (e.g., 50 μg to 2 mg therapeutic polypeptide per capsule with a range of ± 5%).

In an alternative embodiment, an appropriate amount of active beads is used to fill gelatin capsules and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable fillers or other pharmaceutically acceptable additives are added to the gelatin capsules.

Example 5: Measurement of therapeutic polypeptide content and purity

Therapeutic polypeptide content and purity may be determined by reverse phase gradient liquid chromatography. The therapeutic polypeptide content is measured by determining the therapeutic polypeptide concentration in the prepared sample against a similarly prepared external therapeutic polypeptide standard.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, or 4% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

3. A unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

4. The unit dosage form according to claim 3, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5% or 4% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

5. A sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

6. The sealed container according to claim 5, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5% or 4% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

9. A unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the assay value for the receptor agonist polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

10. The unit dosage form according to claim 9, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

11. A sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide in the unit dosage forms determined on a weight/weight basis decreases by less than 10% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

12. The sealed container according to claim 11, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or 1% after (a) 18 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

13. The unit dosage form according to any one of claims 3-4 or 9-10, wherein each unit dosage form contains from 25 μg to 1 g therapeutic polypeptide.

14. The sealed container according to any one of claims 5-6 or 11-12, wherein each unit dosage form contains from 25 μg to 1 g therapeutic polypeptide.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide (a) 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

16. The unit dosage form according to either of claims 3 or 4, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

17. The sealed container according to either of claims 5 or 6, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 24

months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to either of claims 7 or 8, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

19. The unit dosage form according to either of claims 9 or 10, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

20. The sealed container according to either of claims 11 or 12, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide decreases by less than 10% after (a) a first 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a therapeutic polypeptide and one or more agents selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} or a sterically hindered primary amine, wherein the agent improves at least one attribute of the composition, relative to a pharmaceutical composition without the agent, after (a) a first 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant, wherein the attribute is selected from: a decrease in the rate of degradation of therapeutic polypeptide as measured by therapeutic polypeptide content, a decrease in the rate of degradation of therapeutic polypeptide as measured by chromatographic purity of therapeutic polypeptide, a decrease in the amount of a therapeutic polypeptide oxidation product relative to the amount of therapeutic polypeptide, and a

decrease in the amount of a therapeutic polypeptide hydrolysis product relative to the amount of therapeutic polypeptide.

22. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the agent is Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+}.

23. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the agent is Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} or Zn^{2+}.

24. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, zinc chloride, zinc phosphate, zinc sulfate, manganese acetate, manganese chloride, manganese phosphate, manganese sulfate, potassium acetate, potassium chloride, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate, sodium sulfate, aluminum acetate, aluminum chloride, aluminum phosphate or aluminum sulfate.

25. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24, wherein Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, manganese chloride, potassium chloride, sodium chloride or aluminum chloride.

26. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the agent is Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} or Zn^{2+}.

27. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} or Zn^{2+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride or zinc acetate.

28. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the agent is Ca^{2+}.

29. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27, wherein the Ca^{2+} is provided as calcium chloride.

30. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the agent is a sterically hindered primary amine.

31. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid.

32. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31, wherein the amino acid is a naturally-occurring amino acid.

33. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, leucine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, isoleucine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine or valine.

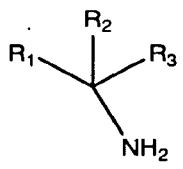
34. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine, isoleucine, alanine or methionine.

35. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine or methionine.

36. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine.

37. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is a non-naturally occurring amino acid.

38. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 37, wherein the non-naturally occurring amino acid is 1-aminocyclohexane carboxylic acid.

39. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine has the formula: 

, wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are

independently selected from: H; –C(O)OH; C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted by $–CO_2H$, $–CONH_2$, or a 5-10 membered aryl or heteroaryl; C_1-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxyalkyl, wherein any of the alkyl or aryl groups above can be singly or multiply substituted with halogen or $–NH_2$, and provided that no more than two of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H.

40. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is cyclohexylamine or 2-methylbutylamine.

41. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is chitosan.

42. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 30-41, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+}.

43. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42, wherein the Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, zinc chloride, zinc phosphate, zinc sulfate, manganese acetate, manganese chloride, manganese phosphate, manganese sulfate, potassium acetate, potassium chloride, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate, sodium sulfate, aluminum acetate, aluminum chloride, aluminum phosphate or aluminum sulfate.

44. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 43, wherein Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^+, Na^+ or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, manganese chloride, potassium chloride, sodium chloride or aluminum chloride.

45. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42, wherein the Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} or Zn^{2+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride or zinc acetate.

46. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises Ca^{2+}.

47. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 46, wherein the Ca^{2+} is provided as calcium chloride.

48. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 21-47, further comprising an antioxidant.

49. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 48, wherein the antioxidant is BHA, vitamin E or propyl gallate.

50. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, therapeutic polypeptide, a cation selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} and a sterically hindered primary amine.

51. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 50 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable binder.

52. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 50 or 51 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable glidant, lubricant or additive that acts as both a glidant and lubricant.

53. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 50-52 wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid.

54. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 53 wherein the amino acid is a naturally-occurring amino acid.

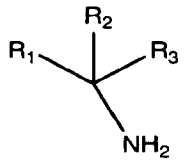
55. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 54 wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, leucine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, isoleucine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine or valine.

56. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55 wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine, isoleucine, alanine or methionine.

57. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56 wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine.

58. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 50, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is a non-naturally occurring amino acid.

59. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 58, wherein the non-naturally occurring amino acid is 1-aminocyclohexane carboxylic acid.

60. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 50, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine has the formula: 

, wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from: H; –C(O)OH; C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted by $–CO_2H$, $–CONH_2$, or a 5-10 membered aryl or heteroaryl; C_1-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxyalkyl, wherein any of the alkyl or aryl groups above can be singly or multiply substituted with halogen or $–NH_2$, and provided that no more than two of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H.

61. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is cyclohexylamine or 2-methylbutylamine.

62. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 50, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is chitosan.

63. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 50-62 further comprising an antioxidant.

64. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 63, wherein the antioxidant is BHA, vitamin E or propyl gallate.

65. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 51-64 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is selected from polyvinyl alcohol, povidone, a starch, maltodextrin or a cellulose ether.

66. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 65 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is a cellulose ether.

67. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 66 wherein the cellulose ether is selected from: methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

68. The pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 50-67, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable filler.

69. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 68, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable filler is cellulose, isomalt, mannitol or dibasic calcium phosphate.

70. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 wherein the cellulose is selected from microfine cellulose and microcrystalline cellulose.

71. The pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 68-70, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable filler comprises particles having an average diameter between 150 μm and 1000 μm.

72. The pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 50-71, wherein the Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, zinc chloride, zinc phosphate, zinc sulfate, manganese acetate, manganese chloride, manganese phosphate, manganese sulfate, potassium acetate, potassium chloride, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate, sodium sulfate, aluminum acetate, aluminum chloride, aluminum phosphate or aluminum sulfate.

73. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 72, wherein Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium phosphate, calcium sulfate, zinc acetate, manganese chloride, potassium chloride, sodium chloride or aluminum chloride.

74. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73, wherein Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, or Zn^{2+} is provided as magnesium chloride, calcium chloride or zinc acetate.

75. The pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 50-71 wherein the cation is Ca^{2+}.

76. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 75, wherein the cation is provided as calcium chloride.

77. The pharmaceutical composition of either of claims 75 or 76 wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is leucine.

78. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+} to leucine is at least 1:1.

79. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 78 wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+} to leucine is at least 1.5:1.

80. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 79, wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+} to leucine is at least 2:1.

81. The pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 50-80 wherein the sterically hindered amine is leucine and the molar ratio of leucine to therapeutic polypeptide is at least 10:1.

82. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 81 wherein the molar ratio of leucine to therapeutic polypeptide is at least 20:1.

83. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 82 wherein the molar ratio of leucine to therapeutic polypeptide is at least 30:1.

84. The pharmaceutical composition of any of claims 50-83, wherein pharmaceutical composition comprises a filler and the weight ratio of therapeutic polypeptide to pharmaceutically acceptable filler is between 1:25 and 1:2,500.

85. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 84, wherein the weight ratio of therapeutic polypeptide to pharmaceutically acceptable filler is between 1:100 and 1:2000.

86. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 85, wherein the weight ratio of therapeutic polypeptide to pharmaceutically acceptable filler is between 1:100 and 1:1000.

87. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 50-86, wherein the molar ratio of cation:sterically hindered primary amine:therapeutic polypeptide is 40-100:20-50:1.

88. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 87, wherein the cation is Ca^{2+}.

89. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 88, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is leucine.

90. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 89, wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide is 100:30:1, 80:40:1, 80:30:1, 80:20:1, 60:30:1, 60:20:1, 50:30:1, 50:20:1, 40:20:1, 20:20:1, 10:10:1, 10:5:1, 5:10:1 or 5:5:1.

91. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 90, wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide is 60:30:1.

92. The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 88-91, wherein the cation is provided as $CaCl_2$.

93. A capsule or tablet comprising the pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 50-92.

94. The capsule or tablet according to claim 93, wherein each capsule or tablet comprises 25 μg to 1 g therapeutic polypeptide.

95. The capsule or tablet according to claim 94, wherein each capsule or tablet comprises 100 μg to 500 mg therapeutic polypeptide.

96. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide or a salt thereof, the method comprising:

(a) providing an aqueous solution comprising:

(i) a therapeutic polypeptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

(ii) one or more of a cation selected from Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, K^{+}, Na^{+} or Al^{3+} and a sterically hindered primary amine; and

(iii) a pharmaceutically acceptable binder; and

(b) applying the aqueous solution to a pharmaceutically acceptable filler to generate therapeutic polypeptide-coated filler.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein the aqueous solution comprises a cation.

98. The method of claim 96, wherein the aqueous solution comprises a sterically hindered primary amine.

99. The method of claim 96, wherein the aqueous solution comprises a cation and a sterically hindered primary amine.

100. The method of any one of claims 96-99, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises an antioxidant.

101. The method of claim 100 wherein the antioxidant is BHA, BHT, vitamin E, propyl gallate, ascorbic acid and salts or esters thereof, tocopherol and esters thereof, alpha-lipoic acid or beta-carotene.

102. The method of claim 101 wherein the antioxidant is BHA.

103. The method of claim 98, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is an amino acid.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein the amino acid is a naturally-occurring amino acid.

105. The method of claim 104, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is selected from histidine, phenylalanine, alanine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine, leucine, methionine, asparagine, tyrosine, threonine, isoleucine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine, or valine.

106. The method of claim 105, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine, isoleucine, alanine or methionine.

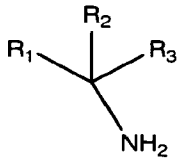
107. The method of claim 106, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine or methionine.

108. The method of claim 107, wherein the naturally-occurring amino acid is leucine.

109. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 98, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is a non-naturally occurring amino acid.

110. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 109, wherein the non-naturally occurring amino acid is 1-aminocyclohexane carboxylic acid.

111. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 98, wherein the sterically



hindered primary amine has the formula: , wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from: H; –C(O)OH; C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted by $–CO_2H$, $–CONH_2$, or a 5-10 membered aryl or heteroaryl; C_1-C_6 alkoxyalkyl; or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxyalkyl, wherein any of the alkyl or aryl groups above can be singly or multiply substituted with halogen or $–NH_2$, and provided that no more than two of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are H.

112. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 111, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is cyclohexylamine or 2-methylbutylamine.

113. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 98, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is chitosan.

114. The method of any one of claims 96-113, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises Ca^{2+}.

115. The method of claim 114, wherein the Ca^{2+} is provided as $CaCl_2$.

116. The method of any one of claims 103-115, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises an antioxidant.

117. The method of claim 116, wherein the antioxidant is BHA.

118. The method of any one of claims 96-117, wherein the binder is selected from polyvinyl alcohol, a starch, maltodextrin or a cellulose ether.

119. The method of claim 118, wherein the binder is a cellulose ether selected from methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

120. The method of any one of claims 96-119, wherein the filler is selected from cellulose, isomalt, mannitol or dibasic calcium phosphate.

121. The method of claim 120, wherein the filler is microfine cellulose or microcrystalline cellulose.

122. The method of any one of claims 96-121, wherein the aqueous solution is applied to the filler by spraying.

123. The method of any one of claims 96-122, wherein the weight ratio of therapeutic polypeptide to pharmaceutically acceptable filler is between 1:100 and 1:2500.

124. The method according to claim 123, wherein the weight ratio of therapeutic polypeptide to pharmaceutically acceptable filler is between 1:100 and 1:1000.

125. The method according to any one of claims 96-124, wherein the aqueous solution comprises a cation and a sterically hindered primary amine, and the molar ratio of cation:sterically hindered primary amine:therapeutic polypeptide is 40-100:20-30:1.

126. The method according to claim 125, wherein the cation is Ca^{2+}.

127. The method according to claim 125, wherein the sterically hindered primary amine is leucine.

128. The method according to claim 125, wherein the cation is Ca^{2+} and the sterically hindered primary amine is leucine, and the molar ratio of Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide is 100:30:1, 80:40:1, 80:30:1, 80:20:1, 60:30:1, 60:20:1, 50:30:1, 50:20:1, 40:20:1, 20:20:1, 10:10:1, 10:5:1 or 5:5:1.

129. The method according to claim 128, wherein the molar ratio of Ca^{2+}:leucine:therapeutic polypeptide is 60:30:1.

130. The method according to any one of claims 123-129, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable filler is selected from cellulose, isomalt, mannitol or dibasic calcium phosphate.

131. The method according to claim 130, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable filler is microfine cellulose or microcrystalline cellulose.

132. The method according to any one of claims 123-131, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is polyvinyl alcohol, a starch, maltodextrin or a cellulose ether.

133. The method according to claim 132, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable binder is a cellulose ether selected from methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

134. The method according to any one of claims 96-133, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide-coated filler is mixed with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable additives.

135. The method according to any one of claims 96-134, further comprising tableting or encapsulating the therapeutic polypeptide-coated filler in a tablet or capsule, respectively.

136. The method according to claim 135, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide-coated filler is encapsulated in a capsule.

137. The method according to claim 136, wherein the capsule is a gelatin capsule.

138. The method according to either of claims 136 or 137, wherein each capsule contains 25 μg to 1 g therapeutic polypeptide.

139. The method according to claim 138, wherein each capsule contains 100 μg to 500 mg therapeutic polypeptide.

140. The method according to claim 139, wherein each capsule contains 200 μg to 100 mg therapeutic polypeptide.

141. A pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

142. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 141, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95% or 96% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

143. A unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage

of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

144. The unit dosage form according to claim 143, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95% or 96% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

145. A sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

146. The sealed container according to claim 145, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95% or 96% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

147. A pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

148. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 147, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% after (a) 18 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of

storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

149. A unit dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide determined on a weight/weight basis is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

150. The unit dosage form according to claim 149, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% after (a) 18 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

151. A sealed container comprising a plurality of unit dosage forms of a pharmaceutical composition comprising therapeutic polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient wherein the assay value for therapeutic polypeptide in the unit dosage forms determined on a weight/weight basis is greater than or equal to 90% after (a) 18 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

152. The sealed container according to claim 151, wherein the assay value for the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than or equal to 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% after (a) 18 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) 6 months of storage the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

152. The pharmaceutical composition according to either of claims 141 or 142, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

153. The unit dosage form according to either of claims 143 or 144, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

154. The sealed container according to either of claims 145 or 146, wherein the chromatographic purity of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) a first 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

155. The pharmaceutical composition according to either of claims 147 or 148, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) a first 24 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

156. The unit dosage form according to either of claims 149 or 150, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) a first 24 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 25°C at 60% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the unit dosage form at 40°C at 75% relative humidity in a sealed container containing a desiccant.

157. The sealed container according to either of claims 151 or 152, wherein the assay value of the therapeutic polypeptide is greater than 90% after (a) a first 24 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 25°C at 60% relative humidity or (b) a first 6 months of storage of the sealed container containing a desiccant at 40°C at 75% relative humidity.

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(54) **Title**: FORMULATIONS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE C AGONISTS AND METHODS OF USE

(57) **Abstract**: The invention provides novel formulations of guanylate cyclase-C ("GCC") agonist peptides and methods for their use in the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases and disorders, including gastrointestinal cancer. The GCC agonist formulations of the invention can be administered either alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents, preferably an inhibitor of cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase or a laxative.

FORMULATIONS OF GUANYLATE CYCLASE C AGONISTS AND METHODS OF USE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[01] This application claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/119,521 filed on December 3, 2008, the contents of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[02] The present invention relates to novel formulations of guanylate cyclase C agonists which are optimized for delivery to specific regions of the gastrointestinal tract and are useful for the treatment and prevention of gastrointestinal diseases and disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[03] Guanylate cyclase C is a transmembrane form of guanylate cyclase that is expressed on various cells, including gastrointestinal epithelial cells (reviewed in Vaandrager 2002 *Mol. Cell. Biochem.* 230:73-83). It was originally discovered as the intestinal receptor for the heat-stable toxin (ST) peptides secreted by enteric bacteria and which cause diarrhea. The ST peptides share a similar primary amino acid structure with two peptides isolated from intestinal mucosa and urine, guanylin and uroguanylin (Currie, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA 89*:947-951 (1992); Hamra, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA 90*:10464-10468 (1993); Forte, L., *Reg. Pept. 81*:25-39 (1999); Schulz, *et al.*, *Cell 63*:941-948 (1990); Guba, *et al.*, *Gastroenterology 111*:1558-1568 (1996); Joo, *et al.*, *Am. J. Physiol. 274*:G633-G644 (1998)).

[04] In the intestines, guanylin and uroguanylin act as regulators of fluid and electrolyte balance. In response to high oral salt intake, these peptides are released into the intestinal lumen where they bind to guanylate cyclase C localized on the luminal membrane of enterocytes (simple columnar epithelial cells of the small intestines and colon). The binding of

the guanylin peptides to guanylate cyclase C induces electrolyte and water excretion into the intestinal lumen via a complex intracellular signaling cascade that is initiated by an increase in cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP).

[05] The cGMP-mediated signaling that is initiated by the guanylin peptides is critical for the normal functioning of the gut. Any abnormality in this process could lead to gastrointestinal disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and inflammatory bowel diseases. Inflammatory bowel disease is a general name given to a group of disorders that cause the intestines to become inflamed, characterized by red and swollen tissue. Examples include ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Crohn's disease is a serious inflammatory disease that predominantly affects the ileum and colon, but can also occur in other sections of the gastrointestinal tract. Ulcerative colitis is exclusively an inflammatory disease of the colon, the large intestine. Unlike Crohn's disease, in which all layers of the intestine are involved, and in which there can be normal healthy bowel in between patches of diseased bowel, ulcerative colitis affects only the innermost lining (mucosa) of the colon in a continuous manner. Depending on which portion of the gastrointestinal tract is involved, Crohn's disease may be referred to as ileitis, regional enteritis, colitis, etc. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis differ from spastic colon or irritable bowel syndrome, which are motility disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. Gastrointestinal inflammation can be a chronic condition. It is estimated that as many as 1,000,000 Americans are afflicted with inflammatory bowel disease, with male and female patients appearing to be equally affected. Most cases are diagnosed before age 30, but the disease can occur in the sixth, seventh, and later decades of life.

[06] IBS and chronic idiopathic constipation are pathological conditions that can cause a great deal of intestinal discomfort and distress but unlike the inflammatory bowel diseases, IBS does not cause the serious inflammation or changes in bowel tissue and it is not thought to increase the risk of colorectal cancer. In the past, inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease and IBS were regarded as completely separate disorders. Now, with the description of inflammation, albeit low-grade, in IBS, and of symptom overlap between IBS and celiac disease, this contention has come under question. Acute bacterial gastroenteritis is the strongest risk factor identified to date for the subsequent development of postinfective irritable bowel syndrome. Clinical risk factors include prolonged acute illness and the absence of vomiting. A genetically

determined susceptibility to inflammatory stimuli may also be a risk factor for irritable bowel syndrome. The underlying pathophysiology indicates increased intestinal permeability and low-grade inflammation, as well as altered motility and visceral sensitivity. Serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine [5-HT]) is a key modulator of gut function and is known to play a major role in pathophysiology of IBS. The activity of 5-HT is regulated by cGMP.

[07] While the precise causes of IBS and inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) are not known, a disruption in the process of continual renewal of the gastrointestinal mucosa may contribute to disease pathology in IBD and aggravate IBS. The renewal process of the gastrointestinal lining is an efficient and dynamic process involving the continual proliferation and replenishment of unwanted damaged cells. Proliferation rates of cells lining the gastrointestinal mucosa are very high, second only to the hematopoietic system. Gastrointestinal homeostasis depends on both the proliferation and programmed cellular death (apoptosis) of epithelial cells lining the gut mucosa. Cells are continually lost from the villus into the lumen of the gut and are replenished at a substantially equal rate by the proliferation of cells in the crypts, followed by their upward movement to the villus. The rates of cell proliferation and apoptosis in the gut epithelium can be increased or decreased in a variety of circumstances, *e.g.*, in response to physiological stimuli such as aging, inflammatory signals, hormones, peptides, growth factors, chemicals and dietary habits. In addition, an enhanced proliferation rate is frequently associated with a reduction in turnover time and an expansion of the proliferative zone. The proliferation index is much higher in pathological states such as ulcerative colitis and other gastrointestinal disorders. Intestinal hyperplasia is a major promoter of gastrointestinal inflammation. Apoptosis and cell proliferation together regulate cell number and determine the proliferation index. Reduced rates of apoptosis are often associated with abnormal growth, inflammation, and neoplastic transformation. Thus, both increased proliferation and/or reduced cell death may increase the proliferation index of intestinal tissue, which may in turn lead to gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases.

