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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/21391 (22) International Filing Date: <del>8</del> 9 October 1998 (<del>08</del> 09.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/061,609 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) US (71) Applicant: THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION [US/US]; 55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02110 (US). (72) Inventors: BURGESSON, Robert, E.; 84 Naugus Avenue, Marblehead, MA 01945 (US). CHAMPLAUD, Marie-France; 23 Sheafe Street #3F, Boston, MA 02113 (US). OLSON, Pamela; 127 Wallis Road #3F, Brookline, MA 02167 (US). KOCH, Manuel; 64 Garfield Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 (US). BRUNKEN, William; Dept. of Neurobiology, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 (US). (74) Agents: MYERS, Paul, Louis et al.; Fish &amp; Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: LAMININS AND USES THEREOF (57) Abstract The invention is drawn to a purified laminin 12 polypeptide that includes an <math>\alpha 1</math> subunit, a <math>\beta 2</math> subunit and a <math>\gamma 3</math> subunit. The invention is also drawn to isolated laminin <math>\beta 4</math> and <math>\gamma 3</math> subunits.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[E-713]</p>		

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## LAMININS AND USES THEREOF

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to the laminin 12, laminin subunit  $\gamma$ 3, and laminin subunit  $\beta$ 1,  
10 and methods of making and using these molecules.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based, in part, on the discovery of a novel member of the  
laminin family, laminin 12. Accordingly, the present invention features a purified or isolated  
15 preparation or a recombinant preparation of laminin 12 which includes an  $\alpha$ 2 subunit, a  $\beta$ 1  
subunit and a  $\gamma$ 3 subunit.

In a preferred embodiment, the  $\alpha$ 2 subunit has at least 60% to about 70%, more  
preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about 90% to about 95%, and  
most preferably at least about 99% sequence identity with human  $\alpha$ 2 subunit, e.g., the human  
20  $\alpha$ 2 subunit of SEQ ID NO:7. The  $\alpha$ 2 subunit can be identical to a human  $\alpha$ 2 sequence, e.g.,  
that of SEQ ID NO:7. In another embodiment, the  $\alpha$ 2 subunit is encoded by a nucleic acid  
molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the  
nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:8. In addition, the  $\alpha$ 2 subunit can have  
substantially the same electrophoretic mobility as human  $\alpha$ 2 subunit, e.g., it appears as a 205  
25 kDa electrophoretic band on reducing gels. Yet another preferred embodiment of the  
invention features an  $\alpha$ 2 subunit which is reactive with an  $\alpha$ 2-specific antibody, e.g., an  
antibody which binds to the epitope recognized by mAb 5H2.  $\alpha$ 2 specific antibodies can be  
made by methods known in the art.

Another preferred embodiment of the invention features a  $\beta$ 1 subunit having at least  
30 60% to about 70%, more preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about  
90% to about 95%, and most preferably at least about 99% sequence identity with human  $\beta$ 1  
subunit, e.g., the human  $\beta$ 1 subunit of SEQ ID NO:9. Preferably, the  $\beta$ 1 subunit has the  
identical amino acid sequence of human  $\beta$ 1 subunit, e.g., that of SEQ ID NO:9. In another  
embodiment, the  $\beta$ 1 subunit is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under  
35 stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID  
NO:10. In addition, the  $\beta$ 1 subunit can have substantially the same electrophoretic mobility  
as human  $\beta$ 1 subunit, e.g., it appears as a 185 kDa electrophoretic band on reducing gels. Yet  
another preferred embodiment of the invention features an  $\beta$ 1 subunit which is reactive with  
an  $\beta$ 1-specific antibody, e.g., an antibody which binds to the epitope recognized by mAb 545.  
40  $\beta$ 1-specific antibodies can be made by methods known in the art.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma$ 3 subunit of laminin 12 has at least 60% to  
about 70%, more preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about 90% to  
about 95%, and most preferably at least about 99% sequence identity with human  $\gamma$ 3 subunit,

5 e.g., the  $\gamma 3$  subunit of SEQ ID NO:3. The  $\gamma 3$  subunit can be identical to a naturally occurring human  $\gamma 3$  subunit, e.g., that of SEQ ID NO:3. In another embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  subunit is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4. In addition, the  $\gamma 3$  subunit can have substantially the same electrophoretic mobility as human  $\gamma 3$  subunit, e.g., it  
10 appears as a 170 kDa electrophoretic band on reducing gels. Yet another preferred embodiment of the invention features an  $\gamma 3$  subunit which is reactive with an  $\gamma 3$ -specific antibody.  $\gamma 3$ -specific antibodies can be made by methods known in the art and taught herein.

In a preferred embodiment, the laminin 12 is a trimer which can be found in, or can be isolated from human placental chorionic villi. In another embodiment, the laminin 12 is  
15 expressed by a recombinant cell, e.g., a bacterial cell, a cultured cell (e.g., a cultured eukaryotic cell) or a cell of a non-human transgenic animal. Cultured cells can include CHO cells or SF8 cells. Expression of laminin 12 in a transgenic animal can be general or can be under the control of a tissue specific promoter. Preferably, one or more sequences which encode subunits of the laminin 12 trimer are expressed in a preferred cell-type by a tissue  
20 specific promoter, e.g., a milk specific promoter.

The present invention is also based, in part, on the discovery of a novel laminin subunit,  $\gamma 3$ . Accordingly, the invention features a recombinant or substantially pure or isolated preparation of a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide.

In a preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide has the following biological activities:  
25 1) it promotes adhesion between tissue elements; 2) provides a site for insertion of nerves into the basement membrane. In other preferred embodiments: the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes an amino acid sequence with at least 60%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:3; the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes an amino acid sequence essentially the same as the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:3; the  $\gamma 3$   
30 polypeptide is at least 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, or 150 amino acids in length; the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes at least 5, preferably at least 10, more preferably at least 20, most preferably at least 50, 100, or 150 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:3; the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is either, an agonist or an antagonist, of a biological activity of a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  subunit; the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is a vertebrate, e.g., a mammalian, e.g. a primate, e.g., a human,  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide.

35 In a preferred embodiment, the invention includes a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide encoded by a DNA insert of a plasmid deposited with ATCC, Rockville Maryland on 10 October 1997, as Accession No: 209357. In another embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is a polypeptide encoded by nucleotide sequences of the overlapping DNA inserts of more than one, preferably all seven of the plasmids deposited with ATCC as Accession No: 209357.

40 In preferred embodiments: the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is encoded by the nucleic acid in SEQ ID NO:4, or by a nucleic acid having at least about 85%, more preferably at least about 90% to about 95%, and most preferably at least about 99% sequence identity with the nucleic acid from SEQ ID NO: 4.



5 In preferred embodiments, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes a nidogen-binding domain. Generally, the nidogen-binding domain is at least 5 residues in length and preferably, has about 70, 80, 90, or 95% sequence identity with the nidogen-binding domain of the protein shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 (amino acid residues 750-755). In another embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes at least 5, preferably 6 to 7, and most preferably 8 of the cysteins found  
10 in native  $\gamma 3$  protein. In yet another embodiment of the invention features a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide that does not include or has an inactivated nidogen-binding domain which serves as an antagonist to  $\gamma 3$  biological activities. Furthermore, a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide which has antagonist activity can have inactivated or excluded regions which comprise at least one cystein found in native  $\gamma 3$  protein.

15 In a preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence at up to 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 residues, from a sequence in SEQ ID NO: 3. In other preferred embodiments, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence at up to 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 % of the residues from a sequence in SEQ ID NO: 3. Preferably, the differences are such that: the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide exhibits a  $\gamma 3$  biological activity, e.g., the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide retains a biological  
20 activity of a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  subunit.

In preferred embodiments the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes a  $\gamma 3$  subunit sequence described herein as well as other N-terminal and/or C-terminal amino acid sequence.

In preferred embodiments, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes all or a fragment of an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO: 3, fused, in reading frame, to additional amino acid residues,  
25 preferably to residues encoded by genomic DNA 5' to the genomic DNA which encodes a sequence from SEQ ID NO: 3.

In yet other preferred embodiments, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is a recombinant fusion protein having a first  $\gamma 3$  portion and a second polypeptide portion, e.g., a second polypeptide portion having an amino acid sequence unrelated to  $\gamma 3$ . The second polypeptide portion can  
30 be, e.g., any of glutathione-S-transferase, a DNA binding domain, or a polymerase activating domain. In preferred embodiment the fusion protein can be used in a two-hybrid assay.

In a preferred embodiment the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide includes amino acid residues 750-755 of SEQ ID NO:3. In another embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide encodes domains IV-VI of the  $\gamma 3$  subunit.

35 In preferred embodiments the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide has antagonistic activity, and is capable of: inhibiting adhesion between connective tissues.

In a preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is a fragment of a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  which inhibits connective tissue adhesion.

40 Polypeptides of the invention include those which arise as a result of the existence of multiple genes, alternative transcription events, alternative RNA splicing events, and alternative translational and postranslational events. The  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide can be expressed in systems, e.g., cultured cells, which result in substantially the same postranslational modifications present when expressed  $\gamma 3$  is expressed in a native cell, or in systems which

5 result in the omission of postranslational modifications present when expressed in a native cell.

The invention includes an immunogen which includes a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide in an immunogenic preparation, the immunogen being capable of eliciting an immune response specific for the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide, e.g., a humoral response, an antibody response, or a cellular  
10 response. In preferred embodiments, the immunogen comprising an antigenic determinant, e.g., a unique determinant, from a protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 3.

The present invention also includes an antibody preparation specifically reactive with an epitope of the  $\gamma 3$  immunogen or generally of a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide, preferably an epitope which consists all or in part of residues from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or an  
15 epitope, which when bound to an antibody, results in the modulation of a biological activity.

In preferred embodiments the  $\gamma 3$ -like polypeptide, as expressed in the cells in which it is normally expressed or in other eukaryotic cells, has a molecular weight of 170 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE.

In another embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 100-1761  
20 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

In a preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (i) it has the ability to promote adhesion between connective tissues;
- (ii) it has a molecular weight, amino acid composition or other physical  
25 characteristic of  $\gamma 3$  subunit of SEQ ID NO:3;
- (iii) it has an overall sequence similarity of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70, 80, 90, or 95%, with a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3;
- (iv) it can be isolated from human placenta chorionic villi;
- (v) it has a nidogen-binding domain which is preferably about 70%, 80%,  
30 90% or 95% with amino acid residues 750-755 of SEQ ID NO:3;
- (vi) it can colocalize with protein ubiquitin carboxy terminal hydroxylase I;
- (vii) it has at least 5, preferably 6 or 7, and most preferably 8 of the cysteins found amino acid sequence of native  $\gamma 3$ .