[08] In addition to a role for uroguanylin and guanylin as modulators of intestinal fluid and ion secretion, these peptides may also be involved in the continual renewal of gastrointestinal mucosa by maintaining the balance between proliferation and apoptosis. For example, uroguanylin and guanylin peptides appear to promote apoptosis by controlling cellular

ion flux. Given the prevalence of inflammatory conditions in Western societies a need exists to improve the treatment options for inflammatory conditions, particularly of the gastrointestinal tract.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[09] The present invention provides novel formulations of guanylate cyclase C agonists ("GCC agonists") which are optimized for the targeted delivery of the agonist to a specific portion of the gastrointestinal tract, for example, to the small intestines, preferably to the duodenum or jejunum, or to the distal small intestines or the large intestines, preferably the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. The formulations optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum are particularly useful for the treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of irritable bowel syndrome (preferably constipation predominant) non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastro esophageal reflux disease, chronic idiopathic constipation, gastroparesis, heartburn, gastric cancer, and H. pylori infection. The formulations optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon are particularly useful for the treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of ileitis (*e.g.*, post-operative ileitis), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, terminal ileitis, and colon cancer.

[10] The targeted GCC agonist formulations of the invention offer several advantages over other formulations, especially conventional oral formulations. Because GCC agonists can potentially act throughout the gastrointestinal tract, conventional oral formulations intended to treat IBD, for instance, may exhibit side effects due to the activity of the GCC agonist in non-target tissues. One such side effect is diarrhea, which could interfere with treatment by a GCC agonist of GI diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Conventional oral formulations also suffer from degradation or aggregation of the GCC agonist in the stomach due to the low pH environment (Marx *et al.*, 1998 *Peptide Res.* 52:229-240; Chino *et al.*, 1998 *FEBS Let.* 421:27-31). In contrast, the GCC agonist formulations of the invention are optimized for the release of the GCC agonist to the target tissue, either the small intestines or the large intestines, depending on the disease or disorder to be treated. Such formulations minimize exposure of the

GCC agonist peptide to stomach acidity, thereby reducing or eliminating the degradation and aggregation that occur under low pH conditions. Other advantages of the GCC agonist formulations of the invention include fewer side effects caused by unwanted GCC activity in non-target tissues. In addition, the GCC agonists formulated according to the invention may be given at a lower effective dose than a convential oral dosage form. In other embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation of the invention delivers a higher effective dose to the target tissue than a convential oral dosage form with reduced side effects compared to a convential oral dosage form.

[11] In certain embodiments, the GCC agonists are analogs of uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptides. In preferred embodiments, the analogs have superior properties compared to the naturally occurring or "wild-type" peptides. Examples of such superior properties include a high resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases, aminopeptidases, and/or by other proteolytic enzymes present in the stimulated human intestinal juices and human gastric juices. Examples of GCC agonists that can be used in the formulations and methods of the invention are described in more detail below.

[12] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation comprises (1) a core, which contains at least one GCC agonist peptide, and (2) one or more targeting materials selected from the group consisting of a pH-dependent polymer, a swellable polymer, and a degradable composition, wherein the GCC agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-249. In a preferred embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 8, 9, 55 or 56. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 9. In certain embodiments, the one or more targeting materials form one or more layers around the core. In certain embodiments, at least one targeting material forms a matrix with the GCC agonist peptide of the core. Preferably, the formulation is for oral administration.

[13] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum and comprises one or more pH dependent polymers which degrade in a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5, wherein the pH dependent polymers form one or more layers around the core.

[14] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon and comprises one or more pH dependent polymers which degrade in a pH range of 5.5 to 6.5 or in a pH range of 6.5 to 7.5, wherein the pH dependent polymers form one or more layers around the core. In one embodiment, the one or more pH dependent polymers degrade at pH above 5.5. In another embodiment, the one or more pH dependent polymers degrade at pH above 7. In one embodiment, the formulation further comprises a swellable polymer interposed between two layers of pH dependent polymers. Preferably, the swellable polymer is selected from the group consisting of an acrylic copolymer, polyvinylacetate, and cellulose derivatives. In one embodiment, the swellable polymer is an acrylic copolymer selected from the group consisting of EUDRAGIT RL, EUDRAGIT RS, and EUDRAGIT NE. In one embodiment, the formulation further comprises a pore forming agent. In specific embodiments, the pore forming agent is selected from the group consisting of saccharose, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol, water soluble organic acids, sugars and sugar alcohol.

[15] The pH dependent polymers for use in the formulations of the inventon are preferably selected from the group consisting of a methacrylic acid copolymer, a polyvinyl acetate phthalate, a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, a cellulose acetate trimelliate, a cellulose acetate phthalate, or a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate. In one embodiment, at least one of the pH dependent polymers is a methacrylic acid copolymer. In a preferred embodiment, the methacrylic acid copolymer is selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers. In a particular embodiment, the EUDRAGIT polymer is selected from among the group consisting of EUDRAGIT L100, EUDRAGIT L-30D, EUDRAGIT S100, EUDRAGIT FS 30D, and EUDRAGIT L100-55, and combinations thereof.

[16] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation comprises a degradable composition. In certain embodiments, the degradable composition is selected from the group consisting of amylase, chitosan, chondroitin sulfate, cyclodextrin, dextran, guar gum, pectin, and xylan. Preferably, the degradable composition is coated with a material selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate, EUDRAGIT L100 and EUDRAGIT L30D-55.

[17] In another embodiment, the degradable composition is a carrier molecule linked to the GCC agonist by a covalent bond, wherein the covalent bond is stable in the stomach and small intestines but labile in the lower gastrointestinal tract, especially the colon. Preferably, the covalent bond is an azo bond or a glycosidic bond. In a specific embodiment, the carrier molecule is selected from the group consisting of a glucuronide, a cyclodextrin, a dextran ester, or a polar amino acid.

[18] The invention also provides methods for treating or preventing a gastrointestinal disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to the subject a GCC agonist formulation comprising (1) a core, which contains at least one GCC agonist peptide, and (2) one or more targeting materials selected from the group consisting of a pH-dependent polymer, a swellable polymer, and a degradable composition, wherein the GCC agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-249. In certain embodiments, the one or more targeting materials form one or more layers around the core. In certain embodiments, at least one targeting material forms a matrix with the GCC agonist peptide of the core. Preferably, the formulation is for oral administration.

[19] In one embodiment, the formulation comprises one or more pH dependent polymers which degrade in a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5 and the gastrointestinal disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of irritable bowel syndrome (preferably constipation predominant), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastro esophageal reflux disease, chronic idiopathic constipation, gastroparesis, heartburn, gastric cancer, and H. pylori infection. In one embodiment, the gastrointestinal disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of chronic idiopathic constipation and irritable bowel syndrome.

[20] In one embodiment, the formulation comprises one or more pH dependent polymers which degrade in a pH range of 6.5 to 7.5 and the gastrointestinal disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of ileitis (post-operative ileitis), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, terminal ileitis, and colon cancer. In one embodiment, the gastrointestinal disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

[21] In a preferred embodiment, the method for treating or preventing a gastrointestinal disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof comprises administering to the subject a GCC agonist formulation comprising a GCC agonist peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 8, 9, 55 or 56. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 9.

[22] In one embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of a cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase. In a specific embodiment, the cGMP-dependent phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, and motapizone, vardenifil, and suldenifil.

[23] In one embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of at least one laxative. In one embodiment, the at least one laxative is selected from the group consisting of SENNA, MIRALAX, PEG, or calcium polycarbophil.

[24] In one embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of at least one anti-inflammatory agent.

[25] In a preferred embodiment, the subject is a human.

[26] Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from and are encompassed by the following detailed description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[27] Figure 1A: Biological activity of SP-304 incubated for varying lengths of time in simulated gastric fluid (SGF). The biological activity of SP-304 was determined by measuring its ability to stimulate cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. Samples incubated for 0, 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 minutes, respectively, were collected and analyzed for biological activity - with activity of the 0 min sample defined as 100% biological activity. The activities of the other samples are shown as percentage activity relative to the 0 min activity sample. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[28] Figure 1B: Schematic representation of HPLC chromatographic analyses of SP-304 samples after incubation with SGF for 0 and 120 min, respectively. The arrows show the elution position of SP-304.

[29] Figure 2A: Biological activity of SP-304 incubated for varying lengths of time in simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SP-304 samples were incubated for 0, 30, 60, 90, 150, and 300 min, respectively, and then tested for their ability to stimulate cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. The cGMP stimulation activity in the sample at 0 min of incubation time in SIF was taken as 100% biological activity. The activities of the other SP-304 incubation samples were calculated as the percentage of activity relative to that of the 0 min sample. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[30] Figure 2B: HPLC chromatographic spectra of SP-304 samples after incubation with: (A) heat-inactivated SIF for 300 minutes, or (B) SIF for 120 minutes. The arrows show the elution position of SP-304. The treatment with SIF completely eliminated SP-304 after a 2-hr incubation and a peptide signal appeared, eluting at 9.4 min, as indicated by *.

[31] Figure 3: Schematic representation of possible degradation products of SP-304.

[32] Figure 4: Biological activity of truncated peptides of 16-mer SP-304, as measured by stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. SP-338 15-mer peptide is indentical to SP-304 except that it lacks Leu at the C-terminus. SP-327, SP-329 and SP-331 lack Leu at their C-termini relative to their corresponding parents, SP-326, SP-328 and SP-330, respectively. Data points shown are the average of duplicate measurements.

[33] Figure 5: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells by SP-304 and similar analogs. T84 cells were exposed to test peptides for 30 min and cell lysates were then used to determine intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[34] Figure 6: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells by SP-339 (linaclotide) and other linaclotide analogs. T84 cells were exposed to test peptides for 30 min and cell lysates were then used to determine intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[35] Figure 7A: Biological activity of SP-333 incubated for varying lengths of time in simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SP-333 samples incubated for 0, 5, 10, 30, 60, and 120 min, respectively, were tested for their ability to stimulate cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. The control sample marked as C120 was produced by incubating SP-333 with heat inactivated SIF for 120 min. Samples from the incubations were removed and heated at 95°C for 5 min to inactivate digestive enzymes and then used to stimulate cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells. The cGMP stimulation activity in the sample at 0 min of incubation time in SIF was taken as 100% biological activity. The activities of the other SP-304 incubation samples were calculated as the percentage of activity relative to that of the 0 min sample. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[36] Figure 7B: Biological activity of SP-332 incubated for varying lengths of time in simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SP-333 samples incubated for 0, 5, 10, 30, 60, and 120 min, respectively, were tested for their ability to stimulate cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. The control sample marked as C120 was produced by incubating SP-332 with heat inactivated SIF for 120 min. Samples from the incubations were removed and heated at 95°C for 5 min to inactivate digestive enzymes and then used to stimulate cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells. The cGMP stimulation activity in the sample at 0 min of incubation time in SIF was taken as 100% biological activity. The activities of the other SP-304 incubation samples were calculated as the percentage of activity relative to that of the 0 min sample. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[37] Figure 7C: Biological activity of SP-304 incubated for varying lengths of time in simulated intestinal fluid (SIF). SP-304 samples incubated for 0, 10, and 60 min, respectively, were tested for their ability to stimulate cGMP synthesis in T84 cells. The control samples marked as C0 and C60 were produced by incubating SP-304 with heat inactivated SIF for 0 and 60 min, respectively. Samples from the incubations were removed and heated at 95°C for 5 min to inactivate digestive enzymes and then used to stimulate cyclic GMP synthesis in T84 cells. The cGMP stimulation activity in the sample at 0 min of incubation time in SIF was taken as 100% biological activity. The activities of the other SP-304 incubation samples were calculated as the percentage of activity relative to that of the 0 min sample. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[38] Figure 7D: HPLC chromatograms of SP-304 incubated for 0 min in SIF (Fig. 7D-1) and 60 min in SIF (Fig. 7D-2), respectively. The arrows indicate the elution positions of the parent SP-304 peptides. The data clearly show that the SP-304 peak eluting at 14.3 min completely vanished and two new peaks emerged at 7.4 and 10.3 minutes. These new peptide peaks represent degradation products of SP-304.

[39] Figure 7E: HPLC chromatograms of SP-332 incubated for 0 min in SIF (Fig. 7E-1) and 120 min in SIF (Fig. 7E-2), respectively. The arrows indicate the elution positions of the parent SP-332 peptides. The data show that the peptide SP-332 eluting at 14.8 minutes remained intact following incubation with SIF for 120 min, suggesting that SP-332 is resistant to proteolysis by proteases present in SIF.

[40] Figure 7F: HPLC chromatograms of SP-333 incubated for 0 min in SIF (Fig. 7F-1) and 120 min in SIF (Fig. 7F-2), respectively. The arrows indicate the elution positions of the parent SP-333 peptides. The data show that peptide SP-333, eluting at 14.8 minutes remained intact following incubation with SIF, suggesting that SP-333 is resistant to proteolysis by proteases present in SIF during the 120 minute incubation period.

[41] Figure 7G: Incubation of SP-333 with SIF for 2, 6, 12 and 24 hrs. Effect of SIF digestion on the activity of SP-333 in T84 stimualation assay was determined (Fig. 7G-1) and samples were also analyzed by HPLC (Fig 7G2-5). The elution positions of the parent peptide and its metabolites are indicated by arrows.

[42] Figure 8: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells by the peggylated analogs of SP-333. T84 cells were exposed to the indicated peptides for 30 min and cell lysates were used to determine intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of triplicate measurements ± SD.

[43] Figure 9: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells by SP-304 (0.1 μM) either alone or in combination with the phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors Sulindac Sulfone (100 μM) or Zaprinast (100 μM). T84 cells were exposed to various treatments, as indicated, for 30 min and the cell lysates were used to determine the intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of duplicate measurements.

[44] Figure 10: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 cells by SP-304 (0.1 or 1.0 μM) either alone or in combination with incremental concentrations of phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors, as indicated. T84 cells were exposed to various treatments, as indicated, for 30 min and the cell lysates were used to determine the intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of duplicate measurements.

[45] Figure 11: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 by SP-333 (0.1 or 1.0 μM) either alone or in combination with incremental concentrations of Zaprinast, as indicated. T84 cells were exposed to various treatments, as indicated, for 30 min and the cell lysates were used to determine the intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of duplicate measurements.

[46] Figure 12: Stimulation of cGMP synthesis in T84 by SP-333 (0.1 μM) either alone or in combination with incremental concentrations of Sulindac Sulfone, as indicated. T84 cells were exposed to various treatments, as indicated, for 30 min and the cell lysates were used to determine the intracellular cGMP levels. Data points shown are the average of duplicate measurements.

[47] Figure 13: SP-304 treatment improved stool consistency and clears TNBS-induced intestinal blockage in a TNBS-induced murine model of colitis.

[48] Figure 14: SP-304 treatment stimulated increased water flow in the lumen of the GI tract of cynomolgus monkeys.

[49] Figure 15A-B: The effect of SP-304 administration on stool consistency in human volunteers as judged by the Bristol Score of the first bowel movement. Results from a phase 1, single-site, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, single-, ascending-, oral-dose, sequential dose escalation study of SP-304 in fasted, healthy male and female subjects. A total of 9 cohorts utilizing 8 subjects per cohort (6 SP-304; 2 placebos) were utilized, totaling 71 volunteers administered drug. Each cohort was administered a single, oral dose or matching placebo administered in 10-fold diluted phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (240 mL). The nine cohort doses included 0.1, 0.3, 0.9, 2.7, 5.4, 8.1, 16.2, 24.3 and 48.6 mg SP-304.

[50] Figure 16: The effect of SP-304 adminstration on average time to first stool through 24 hours post-dose in human volunteers. Results from a phase 1, single-site, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, single-, ascending-, oral-dose, sequential dose escalation study of SP-304 in fasted, healthy male and female subjects. A total of 9 cohorts utilizing 8 subjects per cohort (6 SP-304; 2 placebos) were utilized, totaling 71 volunteers administered drug. Each cohort was administered a single, oral dose or matching placebo administered in 10-fold diluted phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (240 mL). The nine cohort doses included 0.1, 0.3, 0.9, 2.7, 5.4, 8.1, 16.2, 24.3 and 48.6 mg SP-304.

[51] Figure 17: SP-304 exhibited superior activity compared to Sulfasalazine to ameliorate inflammation in DSS-induced colitis in BDF-1 mice.

[52] Figure 18: SP-304 showed superior activity compared to Sulfasalazine to ameliorate inflammation in TNBS-induced colitis in BDF-1 mice.

[53] Figure 19: Determination of SP-304 dose that produced diarrhea in monkeys. Two groups of monkeys, male and female, were treated with a single dose of SP-304 per day continuously for 28 days (for each group, 0 and 75 mg/kg, n=5; 1, 10 mg/kg, n=4). Stool consistency and bowel frequency were noted every day. Results are presented as cumulative score for 28 days. The scoring used for stool consistency was as follows: 0: No stool, 1: Normal stool, 2: Loose/mushy stool and 3: Diarrhea/watery stool.

[54] Figure 20: SP-304 formulated for pH dependent release. Gelatin capsules were filled with calculated quantity of SP-304 (10 mg/kg body weight). Capsules were coated with either EUDRAGIT polymer L 30 D-55 (for release at pH greater than 5.5; Lot No. B081214690) or EUDRAGIT polymer FSD (for release at pH greater than 7; Lot No. G090365030). One capsules from each formulation were placed in a plastic tube containing 50 ml of buffer saline solution adjusted to either pH 5.7 or pH 7.2. Uncoated gelatin capsules containing the same quantity of SP-304 were used as controls. All controls were incubated in a buffered saline solution adjusted to pH 1.0. The plastic tubes were incubated on a rotatory shaker in a 37°C incubator. Samples (0.5 ml) were withdrawn from the tube at the indicated time intervals and immediately subjected to HPLC analysis to determine the release of SP-304 in the solution. The capsule coated with EUDRAGIT polymer L 30 D-55 (for release at pH greater than 5.5) was

incubated at pH 2.5 for 60 min to mimic exposure to stomach acidity. The same capsule was removed and placed in buffer saline solution (pH 5.7) and samples were withdrawn at different times for HPLC analysis. Similarly, the capsule coated with EUDRAGIT polymer FSD (for release at pH greater than 7) was sequentially incubated at pH 2.5 (60 min), pH 5.5 (60 min) and then at pH 7.0 for the indicated time interval for sampling.

[55] Figure 21: Bioactivity of SP-304 formulated for pH dependent release. Gelatin capsules were filled with calculated quantity of SP-304 (10 mg/kg body weight). Capsules were coated with EUDRAGIT polymer following the standard procedure for release at either pH greater than 5.5 or greater than 7. One capsule from each formulation was placed in a plastic tube containing 50 ml of buffer saline solution adjusted to either pH 5.7 or pH 7.2. Uncoated gelatin capsules containing the same quantity of SP-304 were used as controls. The plastic tubes were incubated on a rotatory shaker in a 37°C incubator. Samples (0.5 ml) were withdrawn from the tube at the indicated time intervals and immediately used for the bioassay using T84 cells to determine the release of SP-304 in the solution. The capsule coated with EUDRAGIT polymer L 30 D-55 (for release at pH greater than 5.5) was incubated at pH 2.5 for 60 min to mimic exposure to stomach acidity. The same capsule was removed and placed in buffer saline solution (pH 5.7) and samples were withdrawn at different times for bioassay. Similarly, the capsule coated with EUDRAGIT polymer FSD (for release at pH greater than 7) was sequentially incubated at pH 2.5 (60 min), pH 5.5 (60 min) and then at pH 7.0 for the indicated time interval and samples were withdrawn for bioassay.

[56] Figure. 22: Formulation to deliver SP-304 at pH greater than 7.0 reduced incidence of diarrhea in monkeys. Gelatin capsules were filled with SP-304 to produce a dose of 10 mg/kg body weight. Capsules were coated with EUDRAGIT polymer FSD. Uncoated capsules were used in the control group of monkeys. Effect of treatment was assessed on stool consistency. Results are expressed as cumulative scores of the number of diarrhea incidences in the seven days of treatment period.