Also included in the invention is a composition which includes a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide (or a  
35 nucleic acid which encodes it) and one or more additional components, e.g., a carrier, diluent, or solvent. The additional component can be one which renders the composition useful for *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmaceutical or veterinary use.

In another aspect, the invention provides an isolated or substantially pure nucleic acid having or comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide, e.g., a  $\gamma 3$   
40 polypeptide described herein.

A preferred embodiment of the invention features a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence at least about 85% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4. In other preferred embodiments, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid

5 molecule having a nucleotide sequence with at least about 90% to about 95%, and more preferably about 98% to about 99% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:4. In another preferred embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide is encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:4.

10 In preferred embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecule includes the nucleotide sequence of at least one and preferably all of the DNA inserts of the plasmids deposited with ATCC as Accession No: 209357.

15 In preferred embodiments, the subject  $\gamma 3$  nucleic acid will include a transcriptional regulatory sequence, e.g. at least one of a transcriptional promoter or transcriptional enhancer sequence, operably linked to the  $\gamma 3$  gene sequence (also referred to as LAMG3), e.g., to render the  $\gamma 3$  gene sequence suitable for use as an expression vector.

In yet a further preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid which encodes a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide of the invention, hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid probe corresponding to at least 12 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:4. More preferably, the nucleic acid probe corresponds to at least 20 consecutive nucleotides from SEQ ID NO: 4.

20 The invention also provides a probe or primer which includes or comprises a substantially purified oligonucleotide. The oligonucleotide includes a region of nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of sense or antisense sequence from SEQ ID NO: 4, or naturally occurring mutants thereof. In preferred embodiments, the probe or primer further includes a label group attached thereto.  
25 The label group can be, e.g., a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, an enzyme, and/or an enzyme co-factor. Preferably the oligonucleotide is at least 10 and less than 20, 30, 50, 100, or 150 nucleotides in length.

30 The invention involves nucleic acids, e.g., RNA or DNA, encoding a  $\gamma 3$  polypeptide of the invention. This includes double stranded nucleic acids as well as coding and antisense single strands.

In another aspect, the invention features a cell or purified preparation of cells which include a  $\gamma 3$  subunit transgene, or which otherwise misexpress a  $\gamma 3$  gene. The cell preparation can consist of human or non human cells, e.g., rodent cells, e.g., mouse or rat cells, rabbit cells, or pig cells. In preferred embodiments, the cell or cells include a  $\gamma 3$   
35 transgene, e.g., a heterologous form of a  $\gamma 3$  gene, e.g., a gene derived from humans (in the case of a non-human cell). The  $\gamma 3$  transgene can be misexpressed, e.g., overexpressed or underexpressed. In other preferred embodiments, the cell or cells include a gene which misexpress an endogenous  $\gamma 3$  gene, e.g., a gene the expression of which is disrupted, e.g., a knockout. Such cells can serve as a model for studying disorders which are related to  
40 mutated or mis-expressed  $\gamma 3$  alleles or for use in drug screening.

In another aspect, the invention features a transgenic  $\gamma 3$  animal, e.g., a rodent, e.g., a mouse or a rat, a rabbit, a pig, a goat, or a cow. In preferred embodiments, the transgenic animal includes (and preferably express) a heterologous form of a  $\gamma 3$  gene, e.g., a gene

5 derived from humans. In a further embodiment, the  $\gamma 3$  transgene includes a tissue specific promoter, e.g., a milk-specific promoter. In other preferred embodiments, the animal has an endogenous  $\gamma 3$  gene which is misexpressed, e.g., a knockout. Such a transgenic animal can serve as a model for studying disorders which are related to mutated or mis-expressed  $\gamma 3$  alleles or for use in drug screening.

10 The invention is also based, in part, on the discovery of a novel laminin subunit,  $\beta 4$ . Accordingly, the invention features a recombinant or substantially pure preparation of a  $\beta 4$  polypeptide.

In preferred embodiment, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide has the following biological activities: 1) it promotes adhesion between tissue elements; 2) it aids in wound healing. In other preferred  
15 embodiments: the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide includes an amino acid sequence with at least 65%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:1; the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide includes an amino acid sequence essentially the same as an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1; the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide is at least 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, or 150 amino acids in length; the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide includes at least 5, preferably at least 10, more preferably  
20 at least 20, most preferably at least 50, 100, or 150 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:1; the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide is either, an agonist or an antagonist, of a biological activity of a naturally occurring  $\beta 4$  subunit; the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide is a vertebrate, e.g., a mammalian, e.g. a primate, e.g., a human,  $\beta 4$  polypeptide.

In preferred embodiments: the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide is encoded by the nucleic acid in SEQ  
25 ID NO:2, or by a nucleic acid having at least about 65% to about 70%, more preferably at least 80%, even more preferably at least about 90% to about 95%, and most preferably about 99% sequence identity with the nucleic acid from SEQ ID NO: 2.

In preferred embodiments, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide includes domains VI and V found in native  $\beta 4$  subunits. Amino acid residues from about 221-262 and 263-535 of SEQ ID NO: 1  
30 are exemplary of domains VI and V, respectively, of  $\beta 4$ . Generally, domain VI is at least 33 residues in length and has preferably at least about 60%, more preferably about 70% to about 80%, and most preferably about 90% to about 95% sequence identity with the amino acid residues 221-262 of the  $\beta 4$  protein shown in SEQ ID NO: 1. Domain V is at least 272 residues in length and has preferably at least about 60%, more preferably about 70% to about  
35 80%, and most preferably about 90% to about 95% sequence identity with the amino acid residues 263-535 of the  $\beta 4$  protein shown in SEQ ID NO: 1. In another embodiment, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide has at least 5, preferably 6 or 7, and most preferably 8 cysteins as found in native  $\beta 4$ . In yet another embodiment, a  $\beta 4$  polypeptide which has antagonist activity has inactivated or excluded regions which comprise at least one of the cysteins found in native  $\beta 4$   
40 protein.

In a preferred embodiment, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence at up to 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 residues, from a sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1. In other preferred embodiments, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence at up to 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 % of the residues



5 from a sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1. Preferably, the differences are such that: the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide exhibits a  $\beta$ 4 biological activity, e.g., the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide retains a biological activity of a naturally occurring  $\beta$ 4 subunit.

In preferred embodiments the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide includes a  $\beta$ 4 sequence described herein as well as other N-terminal and/or C-terminal amino acid sequence.

10 In preferred embodiments, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide includes all or a fragment of an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:1, fused, in reading frame, to additional amino acid residues, preferably to residues encoded by genomic DNA 5' to the genomic DNA which encodes a sequence from SEQ ID NO:1.

15 In yet other preferred embodiments, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide is a recombinant fusion protein having a first  $\beta$ 4 portion and a second polypeptide portion, e.g., a second polypeptide portion having an amino acid sequence unrelated to  $\beta$ 4. The second polypeptide portion can be, e.g., any of glutathione-S-transferase, a DNA binding domain, or a polymerase activating domain. In preferred embodiment the fusion protein can be used in a two-hybrid assay.

20 In preferred embodiments the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide has antagonistic activity, and is capable of: inhibiting the adhesion of connective tissues.

Preferably, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide is a fragment of a naturally occurring  $\beta$ 4 which inhibits connective tissue adhesion.

25 Polypeptides of the invention include those which arise as a result of the existence of multiple genes, alternative transcription events, alternative RNA splicing events, and alternative translational and postranslational events. In one aspect of the invention, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide is a splice variant of the  $\beta$ 4 subunit. In another preferred embodiment, the  $\beta$ 4 splice variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6. The polypeptide can be expressed in systems, e.g., cultured cells, which result in substantially the same postranslational modifications present when expressed  $\beta$ 4 is expressed in a native cell, or in systems which result in the omission of postranslational modifications present when expressed in a native cell.

30 The invention includes an immunogen which includes a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide in an immunogenic preparation, the immunogen being capable of eliciting an immune response specific for the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide, e.g., a humoral response, an antibody response, or a cellular response. In preferred embodiments, the immunogen comprising an antigenic determinant, e.g., a unique determinant, from a protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

35 The present invention also includes an antibody preparation specifically reactive with an epitope of the  $\beta$ 4 immunogen or generally of a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide, preferably an epitope which consists all or in part of residues from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an epitope, which when bound to an antibody, results in the modulation of a biological activity.

40 In preferred embodiments the  $\beta$ 4-like polypeptide, as expressed in the cells in which it is normally expressed or in other eukaryotic cells, has an estimated molecular weight of 200 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE.

5 In a preferred embodiment, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (i) it has the ability to promote adhesion between connective tissues;
- (ii) it has a molecular weight, amino acid composition or other physical characteristic of  $\beta$ 4 subunit of SEQ ID NO:1;
- 10 (iii) it has an overall sequence similarity of at least 50%, preferably at least 65%, more preferably at least 70, 80, 90, or 95%, with a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (iv) it can be isolated from human placenta chorionic villi;
- (v) it can associate with  $\alpha$ 3 or  $\gamma$ 2 subunits;
- (vi) it has coiled coils in domains I and II.
- 15 (vii) it has at least 5, preferably 6 or 7, and most preferably 8 of the cysteins found in native  $\beta$ 4 sequence.

Also included in the invention is a composition which includes a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide (or a nucleic acid which encodes it) and one or more additional components, e.g., a carrier, diluent, or solvent. The additional component can be one which renders the composition for *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmaceutical or veterinary use. Such uses can include aiding in wound healing or promotion of the adhesion of dermal and epidermal cells.

In another aspect, the invention provides an isolated or substantially pure nucleic acid having or comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide, e.g., a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide described herein.

25 A preferred embodiment of the invention features a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence at least about 65% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In other preferred embodiments, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence with at least 70%, preferably 80%, more preferably about 90% to about 95%, and even more preferably about 99% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:2. In another preferred embodiment, the  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide is encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:2.

In preferred embodiments, the subject  $\beta$ 4 nucleic acid will include a transcriptional regulatory sequence, e.g. at least one of a transcriptional promoter or transcriptional enhancer sequence, operably linked to the  $\beta$ 4 gene sequence (also referred to as LAMB4), e.g., to render the  $\beta$ 4 gene sequence suitable for use as an expression vector.