[57] Figure 23: Formulation to deliver SP-333 at pH greater than 7.0 reduced incidence of diarrhea in monkeys. Gelatin capsules were filled with SP-333 to produce a dose of 10 mg/kg body weight. Capsules were coated with EUDRAGIT polymer FSD. Uncoated capsules were

used in the control group of monkeys. Effect of treatment was assessed on stool consistency. Results are expressed as cumulative scores of the number of diarrhea incidences in the seven days of treatment period.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[58] The present invention provides novel formulations of GCC agonists which target the release of the GCC agonist to a specific region of the gastrointestinal tract, namely either to the proximal small intestines, preferably the duodenum or jejunum, or to the distal small intestines or large intestines, preferably the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. The targeted release GCC agonist formulations of the invention are useful for the treatment or prevention of gastrointestinal diseases and disorders. In particular, the formulations which target to the duodenum or jejunum are useful for the treatment or prevention of one or more of the following: irritable bowel syndrome (preferably constipation predominant), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastro esophageal reflux disease, chronic idiopathic constipation, gastroparesis, heartburn, gastric cancer, and H. pylori infection. Likewise, the formulations which target to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon, are useful for the treatment or prevention of specific diseases and disorders, including one or more of the following: ileitis (*e.g.*, post-operative ileitis), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, terminal ileitis, and colon cancer.

[59] The targeted release GCC formulations of the invention advantageously deliver the GCC agonist to the region of the gastrointestinal tract where it will have its greatest therapeutic effect. In a specific embodiment, the GCC agonist is formulated for specific delivery to the distal small intestines or to the large intestine, preferably the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. This formulation is particularly useful for the treatment of indications such as ulcerative colitis, in which the use of convential oral formulations of GCC agonists is limited by the tendency to produce diarrhea. This adverse reaction is mitigated or eliminated by the targeted release formulations of the invention, particularly those that target release of the GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon.

[60] Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) are the principle syndromes encompassed by the classification of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). While CD can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract, it most commonly occurs in the distal ileum and colon, whereas UC by definition affects only the colon. In order to exert their anti-inflammatory therapeutic effects, orally administered GCC agonists must reach the inflamed sites in the distal ileum and colon. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the GCC agonist is formulated for drug release at pH greater than 5.5 for the treatment of UC and CD. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist is formulated for targeted delivery to the ileum, preferably using a pH dependent release formulation for release at a pH above 5.5. pH dependent release formulations are described in more detail, *infra*, in Section 1.1. "Treatment" in this context refers to the effective induction and maintenance of remission. Thus, in one embodiment, the invention provides a method for the treatment of CD or UC which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a GCC agonist formulated for release at a pH above 5.5. It has recently been shown that gut pH in UC patients is generally more acidic as compared to healthy volunteers and it has also been postulated that these variations may affect pH mediated dissolution delivery of drug treatment (see Rubin, D.T. *et al.*, Colonic pH differs depending on the activity of ulcerative colitis (UC): Report of two patients with pH measurements over time. Poster presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology, October 23-28, 2009, San Diego, CA, P1116). Further, the colonic pH rose substantially between active inflammation and subsequent clinical quiescence (see Rubin, D.T. *et al.*, Luminal pH and transit time in patients with quiescent ulcerative colitis (US) resembles that of healthy controls. Poster presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology, October 23-28, 2009, San Diego, CA, P1114). Particularly in UC, some patients fail to achieve remission with standard outpatient therapy and this failure could possibly be due to the physiologic differences in lumenal transit time and pH. Thus, a further advantage of the present invention is to provide GCC agonist formulations specifically designed to deliver bioactive GCC agonists to the distal ileum or colon of affected patients by utilizing a pH dependent release formulation.

[61] Another advantageous property of the targeted release formulations of the invention is that a lower effective dose of the GCC agonist is required to achieve the same therapeutic benefit as a GCC agonist whose release is not targeted. The targeted release of the

GCC agonist further ensures that the agonist concentration is highest at its site of action, thus reducing the side effects that may be associated with oral administration.

[62] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is an oral formulation optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum. In a specific embodiment, this formulation comprises a core, which contains the GCC agonist, surrounded by one or more layers of a targeting material. The targeting material is chosen to provide targeted release of the GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum. In one embodiment, the formulation comprises an outer layer of targeting material which comprises a pH dependent polymer that is stable in the low pH environment of the stomach (pH 1-2) and begins to disintegrate in a pH range of from 4.5 to 5.5. This formulation protects the GCC agonists from the acidic environment of the stomach.

[63] In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. In a specific embodiment, this formulation comprises a core, which contains the GCC agonist, surrounded by one or more layers of a targeting material. The targeting material is chosen to provide targeted release of the GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. In one embodiment, the formulation comprises three layers of targeting material: (1) an outer layer which comprises a pH dependent polymer that is stable in the low pH environment of the stomach (pH 1-2) and begins to disintegrate in a pH range of from 6.5 to 7.5; (2) a middle layer which comprises a swellable polymer; and (3) an inner layer which comprises a pH dependent polymer that begins to disintegrate in a pH range of from 6.5 to 7.5. In a preferred embodiment, the pH dependent polymer is selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers, for example, EUDRATGIT L, S, FS, and E polymers. In one embodiment, the swellable polymer is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

[64] While any GCC agonist known in the art can be formulated according to the present invention, analogs of uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptides are preferred. In certain embodiments, the uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptide analogs have superior properties compared to naturally occurring, or "wild-type" peptides. For example, the uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptides for use in the present invention are preferably modified to increase their resistance to degradation at the N-terminus and C-terminus from carboxypeptidases,

aminopeptidases, and/or by other proteolytic enzymes present in the stimulated human intestinal juices and human gastric juices. In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation comprises a peptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 1-249. In a preferred embodiment, the peptide consists essentially of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 1, 8, 9, 55 and 56. The term "consists essentially of" refers to a peptide that is identical to the reference peptide in its amino acid sequence or to a peptide that does not differ substantially in terms of either structure or function from the reference peptide. A peptide differs substantially from the reference peptide if its primary amino acid sequence varies by more than three amino acids from the reference peptide or if its activation of cellular cGMP production is reduced by more than 50% compared to the reference peptide. Preferably, substantially similar peptides differ by no more than two amino acids and not by more than about 25% with respect to activating cGMP production. In preferred embodiments, the GCC agonist is a peptide comprising at least 12 amino acid residues, and most preferably comprising between 12 and 26 amino acids. Non-limiting examples of such analogs of uroguanylin and bacterial ST peptides are described in Section 1.1 below.

[65] The invention provides methods for treating or preventing gastrointestinal disorders and increasing gastrointestinal motility in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a GCC agonist formulation to the subject. The term "treating" as used herein refers to a reduction, a partial improvement, amelioration, or a mitigation of at least one clinical symptom associated with the gastrointestinal disorders being treated. The term “preventing” refers to an inhibition or delay in the onset or progression of at least one clinical symptom associated with the gastrointestinal disorders to be prevented. The term "effective amount” as used herein refers to an amount that provides some improvement or benefit to the subject. In certain embodiments, an effective amount is an amount that provides some alleviation, mitigation, and/or decrease in at least one clinical symptom of the gastrointestinal disorder to be treated. In other embodiments, the effective amount is the amount that provides some inhibition or delay in the onset or progression of at least one clinical symptom associated with the gastrointestinal disorder to be prevented. The therapeutic effects need not be complete or curative, as long as some benefit is provided to the subject. The term “subject” preferably refers to a human subject but may also refer to a non-human primate or other mammal preferably selected from among a mouse, a rat, a dog, a cat, a cow, a horse, or a pig.

[66] The gastointestinal disorders that can be treated or prevented according to the methods of the invention include, for example, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus inflammation (e.g., post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (e.g., constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs, and osteoporosis drugs), post surgical constipation, and constipation associated with neuropathic disorders.

[67] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum. In accordance with this embodiment, the gastointestinal disorders that can be treated or prevented according to the methods of the invention are selected from the group consisting of irritable bowel syndrome (preferably constipation predominant), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastro esophageal reflux disease, chronic idiopathic constipation, gastroparesis, heartburn, gastric cancer, and H. pylori infection.

[68] In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. In accordance with this embodiment, the gastointestinal disorders that can be treated or prevented according to the methods of the invention are selected from the group consisting of ileitis (*e.g.*, post-operative ileitis), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, terminal ileitis, and colon cancer.

[69] The invention also provides methods for treating gastrointestinal cancer in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a GCC agonist formulation to the subject. The term "cancer" in this context includes tissue and organ carcinogenesis including metatases. In specific embodiments, the invention provides methods for treating a gastrointestinal cancer selected from among gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer.

[70] In accordance with the methods of the present invention, the GCC agonist formulation can be administered alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents to prevent or treat inflammation, cancer and other disorders, particularly of the

gastrointestinal tract. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase inhibitors, cyclic nucleotides (such as cGMP and cAMP), a laxative (such as SENNA, METAMUCIL, MIRALAX, PEG, or calcium polycarbophil), a stool softner, an anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha therapy for IBD (such as REMICADE, ENBREL, or HUMAIRA), and anti-inflammatory drugs (such as COX-2 inhibitors, sulfasalazine, 5-ASA derivatives and NSAIDS). In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP-PDE) either concurrently or sequentially with said GCC agonist. cGMP-PDE inhibitors include, for example, suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, motapizone, vardenifil, and sildenafil. In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with inhibitors of cyclic nucleotide transporters.

1.1 Formulations

[71] The formulations of the invention are optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to a specific region of the gastrointestinal tract. In a preferred embodiment, the formulations are oral formulations. The formulations of the invention comprise a core, which contains the GCC agonist, and one or more targeting materials which may form one or more layers around the core, or which may be formed in a matrix with the core. The targeting material is chosen to target the release of the GCC agonist to a specific region of the gastrointestinal tract. The targeting material preferably comprises one of the following: (1) a pH dependent polymer; (2) a swellable polymer; or (3) a degradable composition. Targeting materials are further described in Sections 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 below.

[72] In one embodiment, the targeting material is chosen to provide for the pH-dependent release of the GCC agonist. In a preferred embodiment, the targeting material for a pH-dependent release formulation comprises a pH-dependent polymer that is stable in the low pH environment of the stomach (*i.e.*, at pH 1-2) and begins to disintegrate at the pH of the proximal small intestine (pH 4.5-6) or distal ileum (pH 7-8). Preferably, the pH-dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers, which are further described below in Section 1.1.1.

[73] In one embodiment, the targeting material is chosen to provide for a controlled (time-dependent) release of the GCC agonist. In a preferred embodiment, the targeting material for a controlled release formulation comprises at least one swellable polymer, as further described below in Section 1.1.2.

[74] In another embodiment, the targeting material for a controlled release formulation comprises a degradable compostion such as a natural or synthetic polymer which is susceptibile to being degraded by at least one colonic bacterial enzyme. Preferably, the GCC agonist is embedded in the polymer matrix.

[75] In another embodiment, the targeting material for a controlled release formulation comprises a degradable compostion in the form of a carrier molecule covalently conjugated to the GCC agonist by a labile bond which is stable in the stomach and small intestine but which degrades in the lower gastrointestinal tract, especially the colon, thereby providing for the targeted release of the GCC agonist. A GCC agonist covalently conjugated to a carrier in this manner is referred to herein as a GCC "prodrug." The formulations comprising a GCC prodrug are further described below in Section 1.1.3.

[76] In certain embodiments, the formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum. In one embodiment, the formulation optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum comprises a core, which contains the GCC agonist, surrounded by a targeting layer comprised of a pH dependent polymer which degrades in a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5. Preferably the pH dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers.

[77] In certain embodiments, the formulation is optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon. In one embodiment, the formulation optimized for delivery of a GCC agonist to the ileum, terminal ileum, or ascending colon comprises a core, which contains the GCC agonist, surrounded by one, two, three, or more layers of targeting materials. At least one targeting material comprises a pH dependent polymer which degrades in a pH range of 6.5 to 7.5. Preferably the pH dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers. Where there is more than one layer of targeting materials surrounding the core, at least one layer comprises a swellable polymer.

Preferably, the swellable polymer is an acrylic copolymer, polyvinylacetate, or a cellulose derivative. In one embodiment, the swellable polymer is an acrylic copolymer selected from EUDRAGIT RL, EUDRAGIT RS, and EUDRAGIT NE. In another embodiment, the swellable polymer is a cellulose derivative selected from ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and metal salts of carboxymethylcellulose. In another embodiment, the formulation comprises EUDRACOL, which combines both pH- and time-dependent EUDRAGIT polymers. EUDRAGIT polymers are described below in Sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2. Further examples of swellable polymers are described below in Section 1.1.2.

[78] In accordance with the invention, the enteric coating chosen for the formulation is any coating which will achieve the targeting objective of the formulation. Examples of suitable enteric coatings include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) acrylic polymers (anionic polymers of methacrylic acid and methacrylates polymers with methacrylic acid as a functional group) such as the EUDRAGIT (Degussa) polymers, *e.g.*, for release in the duodenum (dissolution above pH 5.5), EUDRAGIT L 100-55 and EUDRAGIT L 30 D-55; for release in the jejunum (dissolution above pH 6.0), EUDRAGIT L 100; for release in the ileum (dissolution above pH 7), EUDRAGIT S 100 and EUDRAGIT FS 30, and COLORCON ACRYL-EZE; (2) polyvinyl Acetate Phthalate (PVAP) including the COLORCON SURETERIC Aqueous Enteric Coating System, and the COLORCON OPADRY Enteric Coating System; (3) hypromellose Phthalate, NF (Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose Phthtalate; HPMCP; HP-55 Shin-Etsu); (4) cellulose acetate phthalate (CAP), such as AQUACOAT CPD; and (5) cellulose acetate trimellitate (CAT). Further examples of suitable enteric coatings include, without limitation, sustained release blends such as EUDRACOL, EUDRAPULSE, and EUDRAMODE, as well as sustained release polymers such as the EUDRAGIT RL, RS, and NE polymers.

[79] The GCC agonist-containing core of a formulation of the invention can be in the form of a tablet, a capsule, granules, pellets, or crystals. In certain embodiments, the core comprises microparticles or microspheres. In one embodiment, the core comprises a cellulose acetate butyrate microsphere. In some embodiments, the core is coated with one or more layers of targeting materials. In other embodiments, the core is formulated in a matrix with a targeting

material. In certain embodiments, the core matrix is coated with at least one additional targeting material.

[80] The GCC-agonist containing core of the present formulations is formed according to art-recognized methods. In one embodiment, the core is formed with a pellet-forming agent such as microcrystalline cellulose, low-substituted hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, chitosan, or any combination or mixture thereof. Generally, an amount of pellet-forming agent that is less than 20% by weight results in poor sphericity and broad particle size distribution. Accordingly, the pellet-forming agent of the present formulations is preferably at least 20% by weight. In certain embodiments, the pellet-forming agent is present at 20% to 95% or 50% to 90% by weight.

[81] The GCC agonist formulation may further comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The excipients may comprise part of the core or part of one or more outer layers surrounding the core. Preferably, the excipients are present in an amount of 2 to 70% or 5 to 50% by weight. The term excipient broadly refers to a biologically inactive substance used in combination with the active agents of the formulation. An excipient can be used, for example, as a solubilizing agent, a stabilizing agent, a diluent, an inert carrier, a preservative, a binder, a disintegrant, a coating agent, a flavoring agent, or a coloring agent. Preferably, at least one excipient is chosen to provide one or more beneficial physical properties to the formulation, such as increased stability and/or solubility of the active agent(s).

[82] A "pharmaceutically acceptable" excipient is one that has been approved by a state or federal regulatory agency for use in animals, and preferably for use in humans, or is listed in the U.S. Pharmacopia, the European Pharmacopia or another generally recognized pharmacopia for use in animals, and preferably for use in humans. Examples of excipients include certain inert proteins such as albumins; hydrophilic polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone; amino acids such as aspartic acid (which may alternatively be referred to as aspartate), glutamic acid (which may alternatively be referred to as glutamate), lysine, arginine, glycine, and histidine; fatty acids and phospholipids such as alkyl sulfonates and caprylate; surfactants such as sodium dodecyl sulphate and polysorbate; nonionic surfactants such as such as TWEEN®, PLURONICS®, or polyethylene glycol (PEG); carbohydrates such as

glucose, sucrose, mannose, maltose, trehalose, and dextrins, including cyclodextrins; polyols such as sorbitol; chelating agents such as EDTA; and salt-forming counter-ions such as sodium. Particularly preferred are hydrophilic excipients which reduce the protein binding activity and aggregation of GCC agionist peptides.

[83] In some embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation further comprises one or more excipients selected from among an absorption enhancer, a binder, a disintegrant, and a hardness enhancing agent. In other embodiments, the formulation further comprises one or more excipients selected from among a wicking agent, a stabilizer, a flow regulating agent, a lubricant, an antioxidant, a chelating agent, or a sequestrate.

[84] Non-limiting examples of suitable binders include starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone (POVIDONE), low molecular weight hydroxypropylcellulose, low molecular weight hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, low molecular weight carboxymethylcellulose, ethylcellulose, gelatin, polyethylene oxide, acacia, dextrin, magnesium aluminum silicate, and polymethacrylates. Non-limiting examples of a disintegrant include croscarmellose sodium crospovidone (cross-linked PVP), sodium carboxymethyl starch (sodium starch glycolate), pregelatinized starch (starch 1500), microcrystalline starch, water insoluble starch, calcium carboxymethyl cellulose, and magnesium aluminum silicate (Veegum). In certain embodiments, a binder is selected from polyvinylpyrrolidone and sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

[85] Non-limiting examples of a wicking agent include colloidal silicon dioxide, kaolin, titanium oxide, fumed silicon dioxide, alumina, niacinamide, sodium lauryl sulfate, low molecular weight polyvinyl pyrrolidone, m-pyrol, bentonite, magnesium aluminum silicate, polyester, polyethylene, and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, a wicking agent is selected from sodium lauryl sulfate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and low molecular weight polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

[86] Non-limiting examples of a stabilizer include butyl hydroxyanisole, ascorbic acid, citric acid, and mixtures thereof. Preferably, the stabilizer is a basic substance which can elevate the pH of an aqueous solution or dispersion of the formulation to at least about pH 6.8. Examples of such basic substances include, for example, antacids such as magnesium aluminometasilicate, magnesium aluminosilicate, magnesium aluminate, dried aluminum

hydroxide, synthetic hydrotalcite, synthetic aluminum silicate, magnesium carbonate, precipitated calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, and sodium hydrogencarbonate. Other examples incldue pH-regulating agents such as L-arginine, sodium phosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, potassium phosphate, dipotassium hydrogenphosphate, potassium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium citrate, sodium succinate, ammonium chloride, and sodium benzoate. In certain embodiments, a stabilizer is selected from ascorbic acid and magnesium aluminometasilicate.

[87] In an embodiment where the stabilizer is a basic substance, the basic substance can be an inorganic water-soluble compound or a inorganic water-insoluble compound. Non-limiting examples of an inorganic water-soluble compounds for use as a stabilizer include carbonate salts such as sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, or potassium hydrogen carbonate; phosphate salts such as anhydrous sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, calcium dibasic phosphate, or trisodium phosphate; and alkali metal hydroxides, such as sodium, potassium, or lithium hydroxide. Non-limiting examples of inorganic water-insoluble compounds for use as a stabilizer include suitable alkaline compounds capable of imparting the requisite basicity, such as those commonly employed in antiacid compositions, for example, magnesium oxide, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydrogen carbonate, aluminum hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate; composite aluminum-magnesium compounds, such as magnesium aluminum hydroxide; silicate compounds such as magnesium aluminum silicate (Veegum F), magnesium aluminometasilicate (Nesulin FH2), magnesium aluminosilicate (Nisulin A); and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of phosphoric acid such as tribasic calcium phosphate.

[88] Non-limiting examples of a flow regulating agents include a colloidal silicon dioxide and aluminum silicate.

[89] Non-limiting examples of a lubricant include stearate salts, such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, and sodium stearate, stearic acid, talc, sodium stearyl fumarate, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium benzoate, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, glycerol behenate compritol (glycerol behenate), corola oil, glyceryl palmitostearate, hydrogenated

vegetable oil, magnesium oxide, mineral oil, poloxamer, and combinations thereof. In certain embodiments, a lubricant is selected from talc and magnesium stearate.

[90] Non-limiting examples of antioxidants include 4,4 (2,3 dimethyl tetramethylene dipyrochatechol), tocopherol-rich extract (natural vitamin E), α-tocopherol (synthetic Vitamin E), β-tocopherol, γ-tocopherol, δ-tocopherol, butylhydroxinon, butyl hydroxyanisole (BHA), butyl hydroxytoluene (BHT), propyl gallate, octyl gallate, dodecyl gallate, tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), fumaric acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), sodium ascorbate, calcium ascorbate, potassium ascorbate, ascorbyl palmitate, ascorbyl stearate,citric acid, sodium lactate, potassium lactate, calcium lactate, magnesium lactate, anoxomer, erythorbic acid, sodium erythorbate, erythorbin acid, sodium erythorbin, ethoxyquin, glycine, gum guaiac, sodium citrates (monosodium citrate, disodium citrate, trisodium citrate), potassium citrates (monopotassium citrate, tripotassium citrate), lecithin, polyphosphate, tartaric acid, sodium tartrates (monosodium tartrate, disodium tartrate), potassium tartrates (monopotassium tartrate, dipotassium tartrate), sodium potassium tartrate, phosphoric acid, sodium phosphates (monosodium phosphate, disodium phosphate, trisodium phosphate), potassium phosphates (monopotassium phosphate, dipotassium phosphate, tripotassium phosphate), calcium disodium ethylene diamine tetra-acetate (Calcium disodium EDTA), lactic acid, trihydroxy butyrophenone and thiodipropionic acid.

[91] In certain embodiments, the core of the formulation comprises an antioxidant and both a chelator and a sequestrate. The chelating agent acts to remove trace quantities of metals which might otherwise bind to the GCC agonist and cause loss of activity, for example through oxidation. The sequestrate preferably has several hydroxyl and/or carboxylic acid groups which provide a supply of hydrogen for regeneration of the inactivated antioxidant free radical. Non-limiting examples of chelating agents include antioxidants, dipotassium edentate, disodium edentate, edetate calcium disodium, edetic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maltol, sodium edentate, and trisodium edetate. Non-limiting examples of sequestrates include citric acid and ascorbic acid.

[92] In some embodiments, the formulation further comprises a filler. Preferably, the filler is present in an amount of from 10% to 85% by weight. Non-limiting examples of suitable

materials for use as a filler include starch, lactitol, lactose, an inorganic calcium salt, microcrystalline cellulose, sucrose, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the filler comprises microcrystalline cellulose. Preferably, the microcrystalline cellulose has a particle size of less than about 100 microns, and most preferably the microcrystalline cellulose has a particle size of about 50 microns.

[93] In some embodiments, the core optionally includes a buffering agent such as an inorganic salt compound and an organic alkaline salt compound. Non-limiting examples of a buffering agent include potassium bicarbonate, potassium citrate, potassium hydroxide, sodium bicarbonate, sodium citrate, sodium hydroxide, calcium carbonate, dibasic sodium phosphate, monosodium glutamate, tribasic calcium phosphate, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, citric acid monohydrate, lactic acid, propionic acid, tartaric acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, and monobasic sodium phosphate.

[94] In some embodiments, the core further comprises a preservative. Non-limiting examples of a preservative include an antioxidant, dipotassium edentate, disodium edentate, edetate calcium disodium, edetic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maltol, sodium edentate, and trisodium edentate.

[95] The GCC agonist formulations of the invention are preferably optimized for oral delivery. However, in some embodiments, the formulations may be prepared in the form of suppositories (*e.g.*, with conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter and other glycerides) or retention enemas for rectal delivery. Solid oral dosage forms may optionally be treated with coating systems (*e.g.* Opadry® fx film coating system, for example Opadry® blue (OY-LS-20921), Opadry® white (YS-2-7063), Opadry® white (YS- 1-7040), and black ink (S-1-8 106).

1.1.1 pH Dependent Release Formulations

[96] In certain embodiments, the formulations of the invention comprise a pH-dependent targeting material that is pharmacologically inactive, meaning that it is excreted without being absorbed or metabolized. In some embodiments, the GCC agonist-loaded core is coated with a pH-dependent material. In other embodiments, the pH-dependent material

comprises part of an outer layer which surrounds the core, for example in certain embodiments of a controlled (time-dependent) release formulation. In some embodiments, the GCC agonist-loaded core is formed as a matrix with a pH-dependent material. Preferably, the pH-dependent material comprises a pH-dependent polymer.

[97] Preferably, the pH-dependent polymer is stable in the low pH environment of the stomach (*i.e.*, at pH 1-2) and begins to disintegrate at the higher pH of the small intestine (pH 6-7) or distal ileum (pH 7-8). In certain embodiments, the polymer begins to disintegrate at pH 4.5-4.8, pH 4.8-5.0, pH 5.0-5.2, pH 5.2-5.4, pH 5.4-5.8, pH 5.8-6.0, pH 6.0-6.2, pH 6.2-6.4, pH 6.4-6.6, pH 6.6-6.8, pH 6.8-7.0, pH 7.0-7.2, or pH 7.2-7.4. In certain embodiments, the polymer begins to disintegrate at pH 4.5-5.5, pH 5.5-6.5, or pH 6.5-7.5. The pH at which a pH-sensitive polymer begins to disintegrate is also referred to herein as the "threshold pH" of the polymer.

[98] In certain embodiments, the pH-dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer, a polyvinyl acetate phthalate, a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, a cellulose acetate trimelliate, a cellulose acetate phthalate, or a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate.

[99] In a preferred embodiment, the pH-dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer selected from among the EUDRAGIT polymers. EUDRAGIT polymers are available in a wide range of different concentrations and physical forms, including aqueous solutions, aqueous dispersion, organic solutions, and solid substances. The pharmaceutical properties of the polymers are determined by the chemical properties of their functional groups. For example, EUDRAGIT L, S, FS and E polymers have acidic or alkaline groups that are pH-dependent. Enteric EUDRAGIT coatings provide protection against release of the GCC agonist in the stomach and enable controlled release in the intestine. In certain embodiments, anionic EUDRAGIT grades containing carboxyl groups are mixed with each other to provide pH-dependent release of the GCC agonist. In certain embodiments, EUDRAGIT L and S grades are used for enteric coatings. In one embodiment, EUDRAGIT FS 30D is used for controlled release in the colon. The various EUDRAGIT polymers are further described in international pharmacopeias such as Ph.Eur., USP/NF, DMF and JPE.

[100] In specific embodiments, the pH-dependent polymer is a methacrylic acid copolymer selected from EUDRAGIT L100, having a threshold pH of 6.0; EUDRAGIT S100, having a threshold pH of 7.0; EUDRAGIT L-30D, having a threshold pH of 5.6; EUDRAGIT FS 30D, having a threshold pH of 6.8; or EUDRAGIT L100-55, having a threshold pH of 5.5, or a combination thereof.

1.1.2 Controlled Release Formulations

[101] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation comprises a targeting material which provides a controlled (time-dependent) release of the GCC agonist. Controlled release in this context includes delayed sustained release, delayed controlled release, delayed slow release, delayed prolonged release, delayed extended release, and a sudden release or "burst."

[102] Preferably, the controlled release formulation comprises a slowly disintegrating core comprising the GCC agonist surrounded by the targeting material. The targeting material preferably comprises at least one swellable polymer. Non-limiting examples of swellable polymers for use in a controlled release formulation of the invention include acrylic copolymers, *e.g.*, EUDRAGIT RL, EUDRAGIT RS, or EUDRAGIT NE; polyvinylacetate, *e.g.*, KOLLICOAT SR 30D; and cellulose derivatives such as ethylcellulose or cellulose acetate, *e.g.*, SURELEASE and AQUACOAT ECD. In a preferred embodiment, the targeting material comprises one or more of EUDRAGIT RL, EUDRAGIT RS, or EUDRAGIT NE to provide controlled time release of the GCC agonist by pH-independent swelling. In a particular embodiment, the targeting material comprises EUDRAGIT RL:RS (2:8) and an outing coating comprising EUDRAGIT FS.

[103] Further non-limiting examples of swellable polymers that can be used in the sustained release formulations of the invention include poly(hydroxalkyl methacrylate) having a molecular weight of from 30,000 to 5,000.000; kappa-carrageenan; polyvinylpyrrolidone having a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 360,000; anionic and cationic hydrogels; polyelectrolyte complexes; poly(vinyl alcohol) having low amounts of acetate, cross-linked with glyoxal, formaldehyde, or glutaraldehyde and having a degree of polymerization from 200 to 30,000; a mixture comprising methyl cellulose, cross-linked agar and carboxymethyl cellulose; a water-insoluble, water-swellable copolymer produced by forming a dispersion of finely divided maleic

anhydride with styrene, ethylene, propylene, butylene or isobutylene; water-swellable polymers of N-vinyl lactams; polysaccharide, water swellable gums, high viscosity hydroxylpropylmethyl cellulose and/or mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, the swellable polymer is selected from the group consisting of calcium pectinate, cross-linked polysaccharide, water insoluble starch, microcrystalline cellulose, water insoluble cross-linked peptide, water insoluble cross-linked protein, water insoluble cross-linked gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked hydrolyzed gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked collagen, modified cellulose, and cross-linked polyacrylic acid. Non-limiting examples of a cross-linked polysaccharide include insoluble metal salts or cross-linked derivatives of alginate, pectin, xantham gum, guar gum, tragacanth gum, and locust bean gum, carrageenan, metal salts thereof, and covalently cross-linked derivatives thereof. Non-limiting examples of modified cellulose include cross-linked derivatives of hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and metal salts of carboxymethylcellulose.

[104] In certain embodiments, the swellable core also comprises a wicking agent such as silicon dioxide. The wicking agent may also be selected from a disintegrant such as microcrystalline cellulose to enhance the speed of water uptake. Other suitable wicking agents include, but are not limited to, kaolin, titanium dioxide, fumed silicon dioxide, alumina, niacinamide, sodium lauryl sulfate, low molecular weight polyvinyl pyrrolidone, m-pyrol, bentonite, magnesium aluminum silicate, polyester, polyethylene, and mixtures thereof.

[105] In certain embodiments, the targeting material, which may comprise part of the core and/or form one or more layers coating the core, optionally further comprises at least one of a lubricant, a flow promoting agent, a plasticizer, an anti-sticking agent, surfactant, wetting agent, suspending agent and dispersing agent.

[106] In certain embodiments, the targeting material comprises a water insoluble polymer and a pore-forming agent. Non-limiting examples of pore forming agents include saccharose, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and/or polyethyleneglycol, water soluble organic acids, sugars and sugar alcohol. In certain embodiments, the pore forming agent forms part of an outer layer or coating. In other

embodiments, the pore forming agent is distributed uniformly throughout the water insoluble polymer.

[107] In one embodiment, the targeting material comprises a compression coating. Non-limiting examples of materials that can be used as a compression coating include a gum selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum, galactans, mannans, alginates, gum karaya, pectin, agar, tragacanth, accacia, carrageenan, tragacanth, chitosan, agar, alginic acid, hydrocolloids acacia catechu, salai guggal, indian bodellum, copaiba gum, asafetida, cambi gum, Enterolobium cyclocarpum, mastic gum, benzoin gum, sandarac, gambier gum, butea frondosa (Flame of Forest Gum), myrrh, konjak mannan, guar gum, welan gum, gellan gum, tara gum, locust bean gum, carageenan gum, glucomannan, galactan gum, sodium alginate, tragacanth, chitosan, xanthan gum, deacetylated xanthan gum, pectin, sodium polypectate, gluten, karaya gum, tamarind gum, ghatti gum, Accaroid/Yacca/Red gum, dammar gum, juniper gum, ester gum, ipil-ipil seed gum, gum talha (acacia seyal), and cultured plant cell gums including those of the plants of the genera: acacia, actinidia, aptenia, carbobrotus, chickorium, cucumis, glycine, hibiscus, hordeum, letuca, lycopersicon, malus, medicago, mesembryanthemum, oryza, panicum, phalaris, phleum, poliathus, polycarbophil, sida, solanum, trifolium, trigonella, Afzelia africana seed gum, Treculia africana gum, detarium gum, cassia gum, carob gum, Prosopis africana gum, Colocassia esulenta gum, Hakea gibbosa gum, khaya gum, scleroglucan, and zea, as well as mixtures of any of the foregoing.

[108] In some embodiments, the targeting material further comprises a plasticizer, a stiffening agent, a wetting agent, a suspending agent, or a dispersing agent, or a combination thereof. Non-limiting examples of a plasticizer include dibutyl sebacate, polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol, dibutyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, triethyl citrate, tributyl citrate, acetylated monoglyceride, acetyl tributyl citrate, triacetin, dimethyl phthalate, benzyl benzoate, butyl and/or glycol esters of fatty acids, refined mineral oils, oleic acid, castor oil, corn oil, camphor, glycerol and sorbitol or a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the stiffening agent comprises cetyl alcohol. Non-limiting examples of wetting agents include a poloxamer, polyoxyethylene ethers, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxymethylene stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate, sorbitan fatty acid esters, benzalkonium chloride, polyethoxylated castor oil, and docusate sodium. Non-limiting examples of suspending agents include alginic acid,

bentonite, carbomer, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose calcium, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal silicon dioxide, dextrin, gelatin, guar gum, xanthan gum, kaolin, magnesium aluminum silicate, maltitol, medium chain triglycerides, methylcellulose, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyvinylpyrrolidinone, propylene glycol alginate, sodium alginate, sorbitan fatty acid esters, and tragacanth. Non-limiting examples of dispersing agents include poloxamer, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters and sorbitan fatty acid esters.

[109] In certain embodiments, the targeted release formulation further comprises an outer enteric coating over the targeted release material. Preferably, the enteric coating is selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate, EUDRAGIT L100 and EUDRAGIT L30D-55.

1.1.2.1 Burst Formulation

[110] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is a time-delayed formulation designed to release the GCC agonist in a fast burst in the colon or small intestine ("burst formulation"). The formulation comprises a core and an outer layer. The core comprises at least one GCC agonist and at least one burst controlling agent. In certain embodiments, the core further comprises at least one disintegrant selected from the group consisting of croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone (cross-linked PVP), sodium carboxymethyl starch (sodium starch glycolate), cross-linked sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (Croscarmellose), pregelatinized starch (starch 1500), microcrystalline starch, water insoluble starch, calcium carboxymethyl cellulose, and magnesium aluminum silicate, or a combination thereof. In other embodiments, the core further comprises at least one of an absorption enhancer, a binder, a hardness enhancing agent, a buffering agent, a filler, a flow regulating agent, a lubricant, a synergistic agent, a chelator, an antioxidant, a stabilizer and a preservative. Optionally, the core also comprises one or more other excipients.

[111] The burst controlling agent in the core preferably comprises a water insoluble polymer for controlling the rate of penetration of water into the core and raising the internal pressure (osmotic pressure) inside the core. Such a burst controlling agent is preferably able to swell upon contact with liquid. Non-limiting examples of suitable water insoluble polymers

include cross-linked polysaccharide, water insoluble starch, microcrystalline cellulose, water insoluble cross-linked peptide, water insoluble cross-linked protein, water insoluble cross-linked gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked hydrolyzed gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked collagen modified cellulose, and cross-linked polyacrylic acid. In one embodiment, the water insoluble polymer is a cross-linked polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of insoluble metal salts or cross-linked derivatives of alginate, pectin, xanthan gum, guar gum, tragacanth gum, and locust bean gum, carrageenan, metal salts thereof, and covalently cross-linked derivatives thereof. In one embodiment, the water insoluble polymer is a modified cellulose selected from the group consisting of cross-linked derivatives of hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and metal salts of carboxymethylcellulose. In another embodiment, the water insoluble polymer is selected from calcium pectinate, microcrystalline cellulose, or a combination thereof.

[112] The outer layer comprises a water insoluble hydrophobic carrier and a pore forming agent comprised of a water insoluble hydrophilic particular matter. The pore forming agent is a water permeable agent which allows entry of liquid into the core. Optionally, the outer layer further comprises at least one of a wetting agent, a suspending agent, a dispersing agent, a stiffening agent, and a plasticizer.

[113] In certain embodiments, the water insoluble hydrophobic carrier is selected from the group consisting of a dimethylaminoethylacrylate/ethylmethacrylate copolymer, the copolymer being based on acrylic and methacrylic acid esters with a low content of quaternary ammonium groups, wherein the molar ratio of the ammonium groups to the remaining neutral (meth)acrylic acid esters is approximately 1:20, the polymer corresponding to USP/NF "Ammonio Methacrylate Copolymer Type A", an ethylmethacrylate/chlorotrimethylammoniumethyl methacrylate copolymer, the copolymer based on acrylic and methacrylic acid esters with a low content of quaternary ammonium groups wherein the molar ratio of the ammonium groups to the remaining neutral (meth)acrylic acid esters is 1:40, the polymer corresponding to USP/NF "Ammonio Methacrylate Copolymer Type B", a dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate /methylmethacrylate and butylmethacrylate copolymer, a copolymer based on neutral methacrylic acid esters and dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate esters wherein the polymer is cationic in the presence of acids, an ethylacrylate and

methylacrylate/ethylmethacrylate and methyl methylacrylate copolymer, the copolymer being a neutral copolymer based on neutral methacrylic acid and acrylic acid esters, ethylcellulose, shellac, zein, and waxes.

[114] In certain embodiments, the water insoluble particulate matter is a hydrophilic yet water insoluble polymer, preferably selected from the group consisting of a water insoluble cross-linked polysaccharide, a water insoluble cross-linked protein, a water insoluble cross-linked peptide, water insoluble cross-linked gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked hydrolyzed gelatin, water insoluble cross-linked collagen, water insoluble cross linked polyacrylic acid, water insoluble cross-linked cellulose derivatives, water insoluble cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, micro crystalline cellulose, insoluble starch, micro crystalline starch and a combination thereof. Most preferably, the water insoluble particulate matter is microcrystalline cellulose.

[115] In certain embodiments, the burst formulation further comprises an enteric coating on the outer layer. The enteric coating is preferably selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate, and a EUDRAGIT polymer such as EUDRAGIT L100 or EUDRAGIT L30D-55.

1.1.3 Biodegradable Formulations

[116] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation comprises a natural or synthetic polymer which is susceptibile to being degraded by at least one colonic bacterial enzyme. Preferably, the GCC agonist is embedded in the polymer matrix. Non-limiting examples of such polymers include polymers of polysaccharides such as amylase, chitosan, chondroitin sulfate, cyclodextrin, dextran, guar gum, pectin, and xylan. Preferably, the natural or synthetic polymer is gelled or crosslinked with a cation such as a zinc cation, for example from zinc sulfate, zinc chloride, or zinc acetate. The formulation is preferably in the form of ionically crosslinked beads which are subsequently coated with an enteric coating. The enteric coating can comprise any suitable enteric coating material, such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose acetate succinate, alginic acid, and sodium alginate, or a EUDRAGIT polymer.

[117] In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation comprises a GCC agonist covalently conjugated to a carrier molecule such that the covalent bond between the GCC agonist and the carrier is stable in the stomach and small intestine but labile in the lower gastrointestinal tract, especially the colon. The GCC agonist covalently linked to a carrier molecule is referred to as the "GCC prodrug." In certain embodiments, the GCC prodrug comprises a GCC agonist covalently conjugated to a carrier molecule via an azo bond or a glycosidic bond. In other embodiments, the GCC prodrug comprises a glucuronide, a cyclodextrin, a dextran ester, or a polar amino acid. In certain embodiments, the GCC prodrug is a polymeric prodrug. In one embodiment, the polymeric prodrug comprises polyamides containing azo groups.

1.2 **GCC** Agonists

[118] The GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention bind to guanylate cyclase C and stimulate intracellular production of cGMP. Optionally, the GCC agonists induce apoptosis and inhibit proliferation of epithelial cells. The term, "guanylate cyclase C" refers to a transmembrane form of guanylate cyclase that acts as the intestinal receptor for the heat-stable toxin (ST) peptides secreted by enteric bacteria. Guanylate cyclase C is also the receptor for the naturally occurring peptides guanylin and uroguanylin. The possibility that there may be different receptors for each of these peptides has not been excluded. Hence, the term "guanylate cyclase C" may also encompass a class of transmembrane guanylate cyclase receptors expressed on epithelial cells lining the gastrointestinal mucosa.

[119] The term "GCC agonist" refers to both peptides and non-peptide compounds such as that bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase C and stimulate the intracellular production of cGMP. Where the GCC agonist is a peptide, the term encompasses biologically active fragments of such peptides and pro-peptides that bind to guanylate cyclase C and stimulate the intracellular production of cGMP.

[120] Preferably, the GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention stimulate intracellular cGMP production at higher levels than naturally occurring GCC agonists such as uroguanylin, guanylin, and ST peptides. In some embodiments, the GCC agonists stimulate intracellular cGMP production at higher levels than the peptide designated SP-

304 (SEQ ID NO:1). In specific embodiments, a GCC agonist for use in the formulations and methods of the invention stimulates 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to uroguanylin, guanylin, lymphoguanylin, linaclotide, ST peptides, or SP-304. The terms "induce" and "stimulate"are used interchangeably throughout the specification.

[121] Preferably, the GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are more stable than naturally occurring GCC agonists such as uroguanylin, guanylin, and ST peptides. In some embodiments, the GCC agonists are more stable than the peptide designated SP-304. "Stability" in this context refers to resistance to degradation in gastrointestinal fluid and/or intestinal fluid (or simulated gastrointestinal or intestinal fluids) compared to the reference peptide. For example, the GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention preferably degrade 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GCC angonists and/or SP-304.