In yet a further preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid which encodes a  $\beta$ 4 polypeptide of the invention, hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid probe corresponding to at least 12 consecutive nucleotides from SEQ ID NO:2, more preferably to at least 20 consecutive nucleotides from SEQ ID NO:2.

40 In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid differs by at least one nucleotide from a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, nucleotides 4686-5870.

The invention also provides a probe or primer which includes or comprises a substantially purified oligonucleotide. The oligonucleotide includes a region of nucleotide

5 sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of sense or antisense sequence from SEQ ID NO: 2, or naturally occurring mutants thereof. In preferred embodiments, the probe or primer further includes a label group attached thereto. The label group can be, e.g., a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, an enzyme, and/or an enzyme co-factor. Preferably the oligonucleotide is at least 10 and less than 20, 30, 50, 100,  
10 or 150 nucleotides in length.

The invention involves nucleic acids, e.g., RNA or DNA, encoding a  $\beta 4$  polypeptide of the invention. This includes double stranded nucleic acids as well as coding and antisense single strands.

In another aspect, the invention features a cell or purified preparation of cells which  
15 include a  $\beta 4$  transgene, or which otherwise misexpress a  $\beta 4$  gene. The cell preparation can consist of human or non human cells, e.g., rodent cells; e.g., mouse or rat cells, rabbit cells, or pig cells. In preferred embodiments, the cell or cells include a  $\beta 4$  transgene, e.g., a heterologous form of a  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g., a gene derived from humans (in the case of a non-human cell). The  $\beta 4$  transgene can be misexpressed, e.g., overexpressed or underexpressed.  
20 In other preferred embodiments, the cell or cells include a gene which misexpress an endogenous  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g., a gene the expression of which is disrupted, e.g., a knockout. Such cells can serve as a model for studying disorders which are related to mutated or mis-expressed  $\beta 4$  alleles or for use in drug screening.

In another aspect, the invention features a transgenic  $\beta 4$  animal, e.g., a rodent, e.g., a  
25 mouse or a rat, a rabbit, a pig, a goat, or a cow. In preferred embodiments, the transgenic animal includes (and preferably express) a heterologous form of a  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g., a gene derived from humans. In a further embodiment, the  $\beta 4$  transgene includes a tissue specific promoter, e.g., a milk-specific promoter. In other preferred embodiments, the animal has an endogenous  $\beta 4$  gene which is misexpressed, e.g., a knockout. Such a transgenic animal can  
30 serve as a model for studying disorders which are related to mutated or mis-expressed  $\beta 4$  alleles or for use in drug screening.

In another aspect, the invention features, a method of promoting adhesion of a first tissue element to a second tissue element. The method includes contacting one or both of the first tissue element and the second tissue element with an amount of a laminin molecule  
35 described herein, e.g., laminin 12, or  $\gamma 3$  (or a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ), sufficient to promote adhesion. The method can be performed in vivo, or in vitro. In in vivo methods the laminin is administered to the subject. The administration can be directed to the site where adhesion is desired, e.g., by topical application or by injection, or administered in a systemic fashion.

40 A tissue element can be a cell or a multi-cellular or acellular structure. Examples of tissue elements include, skin cells, e.g., epidermal or dermal cells, neuronal cells, e.g., nerve cells, retinal cells, central or peripheral nervous system components, basement membrane or components of the basement membrane, or any cell or structure which in normal, non-

5 traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered to a specific tissue element recited herein.

In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

10 In preferred embodiments the method is an vivo method. In vivo methods can be autologous, allogeneic, or xenogeneic. In autologous methods, adhesion between two tissue elements from the subject is promoted. In allogeneic methods, adhesion between a recipient tissue element and a donor tissue element from an allogeneic donor is promoted. In xenogeneic methods, adhesion between a recipient tissue element and a donor tissue element from a xenogeneic donor is promoted. Thus, one element can be a donor tissue element  
15 which is implanted into a recipient subject.

In preferred embodiments the first tissue is healthy tissue, e.g., skin tissue, and the second tissue is wounded, e.g., burned, diseased, traumatized, cut, and the tissue, or is a wound bed. For example, the first tissue is skin tissue, from the subject or from a donor, and the second tissue is wounded, e.g., burned or abraded tissue.

20 In preferred embodiments the first tissue and second tissue element are normally adhered but have become detached from one another due to trauma, burn or other physical injury, disease, or age.

In preferred embodiments: the first tissue element is a dermal cell and the second tissue element is an epidermal cell; the first tissue element is a nerve cell or nerve and the  
25 second tissue element is a cell or structure which in normal, non-traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered to the nerve cell or nerve; the first tissue element is a retinal cell or retina tissue and the second tissue element is a cell or structure which in normal, non-traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered to the a retinal cell or retina tissue, the first tissue is a nerve and the second tissue is basement membrane.

30 The administration of laminin can be repeated.

In another aspect, the invention features a method of promoting wound healing in a subject. The method includes administering an amount of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g., laminin 12,  $\gamma 3$  (or a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ), sufficient to promote healing to the wound. The administration can be directed to the site where healing is desired,  
35 e.g., by topical application or by injection, or administered in a systemic fashion.

The wound can be in any tissue, but preferably in a tissue in which the laminin normally occurs. Examples skin, central or peripheral nervous tissue, tissues of the eye, e.g., the retinal, the basement membrane, or any tissue which in normal, non-traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered thereto.

40 In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

In preferred embodiments the wound tissue is burned, diseased, traumatized, cut, the subject of immune attack, e.g., autoimmune attack, or abraded.

5 The administration of laminin can be repeated.

In another aspect, the invention features a method of promoting nerve growth or regeneration in a subject. The method includes administering an amount of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g., laminin 12, or  $\gamma 3$  (or a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ), sufficient to promote nerve growth or regeneration. The administration can be directed to the  
10 site where nerve growth or regeneration is desired, e.g., by topical application or by injection, or administered in a systemic fashion.

In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

In preferred embodiments the nerve growth or regeneration is promoted at a wound  
15 site.

The administration of laminin can be repeated.

In another aspect, the invention provides, a method of determining if a subject is at risk for a disorder related to a lesion in or the misexpression of a gene which encodes a laminin described herein, e.g.,  $\gamma 3$  or laminin 12.

20 Such disorders include, e.g., a disorder associated with the misexpression of a laminin, e.g., laminin 12, or misexpression of the  $\gamma 3$  subunit; a disorder of the central or peripheral nervous system; a disorder associated with a genetic lesion at chromosome 9, region q31-34; Fukuyama-type muscular dystrophy; muscle-eye-brain disease; Walker-Warburg Syndrome (hydrocephalus, ageria, and retinal displasia); a retinal disorder; a disorder associated with abnormal levels, of adhesion between tissues; a disorder associated with the basement membrane; a skin disorder; a disorder associated with the testis, spleen, placenta, thymus, ovary, small intestine, lung, or liver.

The method includes one or more of the following:

30 detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the presence or absence of a mutation which affects the expression of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12, e.g., detecting the presence or absence of a mutation in a region which controls the expression of the gene, e.g., a mutation in the 5' control region;

35 detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the presence or absence of a mutation which alters the structure of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12;

detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the misexpression of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12 at the mRNA level, e.g., detecting a non-wild type level of a  $\gamma 3$ , or an other laminin 12 subunit mRNA ;

40 detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the misexpression of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12, at the protein level, e.g., detecting a non-wild type level of a  $\gamma 3$ , or an other laminin 12 subunit polypeptide.

In preferred embodiments the method includes: ascertaining the existence of at least one of: a deletion of one or more nucleotides from the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a



5 subunit of laminin 12; an insertion of one or more nucleotides into the gene, a point mutation, e.g., a substitution of one or more nucleotides of the gene, a gross chromosomal rearrangement of the gene, e.g., a translocation, inversion, or deletion.

For example, detecting the genetic lesion can include: (i) providing a probe/primer including an oligonucleotide containing a region of nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a sense or antisense sequence from SEQ ID NO:4, or naturally occurring mutants thereof or 5' or 3' flanking sequences naturally associated with the LAMG3 gene; (ii) exposing the probe/primer to nucleic acid of the tissue; and detecting, by hybridization, e.g., *in situ* hybridization, of the probe/primer to the nucleic acid, the presence or absence of the genetic lesion.

15 In preferred embodiments detecting the misexpression includes ascertaining the existence of at least one of: an alteration in the level of a messenger RNA transcript of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12; the presence of a non-wild type splicing pattern of a messenger RNA transcript of the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12; or a non-wild type level of  $\gamma 3$ , or other subunit of laminin 12.

20 Methods of the invention can be used prenatally or to determine if a subject's offspring will be at risk for a disorder.

In preferred embodiments the method includes determining the structure of a  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12, an abnormal structure being indicative of risk for the disorder.

25 In preferred embodiments the method includes contacting a sample from the subject with an antibody to the laminin protein or a nucleic acid which hybridizes specifically with the  $\gamma 3$  gene, or other gene which encodes a subunit of laminin 12.

In another aspect, the invention features, a method of promoting adhesion of a first tissue element to a second tissue element. The method includes contacting one or both of the first tissue element and the second tissue element with an amount of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g.,  $\beta 4$ , sufficient to promote adhesion. The method can be performed *in vivo*, or *in vitro*. In *in vivo* methods the laminin is administered to the subject. The administration can be directed to the site where adhesion is desired, e.g., by topical application or by injection, or administered in a systemic fashion.

35 A tissue element can be a cell or a multi-cellular or acellular structure. Examples of tissue elements include, skin cells, e.g., epidermal or dermal cells, neuronal cells, e.g., nerve cells, retinal cells, central or peripheral nervous system components, basement membrane or components of the basement membrane, or any cell or structure which in normal, non-traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered to a specific tissue element recited herein.

40 In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

5 In preferred embodiments the method is an vivo method. In vivo methods can be autologous, allogeneic, or xenogeneic. In autologous methods, adhesion between two tissue elements from the subject is promoted. In allogeneic methods, adhesion between a recipient tissue element and a donor tissue element from an allogeneic donor is promoted. In xenogeneic methods, adhesion between a recipient tissue element and a donor tissue element  
10 from a xenogeneic donor is promoted. Thus, one element can be a donor tissue element which is implanted into a recipient subject.

In preferred embodiments the first tissue is healthy tissue, e.g., skin tissue, and the second tissue is wounded, e.g., burned, diseased, traumatized, cut, and the tissue, or is a wound bed. For example, the first tissue is skin tissue, from the subject or from a donor, and  
15 the second tissue is wounded, e.g., burned or abraded tissue.