[122] The GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are preferably peptides. In some embodiments, the GCC agonist peptide is less than 30 amino acids in length. In particular embodiments, the GCC agonist peptide is less than or equal to 30, 25, 20, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, or 5 amino acids in length. Examples of GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention include those described in U.S. Serial Nos.: 12/133,344, filed June 4, 2008, 12/478505, filed June 4, 2009; 12/478511, filed June 4, 2009; 12/504288, filed July 16, 2009; and U.S. Provisional Application Serial Nos.: 60/933194, filed June 4, 2007; 61/058,888, filed June 4, 2008; 61/058,892, filed June 4, 2008; and 61/081,289, filed July 16, 2008, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[123] Specific examples of GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention include those described in Tables I-VII below. As used Tables I-VII, the terms "PEG3" or "3PEG" refer to a polyethylene glycol such as aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (AeeA), and polymers thereof. The term "X_{aa}" refers to any natural or unnatural amino acid or amino acid analogue. The term "M_{aa}" refers to a cysteine (Cys), penicillamine (Pen) homocysteine, or 3-mercaptoproline. The term "Xaa_{n1}" is meant to denote an amino acid sequence of any natural or unnatural amino acid or amino acid analogue that is one, two or three

residues in length; Xaa_{n2} is meant to denote an amino acid sequence that is zero or one residue in length; and Xaa_{n3} is meant to denote an amino acid sequence zero, one, two, three, four , five or six residues in length. Additionally, any amino acid represented by Xaa, Xaa_{n1}, $Xaa_{n2,}$ or Xaa_{n3} may be an L-amino acid, a D-amino acid, a methylated amino acid or any combination of thereof. Optionally, any GCC agonist peptide represented by Formulas I to XX in the tables may contain on or more polyethylene glycol residues at the the N- terminus, C-terminus or both.

[124] In certain embodiments, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention comprises a peptide selected from SEQ ID NOs: 1-249, the sequences of which are set forth below in Tables I to VII below. In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation comprises the peptide designated by SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 9, 55, or 56.

[125] In certain embodiments, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention comprises a peptide that is substantially equivalent to a peptide selected from SEQ ID NOs: 1-249. The term "substantially equivalent" refers to a peptide that has an amino acid sequence equivalent to that of the binding domain where certain residues may be deleted or replaced with other amino acids without impairing the peptide's ability to bind to an intestinal guanylate cyclase receptor and stimulate fluid and electrolyte transport.

1.2.1 GCC Agonist Peptides

[126] In a preferred embodiment, the GCC agonists for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are GCC agonist peptides. In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides are analogues of uroguanylin or a bacterial ST peptide. Uroguanylin is a circulating peptide hormone with natriuretic activity. An ST peptide is a member of a family of heat stable enterotoxins (ST peptides) secreted by pathogenic strains of *E. coli* and other enteric bacteria that activate guanylate cyclase receptor and cause secretory diarrhea. Unlike bacterial ST peptides, the binding of uroguanylin to guanylate cyclase receptor is dependent on the physiological pH of the gut. Therefore, uroguanylin is expected to regulate fluid and electrolyte transport in a pH dependent manner and without causing severe diarrhea.

[127] The GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention can be polymers of L-amino acids, D-amino acids, or a combination of both. For example, in various embodiments, the peptides are D retro-inverso peptides. The term "retro-inverso isomer" refers to an isomer of a linear peptide in which the direction of the sequence is reversed and the chirality of each amino acid residue is inverted. *See, e.g.*, Jameson *et al.*, *Nature*, 368, 744-746 (1994); Brady *et al.*, Nature, 368, 692-693 (1994). The net result of combining D-enantiomers and reverse synthesis is that the positions of carbonyl and amino groups in each amide bond are exchanged, while the position of the side-chain groups at each alpha carbon is preserved. Unless specifically stated otherwise, it is presumed that any given L-amino acid sequence of the invention may be made into an D retro-inverso peptide by synthesizing a reverse of the sequence for the corresponding native L-amino acid sequence.

[128] The GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are able to induce intracellular cGMP production in cells and tissues expressing guanylate cyclase C. In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist peptide stimulates 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared to naturally occurring GCC agonists such as uroguanylin, guanylin, or ST peptides. Optionally, the GCC agonist peptide stimulates 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or more intracellular cGMP compared SP-304 (SEQ ID NO:1). In further embodiments, the GCC agonist peptide stimulates

apoptosis, *e.g.*, programmed cell death, or activate the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR).

[129] In some embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are more stable than naturally occurring GCC agonists and/or SP-304 (SEQ ID NO:1), SP-339 (linaclotide) (SEQ ID NO: 55) or SP-340 (SEQ ID NO: 56). For example, the GCC agonist peptide degrades 2%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% , 75%, 90% or less compared to naturally occurring GCC agonists and/or SP-304, SP-339 (linaclotide) or SP-340. In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides for use in the formulations and methods of the invention are more stable to proteolytic digestion than naturally occurring GCC agonists and/or SP-304 (SEQ ID NO:1), SP-339 (linaclotide) (SEQ ID NO: 55) or SP-340 (SEQ ID NO: 56). In one embodiment, a GCC agonist peptide is pegylated in order to render the peptides more resistant towards protealysis by enzymes of the gastrointestinal tract. In a preferred embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is pegylated with the aminoethyloxy-ethyloxy-acetic acid (Aeea) group at its C-terminal end, at its N-terminal end, or at both termini.

[130] Specific examples of GCC agonist peptides that can be used in the methods and formulations of the invention include a peptide selected from the group designated by SEQ ID NOs: 1-249.

[131] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is a peptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of Formulas X- XVII (*e.g.* SEQ ID NO:87-98).

[132] In some embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula I, wherein at least one amino acid of Formula I is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid and/or the amino acid at position 16 is a serine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula I is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. For example, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula I is a d-leucine or a d-serine. Optionally, one or more of the amino acids at positions 1-3 of Formula I are D-amino acids or methylated amino acids or a combination of D-amino acids or methylated amino acids. For example, Asn^1, Asp^2 or Glu^3 (or a combination thereof) of Formula I is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position Xaa^6 of Formula I is a leucine, serine or tyrosine.

[133] In alternative embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula II, wherein at least one amino acid of Formula II is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid denoted by Xaa_{n2} of Formula II is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. In some embodiments, the amino acid denoted by Xaa_{n2} of Formula II is a leucine, a d-leucine, a serine, or a d-serine. Preferably, the one or more amino acids denoted by Xaa_{n1} of Formula II is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position Xaa^6 of Formula II is a leucine, a serine, or a tyrosine.

[134] In some embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula III, wherein at least one amino acid of Formula III is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid and/or Maa is not a cysteine. Preferably, the amino acid denoted by Xaa_{n2} of Formula III is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. In some embodiments the amino acid denoted by Xaa_{n2} of Formula III is a leucine, a d-leucine, a serine, or a d-serine. Preferably, the one or more amino acids denoted by Xaa_{n1} of Formula III is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position Xaa^6 of Formula III is a leucine, a serine, or a tyrosine.

[135] In other embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula IV, wherein at least one amino acid of Formula IV is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid, and/or Maa is not a cysteine. Preferably, the Xaa_{n2} of Formula IV is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. In some embodiments, the amino acid denoted by Xaa_{n2} of Formula IV is a leucine, a d-leucine, a serine, or a d-serine. Preferably, the one or more of the amino acids denoted by Xaa_{n1} of Formula IV is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid denoted Xaa^6 of Formula IV is a leucine, a serine, or a tyrosine.

[136] In further embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula V, wherein at at least one amino acid of Formula V is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula V is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. For example, the amino acid at position 16 (i.e., Xaa^{16}) of Formula V is a d-leucine or a d-serine. Optionally, one or more of the amino acids at position 1-3 of Formula V are D-amino acids or methylated amino acids or a combination of D-amino acids or methylated amino acids. For example, Asn^1, Asp^2 or Glu^3 (or a combination thereof) of

Formula V is a D-amino acids or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid denoted at Xaa^6 of Formula V is a leucine, a serine, or a tyrosine.

[137] In additional embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula VI, VII, VIII, or IX. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula VI, VII, VIII, or IX is a leucine, a serine, or a tyrosine. In some aspects the amino acid at position 16 of Formula VI, VII, VIII, or IX is a leucine or a serine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula V is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid.

[138] In additional embodiments, GCC agonist peptides include peptides having the amino acid sequence of Formula X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI or XVII. Optionally, one or more amino acids of Formulas X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI or XVII is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. Preferably, the amino acid at the carboxy terminus of the peptides according to Formulas X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI or XVII is a D-amino acid or a methylated amino acid. For example the the amino acid at the carboxy terminus of the peptides according to Formulas X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI or XVII is a D-tyrosine.

[139] Preferably, the amino acid denoted by Xaa^6 of Formula XIV is a tyrosine, phenyalanine or a serine. Most preferably the amino acid denoted by Xaa^6 of Formula XIV is a phenyalanine or a serine. Preferably, the amino acid denoted by Xaa^4 of Formula XV, XVI or XVII is a tyrosine, a phenyalanine, or a serine. Most preferably, the amino acid position Xaa^4 of Formula V, XVI or XVII is a phenyalanine or a serine.

[140] In some embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula XVIII. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula XVIII is a glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glutamine or lysine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 and 3 of Formula XVIII is a glutamic acid, or an aspartic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula XVIII is an isoleucine, valine, serine, threonine or tyrosine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8 of Formula XVIII is a valine or isoleucine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula XVIII is a an asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 10 of Formula XVIII is a valine or an methionine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 11 of Formula XVIII is an alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 13 of Formula XVIII is a threonine. Preferably, the amino

acid at position 14 of Formula XVIII is a glycine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 16 of Formula XVIII is a leucine, serine or threonine

[141] In alternative embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula XIX. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula XIX is a serine or asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 of Formula XIX is a histidine or an aspartic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 3 of Formula XIX is a threonine or a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 of Formula XIX is a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula XIX is an isoleucine, leucine, valine or tyrosine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8, 10, 11, or 13 of Formula XIX is a alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula XIX is an asparagine or a phenylalanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 14 of Formula XIX is a glycine.

[142] In further embodiments, GCRA peptides include peptides containing the amino acid sequence of Formula XX. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula XX is a glutamine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 2 or 3 of Formula XX is a glutamic acid or a aspartic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 5 of Formula XX is a glutamic acid. Preferably, the amino acid at position 6 of Formula XX is threonine, glutamine, tyrosine, isoleucine, or leucine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 8 of Formula XX is isoleucine or valine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 9 of Formula XX is asparagine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 10 of Formula XX is methionine or valine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 11 of Formula XX is alanine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 13 of Formula XX is a threonione. Preferably, the amino acid at position 1 of Formula XX is a glycine. Preferably, the amino acid at position 15 of Formula XX is a tyrosine. Optionally, the amino acid at position 15 of Formula XX is two amino acid in length and is Cysteine (Cys), Penicillamine (Pen) homocysteine, or 3-mercaptoproline and serine, leucine or threonine.

[143] In certain embodiments, one or more amino acids of the GCC agonist peptides are replaced by a non-naturally occurring amino acid or a naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid analog. Such amino acids and amino acid analogs are known in the art. See, for example, Hunt, "The Non-Protein Amino Acids," in *Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Amino Acids*, Barrett, Chapman and Hall, 1985. In some embodiments, an amino acid is replaced by a

naturally-occurring, non-essential amino acid, *e.g.*, taurine. Non-limiting examples of naturally occurring amino acids that can be replaced by non-protein amino acids include the following: (1) an aromatic amino acid can be replaced by 3,4-dihydroxy-L-phenylalanine, 3-iodo-L-tyrosine, triiodothyronine, L-thyroxine, phenylglycine (Phg) or nor-tyrosine (norTyr); (2) Phg and norTyr and other amino acids including Phe and Tyr can be substituted by, *e.g.*, a halogen, -CH3, -OH, -CH2NH3, -C(O)H, -CH2CH3, - CN, -CH2CH2CH3, -SH, or another group; (3) glutamine residues can be substituted with gamma-Hydroxy-Glu or gamma- Carboxy-Glu; (4) tyrosine residues can be substituted with an alpha substituted amino acid such as L-alpha-methylphenylalanine or by analogues such as: 3-Amino-Tyr; Tyr(CH3); Tyr(PO3(CH3)2); Tyr(SO3H); beta-Cyclohexyl-Ala; beta-(l-Cyclopentenyl)-Ala; beta- Cyclopentyl-Ala; beta-Cyclopropyl-Ala; beta-Quinolyl-Ala; beta-(2-Thiazolyl)-Ala; beta- (Triazole-l-yl)-Ala; beta-(2-Pyridyl)-Ala; beta-(3-Pyridyl)-Ala; Amino-Phe; Fluoro-Phe; Cyclohexyl-Gly; tBu-Gly; beta-(3-benzothienyl)-Ala; beta-(2-thienyl)-Ala; 5-Methyl-Trp; and A- Methyl-Trp; (5) proline residues can be substituted with homopro (L-pipecolic acid); hydroxy-Pro; 3,4-Dehydro-Pro; 4-fluoro-Pro; or alpha-methyl-Pro or an N(alpha)-C(alpha) cyclized amino acid analogues with the structure: n = 0, 1, 2, 3; and (6) alanine residues can be substituted with alpha-substitued or N-methylated amino acid such as alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib), L/D-alpha-ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline), L/D-methylvaline, or L/D-alpha-methylleucine or a non-natural amino acid such as beta-fluoro-Ala. Alanine can also be substituted with: n = 0, 1, 2, 3 Glycine residues can be substituted with alpha-amino isobutyric acid (aib) or L/D-alpha- ethylalanine (L/D-isovaline).

[144] Further examples of non-natural amino acids include: an unnatural analog of tyrosine; an unnatural analogue of glutamine; an unnatural analogue of phenylalanine; an unnatural analogue of serine; an unnatural analogue of threonine; an alkyl, aryl, acyl, azido, cyano, halo, hydrazine, hydrazide, hydroxyl, alkenyl, alkynl, ether, thiol, sulfonyl, seleno, ester, thioacid, borate, boronate, phospho, phosphono, phosphine, heterocyclic, enone, imine, aldehyde, hydroxylamine, keto, or amino substituted amino acid, or any combination thereof; an amino acid with a photoactivatable cross-linker; a spin-labeled amino acid; a fluorescent amino acid; an amino acid with a novel functional group; an amino acid that covalently or noncovalently interacts with another molecule; a metal binding amino acid; an amino acid that is amidated at a site that is not naturally amidated, a metal-containing amino acid; a radioactive amino acid; a photocaged and/or photoisomerizable amino acid; a biotin or biotin-analogue

containing amino acid; a glycosylated or carbohydrate modified amino acid; a keto containing amino acid; amino acids comprising polyethylene glycol or polyether; a heavy atom substituted amino acid (*e.g.*, an amino acid containing deuterium, tritium, ^{13}C, ^{15}N, or ^{18}O); a chemically cleavable or photocleavable amino acid; an amino acid with an elongated side chain; an amino acid containing a toxic group; a sugar substituted amino acid, *e.g.*, a sugar substituted serine or the like; a carbon-linked sugar-containing amino acid; a redox-active amino acid; an α-hydroxy containing acid; an amino thio acid containing amino acid; an α, α disubstituted amino acid; a β-amino acid; a cyclic amino acid other than proline; an O-methyl-L-tyrosine; an L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; a 3-methyl-phenylalanine; a ρ-acetyl-L-phenylalanine; an O-4-allyl-L-tyrosine; a 4-propyl-L-tyrosine; a tri-O-acetyl-GlcNAc β -serine; an L-Dopa; a fluorinated phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-azido-L-phenylalanine; a p-acyl-L-phenylalanine; a p-benzoyl-L-phenylalanine; an L-phosphoserine; a phosphonoserine; a phosphonotyrosine; a p-iodo-phenylalanine; a 4-fluorophenylglycine; a p-bromophenylalanine; a p-amino-L-phenylalanine; an isopropyl-L-phenylalanine; L-3-(2-naphthyl)alanine; D- 3-(2-naphthyl)alanine (dNal); an amino-, isopropyl-, or O-allyl-containing phenylalanine analogue; a dopa, 0-methyl-L-tyrosine; a glycosylated amino acid; a p-(propargyloxy)phenylalanine; dimethyl-Lysine; hydroxy-proline; mercaptopropionic acid; methyl-lysine; 3-nitro-tyrosine; norleucine; pyro-glutamic acid; Z (Carbobenzoxyl); ε-Acetyl-Lysine; β-alanine; aminobenzoyl derivative; aminobutyric acid (Abu); citrulline; aminohexanoic acid; aminoisobutyric acid (AIB); cyclohexylalanine; d-cyclohexylalanine; hydroxyproline; nitro-arginine; nitro-phenylalanine; nitro-tyrosine; norvaline; octahydroindole carboxylate; ornithine (Orn); penicillamine (PEN); tetrahydroisoquinoline; acetamidomethyl protected amino acids and pegylated amino acids. Further examples of unnatural amino acids and amino acid analogs can be found in U.S. 20030108885, U.S. 20030082575, US20060019347 (paragraphs 410-418) and the references cited therein. The polypeptides of the invention can include further modifications including those described in US20060019347, paragraph 589. Exempary GCC agonist peptides which include a non-naturally occurring amino acid include for example SP-368 and SP-369.

[145] In some embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides are cyclic peptides. GCC agonist cyclic peptides can be prepared by methods known in the art. For example, macrocyclization is often accomplished by forming an amide bond between the peptide N- and C-termini, between a side chain and the N- or C-terminus [*e.g.*, with $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ at pH 8.5] (Samson *et al.*,

Endocrinology, 137: 5182-5185 (1996)), or between two amino acid side chains, such as cysteine. See, *e.g.,* DeGrado, *Adv Protein Chem, 39*: 51-124 (1988). In various embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides are [4,12; 7,15] bicycles.

[146] In certain embodiments, one or both Cys residues which normally form a disulfide bond in a GCC agonist peptide are replaced with homocysteine, penicillamine, 3-mercaptoproline (Kolodziej *et al.* 1996 *Int. J. Pept. Protein Res.* 48:274), β, β dimethylcysteine (Hunt *et al.* 1993 *Int. J. Pept. Protein Res.* 42:249), or diaminopropionic acid (Smith *et al.* 1978 *J. Med. Chem.* 2 1:117) to form alternative internal cross-links at the positions of the normal disulfide bonds.

[147] In certain embodiments, one or more disulfide bonds in a GCC agonist peptide are replaced by alternative covalent cross-links, *e.g.*, an amide linkage ($-CH_2CH(O)NHCH_2-$ or $-CH_2NHCH(O)CH_2-$), an ester linkage, a thioester linkage, a lactam bridge, a carbamoyl linkage, a urea linkage, a thiourea linkage, a phosphonate ester linkage, an alkyl linkage ($-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$), an alkenyl linkage ($-CH_2CH=CHCH_2-$), an ether linkage ($-CH_2CH_2OCH_2-$ or $-CH_2OCH_2CH_2-$), a thioether linkage ($-CH_2CH_2SCH_2-$ or $-CH_2SCH_2CH_2-$), an amine linkage ($-CH_2CH_2NHCH_2-$ or $-CH_2NHCH_2CH_2-$) or a thioamide linkage ($-CH_2CH(S)HNHCH_2-$ or $-CH_2NHCH(S)CH_2-$). For example, Ledu *et al.* (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 100:11263-78, 2003) describe methods for preparing lactam and amide cross-links. Exemplary GCC agonist peptides which include a lactam bridge include, for example, SP-370.

[148] In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides have one or more conventional polypeptide bonds replaced by an alternative bond. Such replacements can increase the stability of the polypeptide. For example, replacement of the polypeptide bond between a residue amino terminal to an aromatic residue (*e.g.* Tyr, Phe, Trp) with an alternative bond can reduce cleavage by carboxy peptidases and may increase half-life in the digestive tract. Bonds that can replace polypeptide bonds include: a retro-inverso bond (C(O)-NH instead of NH-C(O); a reduced amide bond ($NH-CH_2$); a thiomethylene bond ($S-CH_2$ or CH_2-S); an oxomethylene bond ($O-CH_2$ or CH_2-O); an ethylene bond (CH_2-CH_2); a thioamide bond (C(S)-NH); a trans-olefine bond (CH=CH); a fluoro substituted trans-olefine bond (CF=CH); a ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CHR

or CHR-C(O) wherein R is H or CH_3; and a fluoro-ketomethylene bond (C(O)-CFR or CFR-C(O) wherein R is H or F or CH_3.

[149] In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist peptides are modified using standard modifications. Modifications may occur at the amino (N-), carboxy (C-) terminus, internally or a combination of any of the preceeding. In one aspect described herein, there may be more than one type of modification on the polypeptide. Modifications include but are not limited to: acetylation, amidation, biotinylation, cinnamoylation, farnesylation, formylation, myristoylation, palmitoylation, phosphorylation (Ser, Tyr or Thr), stearoylation, succinylation, sulfurylation and cyclisation (via disulfide bridges or amide cyclisation), and modification by Cys3 or Cys5. The GCC agonist peptides described herein may also be modified by 2, 4-dinitrophenyl (DNP), DNP-lysine, modification by 7-Amino-4-methyl- coumarin (AMC), flourescein, NBD (7-Nitrobenz-2-Oxa-l,3-Diazole), p-nitro-anilide, rhodamine B, EDANS (5-((2-aminoethyl)amino)naphthalene-l-sulfonic acid), dabcyl, dabsyl, dansyl, texas red, FMOC, and Tamra (Tetramethylrhodamine). The GCC agonist peptides described herein may also be conjugated to, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG); alkyl groups (e.g., C1-C20 straight or branched alkyl groups); fatty acid radicals; combinations of PEG, alkyl groups and fatty acid radicals (*See*, U.S. Patent 6,309,633; Soltero et al., 2001 Innovations in Pharmaceutical Technology 106-110); BSA and KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin). The addition of PEG and other polymers which can be used to modify polypeptides of the invention is described in US20060 19347 section IX.