In preferred embodiments: the first tissue element is a dermal cell and the second tissue element is an epidermal cell; the first tissue element is a nerve cell or nerve and the second tissue element is a cell or structure which in normal, non-traumatized, or non-diseased tissue is adjacent or adhered to the nerve cell or nerve; the first tissue is a nerve and the  
20 second tissue is basement membrane.

The administration of laminin can be repeated.

In another aspect, the invention features a method of promoting wound healing in a subject. The method includes administering an amount of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g.,  $\beta 4$ , sufficient to promote healing to the wound. The administration can be  
25 directed to the site where healing is desired, e.g., by topical application or by injection, or administered in a systemic fashion.

The wound can be in any tissue, but preferably in a tissue in which the laminin normally occurs in fetal or adult life. Examples examples include skin the basement membrane.

30 In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

In preferred embodiments the wound tissue is burned, diseased, traumatized, cut, the subject of immune attack, e.g, autoimmune attack, or abraded.

The administration of laminin can be repeated.

35 In another aspect, the invention features a method of promoting tissue growth, development, or regeneration in a subject. The method includes administering an amount of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g.,  $\beta 4$ , sufficient to promote tissue growth, development, or regeneration in a subject. The administration can be directed to the site where nerve growth or regeneration is desired, e.g., by topical application or by injection, or  
40 administered in a systemic fashion.

In preferred embodiments the molecule is exogenous (e.g., administered to a subject) or is recombinant.

5 In preferred embodiments the nerve growth or regeneration is promoted at a wound site.

The administration of laminin can be repeated.

In another aspect, the invention provides, a method of determining if a subject is at risk for a disorder related to a lesion in or the misexpression of a laminin molecule described herein, e.g.,  $\beta 4$ .

10 Such disorders include, e.g., a disorder associated with the misexpression of a laminin, e.g.,  $\beta 4$ ; a disorder associated with a genetic lesion at chromosome region 7q22-q31.2; a developmental disorder; a disorder associated with abnormal levels, e.g., abnormally low levels, of adhesion between tissues; a disorder associated with the basement membrane; a skin disorder, e.g., an epidermal or dermal, disorder.

15 The method includes one or more of the following:

detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the presence or absence of a mutation which affects the expression of the  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g, detecting the presence or absence of a mutation in a region which controls the expression of the gene, e.g., a mutation in the 5' control region;

20 detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the presence or absence of a mutation which alters the structure of the  $\beta 4$  gene;

detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the misexpression of the  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g., detecting a non-wild type level of a  $\beta 4$  mRNA ;

detecting, in a tissue of the subject, the misexpression of the  $\beta 4$ , at the protein level, e.g., detecting a non-wild type level of a  $\beta 4$  polypeptide.

25 In preferred embodiments the method includes: ascertaining the existence of at least one of: a deletion of one or more nucleotides from the  $\beta 4$ ; an insertion of one or more nucleotides into the gene, a point mutation, e.g., a substitution of one or more nucleotides of the  $\beta 4$  gene, a gross chromosomal rearrangement of the  $\beta 4$  gene, e.g., a translocation, inversion, or deletion.

30 For example, detecting the genetic lesion can include: (i) providing a probe/primer including an oligonucleotide containing a region of nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a sense or antisense sequence from SEQ ID NO:2, or naturally occurring mutants thereof or 5' or 3' flanking sequences naturally associated with the LAMB4 gene; (ii) exposing the probe/primer to nucleic acid of the tissue; and detecting, by hybridization, e.g., *in situ* hybridization, of the probe/primer to the nucleic acid, the presence or absence of the genetic lesion.

35 In preferred embodiments: detecting the misexpression includes ascertaining the existence of at least one of: an alteration in the level of a messenger RNA transcript of the  $\beta 4$ ; the presence of a non-wild type splicing pattern of a messenger RNA transcript of the  $\beta 4$ ; or a non-wild type level of  $\beta 4$ .

40 Methods of the invention can be used prenatally or to determine if a subject's offspring will be at risk for a disorder.



5 In preferred embodiments the method includes determining the structure of the  $\alpha$   $\beta$ 4, an abnormal structure being indicative of risk for the disorder.

In preferred embodiments the method includes contacting a sample from the subject with an antibody to the  $\beta$ 4 protein or a nucleic acid which hybridizes specifically with the  $\beta$ 4.

10 In another aspect, the invention features, a method of evaluating a compound for the ability to interact with, e.g., bind, a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., laminin 12,  $\gamma$ 3, a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma$ 3,  $\beta$ 4, or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta$ 4. The method includes: contacting the compound with the subject laminin polypeptide; and evaluating ability of the compound to interact with, e.g., to bind or form a complex with the subject laminin polypeptide. This method can be performed in vitro, e.g., in a cell free system, or in  
15 vivo, e.g., in a two-hybrid interaction trap assay. This method can be used to identify naturally occurring molecules which interact with subject laminin polypeptide. It can also be used to find natural or synthetic inhibitors of subject laminin polypeptide.

In another aspect, the invention features, a method of evaluating a compound, e.g., a polypeptide, e.g., a naturally occurring ligand of or a naturally occurring substrate to which  
20 binds a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., of laminin 12,  $\gamma$ 3, a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma$  3,  $\beta$ 4, or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta$ 4, for the ability to bind a subject laminin polypeptide. The method includes: contacting the compound with the subject laminin polypeptide; and evaluating the ability of the compound to interact with, e.g., to bind or form a complex with the subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., the ability of the compound to inhibit a  
25 subject laminin polypeptide/ligand interaction. This method can be performed in vitro, e.g., in a cell free system, or in vivo, e.g., in a two-hybrid interaction trap assay. This method can be used to identify compounds, e.g., fragments or analogs of a subject laminin polypeptide, which are agonists or antagonists of a subject laminin polypeptide.

In another aspect, the invention features, a method of evaluating a first compound,  
30 e.g., a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., laminin 12,  $\gamma$ 3, a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma$ 3,  $\beta$  4, or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta$ 4, for the ability to bind a second compound, e.g., a second polypeptide, e.g., a naturally occurring ligand of or substrate to which binds a subject laminin polypeptide. The method includes: contacting the first compound with the second compound; and evaluating the ability of the first compound to form a complex with the  
35 second compound. This method can be performed in vitro, e.g., in a cell free system, or in vivo, e.g., in a two-hybrid interaction trap assay. This method can be used to identify compounds, e.g., fragments or analogs of a subject laminin polypeptide, which are agonists or antagonists of a subject laminin polypeptide.

In yet another aspect, the invention features a method for evaluating a compound, e.g.,  
40 for the ability to modulate an interaction, e.g., the ability to inhibit an interaction of a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., of laminin 12,  $\gamma$ 3, a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma$ 3,  $\beta$ 4, or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta$ 4, with a second polypeptide, e.g., a polypeptide, e.g., a natural ligand of the of or a substrate to which binds a subject laminin polypeptide, or a

5 fragment thereof. The method includes the steps of (i) combining the second polypeptide (or preferably a purified preparation thereof), a subject laminin polypeptide, (or preferably a purified preparation thereof), and a compound, e.g., under conditions wherein in the absence of the compound, the second polypeptide, and the subject laminin polypeptide, are able to interact, e.g., to bind or form a complex; and (ii) detecting the interaction, e.g., detecting the  
10 formation (or dissolution) of a complex which includes the second polypeptide, and the subject laminin polypeptide. A change, e.g., a decrease or increase, in the formation of the complex in the presence of a compound (relative to what is seen in the absence of the compound)-is indicative of a modulation, e.g., an inhibition or promotion, of the interaction between the second polypeptide, and the subject laminin polypeptide. In preferred  
15 embodiments: the second polypeptide, and the subject laminin polypeptide, are combined in a cell-free system and contacted with the compound; the cell-free system is selected from a group consisting of a cell lysate and a reconstituted protein mixture; the subject laminin polypeptide, and the second polypeptide are simultaneously expressed in a cell, and the cell is contacted with the compound, e.g. in an interaction trap assay (e.g., a two-hybrid assay).

20 In yet another aspect, the invention features a two-phase method (e.g., a method having an in vitro, e.g., in a cell free system, and an in vivo phase) for evaluating a compound, e.g., for the ability to modulate, e.g., to inhibit or promote, an interaction of a subject laminin polypeptide subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., of laminin 12,  $\gamma 3$ , a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$ , or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta 4$ , with a second  
25 compound, e.g., a second polypeptide, e.g., a naturally occurring ligand of or a substrate to which binds a subject laminin polypeptide, or a fragment thereof. The method includes steps (i) and (ii) of the method described immediately above performed in vitro, and further includes: (iii) determining if the compound modulates the interaction in vitro, e.g., in a cell free system, and if so; (iv) administering the compound to a cell or animal; and (v)  
30 evaluating the in vivo effect of the compound on an interaction, e.g., inhibition, of a subject laminin polypeptide, with a second polypeptide.

In another aspect, the invention features, a method of evaluating a compound for the ability to bind a nucleic acid encoding a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., a laminin 12,  $\gamma 3$ , a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$ , or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta 4$  polypeptide  
35 regulatory sequence. The method includes: contacting the compound with the nucleic acid; and evaluating ability of the compound to form a complex with the nucleic acid.

In another aspect, the invention features a method of making a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide, e.g., a peptide having a non-wild type activity, e.g., an antagonist, agonist, or super agonist of a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide, e.g., a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide.  
40 The method includes: altering the sequence of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide, e.g., altering the sequence, e.g., by substitution or deletion of one or more residues of a non-conserved region, a domain or residue disclosed herein, and testing the altered polypeptide for the desired activity.

5 In another aspect, the invention features a method of making a fragment or analog of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide having a biological activity of a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide. The method includes: altering the sequence, e.g., by substitution or deletion of one or more residues, of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide, e.g., altering the sequence of a non-conserved region, or a domain or residue described herein, and testing the altered polypeptide  
10 for the desired activity.

In another aspect, the invention features, a human cell, e.g., a hematopoietic stem cell, transformed with nucleic acid which encodes a subject laminin polypeptide, e.g., a laminin 12,  $\gamma 3$ , a laminin trimer which includes  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$ , or a laminin trimer which includes  $\beta 4$ .

15 In another aspect, the invention includes: a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  nucleic acid, e.g., a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  nucleic acid inserted into a vector; a cell transformed with a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  nucleic acid; a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  made by culturing a cell transformed with a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  nucleic acid; and a method of making a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  polypeptide including culturing a a cell transformed with a  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  nucleic acid.

The inventors have shown that  $\gamma 3$  forms laminin 12 in association with  $\alpha 2$  and  $\beta 1$ . However, we are unsure of the chain associations of  $\gamma 3$  within other tissues. It is very likely  
20 that  $\gamma 3$  can also associate with  $\gamma 3$ ,  $\alpha 3$ ,  $\alpha 4$ , and  $\alpha 5$ ; with  $\beta 2$ ,  $\beta 3$ ,  $\beta 4$  and  $\beta 5$ . Therefore, our results predict 25 new laminins: laminins 12-37.  $\gamma 3$  and  $\beta 4$  polypeptides of the invention can be expressed with, assembled with, or administered with other laminin subunits in any of the methods described herein. E.g.,  $\gamma 3$  can be assembled with an  $\alpha$  and a  $\beta$  subunit to form a laminin trimer.  $\beta 4$  can be assembled with an  $\alpha$  and a  $\beta$  subunit to form a laminin trimer.

25 In any treatment or therapeutic application which administers  $\gamma 3$ , a  $\beta 2$  subunit can also be administered.

A "heterologous promoter", as used herein is a promoter which is not naturally associated with a gene or a purified nucleic acid.

30 A "purified" or "substantially pure" or isolated "preparation" of a polypeptide, as used herein, means a polypeptide that has been separated from other proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids with which it naturally occurs. Preferably, the polypeptide is also separated from substances, e.g., antibodies or gel matrix, e.g., polyacrylamide, which are used to purify it. Preferably, the polypeptide constitutes at least 10, 20, 50 70, 80 or 95% dry weight of the purified preparation. Preferably, the preparation contains: sufficient polypeptide to allow  
35 protein sequencing; at least 1, 10, or 100  $\mu$ g of the polypeptide; at least 1, 10, or 100 mg of the polypeptide.

A "purified preparation of cells", as used herein, refers to, in the case of plant or animal cells, an in vitro preparation of cells and not an entire intact plant or animal. In the case of cultured cells or microbial cells, it consists of a preparation of at least 10% and more  
40 preferably 50% of the subject cells.

A "treatment", as used herein, includes any therapeutic treatment, e.g., the administration of a therapeutic agent or substance, e.g., a drug.

5 An "isolated" or "pure nucleic acid", e.g., a substantially pure DNA, is a nucleic acid which is one or both of: not immediately contiguous with either one or both of the sequences, e.g., coding sequences, with which it is immediately contiguous (i.e., one at the 5' end and one at the 3' end) in the naturally-occurring genome of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived; or which is substantially free of a nucleic acid sequence with which it occurs  
10 in the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived. The term includes, for example, a recombinant DNA which is incorporated into a vector, e.g., into an autonomously replicating plasmid or virus, or into the genomic DNA of a prokaryote or eukaryote, or which exists as a separate molecule (e.g., a cDNA or a genomic DNA fragment produced by PCR or restriction endonuclease treatment) independent of other DNA sequences. Substantially pure DNA can  
15 also include a recombinant DNA which is part of a hybrid gene encoding sequence.

"Sequence identity or homology", as used herein, refers to the sequence similarity between two polypeptide molecules or between two nucleic acid molecules. When a position in both of the two compared sequences is occupied by the same base or amino acid monomer subunit, e.g., if a position in each of two DNA molecules is occupied by adenine, then the  
20 molecules are homologous or sequence identical at that position. The percent of homology or sequence identity between two sequences is a function of the number of matching or homologous identical positions shared by the two sequences divided by the number of positions compared x 100. For example, if 6 of 10, of the positions in two sequences are the same then the two sequences are 60% homologous or have 60% sequence identity. By way  
25 of example, the DNA sequences ATTGCC and TATGGC share 50% homology or sequence identity. Generally, a comparison is made when two sequences are aligned to give maximum homology.

The terms "peptides", "proteins", and "polypeptides" are used interchangeably herein.

As used herein, the term "transgene" means a nucleic acid sequence (encoding, e.g.,  
30 one or more subject laminin polypeptides), which is partly or entirely heterologous, i.e., foreign, to the transgenic animal or cell into which it is introduced, or, is homologous to an endogenous gene of the transgenic animal or cell into which it is introduced, but which is designed to be inserted, or is inserted, into the animal's genome in such a way as to alter the genome of the cell into which it is inserted (e.g., it is inserted at a location which differs from  
35 that of the natural gene or its insertion results in a knockout). A transgene can include one or more transcriptional regulatory sequences and any other nucleic acid, such as introns, that may be necessary for optimal expression of the selected nucleic acid, all operably linked to the selected nucleic acid, and may include an enhancer sequence.

As used herein, the term "transgenic cell" refers to a cell containing a transgene.

40 As used herein, a "transgenic animal" is any animal in which one or more, and preferably essentially all, of the cells of the animal includes a transgene. The transgene can be introduced into the cell, directly or indirectly by introduction into a precursor of the cell, by way of deliberate genetic manipulation, such as by microinjection or by infection with a

5 recombinant virus. This molecule may be integrated within a chromosome, or it may be extrachromosomally replicating DNA.

As used herein, the term "tissue-specific promoter" means a DNA sequence that serves as a promoter, i.e., regulates expression of a selected DNA sequence operably linked to the promoter, and which effects expression of the selected DNA sequence in  
10 specific cells of a tissue, such as mammary tissue. The term also covers so-called "leaky" promoters, which regulate expression of a selected DNA primarily in one tissue, but cause expression in other tissues as well.

"Unrelated to a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  amino acid or nucleic acid sequence" means having less than 30% sequence identity, less than 20% sequence identity, or, preferably, less than 10%  
15 homology with a naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  sequence disclosed herein.

A polypeptide has  $\gamma 3$  biological activity if it has one or more of the properties of  $\gamma 3$  disclosed herein. A polypeptide has biological activity if it is an antagonist, agonist, or super-agonist of a polypeptide having one of the properties of  $\gamma 3$  disclosed herein.

A polypeptide has  $\beta 4$  biological activity if it has one or more of the properties of  $\beta 4$   
20 disclosed herein. A polypeptide has biological activity if it is an antagonist, agonist, or super-agonist of a polypeptide having one of the properties of  $\beta 4$  disclosed herein.

"Misexpression", as used herein, refers to a non-wild type pattern of gene expression, at the RNA or protein level. It includes: expression at non-wild type levels, i.e., over or under expression; a pattern of expression that differs from wild type in terms of the time or stage at  
25 which the gene is expressed, e.g., increased or decreased expression (as compared with wild type) at a predetermined developmental period or stage; a pattern of expression that differs from wild type in terms of decreased expression (as compared with wild type) in a predetermined cell type or tissue type; a pattern of expression that differs from wild type in terms of the splicing size, amino acid sequence, post-translational modification, or biological  
30 activity of the expressed polypeptide; a pattern of expression that differs from wild type in terms of the effect of an environmental stimulus or extracellular stimulus on expression of the gene, e.g., a pattern of increased or decreased expression (as compared with wild type) in the presence of an increase or decrease in the strength of the stimulus.

Subject, as used herein, can refer to a mammal, e.g., a human, or to an experimental or  
35 animal or disease model. The subject can also be a non-human animal, e.g., a horse, cow, goat, or other domestic animal.

As described herein, one aspect of the invention features a substantially pure (or recombinant) nucleic acid which includes a nucleotide sequence encoding a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide and/or equivalents of such nucleic acids. The term nucleic acid as used herein  
40 can include fragments and equivalents. The term equivalent refers to nucleotide sequences encoding functionally equivalent polypeptides. Equivalent nucleotide sequences will include sequences that differ by one or more nucleotide substitutions, additions or deletions, such as

allelic variants, and include sequences that differ from the nucleotide sequences disclosed herein by degeneracy of the genetic code.

The practice of the present invention will  
5 employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of cell biology, cell culture, molecular biology, transgenic biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are described in the literature.  
10 See, for example, *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., ed. by Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: 1989); *DNA Cloning*, Volumes I and II (D.N. Glover ed., 1985); *Oligonucleotide Synthesis* (M.J. Gait ed., 1984); Mullis et al. U.S. Patent No:  
15 4,683,195; *Nucleic Acid Hybridization* (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); *Transcription And Translation* (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); *Culture Of Animal Cells* (R. I. Freshney, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1987); *Immobilized Cells And Enzymes* (IRL Press, 1986); B. Perbal, A  
20 *Practical Guide To Molecular Cloning* (1984); the treatise, *Methods In Enzymology* (Academic Press, Inc., N.Y.); *Gene Transfer Vectors For Mammalian Cells* (J.H. Miller and M.P. Calos eds., 1987, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory); *Methods In Enzymology*, Vols. 154 and 155 (Wu et al. eds.),  
25 *Immunochemical Methods In Cell And Molecular Biology* (Mayer and Walker, eds., Academic Press, London, 1987); *Handbook Of Experimental Immunology*, Volumes I-IV (D.M. Weir and C.C. Blackwell, eds., 1986); *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo*, (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold  
30 Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1986).

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

All references, including any patents or patent  
35 applications, cited in this specification are hereby incorporated by reference. No admission is made that any reference constitutes prior art. The discussion of the



references states what their authors assert, and the applicants reserve the right to challenge the accuracy and pertinency of the cited documents. It will be clearly understood that, although a number of prior art  
5 publications are referred to herein, this reference does not constitute an admission that any of these documents forms part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or in any other country.

For the purposes of this specification it will be  
10 clearly understood that the word "comprising" means "including but not limited to", and that the word "comprises" has a corresponding meaning.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

15 The drawings are briefly described.

*Figure 1* depicts the cDNA sequence for human  $\alpha 2$  subunit.

20 *Figure 2* depicts the predicted amino acid sequence for human  $\alpha 2$  subunit.

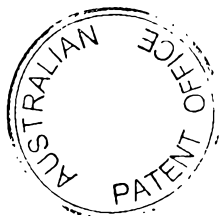
*Figure 3* depicts the cDNA sequence for human  $\beta 4$  subunit.

25 *Figure 4* depicts the predicted amino acid sequence for human  $\beta 4$  subunit

30 *Figure 5* depicts an alignment of the amino acid sequence of human  $\beta 4$  of SEQ ID NO: 1 and  $\beta 4$  splice variant of SEQ ID NO:5 AND LAMININ  $\beta 1$ ,  $\beta 2$ , and  $\beta 3$  subunits.

*Figure 6* provides a comparison of the similarities of laminin  $\beta 4$  domains with the domains of  
35 other known laminin  $\beta$  subunits.