[150] A GCC agonist peptide can also be a derivatives of a GCC agonist peptide described herein. For example, a derivative includes hybrid and modified forms of GCC agonist peptides in which certain amino acids have been deleted or replaced. A modification may also include glycosylation. Preferrably, where the modification is an amino acid substitution, it is a conservative substitution at one or more positions that are predicted to be non-essential amino acid residues for the biological activity of the peptide. A "conservative substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with basic side chains (*e.g.*, lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (*e.g.*, aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (*e.g.*, glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (*e.g.*, alanine, valine,

leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (*e.g.*, threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (*e.g.*, tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine).

[151] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist peptide described herein is subjected to random mutagenesis in order to identify mutants having biological activity.

[152] In one embodiment, the GCC agonist peptide is substantially homologous is a GCC agonist peptide described herein. Such substantially homologous peptides can be isolated by virtue of cross-reactivity with antibodies to a GCC agonist peptide described herein.

[153] Further examples of GCC agonist peptides that can be used in the methods and formulations of the invention are found in Tables I - VII below.

1.2.2 Preparation of GCC agonist peptides

[154] GCC agonist peptides can be prepared using art recognized techniques such as molecular cloning, peptide synthesis, or site-directed mutagenesis.

[155] Peptide synthesis can be performed using standard solution phase or solid phase peptide synthesis techniques in which a peptide linkage occurs through the direct condensation of the amino group of one amino acid with the carboxy group of the other amino acid with the elimination of a water molecule. Peptide bond synthesis by direct condensation, as formulated above, requires suppression of the reactive character of the amino group of the first and of the carboxyl group of the second amino acid. The masking substituents must permit their ready removal, without inducing breakdown of the labile peptide molecule.

[156] In solution phase synthesis, a wide variety of coupling methods and protecting groups may be used (*See*, Gross and Meienhofer, eds., "The Peptides: Analysis, Synthesis, Biology," Vol. 1-4 (Academic Press, 1979); Bodansky and Bodansky, "The Practice of Peptide Synthesis," 2d ed. (Springer Verlag, 1994)). In addition, intermediate purification and linear scale up are possible. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that solution synthesis requires consideration of main chain and side chain protecting groups and activation method. In addition, careful segment selection is necessary to minimize racemization during segment

condensation. Solubility considerations are also a factor. Solid phase peptide synthesis uses an insoluble polymer for support during organic synthesis. The polymer-supported peptide chain permits the use of simple washing and filtration steps instead of laborious purifications at intermediate steps. Solid-phase peptide synthesis may generally be performed according to the method of Merrifield et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1963, 85:2149, which involves assembling a linear peptide chain on a resin support using protected amino acids. Solid phase peptide synthesis typically utilizes either the Boc or Fmoc strategy, which are well known in the art.

[157] Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that, in solid phase synthesis, deprotection and coupling reactions must go to completion and the side-chain blocking groups must be stable throughout the synthesis. In addition, solid phase synthesis is generally most suitable when peptides are to be made on a small scale.

[158] Acetylation of the N-terminal can be accomplished by reacting the final peptide with acetic anhydride before cleavage from the resin. C-amidation is accomplished using an appropriate resin such as methylbenzhydrylamine resin using the Boc technology.

[159] Alternatively the GCC agonist peptides are produced by modern cloning techniques For example, the GCC agonist peptides are produced either in bacteria including, without limitation, E. coli, or in other existing systems for polypeptide or protein production (*e.g.*, Bacillus subtilis, baculovirus expression systems using Drosophila Sf9 cells, yeast or filamentous fungal expression systems, mammalian cell expression systems), or they can be chemically synthesized. If the GCC agonist peptide or variant peptide is to be produced in bacteria, *e.g.*, E. coli, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide may also encode a leader sequence that permits the secretion of the mature polypeptide from the cell. Thus, the sequence encoding the polypeptide can include the pre sequence and the pro sequence of, for example, a naturally-occurring bacterial ST polypeptide. The secreted, mature polypeptide can be purified from the culture medium.

[160] The sequence encoding a GCC agonist peptide described herein can be inserted into a vector capable of delivering and maintaining the nucleic acid molecule in a bacterial cell. The DNA molecule may be inserted into an autonomously replicating vector (suitable vectors include, for example, pGEM3Z and pcDNA3, and derivatives thereof). The vector nucleic acid

may be a bacterial or bacteriophage DNA such as bacteriophage lambda or M13 and derivatives thereof. Construction of a vector containing a nucleic acid described herein can be followed by transformation of a host cell such as a bacterium. Suitable bacterial hosts include but are not limited to, E. coli, B subtilis, Pseudomonas, Salmonella. The genetic construct also includes, in addition to the encoding nucleic acid molecule, elements that allow expression, such as a promoter and regulatory sequences. The expression vectors may contain transcriptional control sequences that control transcriptional initiation, such as promoter, enhancer, operator, and repressor sequences.

[161] A variety of transcriptional control sequences are well known to those in the art. The expression vector can also include a translation regulatory sequence (*e.g.*, an untranslated 5' sequence, an untranslated 3' sequence, or an internal ribosome entry site). The vector can be capable of autonomous replication or it can integrate into host DNA to ensure stability during polypeptide production.

[162] The protein coding sequence that includes a GCC agonist peptide described herein can also be fused to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide affinity tag, *e.g.*, glutathione S-transferase (GST), maltose E binding protein, protein A, FLAG tag, hexa-histidine, myc tag or the influenza HA tag, in order to facilitate purification. The affinity tag or reporter fusion joins the reading frame of the polypeptide of interest to the reading frame of the gene encoding the affinity tag such that a translational fusion is generated. Expression of the fusion gene results in translation of a single polypeptide that includes both the polypeptide of interest and the affinity tag. In some instances where affinity tags are utilized, DNA sequence encoding a protease recognition site will be fused between the reading frames for the affinity tag and the polypeptide of interest.

[163] Genetic constructs and methods suitable for production of immature and mature forms of the GCC agonist peptides and variants described herein in protein expression systems other than bacteria, and well known to those skilled in the art, can also be used to produce polypeptides in a biological system.

[164] The peptides disclosed herein may be modified by attachment of a second molecule that confers a desired property upon the peptide, such as increased half-life in the body,

for example, pegylation. Such modifications also fall within the scope of the term "variant" as used herein.

Table I. GCRA Peptides (SP-304 and Derivatives)

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
SP-304	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	1
SP-326	C3:C11, C6:C14	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Cys[3]-Glu[4]-Leu[5]-Cys[6]-Val[7]-Asn[8]-Val[9]-Ala[10]-Cys[11]-Thr[12]-Gly[13]-Cys[14]-Leu[15]	2
SP-327	C2:C10, C5:C13	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Cys[3]-Glu[4]-Leu[5]-Cys[6]-Val[7]-Asn[8]-Val[9]-Ala[10]-Cys[11]-Thr[12]-Gly[13]-Cys[14]	3
SP-328	C2:C10, C5:C13	Glu[1]-Cys[2]-Glu[3]-Leu[4]-Cys[5]-Val[6]-Asn[7]-Val[8]-Ala[9]-Cys[10]-Thr[11]-Gly[12]-Cys[13]-Leu[14]	4
SP-329	C2:C10, C5:C13	Glu[1]-Cys[2]-Glu[3]-Leu[4]-Cys[5]-Val[6]-Asn[7]-Val[8]-Ala[9]-Cys[10]-Thr[11]-Gly[12]-Cys[13]	5
SP-330	C1:C9, C4:C12	Cys[1]-Glu[2]-Leu[3]-Cys[4]-Val[5]-Asn[6]-Val[7]-Ala[8]-Cys[9]-Thr[10]-Gly[11]-Cys[12]-Leu[13]	6
SP-331	C1:C9, C4:C12	Cys[1]-Glu[2]-Leu[3]-Cys[4]-Val[5]-Asn[6]-Val[7]-Ala[8]-Cys[9]-Thr[10]-Gly[11]-Cys[12]	7
SP332	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	8
SP-333	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	9
SP-334	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	10
SP-335	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-dGlu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	11
SP-336	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	12
SP-337	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-dLeu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	13
SP-338	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	14
SP-342	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	15
SP-343	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	16
SP-344	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	17
SP-347	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	18
SP-348	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	19

SP-350	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	20
SP-352	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	21
SP-358	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-dGlu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	22
SP-359	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-dGlu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	23
SP-360	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-dGlu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]PEG3	24
SP-361	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	25
SP-362	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-dAsp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	26
SP-368	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dNal[16]	27
SP-369	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-AIB[8]-Asn[9]-AIB[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	28
SP-370	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Asp[Lactam][7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Orn[15]-dLeu[1]	29
SP-371	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	30
SP-372	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ser[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	31
N1	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	32
N2	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	33
N3	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16] PEG3	34
N4	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ser[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	35
N5	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ser[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]	36
N6	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ser[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu[16]-PEG3	37
N7	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	38
N8	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]-PEG3	39
N9	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	40
N10	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]-PEG3	41

N11	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dSer^{16} -PEG3	42
N12	C4:C12,C7:C15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dSer^{16}	43
N13	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dSer^{16} -PEG3	44
Formula I	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-Xaa^{16}	45
Formula II	C4:C12,C7:C15	Xaa$_{n1}$-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-Xaa$_{n2}$^{16}	46
Formula III	4:12,7:15	Xaa$_{n1}$-Maa^{4}-Glu^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Val^{8}-Asn^{9}-Val^{10}-Ala^{11}-Maa^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Maa^{15} - Xaa$_{n2}$	47
Formula IV	4:12,7:15	Xaa$_{n1}$ - Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6} - Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11} - Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14} - Maa^{15}-Xaa$_{n2}$	48
Formula V	C4:C12,C7:C15	Asn^{1}-Asp^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Asn^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-Xaa^{16}	49
Formula VI	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-X3^{8}-Asn^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-d-Xaa^{16}	50
Formula VII	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn^{1}-dGlu^{2}-Asp^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Asn^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-d-Xaa^{16}	51
Formula VII	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn^{1}-dAsp^{2}-Glu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Asn^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-d-Xaa^{16}	52
Formula VIII	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn^{1}-dAsp^{2}-dGlu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Tyr^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-d-Xaa^{16}	53
Formula IX	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn^{1}-dGlu^{2}-dGlu^{3}-Cys^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Cys^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Tyr^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-d-Xaa^{16}	54

Table II. Linaclotide and Derivatives

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO:
SP-339 (linaclotide)	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu3-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}	55
SP-340	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}	56
SP-349	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	PEG3-Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}-PEG3	57
SP-353	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	58
SP-354	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	59
SP-355	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-dTyr^{14}	60
SP-357	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	PEG3-Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}	61
SP-374	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	62
SP-375	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	63
SP-376	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	$dAsn^{1}$-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	64
SP-377	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	$dAsn^{1}$-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	65
SP-378	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	66
SP-379	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	$dAsn^{1}$-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	67
SP-380	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	$dAsn^{1}$-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	68
SP-381	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	69
SP-382	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	$dAsn^{1}$-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	70

SP-383	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	dAsn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	71
SP384	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}-PEG3	72
N14	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	PEG3-Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-PEG3	73
N15	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	PEG3-Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}	74
N16	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu^{3}-Tyr^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-PEG3	75
N17	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	76
N18	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	77
N19	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ser^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	78
N20	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	79
N21	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	80
N22	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	81
N23	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	82
N24	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3- Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	83
N25	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	84

N26	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu3-Ser^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}	85
N27	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu3-Phe^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-Tyr^{14}	86
N28	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu3-Ser^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}-	87
N29	C1:C6, C2:C10, C5:13	Cys^{1}-Cys^{2}-Glu3-Phe^{4}-Cys^{5}-Cys^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Cys^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Cys^{13}	88
N30	1:6, 2:10, 5:13	Pen^{1}-Pen^{2}-Glu3-Tyr^{4}-Pen^{5}-Pen^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Pen^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Pen^{13}-Tyr^{14}	89
N31	1:6, 2:10, 5:13	Pen^{1}-Pen^{2}-Glu3-Tyr^{4}-Pen^{5}-Pen^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Pen^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Pen^{13}	90
Formula X	C9:C14, C10:C18, C13:21	Xaa^{1}-Xaa^{2}-Xaa^{3}-Xaa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}- Asn^{7}- Tyr^{8}-Cys^{9}-Cys^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Tyr^{12}-Cys^{13}-Cys^{14}-Xaa^{15}-Xaa^{16}-Xaa^{17}-Cys^{18}- Xaa^{19}-Xaa^{20}-Cys^{21}-Xaa^{22}	91
Formula XI	C9:C14, C10:C18, C13:21	Xaa^{1}-Xaa^{2}-Xaa^{3}-Xaa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Asn^{7}- Phe^{8}-Cys^{9}-Cys^{10} -Xaa^{11}-Phe^{12}- Cys^{13}-Cys^{14}-Xaa^{15}-Xaa^{16}-Xaa^{17}-Cys^{18}- Xaa^{19}-Xaa^{20}-Cys^{21}-Xaa^{22}	92
Formula XII	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}- Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4} - Xaa^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8} - Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10} - Xaa^{11}-Cys^{12}- Xaa^{3}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-Xaa^{16}	93
Formula XIII	3:8, 4:12, C:15	Asn^{1} - Phe^{2}-Pen^{3}-Cys^{4} - Xaa^{5}-Phe^{6}-Cys^{7}Pen^{8} - Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10} - Xaa^{11}-Cys12- Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Cys^{15}-Xaa^{16}	94
Formula XIV	3:8, 4:12, 7:15	Asn^{1}- Phe^{2}-Maa^{3}-Maa^{4} - Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}Maa^{8} - Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10} - Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12} - Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}Maa^{15}-Xaa^{16}	95
Formula XV	1:6, 2:10, 5:13	Maa^{1}-Maa^{2}-Glu3-Xaa^{4} - Maa^{5}-Maa^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Maa^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Maa^{13}-Tyr^{14}	96
Formula XVI	1:6, 2:10, 5:13	Maa^{1}-Maa^{2}-Glu3-Xaa^{4}- Maa^{5}-Maa^{6}-Asn^{7}-Pro^{8}-Ala^{9}-Maa^{10}-Thr^{11}-Gly^{12}-Maa^{13}-	97
Formula XVII	1:6, 2:10, 5:13	Xaa$_{n3}$-Maa^{1}-Maa^{2}-Xaa^{3}-Xaa^{4}-Maa^{5}-Maa^{6}-Xaa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Maa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Xaa^{12}-Maa^{13}-Xaa$_{n2}$	98

Table III. GCRA Peptides

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO:
SP-363	C4:C12,C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu-AMIDE[16]	99
SP-364	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dSer[16]	100
SP-365	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dSer-AMIDE[16]	101
SP-366	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dTyr[16]	102
SP-367	C4:C12, C7:C15	dAsn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dTyr-AMIDE[16]	103
SP-373	C4:C12, C7:C15	Pyglu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-dLeu-AMIDE[16]	104
SP-304 di PEG	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]-PEG3	105
SP-304 N-PEG	C4:C12, C7:C15	PEG3-Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	106
SP-304 C-PEG	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]PEG3	107

Table IV. SP-304 Analogs, Uroguanylin , and Uroguanylin Analogs

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula XVIII	C4:C12, C7:C15	Xaa[1]- Xaa[2]- Xaa[3] -Maa[4]-Xaa[5]-Xaa[6]-Maa[7]-Xaa[8]-Xaa[9]-Xaa[10]-Xaa[11]-Maa[12]-Xaa[13]-Xaa[14]-Maa[15]-Xaa[16]	108
Uroguanylin	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]Cys[15]-Leu[16]	109
N32	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	110
N33	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	111
N34	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	112
N35	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	113
N36	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	114
N37	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	115
N38	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	116

N39	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	117
N40	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	118
N41	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	119
N42	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	120
N43	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	121
N44	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	122
N45	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	123
N46	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	124
N47	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	125
N48	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	126
N49	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	127
N50	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	128

N51	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	129
N52	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	130
N53	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	131
N54	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	132
N55	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	133
N56	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	134
N57	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	135
N58	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	136
N59	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	137
N60	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	138
N61	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	139
N62	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	140

N63	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Val[8]-Asn[9]-Val[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	141
N65	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	142
N66	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	143
N67	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	144
N68	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	145
N69	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	146
N70	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	147
N71	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	148
N72	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	149
N73	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	150
N74	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	151
N75	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	152

N76	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	153
N77	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	154
N78	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	155
N79	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	156
N80	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Leu[16]	157
N81	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	158
N82	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	159
N83	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	160
N84	C4:C12, C7:C15	Glu[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	161
N85	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	162
N86	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	163
N87	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	164

N88	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asp[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	165
N89	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	166
N90	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	167
N91	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	168
N92	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	169
N93	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	170
N94	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Asp[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	171
N95	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Asp[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	172
N96	C4:C12, C7:C15	Lys[1]-Glu[2]-Glu[3]-Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ile[8]-Asn[9]-Met[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Thr[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]-Ser[16]	173

Table V. Guanylin and Analogs

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula XIX	4:12,7:15	Xaa^{1}-Xaa^{2}-Xaa^{3}-Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-Maa^{15}	174
Guanylin	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}-His^{2}-Thr^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Phe^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	175
N97	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	176
N98	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	177
N99	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	178
N100	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	179
N101	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	180
N102	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	181
N103	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	182
N104	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	183
N105	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	184
N106	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	185
N107	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	186
N108	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser^{1}- His^{2}-Thr^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	187

N109	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser[1]- His[2]-Thr[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	188
N110	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser[1]- His[2]-Thr[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	189
N111	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser[1]- His[2]-Thr[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	190
N112	C4:C12, C7:C15	Ser[1]- His[2]-Thr[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	191
N113	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	192
N114	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	193
N115	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	194
N116	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	195
N117	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	196
N118	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	197
N119	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	198
N120	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	199
N121	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	200
N122	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	201
N123	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Val[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	202
N124	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Tyr[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	203
N125	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Ile[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	204
N126	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn[1]- Asp[2]-Glu[3] -Cys[4]-Glu[5]-Leu[6]-Cys[7]-Ala[8]-Asn[9]-Ala[10]-Ala[11]-Cys[12]-Ala[13]-Gly[14]-Cys[15]	205

N127	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn^{1}- Asp^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Val^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	206
N128	C4:C12, C7:C15	Asn^{1}- Asp^{2}-Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ala^{8}-Asn^{9}-Ala^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Ala^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}	207

Table VI. Lymphoguanylin and Analogs

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
Formula XX	4:12,7:15	Xaa^{1}- Xaa^{2}- Xaa^{3} -Maa^{4}-Xaa^{5}-Xaa^{6}-Maa^{7}-Xaa^{8}-Xaa^{9}-Xaa^{10}-Xaa^{11}-Maa^{12}-Xaa^{13}-Xaa^{14}-$Xaa_{n1}{}^{15}$	208
Lymphoguanylin	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}-Glu-$^{3}Cys^{4}$-Glu^{5}-Leu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	209
N129	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	210
N130	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	211
N131	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	212
N132	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	213
N133	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	214
N134	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	215
N135	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	216

N136	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	217
N137	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	218
N138	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	219
N139	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	220
N140	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	221
N141	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	222
N142	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	223
N143	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	224
N144	C4:C12	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Tyr^{15}	225
N145	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	226
N146	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	227
N147	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	228
N148	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	229
N149	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	230

N150	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser	231
N151	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	232
N152	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Glu^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	233
N153	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	234
N154	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	235
N155	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	236
N156	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	237
N157	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	238
N158	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Glu^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	239
N159	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Asp^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	240

N160	C4:C12, C7:C15	Gln^{1}-Glu^{2}- Asp^{3} -Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Ile^{6}-Cys^{7}-Ile^{8}-Asn^{9}-Met^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Ser^{16}	241

Table VII. ST Peptide and Analogues

Name	Position of Disulfide bonds	Structure	SEQ ID NO
ST Peptide	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}- Ser^{2}-Ser^{3}-Asn^{4}-Ser^{5}-Ser^{6}-Asn^{7}-Tyr^{8}-Cys^{9}-Cys^{10}-Glu^{11}-Lys^{12}-Cys^{13}-Cys^{14}-Asn^{15}-Pro^{16}-Ala^{17}-Cys^{18}-Thr^{19}-Gly^{20}-Cys^{21}-Tyr^{22}	242
N161	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	243
N162	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	PEG3-Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	244
N163	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Thr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}-PEG3	245
N164	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	246
N165	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	dAsn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	247
N166	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	Asn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-dTyr^{16}	248
N167	C3:C8, C4:C12, C7:15	dAsn^{1}-Phe^{2}-Cys^{3}-Cys^{4}-Glu^{5}-Tyr^{6}-Cys^{7}-Cys^{8}-Asn^{9}-Pro^{10}-Ala^{11}-Cys^{12}-Thr^{13}-Gly^{14}-Cys^{15}-Tyr^{16}	249

1.3 Methods of Use

[165] The invention provides methods for treating or preventing gastrointestinal disorders and increasing gastrointestinal motility in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a GCC agonist formulation to the subject. Non-limiting examples of gastrointestinal disorders that can be treated or prevented according to the methods of the invention include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), ileus (*e.g.*, post-operative ileus), gastroparesis, heartburn (high acidity in the GI tract), constipation (*e.g.*, constipation associated with use of medications such as opioids, osteoarthritis drugs, or osteoporosis drugs); post surigical constipation, constipation associated with neuropathic disorders, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

[166] The invention also provides methods for treating gastrointestinal cancer in a subject in need thereof by administering an effective amount of a GCC agonist formulation to the subject. Non-limiting examples of gastrointestinal cancers that can be treated according to the methods of the invention include gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, intestinal cancer, anal cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, or colon cancer.