20  
25  
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35



5

### Isolation of laminin 12

Laminin 12 was isolated from human placental chorionic villi. Briefly, human chorionic placental villi were frozen in liquid nitrogen, ground in a Waring blender and washed in 1 M NaCl. The final tissue pellet (200g, wet weight) was suspended in 1 L of extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl 50 mM, pH=7.8; NaCl 0.5M, EDTA 10mM, 625 mg/l of N-ethylmaleimide, 150 mg/l of phenylmethylsulphonyl fluoride. The suspension was incubated at 4°C with stirring for 48 h. Unless otherwise noted, all subsequent steps were performed at 4°C. The soluble fraction was collected following centrifugation (30000 x g, 60 min) and precipitated by 300g/l of Ammonium Sulfate. The precipitated proteins were collected by centrifugation (30000 x g, 60 min) and redissolved into chromatography buffer (2M Urea, 25 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, and 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH=7.8). The sample was then dialyzed against the same buffer. Following dialysis, 0.5 volumes of buffer equilibrated DEAE-cellulose (DE-52, Whatman) was added and the mixture shaken overnight. Material not bound to DEAE-cellulose was collected by filtration on a Buchner funnel (Whatman filter 4) and precipitated by addition of 300g/l of ammonium sulfate. The proteins were collected by centrifugation (30000 x g, 60 min), redissolved in the Concanavalin-A buffer (0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and Tris-HCl 50 mM, pH=7.8) and dialyzed against the same buffer overnight. The fraction was applied to a 2.5 x 5 cm Concanavalin-A sepharose column (Pharmacia), and unbound material was removed by extensive washing. Bound proteins were first eluted with 10 mM  $\alpha$ -D- Mannopyrannoside (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) and secondly with 1 M  $\alpha$ -D-Glucopyrannoside (Sigma, St. Louis, MO). A third elution with 1M  $\alpha$ -D-Manno-pyrannoside (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) allowed the recovery of the proteins of interest. Each fraction was independently concentrated to 10 ml on a Amicon™ concentrator (30 kDa membrane) and applied to a 2.5 x 100 cm Sephacryl S-500 column in a 0.5 M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH=7.8 buffer. The fractions of interest were pooled, dialyzed against Mono-Q buffer (0.1 M NaCl, 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH=7.8) and applied to the 1 x 5 cm Mono-Q column (Pharmacia). Elution was achieved with a 60 ml 0.1-0.5 M NaCl gradient.

The final fraction of interest resulting from the above protocol contains multiple laminins. The laminin 12 was resolved from this mixture by SDS-PAGE (3-5% polyacrylamide) under non-reducing conditions. Six band were resolved. Only the bands at approximately 560 kDa and at the top of the gel were shown to be reactive with polyclonal anti-laminin antiserum (Sigma, St. Louis, MO).

### Isolation of $\alpha$ 2, $\beta$ 1, $\gamma$ 3 subunits from laminin 12

Laminin 12 was excised, equilibrated and reduced in 10% 2-me SDS-PAGE sample buffer, and resolved by 5% SDS-PAGE. Three bands were resolved, which were approximately 205 kDa, 185 kDa, and 170 kDa. The band at 185 kDa reacted with monoclonal antibody 545, specific to the laminin  $\beta$ 1 subunit. Each of the three bands were

40



5 digested with trypsin and the peptides were resolved by HPLC. The selected resolves were subject to peptide sequencing.

#### Sequencing of the $\alpha 2$ , $\beta 1$ subunits of laminin 12

Protein sequencing was done according to Aebersold et al. (1987). The complex  
10 laminin 5-laminin 7 was run on a polyacrylamide gel in the presence of 2-mercaptoethanol and blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane (Biorad). The 190 kDa band of  $\beta 2$  and the 165 kDa  $\alpha 3$  band were separately excised and digested by protease trypsin. The digested product was separated by HPLC and one fragment was sequenced on an Applied Biosystems sequenator (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). The 205 kDa chain  
15 contained a sequence identical to human laminin  $\alpha 2$ , and was thus identified as human laminin  $\alpha 2$  subunit. The 185 kDa produced two peptides identical to human  $\beta 1$ , and was thus identified as human laminin  $\beta 1$  subunit. The band at 170 kDa contained three sequences not contained in any known laminin chain. A N-terminal sequence of the 170 kDa chain was also determined. In addition, the N-terminal sequence was not identical to  
20 any known laminin sequence.

#### Identification of the $\gamma 3$ subunit

The cDNA sequences of human  $\gamma 1$  and  $\gamma 2$  were used to probe the National Center for Biomedical Information (NCBI) dBest™ data base by BLAST search and a clone was  
25 isolated that was homologous, but not identical to  $\gamma 1$  and  $\gamma 2$ . This clone was extended by PCR at the 5' end using Marathon cDNA from human placenta from Clonetech (Palo Alto, CA). The resulting sequence was determined to be 100% identical to all three of the 170 kDa band peptide sequences.

Comparison of the nucleotide sequence of the isolated  $\gamma 3$  subunit to  $\gamma 1$ ,  
30 demonstrated about 80% sequence identity.

#### Structural Analysis of $\gamma 3$ encoding DNA

The human cDNA encoding  $\gamma 3$ , which is approximately 4710 nucleotides in length, encodes a protein having an estimated molecular weight of approximately 146 kDa (including  
35 post-translational modifications) and which is approximately 1570 amino acid residues in length. The human  $\gamma 3$  protein contains a nidogen-binding domain, which can be found, for example, from about amino acids 750-755 of SEQ ID NO:3. The  $\gamma 3$  amino acid sequence and the nucleotide sequence encoding human laminin  $\gamma 3$  is shown in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4, respectively.

40 By Northern analysis the size of the  $\gamma 3$  mRNA is approximately 5 kb, which is consistent with other laminin  $\gamma$  subunits. The  $\gamma 3$  mRNA transcript is expressed in human tissues including spleen, testis, brain, placenta, lung, and possibly liver. Chromosomal mapping using the  $\gamma 3$  cDNA sequence indicates that the human  $\gamma 3$  gene is located on

5 chromosome 9q31-34. The location of  $\gamma 3$  on chromosome 9 was confirmed by FISH analysis using a 1.3 kb  $\gamma 3$  cDNA probe within the predicted domains I and II, which are the regions of the least sequence identity among  $\gamma$  subunits. Four human genes associated with Walker-Walburg syndrome, Fukuyama muscular dystrophy, retinitis pigmentosa-deafness syndrome and Eye, Muscle, Brain disease have also been mapped to chromosome 9q31-34.

10

#### Production of a $\gamma 3$ specific antibody and tissue localization of $\gamma 3$

The 170 kDa ( $\gamma 3$ ) chain was excised from the reducing SDS-PAGE gel described above and injected into a rabbit for antibody production. The resulting serum (rabbit 16) was evaluated by Western analysis and shown to react with the 170 kDa  $\gamma 3$  chain, and showed 15 minor crossreactivity with other laminin chains.

Using immunofluorescence, this antiserum shows localization of  $\gamma 3$  to the following tissue areas: 1) sites of insertions of nerves into the dermal-epidermal junction basement membrane of human skin; 2) the inner nuclear layers, outer nuclear layers, and outer limiting membranes of human, mouse and rat neural retina; 3) the Purkinje cells, and molecular 20 layers, and (perhaps) the glial cells of the mouse and rat cerebellum; 4) the neuromuscular junctions of skeletal muscle; and, 5) the taste buds of the cow tongue.

The  $\gamma 3$  was also shown to colocalize with protein ubiquitin carboxy terminal hydrolase I using antibody pGp 9.5. The  $\gamma 3$  subunit also appears to colocalize with the  $\alpha 2$  subunit in the same tissue sections.

25

#### Isolation and Sequencing of cDNA encoding $\beta 4$

The initial 350 bp fragment of human laminin  $\beta 4$  cDNA was amplified by touchdown RT-PCR from cultured human keratinocyte total RNA using nested primers made from the published chicken laminin  $\beta x 503$  bp cDNA sequence (as described in Ybot-Gonzalez et al. (1995)). Subsequent cDNA clones were isolated by nested PCR directly from 30 a human placenta cDNA library packaged in lambda-gt11 (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) or by nested PCR directly from human placenta Marathon-Ready cDNA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). The 5' end of the cDNA was cloned using the 5'-RACE technique from human placenta total RNA. The Expanded Long Template PCR System (Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN) was used for all PCR reactions. The PCR products were ligated into the 35 pCR2.1 vector (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) and recombinant plasmids purified for sequencing using the QIAprep™ kit (Qiagen). The DNA sequence was determined using either the Sequenase version 2.0 DNA Sequencing Kit (Amersham) and  $^{35}\text{S}$ -dATP or the Thermo Sequenase Radiolabeled Terminator Cycle Sequencing kit (Amersham) and  $^{33}\text{P}$ -ddNTPs. At least two independent cDNA subclones were sequenced to rule out Taq 40 polymerase-generated nucleotide substitutions. In some cases, PCR product bands were sequenced directly by cycle sequencing after excision from a TAE-EtBr agarose gel and purification using QIAquick Gel Extraction kit (Qiagen).

5

Structural Analysis of DNA encoding  $\beta$ 4

The human cDNA encoding a long form  $\beta$ 4, which is approximately 5.87 kb, encodes a protein having an estimated molecular weight of approximately 200 kDa and which is approximately 1761 amino acid residues in length. The human  $\beta$ 4 protein retains the highest amino acid sequence identity with domains VI and V, which can be found, for example, from about amino acids 221-262 and about 263-535 of SEQ ID NO:1. In addition, a short form, splice variant of  $\beta$ 4, which is approximately 3.84 kb and an estimated molecular weight of 120 kDa, was also isolated. The splice variant has 132 nucleotide sequence identical to the long form of  $\beta$ 4, with the sequence diverging at nucleotide 3375 and spliced into a unique 3' untranslated region. The short form cDNA encodes a truncated  $\beta$ 4 subunit which contains only the short arm of the  $\beta$ 4 subunit and is missing the domains necessary for heterodimerization. The  $\beta$ 4 amino acid sequence and the nucleotide sequence encoding human laminin  $\beta$ 4 is shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, respectively.

Northern analysis was performed using total RNA prepared from JAR cell, cultured human keratinocytes and human placenta using either Trizol (Gibco BRL, Bethesda, MD) or RNeasy™ (Qiagen) which was denatured, separated on a formaldehyde agarose gel and blotted onto nitrocellulose according to standard protocols (Sambrook, et al., 1989). In addition, A human multiple tissue northern blot (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) and Human Northern Territory normal tissue blots and custom fetal skin northern blot (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) were used. Hybridization and washing were performed using NorthernMAX™ buffer system (Ambion) by manufacturer's recommended protocols. <sup>32</sup>P-dCTP-labelled probes were generated from gel-purified restriction fragments using Rediprime™ random primer labeling kit (Amersham). <sup>32</sup>P-UTP-labelled antisense RNA probes were generated using the RNA transcription kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) from cDNAs subcloned into Bluescript II KS+ (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA).