[167] Disorders are treated, prevented or alleviated by administering to a subject, *e.g.*, a mammal such as a human in need thereof, a therapeutically effective dose of a GCC agonist peptide. The GCC agonist peptides may be in a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The term "unit dose form" refers to a single drug delivery entity, *e.g.*, a tablet, capsule, solution or inhalation formulation. The amount of peptide present should be sufficient to have a positive therapeutic effect when administered to a patient (typically, between 10 μg and 3 g). What constitutes a "positive therapeutic effect" will depend upon the particular condition being treated and will include any significant improvement in a condition readily recognized by one of skill in the art.

[168] The GCC agonist formulations of the invention are particularly useful in the treatment or prevention of diseases and disorders that benefit from selective targeting of the GCC agonist to a region of the gastrointestinal tract. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation targets delivery of the GCC agonist to the duodenum or jejunum. In accordance with this embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is particularly useful for the treatment or prevention of one or more of the following: irritable bowel syndrome (preferably constipation predominant), non-ulcer dyspepsia, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, functional dyspepsia, colonic pseudo-obstruction, duodenogastric reflux, gastro esophageal reflux disease, chronic idiopathic constipation, gastroparesis, heartburn, gastric cancer, and H. pylori infection. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation for targeted delivery to the duodenum or jejunum comprises a pH dependent polymer with a threshold pH between 4.5 and 6. In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation targets delivery of the GCC agonist to the ileum or colon. In accordance with this embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is particularly useful for the treatment or prevention of one or more of the following: ileitis (post-operative ileitis), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, terminal ileitis, and colon cancer. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation for targeted delivery to the ileum or colon comprises a pH dependent polymer with a threshold pH between 6.5 and 7.5.

[169] The specific dose of the GCC agonist to be administered in the formulations of the invention will depend on the nature of the disease or disorder to be treated or prevented as well as its severity. Other factors routinely used in determining the dosage for a particular subject include the subject's body weight, general health, diet, and natural history of disease. The route of administration and scheduling of administration will also be considered. In certain embodiments, an effective dosage of a GCC agonist will typically be between about 10 μg and about 3 mg per kilogram body weight, preferably between about 10 μg and about 1 mg of the compound per kilogram body weight. In other embodiments, the dosage of a GCC agonist will be effective to induce anti-inflammatory activity in the target tissue, especially the large intestines (*e.g.*, the terminal ileum and colon). In accordance with this embodiment, the effective dosage of the GCC agonist will be from 0.01 mg to 10 mg per kilogram body weight. In a preferred embodiment, the effective dosage is 0.01 mg/kg, 0.1 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg, 5 mg/kg, or 10 mg/kg body weight. Adjustments in dosage will be made using methods that are routine in the art and will be based upon the particular composition being used and clinical considerations.

[170] The GCC agonists for use in the methods described above are preferably administered orally. Dosage forms include solutions, suspensions, emulsions, tablets, and capsules.

[171] The total daily dose can be administered to the patient in a single dose, or in multiple subdoses. Typically, subdoses can be administered two to six times per day, preferably two to four times per day, and even more preferably two to three times per day.

[172] The GCC agonists may be administered as either the sole active agent or in combination with one or more additional active agents. In all cases, additional active agents should be administered at a dosage that is therapeutically effective using the existing art as a guide. The GCC agonists may be administered in a single composition or sequentially with the one or more additional active agents. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist is administered in combination with one or more inhibitors of cGMP dependent phosphodiesterase such as suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, motapizone, vardenafil, or sildenifil. In another embodiment, the GCC agonist is administered in combination with one or more chemotherapeutic agents. In another embodiment, the GCC agonist is administered in combination with one or more or anti-inflammatory drugs such as steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), such as aspirin.

[173] Combination therapy can be achieved by administering two or more agents, *e.g.*, a GCC agonist peptide described herein and another compound, each of which is formulated and administered separately, or by administering two or more agents in a single formulation. Other combinations are also encompassed by combination therapy. For example, two agents can be formulated together and administered in conjunction with a separate formulation containing a third agent. While the two or more agents in the combination therapy can be administered simultaneously, they need not be. For example, administration of a first agent (or combination of agents) can precede administration of a second agent (or combination of agents) by minutes, hours, days, or weeks. Thus, the two or more agents can be administered within minutes of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, or 24 hours of each other or within 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 days of each other or within 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 weeks of each other. In some cases even longer intervals are possible. While in many cases it is desirable that the two or more

agents used in a combination therapy be present in within the patient's body at the same time, this need not be so.

[174] The GCC agonist peptides described herein may be combined with phosphodiesterase inhibitors, *e.g.*, sulindae sulfone, Zaprinast, sildenafil, vardenafil or tadalafil to further enhance levels of cGMP in the target tissues or organs.

[175] Combination therapy can also include two or more administrations of one or more of the agents used in the combination. For example, if agent X and agent Y are used in a combination, one could administer them sequentially in any combination one or more times, *e.g.*, in the order X-Y- X, X-X-Y, Y-X-Y,Y-Y-X,X-X-Y-Y, etc.

1.3.1 Exemplary Agents for Combination Therapy

[176] The GCC agonist formulations of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents as part of a therapeutic regimen for the treatment or prevention of a gastrointestinal disease or disorder. In some embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation comprises one or more additional therapeutic agents. In other embodiments, the GCC agonist is formulated separately from the one or more additional therapeutic agents. In accordance with this embodiment, the GCC agonist is administered either simultaneously, sequentially, or at a different time than the one or more additional therapeutic agents. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase inhibitors, cyclic nucleotides (such as cGMP and cAMP), a laxative (such as SENNA or METAMUCIL), a stool softner, an anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha therapy for IBD (such as REMICADE, ENBREL, or HUMIRA), and anti-inflammatory drugs (such as COX-2 inhibitors, sulfasalazine, 5-ASA derivatives and NSAIDS). In certain embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with an effective dose of an inhibitor of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP-PDE) either concurrently or sequentially with said GCC agonist. cGMP-PDE inhibitors include, for example, suldinac sulfone, zaprinast, motapizone, vardenifil, and sildenafil. In another embodiment, the GCC agonist formulation is administered in combination with inhibitors of cyclic nucleotide transporters. Further examples

of therapeutic agents that may be administered in combination with the GCC agonist formulations of the invention are given in the following sections.

1.3.1.1 Agents to Treat Gastrointestinal Cancers

[177] The GCC agonist formulations described herein can be used in combination with one or more antitumor agents including but not limited to alkylating agents, epipodophyllotoxins, nitrosoureas, antimetabolites, vinca alkaloids, anthracycline antibiotics, nitrogen mustard agents, and the like. Particular antitumor agents include tamoxifen, taxol, etoposide, and 5- fluorouracil. In one embodiment, the GCC agonist formulations are used in combination with an antiviral agent or a monoclonal antibody.

[178] Non-limiting examples of antitumor agents that can be used in combination with the GCC agonist formulations of the invention for the treatment of colon cancer include anti-proliferative agents, agents for DNA modification or repair, DNA synthesis inhibitors, DNA/RNA transcription regulators, RNA processing inhibitors, agents that affect protein expression, synthesis and stability, agents that affect protein localization or their ability to exert their physiological action, agents that interfere with protein-protein or protein-nucleic acid interactions, agents that act by RNA interference, receptor binding molecules of any chemical nature (including small molecules and antibodies), targeted toxins, enzyme activators, enzyme inhibitors, gene regulators, HSP-90 inhibitors, molecules interfering with microtubules or other cytoskeletal components or cell adhesion and motility, agents for phototherapy, and therapy adjuncts.

[179] Representative anti-proliferative agents include N-acetyl-D-sphingosine (C.sub.2 ceramide), apigenin, berberine chloride, dichloromethylenediphosphonic acid disodium salt, loe-emodine, emodin, HA 14-1, N-hexanoyl-D-sphingosine (C.sub.6 ceramide), 7b-hydroxycholesterol, 25-hydroxycholesterol, hyperforin, parthenolide, and rapamycin.

Representative agents for DNA modification and repair include aphidicolin, bleomycin sulfate, carboplatin, carmustine, chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide monohydrate, cyclophosphamide monohydrate ISOPAC.RTM., cis-diammineplatinum(II) dichloride (Cisplatin), esculetin, melphalan, methoxyamine hydrochloride, mitomycin C, mitoxantrone dihydrochloride, oxaliplatin, and streptozocin.

[180] Representative DNA synthesis inhibitors include (.+-.)amethopterin (methotrexate), 3-amino-1,2,4-benzotriazine 1,4-dioxide, aminopterin, cytosine b-D-arabinofurdnoside (Ara-C), cytosine b-D-arabinofuranoside (Ara-C) hydrochloride, 2-fluoroadenine-9-b-D-arabinofuranoside (Fludarabine des-phosphate; F-ara-A), 5-fluoro-5'-deoxyuridinc, 5-fluorouracil, ganciclovir, hydroxyurea, 6-mercaptopurine, and 6-thioguanine.

[181] Representative DNA/RNA transcription regulators include actinomycin D, daunorubicin hydrochloride, 5,6-dichlorobenzimidazole 1-b-D-ribofuranoside, doxorubicin hydrochloride, homoharringtonine, and idarubicin hydrochloride.

[182] Representative enzyme activators and inhibitors include forskolin, DL-aminoglutethimide, apicidin, Bowman-Birk Inhibitor, butein, (S)-(+)-camptothecin, curcumin, (-)-deguelin, (-)-depudecin, doxycycline hyclate, etoposide, formestane, fostriecin sodium salt, hispidin, 2-imino-1-imidazolidineacetic acid (Cyclocreatine), oxamflatin, 4-phenylbutyric acid, roscovitine, sodium valproate, trichostatin A, tyrphostin AG 34, tyrphostin AG 879, urinary trypsin inhibitor fragment, valproic acid (2-propylpentanoic acid), and XK469.

[183] Representative gene regulators include 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-azacytidine, cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3), ciglitizone, cyproterone acetate, 15-deoxy-D.sup.12,14-prostaglandin J.sub.2, epitestosterone, flutamide, glycyrrhizic acid ammonium salt (glycyrrhizin), 4-hydroxytamoxifen, mifepristone, procainamide hydrochloride, raloxifene hydrochloride, all trans-retinal (vitamin A aldehyde), retinoic acid (vitamin A acid), 9-cis-retinoic acid, 13-cis-retinoic acid, retinoic acid p-hydroxyanilide, retinol (Vitamin A), tamoxifen, tamoxifen citrate salt, tetradecylthioacetic acid, and troglitazone.

[184] Representative HSP-90 inhibitors include 17-(allylamino)-17-demethoxygeldanamycin and geldanamycin.

[185] Representative microtubule inhibitors include colchicines, dolastatin 15, nocodazole, taxanes and in particular paclitaxel, podophyllotoxin, rhizoxin, vinblastine sulfate salt, vincristine sulfate salt, and vindesine sulfate salt and vinorelbine (Navelbine) ditartrate salt.

[186] Representative agents for performing phototherapy include photoactive porphyrin rings, hypericin, 5-methoxypsoralen, 8-methoxypsoralen, psoralen and ursodeoxycholic acid.

Representative agents used as therapy adjuncts include amifostine, 4-amino-1,8-naphthalimide, brefeldin A, cimetidine, phosphomycin disodium salt, leuprolide (leuprorelin) acetate salt, luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LH-RH) acetate salt, lectin, papaverine hydrochloride, pifithrin-a, (-)-scopolamine hydrobromide, and thapsigargin.

[187] The agents can also be anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) agents, as such are known in the art. Several antibodies and small molecules are currently in clinical trials or have been approved that function by inhibiting VEGF, such as Avastin (Bevacizumab), SU5416, SU11248 and BAY 43-9006. The agents can also be directed against growth factor receptors such as those of the EGF/Erb-B family such as EGF Receptor (Iressa or Gefitinib, and Tarceva or Erlotinib), Erb-B2, receptor (Herceptin or Trastuzumab), other receptors (such as Rituximab or Rituxan/MabThera), tyrosine kinases, non-receptor tyrosine kinases, cellular serine/threonine kinases (including MAP kinases), and various other proteins whose deregulation contribute to oncogenesis (such as small/Ras family and large/heterotrimeric G proteins). Several antibodies and small molecules targeting those molecules are currently at various stages of development (including approved for treatment or in clinical trials).

[188] In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides a method for treating colon cancer in a subject in need thereof by administering to the subject a GCC agonist formulation in combination with one or more antitumor agent selected from the group consisting of paclitaxel, docetaxel, tamoxifen, vinorelbine, gemcitabine, cisplatin, etoposide, topotecan, irinotecan, anastrozole, rituximab, trastuzumab, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, gentuzumab, carboplatin, interferons, and doxorubicin. In a particular embodiment the antitumor agent is paclitaxel. In a further embodiment, the method further comprises an antitumor agent selected from the group consisting of 5-FU, doxorubicin, vinorelbine, cytoxan, and cisplatin.

1.3.1.2 Agents that Treat Crohn's Disease

[189] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention is administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment of Crohn's disease. Non-limiting examples of the one or more additional therapeutic agents include sulfasalazine and other mesalamine-containing drugs, generally known as 5-ASA agents, such as Asacol, Dipentum, or Pentasa, or infliximab (REMICADE). In certain embodiments, the

one or more additional agents is a corticosteroid or an immunosuppressive agent such as 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine. In another embodiment, the one or more additional agents is an antidiarrheal agent such as diphenoxylate, loperamide, or codeine.

1.3.1.3 Agents that Treat Ulcerative Colitis

[190] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention is administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment of ulcerative colitis. The agents that are used to treat ulcerative colitis overlap with those used to treat Chrohn's Disease. Non-limiting examples of the one or more additional therapeutic agents that can be used in combination with a GCC agonist formulation of the invention include aminosalicylates (drugs that contain 5-aminosalicyclic acid (5-ASA)) such as sulfasalazine, olsalazine, mesalamine, and balsalazide. Other therapeutic agents that can be used include corticosteroids, such as prednisone and hydrocortisone, immunomodulators, such as azathioprine, 6-mercapto-purine (6-MP), cytokines, interleukins, and lymphokines, and anti-TNF-alpha agents, including the thiazolidinediones or glitazones such as rosiglitazone and pioglitazone. In one emobidment, the one or more additional therapeutic agents includes both cyclosporine A and 6-MP or azathioprine for the treatment of active, severe ulcerative colitis.

1.3.1.4 Agents that Treat Constipation/Irritable Bowel Syndrome

[191] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention is administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment of constipation, such as that associated with irritable bowel syndrome. Non-limiting examples of the one or more additional therapeutic agents include laxatives such as SENNA, MIRALAX, LACTULOSE, PEG, or calcium polycarbophil), stool softeners (such as mineral oil or COLACE), bulking agents (such as METAMUCIL or bran), agents such as ZELNORM (also called tegaserod), and anticholinergic medications such as BENTYL and LEVSIN.

1.3.1.5 Agents for the Treatment of Postoperative Ileus

[192] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention is administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment

of postoperative ileus. Non-limiting examples of the one or more additional therapeutic agents include ENTEREG (alvimopan; formerly called ado lor/ ADL 8-2698), conivaptan, and related agents describes in US 6,645,959.

1.3.1.6 Anti-obesity agents

[193] In one embodiment, a GCC agonist formulation of the invention is administered as part of a combination therapy with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment of obesity. Non-limiting examples of the one or more additional therapeutic agents include 1 lβ HSD-I (11-beta hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase type 1) inhibitors, such as BVT 3498, BVT 2733, 3-(l-adamantyl)-4-ethyl-5-(ethylthio)- 4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3-(l-adamantyl)-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4H-l,2,4-triazole, 3- adamantanyl-4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,3a-decahydro-l,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a][l l]annulene, and those compounds disclosed in WO01/90091, WOO 1/90090, WOO 1/90092 and WO02/072084; 5HT antagonists such as those in WO03/037871, WO03/037887, and the like; 5HTIa modulators such as carbidopa, benserazide and those disclosed in US6207699, WO03/031439, and the like; 5HT2c (serotonin receptor 2c) agonists, such as BVT933, DPCA37215, IK264, PNU 22394, WAY161503, R-1065, SB 243213 (Glaxo Smith Kline) and YM 348 and those disclosed in US3914250, WO00/77010, WO02/36596, WO02/48124, WO02/10169, WO01/66548, WO02/44152, WO02/51844, WO02/40456, and WO02/40457; 5HT6 receptor modulators, such as those in WO03/030901, WO03/035061, WO03/039547, and the like; acyl-estrogens, such as oleoyl-estrone, disclosed in del Mar-Grasa, M. et al, Obesity Research, 9:202-9 (2001) and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; anorectic bicyclic compounds such as 1426 (Aventis) and 1954 (Aventis), and the compounds disclosed in WO00/18749, WO01/32638, WO01/62746, WO01/62747, and WO03/015769; CB 1 (cannabinoid-1 receptor) antagonist/inverse agonists such as rimonabant (Acomplia; Sanofi), SR-147778 (Sanofi), SR-141716 (Sanofi), BAY 65-2520 (Bayer), and SLV 319 (Solvay), and those disclosed in patent publications US4973587, US5013837, US5081122, US5112820, US5292736, US5532237, US5624941, US6028084, US6509367, US6509367, WO96/33159, WO97/29079, WO98/31227, WO98/33765, WO98/37061, WO98/41519, WO98/43635, WO98/43636, WO99/02499, WO00/10967, WO00/10968, WO01/09120, WO01/58869, WO01/64632, WO01/64633, WO01/64634, WO01/70700, WO01/96330, WO02/076949, WO03/006007, WO03/007887, WO03/020217, WO03/026647, WO03/026648,

WO03/027069, WO03/027076, WO03/027114, WO03/037332, WO03/040107, WO03/086940, WO03/084943 and EP658546; CCK-A (cholecystokinin-A) agonists, such as AR-R 15849, GI 181771 (GSK), JMV-180, A- 71378, A-71623 and SR146131 (Sanofi), and those described in US5739106; CNTF (Ciliary neurotrophic factors), such as GI- 181771 (Glaxo-SmithKline), SRl 46131 (Sanofi Synthelabo), butabindide, PD 170,292, and PD 149164 (Pfizer); CNTF derivatives, such as Axokine® (Regeneron), and those disclosed in WO94/09134, WO98/22128, and WO99/43813; dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DP-IV) inhibitors, such as isoleucine thiazolidide, valine pyrrolidide, NVP-DPP728, LAF237, P93/01, P 3298, TSL 225 (tryptophyl-l,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3- carboxylic acid; disclosed by Yamada et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett. 8 (1998) 1537-1540), TMC-2A/2B/2C, CD26 inhibtors, FE 999011, P9310/K364, VIP 0177, SDZ 274-444, 2- cyanopyrrolidides and 4-cyanopyrrolidides as disclosed by Ashworth et al, Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 22, pp 1163-1166 and 2745-2748 (1996) and the compounds disclosed patent publications. WO99/38501, WO99/46272, WO99/67279 (Probiodrug), WO99/67278 (Probiodrug), WO99/61431 (Probiodrug), WO02/083128, WO02/062764, WO03/000180, WO03/000181, WO03/000250, WO03/002530, WO03/002531, WO03/002553, WO03/002593, WO03/004498, WO03/004496,WO03/017936, WO03/024942, WO03/024965, WO03/033524, WO03/037327 and EP1258476; growth hormone secretagogue receptor agonists/antagonists, such as NN703, hexarelin, MK- 0677 (Merck), SM-130686, CP-424391 (Pfizer), LY 444,711 (Eli Lilly), L-692,429 and L- 163,255, and such as those disclosed in USSN 09/662448, US provisional application 60/203335, US6358951, US2002049196, US2002/022637, WO01/56592 and WO02/32888; H3 (histamine H3) antagonist/inverse agonists, such as thioperamide, 3-(lH-imidazol-4- yl)propyl N-(4-pentenyl)carbamate), clobenpropit, iodophenpropit, imoproxifan, GT2394 (Gliatech), and A331440, O-[3-(lH-imidazol-4-yl)propanol]carbamates (Kiec-Kononowicz, K. et al., Pharmazie, 55:349-55 (2000)), piperidine-containing histamine H3-receptor antagonists (Lazewska, D. et al., Pharmazie, 56:927-32 (2001), benzophenone derivatives and related compounds (Sasse, A. et al., Arch. Pharm.(Weinheim) 334:45-52 (2001)), substituted N- phenylcarbamates (Reidemeister, S. et al., Pharmazie, 55:83-6 (2000)), and proxifan derivatives (Sasse, A. et al., J. Med. Chem.. 43:3335-43 (2000)) and histamine H3 receptor modulators such as those disclosed in WO02/15905, WO03/024928 and WO03/024929; leptin derivatives, such as those disclosed in US5552524, US5552523, US5552522, US5521283, WO96/23513, WO96/23514, WO96/23515,