Northern blotting showed that human laminin  $\beta$ 4 is expressed in JAR cells, derived from undeveloped chronic villi and in placenta. By RT-PCR, it is also expressed in cultured keratinocytes. Using a northern blot of human fetal skin developmental progression,  $\beta$ 4 subunit (long form) demonstrates strong expression at week twelve of fetal development and persists until birth, but expression is barely detectable in adult skin. The  $\beta$ 4 splice variant, however, is expressed in various tissues including adult heart, brain, lung, liver, skeletal muscle, kidney, spleen, stomach, esophagus, intestine, colon, uterus, bladder, adipose tissue and pancreas. Chromosomal mapping with a  $\beta$ 4 cDNA probe indicates that the human  $\beta$ 4 subunit is located at locus 7q22-q31.2. The gene encoding  $\beta$ 1 is located near, but not on, this position of chromosome 7. Statistical analysis of the mapping data using markers for  $\beta$ 1 and  $\beta$ 4 suggest that the gene encoding  $\beta$ 1 is linked to both ends of the gene encoding  $\beta$ 4. In addition, neonatal cutis laxa with manifold phenotype has been mapped near, but not in the same position, as the gene encoding  $\beta$ 4.

40

5           In situ hybridization to wounded human skin grafted into nude mice suggests that laminin  $\beta$  x is expressed in the dermis underneath the migrating epidermal tongues during wound closure.

          A GenBank™ search using the human nucleotide sequence encoding  $\beta$ 4 as shown in SEQ ID NO:3 revealed an EST, which corresponds to nucleotides 4686-5870 of the human  
10       nucleotide sequence encoding  $\beta$ 4 depicted in SEQ ID NO:3. Alignment of cDNA encoding  $\beta$ 4 with the genes encoding human laminin  $\beta$ 1 and laminin  $\beta$ 2 shows 61% and 59% sequence identity, respectively, as shown in Figure 5.

#### Production of a $\beta$ 4 specific antibody and tissue localization of $\beta$ 4

15           Antibodies were raised in rabbits against a 26 kDa bacterial fusion protein which corresponds to the 175 amino acid residues of domain VI (e.g., from about amino acid residues 221-262) of SEQ ID NO:1. Briefly the fusion protein was made by PCR amplification of nucleotides 302-785 of the cDNA encoding  $\beta$ 4 using adapter primers and cloned in-frame into the NdeI and SacII sites of pET-15b (Novagen). The fusion protein  
20       construct was confirmed by restriction mapping and DNA sequencing. Expression of the fusion protein was induced and separated from *E. coli* proteins using reducing SDS-PAGE. Bands corresponding to the fusion protein were excised from the gel, equilibrated and homogenized using Freud's adjuvant. The same fusion protein was also western blotted on nitrocellulose, dissolved in DMSO and used to immunize mice for monoclonal antibody  
25       production.

          The polyclonal antisera raised in mice against the fusion protein reacted well with  $\beta$ 4, as well as,  $\beta$ 1 and  $\beta$ 2 polypeptides.

#### Structural Analysis of the $\beta$ 4 subunit and the $\beta$ 4 splice variant

30           The  $\beta$ 4 subunit contains six domains, and  $\alpha$  interruption and a signal peptide. The signal peptide and domain VI can be found, for example, at about amino acid residues 1-262 of SEQ ID NO:1. Domain V can be found, for example, at about amino acid residues 263-535 of SEQ ID NO:1. Domains IV and III can be found, for example, at about amino acid residues 536-767 and 768-1178 of SEQ ID NO:1, respectively. Domain I can be found, for  
35       example, at about amino acid residues 1409-1761 of SEQ ID NO:1.

          The  $\beta$ 4 subunit (long form) is most similar in size and domain structure to laminin  $\beta$ 1 with an amino acid sequence identity of 42.5%.  $\beta$ 4 retains the highest levels of amino acid identity with the other laminin  $\beta$  subunits in domains VI and V, and the lowest levels in domains I and II, as shown in Figure 6. Using the Multicoil™ program, it was determined  
40       that only domains I and II of  $\beta$ 4 have a high probability of forming coiled coil structures. Domains I and II of  $\beta$ 4 look most similar to human  $\beta$ 3. Both  $\beta$ 4 and  $\beta$ 3 are epithelial and the coiled coil structures in domains I and II dictate the  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  subunits with which the  $\beta$

5 subunits are associated. Thus, it is likely that  $\beta 4$  associates with  $\alpha 3$  and  $\gamma 2$ , as does the laminin  $\beta 3$  subunit.

The cDNA encoding the splice variant of  $\beta 4$  contains only the short arm of the  $\beta 4$  subunit, and is missing the EGF repeat of domain III, as shown in Figure 5. Thus, the  $\beta 4$  polypeptide encoded by the  $\beta 4$  c DNA splice variant is missing the coiled coil structures in  
10 domains I and II, rendering the short subunit unable to associate into a laminin heterotrimer. PCR amplification of human genomic DNA suggest that the exon which encodes the alternative short form 3' untranslated region is located downstream from the carboxyl-most common exon, exon 23, and is splices out of the  $\beta 4$  subunit, long form, by exon skipping.

#### 15 Analogs of $\gamma 3$ and $\beta 4$

Analogs can differ from naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  in amino acid sequence or in ways that do not involve sequence, or both. Non-sequence modifications include in vivo or in vitro chemical derivatization of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$ . Non-sequence modifications include changes in acetylation, methylation, phosphorylation, carboxylation, or glycosylation.

20 Preferred analogs include  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  (or biologically active fragments thereof) whose sequences differ from the wild-type sequence by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions or by one or more non-conservative amino acid substitutions, deletions, or insertions which do not abolish the  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  biological activity. Conservative substitutions typically include the substitution of one amino acid for another with similar characteristics,  
25 e.g., substitutions within the following groups: valine, glycine; glycine, alanine; valine, isoleucine, leucine; aspartic acid, glutamic acid; asparagine, glutamine; serine, threonine; lysine, arginine; and phenylalanine, tyrosine. Other conservative substitutions can be taken from the table below.

TABLE I

## CONSERVATIVE AMINO ACID REPLACEMENTS

For Amino Acid	Code	Replace with any of
Alanine	A	D-Ala, Gly, beta-Ala, L-Cys, D-Cys
Arginine	R	D-Arg, Lys, D-Lys, homo-Arg, D-homo-Arg, Met, Ile, D-Met, D-Ile, Orn, D-Orn
Asparagine	N	D-Asn, Asp, D-Asp, Glu, D-Glu, Gln, D-Gln
Aspartic Acid	D	D-Asp, D-Asn, Asn, Glu, D-Glu, Gln, D-Gln
Cysteine	C	D-Cys, S-Me-Cys, Met, D-Met, Thr, D-Thr
Glutamine	Q	D-Gln, Asn, D-Asn, Glu, D-Glu, Asp, D-Asp
Glutamic Acid	E	D-Glu, D-Asp, Asp, Asn, D-Asn, Gln, D-Gln
Glycine	G	Ala, D-Ala, Pro, D-Pro, $\beta$ -Ala, Acp
Isoleucine	I	D-Ile, Val, D-Val, Leu, D-Leu, Met, D-Met
Leucine	L	D-Leu, Val, D-Val, Leu, D-Leu, Met, D-Met
Lysine	K	D-Lys, Arg, D-Arg, homo-Arg, D-homo-Arg, Met, D-Met, Ile, D-Ile, Orn, D-Orn
Methionine	M	D-Met, S-Me-Cys, Ile, D-Ile, Leu, D-Leu, Val, D-Val
Phenylalanine	F	D-Phe, Tyr, D-Thr, L-Dopa, His, D-His, Trp, D-Trp, Trans-3,4, or 5-phenylproline, cis-3,4, or 5-phenylproline
Proline	P	D-Pro, L-1-thioazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, D-or L-1-oxazolidine-4-carboxylic acid
Serine	S	D-Ser, Thr, D-Thr, allo-Thr, Met, D-Met, Met(O), D-Met(O), L-Cys, D-Cys
Threonine	T	D-Thr, Ser, D-Ser, allo-Thr, Met, D-Met, Met(O), D-Met(O), Val, D-Val
Tyrosine	Y	D-Tyr, Phe, D-Phe, L-Dopa, His, D-His
Valine	V	D-Val, Leu, D-Leu, Ile, D-Ile, Met, D-Met

Other analogs within the invention are those with modifications which increase peptide stability; such analogs may contain, for example, one or more non-peptide bonds (which replace the peptide bonds) in the peptide sequence. Also included are: analogs that include residues other than naturally occurring L-amino acids, e.g., D-amino acids or non-naturally occurring or synthetic amino acids, e.g.,  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$  amino acids; and cyclic analogs.

5           The gene constructs of the invention can also be used as a part of a gene therapy  
protocol to deliver nucleic acids encoding either an agonistic or antagonistic form of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta$   
4 polypeptide. The invention features expression vectors for *in vivo* transfection and  
expression of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide in particular cell types so as to reconstitute the function  
of, or alternatively, antagonize the function of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide in a cell in which that  
10 polypeptide is misexpressed. Expression constructs of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptides, may be  
administered in any biologically effective carrier, e.g. any formulation or composition  
capable of effectively delivering the  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  gene to cells *in vivo*. Approaches include  
insertion of the subject gene in viral vectors including recombinant retroviruses, adenovirus,  
adeno-associated virus, and herpes simplex virus-1, or recombinant bacterial or eukaryotic  
15 plasmids. Viral vectors transfect cells directly; plasmid DNA can be delivered with the help  
of, for example, cationic liposomes (lipofectin) or derivatized (e.g. antibody conjugated),  
polylysine conjugates, gramacidin S, artificial viral envelopes or other such intracellular  
carriers, as well as direct injection of the gene construct or  $\text{CaPO}_4$  precipitation carried out *in*  
*vivo*.

20           A preferred approach for *in vivo* introduction of nucleic acid into a cell is by use of a  
viral vector containing nucleic acid, e.g. a cDNA, encoding a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide. Infection  
of cells with a viral vector has the advantage that a large proportion of the targeted cells can  
receive the nucleic acid. Additionally, molecules encoded within the viral vector, e.g., by a  
cDNA contained in the viral vector, are expressed efficiently in cells which have taken up  
25 viral vector nucleic acid.