WO96/23516, WO96/23517, WO96/23518, WO96/23519, and WO96/23520; leptin, including recombinant human leptin (PEG-OB, Hoffman La Roche) and recombinant methionyl human leptin (Amgen); lipase inhibitors, such as tetrahydrolipstatin (orlistat/Xenical®), Triton WR1 339, RHC80267, lipstatin, teasaponin, diethylumbelliferyl phosphate, FL-386, WAY-121898, Bay-N-3176, valilactone, esteracin, ebelactone A, ebelactone B, and RHC 80267, and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/77094, US4598089, US4452813, USUS5512565, US5391571, US5602151, US4405644, US4189438, and US4242453; lipid metabolism modulators such as maslinic acid, erythrodiol, ursolic acid uvaol, betulinic acid, betulin, and the like and compounds disclosed in WO03/011267; Mc4r (melanocortin 4 receptor) agonists, such as CHIR86036 (Chiron), ME- 10142, ME-10145, and HS-131 (Melacure), and those disclosed in PCT publication Nos. WO99/64002, WO00/74679, WOO 1/991752, WOO 1/25192, WOO 1/52880, WOO 1/74844, WOO 1/70708, WO01/70337, WO01/91752, WO02/059095, WO02/059107, WO02/059108, WO02/059117, WO02/06276, WO02/12166, WO02/11715, WO02/12178, WO02/15909, WO02/38544, WO02/068387, WO02/068388, WO02/067869, WO02/081430, WO03/06604, WO03/007949, WO03/009847, WO03/009850, WO03/013509, and WO03/031410; Mc5r (melanocortin 5 receptor) modulators, such as those disclosed in WO97/19952, WO00/15826, WO00/15790, US20030092041; melanin-concentrating hormone 1 receptor (MCHR) antagonists, such as T-226296 (Takeda), SB 568849, SNP-7941 (Synaptic), and those disclosed in patent publications WOO 1/21169, WO01/82925, WO01/87834, WO02/051809, WO02/06245, WO02/076929, WO02/076947, WO02/04433, WO02/51809, WO02/083134, WO02/094799, WO03/004027, WO03/13574, WO03/15769, WO03/028641, WO03/035624, WO03/033476, WO03/033480, JP13226269, and JP1437059; mGluR5 modulators such as those disclosed in WO03/029210, WO03/047581, WO03/048137, WO03/051315, WO03/051833, WO03/053922, WO03/059904, and the like; serotoninergic agents, such as fenfluramine (such as Pondimin® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl- alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Robbins), dexfenfluramine (such as Redux® (Benzeneethanamine, N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-, hydrochloride), Interneuron) and sibutramine ((Meridia®, Knoll/Reductil™) including racemic mixtures, as optically pure isomers (+) and (-), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvents, hydrates, clathrates and prodrugs thereof including sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate salts thereof, and those compounds disclosed in US4746680, US4806570, and US5436272, US20020006964, WOO

1/27068, and WOO 1/62341; NE (norepinephrine) transport inhibitors, such as GW 320659, despiramine, talsupram, and nomifensine; NPY 1 antagonists, such as BIBP3226, J-115814, BIBO 3304, LY-357897, CP-671906, GI- 264879A, and those disclosed in US6001836, WO96/14307, WO01/23387, WO99/51600, WO01/85690, WO01/85098, WO01/85173, and WO01/89528; NPY5 (neuropeptide Y Y5) antagonists, such as 152,804, GW-569180A, GW-594884A, GW- 587081X, GW-548118X, FR235208, FR226928, FR240662, FR252384, 1229U91, GI-264879A, CGP71683A, LY-377897, LY-366377, PD-160170, SR- 120562A, SR-120819A, JCF-104, and H409/22 and those compounds disclosed in patent publications US6140354, US6191160, US6218408, US6258837, US6313298, US6326375, US6329395, US6335345, US6337332, US6329395, US6340683, EP01010691, EP-01044970, WO97/19682, WO97/20820, WO97/20821, WO97/20822, WO97/20823, WO98/27063, WO00/107409, WO00/185714, WO00/185730, WO00/64880, WO00/68197, WO00/69849, WO/0113917, WO01/09120, WO01/14376, WO01/85714, WO01/85730, WO01/07409, WO01/02379, WO01/23388, WO01/23389, WOO 1/44201, WO01/62737, WO01/62738, WO01/09120, WO02/20488, WO02/22592, WO02/48152, WO02/49648, WO02/051806, WO02/094789, WO03/009845, WO03/014083, WO03/022849, WO03/028726 and Norman et al, J. Med. Chem. 43:4288-4312 (2000); opioid antagonists, such as nalmefene (REVEX ®), 3-methoxynaltrexone, methylnaltrexone, naloxone, and naltrexone (e.g. PT901; Pain Therapeutics, Inc.) and those disclosed in US20050004155 and WO00/21509; orexin antagonists, such as SB-334867-A and those disclosed in patent publications WO01/96302, WO01/68609, WO02/44172, WO02/51232, WO02/51838, WO02/089800, WO02/090355, WO03/023561, WO03/032991, and WO03/037847; PDE inhibitors (e.g. compounds which slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibition of the phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP and cGMP; possible PDE inhibitors are primarily those substances which are to be numbered among the class consisting of the PDE3 inhibitors, the class consisting of the PDE4 inhibitors and/or the class consisting of the PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors) such as those disclosed in patent publications DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935, DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568,

EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, US4963561, US5141931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEl 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6331543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I- XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577), WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399, as well as PDE5 inhibitors (such as RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT-734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra™)), PDE4 inhibitors (such as etazolate, ICI63197, RP73401, imazolidinone (RO-20-1724), MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), denbufylline, rolipram, oxagrelate, nitraquazone, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, motapizone, lixazinone, indolidan, olprinone, atizoram, KS-506-G, dipamfylline, BMY-43351, atizoram, arofylline, filaminast, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF-107806, piclamilast, RS-17597, RS-25344- 000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB-210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, mopidamol, anagrelide, ibudilast, amrinone, pimobendan, cilostazol, quazinone and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide, PDE3 inhibitors (such as ICI153, 100, bemorandane (RWJ 22867), MCI-154, UD-CG 212, sulmazole, ampizone, cilostamide, carbazeran, piroximone, imazodan, CI-930, siguazodan, adibendan, saterinone, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, emoradan, EMD-53998, EMD- 57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, revizinone, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, enoximone and milrinone,

PDE3/4 inhibitors (such as benafentrine, trequinsin, ORG-30029, zardaverine, L- 686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and tolafentrine) and other PDE inhibitors (such as vinpocetin, papaverine, enprofylline, cilomilast, fenoximone, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®); Neuropeptide Y2 (NPY2) agonists include but are not limited to: polypeptide YY and fragments and variants thereof (e.g. YY3-36 (PYY3-36)(N. Engl. J. Med. 349:941, 2003; IKPEAPGE DASPEELNRY YASLRHYLNL VTRQRY (SEQ ID NO:XXX)) and PYY agonists such as those disclosed in WO02/47712, WO03/026591, WO03/057235, and WO03/027637; serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as, paroxetine, fluoxetine (Prozac™), fluvoxamine, sertraline, citalopram, and imipramine, and those disclosed in US6162805, US6365633, WO03/00663, WOO 1/27060, and WOO 1/162341; thyroid hormone β agonists, such as KB-2611 (KaroBioBMS), and those disclosed in WO02/15845, WO97/21993, WO99/00353, GB98/284425, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,223, and Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2000256190; UCP-I (uncoupling protein-1), 2, or 3 activators, such as phytanic acid, 4-[(E)-2-(5, 6,7,8- tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-napthalenyl)-l-propenyl]benzoic acid (TTNPB), retinoic acid, and those disclosed in WO99/00123; β3 (beta adrenergic receptor 3) agonists, such as AJ9677/TAK677 (Dainippon/Takeda), L750355 (Merck), CP331648 (Pfizer), CL-316,243, SB 418790, BRL-37344, L-796568, BMS-196085, BRL-35135A, CGP12177A, BTA-243, GW 427353, Trecadrine, Zeneca D7114, N-5984 (Nisshin Kyorin), LY-377604 (Lilly), SR 59119A, and those disclosed in US5541204, US5770615, US5491134, US5776983, US488064, US5705515, US5451677, WO94/18161, WO95/29159, WO97/46556, WO98/04526 and WO98/32753, WO01/74782, WO02/32897, WO03/014113, WO03/016276, WO03/016307, WO03/024948, WO03/024953 and WO03/037881; noradrenergic agents including, but not limited to, diethylpropion (such as Tenuate® (1- propanone, 2-(diethylamino)-l -phenyl-, hydrochloride), Merrell), dextroamphetamine (also known as dextroamphetamine sulfate, dexamphetamine, dexedrine, Dexampex, Ferndex, Oxydess II, Robese, Spancap #1), mazindol ((or 5-(p-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-3H- imidazo[2,l-a]isoindol-5-ol) such as Sanorex®, Novartis or Mazanor®, Wyeth Ayerst), phenylpropanolamine (or Benzenemethanol, alpha-(l-aminoethyl)-, hydrochloride), phentermine ((or Phenol, 3-[[4,5-duhydro-lH-imidazol-2-yl)ethyl](4-methylpheny-l)amino], monohydrochloride) such as Adipex-P®, Lemmon, FASTIN®, Smith-Kline Beecham and Ionamin®, Medeva), phendimetrazine ((or (2S,3S)-3,4-Dimethyl-

2phenylmorpholine L-(+)- tartrate (1 :1)) such as Metra® (Forest) , Plegine® (Wyeth- Ay erst), Prelu-2® (Boehringer Ingelheim), and Statobex® (Lemmon), phendamine tartrate (such as Thephorin® (2,3,4,9- Tetrahydro-2-methyl-9-phenyl-lH-indenol[2,l-c]pyridine L-(+)-tartrate (1 :1)), Hoffmann- LaRoche), methamphetamine (such as Desoxyn®, Abbot ((S)-N, (alpha)-dimethylbenzeneethanamine hydrochloride)), and phendimetrazine tartrate (such as Bontril® Slow-Release Capsules, Amarin (-3,4-Dimethyl-2-phenylmorpholine Tartrate); fatty acid oxidation upregulator/inducers such as Famoxin® (Genset); monamine oxidase inhibitors including but not limited to befloxatone, moclobemide, brofaromine, phenoxathine, esuprone, befol, toloxatone, pirlindol, amiflamine, sercloremine, bazinaprine, lazabemide, milacemide, caroxazone and other certain compounds as disclosed by WO01/12176; and other anti-obesity agents such as 5HT-2 agonists, ACC (acetyl-CoA carboxylase) inhibitors such as those described in WO03/072197, alpha-lipoic acid (alpha-LA), AOD9604, appetite suppressants such as those in WO03/40107, ATL-962 (Alizyme PLC), benzocaine, benzphetamine hydrochloride (Didrex), bladderwrack (focus vesiculosus), BRS3 (bombesin receptor subtype 3) agonists, bupropion, caffeine, CCK agonists, chitosan, chromium, conjugated linoleic acid, corticotropin-releasing hormone agonists, dehydroepiandrosterone, DGATl (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1) inhibitors, DGAT2 (diacylglycerol acyltransferase 2) inhibitors, dicarboxylate transporter inhibitors, ephedra, exendin-4 (an inhibitor of glp-1) FAS (fatty acid synthase) inhibitors (such as Cerulenin and C75), fat resorption inhibitors (such as those in WO03/053451, and the like), fatty acid transporter inhibitors, natural water soluble fibers (such as psyllium, plantago, guar, oat, pectin), galanin antagonists, galega (Goat's Rue, French Lilac), garcinia cambogia, germander (teucrium chamaedrys), ghrelin antibodies and ghrelin antagonists (such as those disclosed in WO01/87335, and WO02/08250), polypeptide hormones and variants thereof which affect the islet cell secretion, such as the hormones of the secretin/gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP)/vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP)/pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP)/glucagon-like polypeptide II (GLP- II)/glicentin/glucagon gene family and/or those of the adrenomedullin/amylin/calcitonin gene related polypeptide (CGRP) gene family includingGLP-1 (glucagon- like polypeptide 1) agonists (e.g. (1) exendin-4, (2) those GLP-I molecules described in US20050130891 including GLP- 1(7-34), GLP-l(7-35), GLP-l(7-36) or GLP-l(7-37) in its C-terminally carboxylated or amidated form or as modified GLP-I polypeptides and modifications thereof including those described in paragraphs 17-44 of

US20050130891, and derivatives derived from GLP-l-(7- 34)COOH and the corresponding acid amide are employed which have the following general formula: R-NH-HAEGTFTSDVSYLEGQAAKEFIAWLVK-$CONH_2$ wherein R=H or an organic compound having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms. Preferably, R is the residue of a carboxylic acid. Particularly preferred are the following carboxylic acid residues: formyl, acetyl, propionyl, isopropionyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert- butyl.) and glp-1 (glucagon-like polypeptide- 1), glucocorticoid antagonists, glucose transporter inhibitors, growth hormone secretagogues (such as those disclosed and specifically described in US5536716), interleukin-6 (IL-6) and modulators thereof (as in WO03/057237, and the like), L- carnitine, Mc3r (melanocortin 3 receptor) agonists, MCH2R (melanin concentrating hormone 2R) agonist/antagonists, melanin concentrating hormone antagonists, melanocortin agonists (such as Melanotan II or those described in WO 99/64002 and WO 00/74679), nomame herba, phosphate transporter inhibitors, phytopharm compound 57 (CP 644,673), pyruvate, SCD-I (stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1) inhibitors, T71 (Tularik, Inc., Boulder CO), Topiramate (Topimax®, indicated as an anti-convulsant which has been shown to increase weight loss), transcription factor modulators (such as those disclosed in WO03/026576), β-hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase- 1 inhibitors (β -HSD-I), β-hydroxy-β-methylbutyrate, p57 (Pfizer), Zonisamide (Zonegran™, indicated as an anti-epileptic which has been shown to lead to weight loss), and the agents disclosed in US20030119428 paragraphs 20-26.

1.3.1.7 Phosphodiesterase inhibitors

[194] In certain embodiments, the regimen of combination therapy includes the administration of one or more phosphodiesterase ("PDE") inhibitors. PDE inhibitors slow the degradation of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and/or cyclic GMP (cGMP) by inhibiting phosphodiesterases, which can lead to a relative increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP and/or cGMP. Non-limiting examples of PDE inhibitors that can be used in combination with the GCC agonists of the invention include PDE3 inhibitors, PDE4 inhibitors and/or PDE5 inhibitors, in particular those substances which can be designated as mixed types of PDE3/4 inhibitors or as mixed types of PDE3/4/5 inhibitors. Non-limiting examples of such PDE inhibitors are described in the following patent applications and patents: DE1470341, DE2108438, DE2123328, DE2305339, DE2305575, DE2315801, DE2402908, DE2413935,

DE2451417, DE2459090, DE2646469, DE2727481, DE2825048, DE2837161, DE2845220, DE2847621, DE2934747, DE3021792, DE3038166, DE3044568, EP000718, EP0008408, EP0010759, EP0059948, EP0075436, EP0096517, EPOl 12987, EPOl 16948, EP0150937, EP0158380, EP0161632, EP0161918, EP0167121, EP0199127, EP0220044, EP0247725, EP0258191, EP0272910, EP0272914, EP0294647, EP0300726, EP0335386, EP0357788, EP0389282, EP0406958, EP0426180, EP0428302, EP0435811, EP0470805, EP0482208, EP0490823, EP0506194, EP0511865, EP0527117, EP0626939, EP0664289, EP0671389, EP0685474, EP0685475, EP0685479, JP92234389, JP94329652, JP95010875, U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,963,561, 5,141,931, WO9117991, WO9200968, WO9212961, WO9307146, WO9315044, WO9315045, WO9318024, WO9319068, WO9319720, WO9319747, WO9319749, WO9319751, WO9325517, WO9402465, WO9406423, WO9412461, WO9420455, WO9422852, WO9425437, WO9427947, WO9500516, WO9501980, WO9503794, WO9504045, WO9504046, WO9505386, WO9508534, WO9509623, WO9509624, WO9509627, WO9509836, WO9514667, WO9514680, WO9514681, WO9517392, WO9517399, WO9519362, WO9522520, WO9524381, WO9527692, WO9528926, WO9535281, WO9535282, WO9600218, WO9601825, WO9602541, WO9611917, DE3142982, DEl 116676, DE2162096, EP0293063, EP0463756, EP0482208, EP0579496, EP0667345 US6,331,543, US20050004222 (including those disclosed in formulas I-XIII and paragraphs 37-39, 85-0545 and 557-577) and WO9307124, EP0163965, EP0393500, EP0510562, EP0553174, WO9501338 and WO9603399. PDE5 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RX-RA-69, SCH-51866, KT- 734, vesnarinone, zaprinast, SKF-96231, ER-21355, BF/GP-385, NM-702 and sildenafil (Viagra®). PDE4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are RO-20-1724, MEM 1414 (R1533/R1500; Pharmacia Roche), DENBUFYLLINE, ROLIPRAM, OXAGRELATE, NITRAQUAZONE, Y-590, DH-6471, SKF-94120, MOTAPIZONE, LIXAZINONE, INDOLIDAN, OLPRINONE, ATIZORAM, KS-506-G, DIPAMFYLLINE, BMY-43351, ATIZORAM, AROFYLLINE, FILAMINAST, PDB-093, UCB-29646, CDP-840, SKF- 107806, PICLAMILAST, RS- 17597, RS-25344-000, SB-207499, TIBENELAST, SB- 210667, SB-211572, SB-211600, SB-212066, SB-212179, GW-3600, CDP-840, MOPIDAMOL, ANAGRELIDE, IBUDILAST, AMRINONE, PIMOBENDAN, CILOSTAZOL, QUAZINONE and N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy4-difluoromethoxybenzamide. PDE3 inhibitors which may be mentioned by

way of example are SULMAZOLE, AMPIZONE, CILOSTAMIDE, CARBAZERAN, PIROXIMONE, IMAZODAN, CI-930, SIGUAZODAN, ADIBENDAN, SATERINONE, SKF-95654, SDZ-MKS-492, 349-U-85, EMORADAN, EMD- 53998, EMD-57033, NSP-306, NSP-307, REVIZINONE, NM-702, WIN-62582 and WIN-63291, ENOXIMONE and MILRINONE. PDE3/4 inhibitors which may be mentioned by way of example are BENAFENTRINE, TREQUINSIN, ORG-30029, ZARDAVERINE, L-686398, SDZ-ISQ-844, ORG-20241, EMD-54622, and TOLAFENTRINE. Other PDE inhibitors include: cilomilast, pentoxifylline, roflumilast, tadalafil(Cialis®), theophylline, and vardenafil(Levitra®), zaprinast (PDE5 specific). GCC AGONIST

1.3.1.8 Analgesic Agents

[195] In certain embodiments, the regimen of combination therapy includes the administration of one or more analgesic agents, *e.g.*, an analgesic compound or an analgesic polypeptide. In some embodiments, the GCC agonist formulation is administered simultaneously or sequentially with one or more analgesic agents. In other embodiments, the GCC agonist is covalently linked or attached to an analgesic agent to create a therapeutic conjugate. Non-limiting examples of analgesic agents that can be used include calcium channel blockers, 5HT receptor antagonists (for example 5HT3, 5HT4 and 5HTl receptor antagonists), opioid receptor agonists (loperamide, fedotozine, and fentanyl), NKl receptor antagonists, CCK receptor agonists (*e.g.*, loxiglumide), NKl receptor antagonists, NK3 receptor antagonists, norepinephrine-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (NSRI), vanilloid and cannabanoid receptor agonists, and sialorphin. Further examples of analgesic agents in the various classes are known in the art.

[196] In one embodiment, the analgesic agent is an analgesic polypeptide selected from the group consisting of sialorphin-related polypeptides, including those comprising the amino acid sequence QHNPR (SEQ ID NO: 250), including: VQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:251); VRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:252); VRGQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:253); VRGPQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:254); VRGPRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:255); VRGPRRQHNPR (SEQ ID NO:256); and RQHNPR SEQ ID NO:257).

Sialorphin-related polypeptides bind to neprilysin and inhibit neprilysin- mediated breakdown of substance P and Met-enkephalin. Thus, compounds or polypeptides that