Retrovirus vectors and adeno-associated virus vectors can be used as a recombinant  
gene delivery system for the transfer of exogenous genes *in vivo*, particularly into humans.  
These vectors provide efficient delivery of genes into cells, and the transferred nucleic acids  
are stably integrated into the chromosomal DNA of the host. The development of specialized  
30 cell lines (termed "packaging cells") which produce only replication-defective retroviruses  
has increased the utility of retroviruses for gene therapy, and defective retroviruses are  
characterized for use in gene transfer for gene therapy purposes (for a review see Miller, A.D.  
(1990) *Blood* 76:271). A replication defective retrovirus can be packaged into virions which  
can be used to infect a target cell through the use of a helper virus by standard techniques.  
35 Protocols for producing recombinant retroviruses and for infecting cells *in vitro* or *in vivo*  
with such viruses can be found in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausubel, F.M. et  
al. (eds.) Greene Publishing Associates, (1989), Sections 9.10-9.14 and other standard  
laboratory manuals. Examples of suitable retroviruses include pLJ, pZIP, pWE and pEM  
which are known to those skilled in the art. Examples of suitable packaging virus lines for  
40 preparing both ecotropic and amphotropic retroviral systems include  $\psi$ Crip,  $\psi$ Cre,  $\psi 2$  and  $\psi$   
Am. Retroviruses have been used to introduce a variety of genes into many different cell  
types, including epithelial cells, *in vitro* and/or *in vivo* (see for example Eglitis, et al. (1985)  
*Science* 230:1395-1398; Danos and Mulligan (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:6460-

5 6464; Wilson et al. (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:3014-3018; Armentano et al. (1990)  
*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:6141-6145; Huber et al. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*  
88:8039-8043; Ferry et al. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:8377-8381; Chowdhury et  
al. (1991) *Science* 254:1802-1805; van Beusechem et al. (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*  
89:7640-7644; Kay et al. (1992) *Human Gene Therapy* 3:641-647; Dai et al. (1992) *Proc.*  
10 *Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10892-10895; Hwu et al. (1993) *J. Immunol.* 150:4104-4115; U.S.  
Patent No. 4,868,116; U.S. Patent No. 4,980,286; PCT Application WO 89/07136; PCT  
Application WO 89/02468; PCT Application WO 89/05345; and PCT Application WO  
92/07573).

Another viral gene delivery system useful in the present invention utilizes adenovirus-  
15 derived vectors. The genome of an adenovirus can be manipulated such that it encodes and  
expresses a gene product of interest but is inactivated in terms of its ability to replicate in a  
normal lytic viral life cycle. See, for example, Berkner et al. (1988) *BioTechniques* 6:616;  
Rosenfeld et al. (1991) *Science* 252:431-434; and Rosenfeld et al. (1992) *Cell* 68:143-155.  
Suitable adenoviral vectors derived from the adenovirus strain Ad type 5 dl324 or other  
20 strains of adenovirus (e.g., Ad2, Ad3, Ad7 etc.) are known to those skilled in the art.  
Recombinant adenoviruses can be advantageous in certain circumstances in that they are not  
capable of infecting nondividing cells and can be used to infect a wide variety of cell types,  
including epithelial cells (Rosenfeld et al. (1992) cited *supra*). Furthermore, the virus particle  
is relatively stable and amenable to purification and concentration, and as above, can be  
25 modified so as to affect the spectrum of infectivity. Additionally, introduced adenoviral  
DNA (and foreign DNA contained therein) is not integrated into the genome of a host cell but  
remains episomal, thereby avoiding potential problems that can occur as a result of insertional  
mutagenesis in situations where introduced DNA becomes integrated into the host genome  
(e.g., retroviral DNA). Moreover, the carrying capacity of the adenoviral genome for foreign  
30 DNA is large (up to 8 kilobases) relative to other gene delivery vectors (Berkner et al. cited  
*supra*; Haj-Ahmand and Graham (1986) *J. Virol.* 57:267).

Yet another viral vector system useful for delivery of the subject gene is the adeno-  
associated virus (AAV). Adeno-associated virus is a naturally occurring defective virus that  
requires another virus, such as an adenovirus or a herpes virus, as a helper virus for efficient  
35 replication and a productive life cycle. (For a review see Muzyczka et al. *Curr. Topics in*  
*Micro. and Immunol.* (1992) 158:97-129). It is also one of the few viruses that may integrate  
its DNA into non-dividing cells, and exhibits a high frequency of stable integration (see for  
example Flotte et al. (1992) *Am. J. Respir. Cell. Mol. Biol.* 7:349-356; Samulski et al. (1989)  
*J. Virol.* 63:3822-3828; and McLaughlin et al. (1989) *J. Virol.* 62:1963-1973). Vectors  
40 containing as little as 300 base pairs of AAV can be packaged and can integrate. Space for  
exogenous DNA is limited to about 4.5 kb. An AAV vector such as that described in  
Tratschin et al. (1985) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 5:3251-3260 can be used to introduce DNA into cells.  
A variety of nucleic acids have been introduced into different cell types using AAV vectors



5 (see for example Hermonat et al. (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:6466-6470; Tratschin et al. (1985) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 4:2072-2081; Wondisford et al. (1988) *Mol. Endocrinol.* 2:32-39; Tratschin et al. (1984) *J. Virol.* 51:611-619; and Flotte et al. (1993) *J. Biol. Chem.* 268:3781-3790).

10 In addition to viral transfer methods, such as those illustrated above, non-viral methods can also be employed to cause expression of a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide in the tissue of an animal. Most nonviral methods of gene transfer rely on normal mechanisms used by mammalian cells for the uptake and intracellular transport of macromolecules. In preferred  
15 embodiments, non-viral gene delivery systems of the present invention rely on endocytic pathways for the uptake of the subject  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  gene by the targeted cell. Exemplary gene delivery systems of this type include liposomal derived systems, poly-lysine conjugates, and artificial viral envelopes.

In a representative embodiment, a gene encoding a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptide can be entrapped in liposomes bearing positive charges on their surface (e.g., lipofectins) and (optionally) which are tagged with antibodies against cell surface antigens of the target tissue  
20 (Mizuno et al. (1992) *No Shinkei Geka* 20:547-551; PCT publication WO91/06309; Japanese patent application 1047381; and European patent publication EP-A-43075).

In clinical settings, the gene delivery systems for the therapeutic  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  gene can be introduced into a patient by any of a number of methods, each of which is familiar in the art. For instance, a pharmaceutical preparation of the gene delivery system can be introduced  
25 systemically, e.g. by intravenous injection, and specific transduction of the protein in the target cells occurs predominantly from specificity of transfection provided by the gene delivery vehicle, cell-type or tissue-type expression due to the transcriptional regulatory sequences controlling expression of the receptor gene, or a combination thereof. In other  
30 embodiments, initial delivery of the recombinant gene is more limited with introduction into the animal being quite localized. For example, the gene delivery vehicle can be introduced by catheter (see U.S. Patent 5,328,470) or by Stereotactic injection (e.g. Chen et al. (1994) *PNAS* 91: 3054-3057).

The pharmaceutical preparation of the gene therapy construct can consist essentially of the gene delivery system in an acceptable diluent, or can comprise a slow release matrix in  
35 which the gene-delivery vehicle is imbedded. Alternatively, where the complete gene delivery system can be produced in tact from recombinant cells, e.g. retroviral vectors, the pharmaceutical preparation can comprise one or more cells which produce the gene delivery system.

#### 40 Transgenic Animals

The invention includes transgenic animals which include cells (of that animal) which contain a  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  transgene and which preferably (though optionally) express (or misexpress) an endogenous or exogenous  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  gene in one or more cells in the animal.

5 The  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  transgene can encode the wild-type form of the protein, or can encode homologs thereof, including both agonists and antagonists, as well as antisense constructs. In preferred  
embodiments, the expression of the transgene is restricted to specific subsets of cells, or  
tissues utilizing, for example, cis-acting sequences that control expression in the desired  
pattern. Tissue-specific regulatory sequences and conditional regulatory sequences can be  
10 used to control expression of the transgene in certain spatial patterns, e.g., to restrict  
production to the milk or other secreted product of the animal.

### Production of Fragments and Analogs

#### Generation of Fragments

15 Fragments of a protein can be produced in several ways, e.g., recombinantly, by  
proteolytic digestion, or by chemical synthesis. Internal or terminal fragments of a  
polypeptide can be generated by removing one or more nucleotides from one end (for a  
terminal fragment) or both ends (for an internal fragment) of a nucleic acid which encodes the  
polypeptide. Expression of the mutagenized DNA produces polypeptide fragments.  
20 Digestion with "end-nibbling" endonucleases can thus generate DNA's which encode an array  
of fragments. DNA's which encode fragments of a protein can also be generated by random  
shearing, restriction digestion or a combination of the above-discussed methods.

Fragments can also be chemically synthesized using techniques known in the art such  
as conventional Merrifield solid phase f-Moc or t-Boc chemistry. For example, peptides of  
25 the present invention may be arbitrarily divided into fragments of desired length with no  
overlap of the fragments, or divided into overlapping fragments of a desired length.

#### Generation of Analogs: Production of Altered DNA and Peptide Sequences by Random Methods

30 Amino acid sequence variants of a protein can be prepared by random mutagenesis of  
DNA which encodes a protein or a particular domain or region of a protein. Useful methods  
include PCR mutagenesis and saturation mutagenesis. A library of random amino acid  
sequence variants can also be generated by the synthesis of a set of degenerate  
oligonucleotide sequences. (Methods for screening proteins in a library of variants are  
35 elsewhere herein.)

#### PCR Mutagenesis

In PCR mutagenesis, reduced Taq polymerase fidelity is used to introduce random  
mutations into a cloned fragment of DNA (Leung et al., 1989, *Technique* 1:11-15). This is a  
40 very powerful and relatively rapid method of introducing random mutations. The DNA  
region to be mutagenized is amplified using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) under  
conditions that reduce the fidelity of DNA synthesis by Taq DNA polymerase, e.g., by using  
a dGTP/dATP ratio of five and adding  $Mn^{2+}$  to the PCR reaction. The pool of amplified

5 DNA fragments are inserted into appropriate cloning vectors to provide random mutant libraries.

#### Saturation Mutagenesis

10 Saturation mutagenesis allows for the rapid introduction of a large number of single base substitutions into cloned DNA fragments (Mayers et al., 1985, *Science* 229:242). This technique includes generation of mutations, e.g., by chemical treatment or irradiation of single-stranded DNA *in vitro*, and synthesis of a complimentary DNA strand. The mutation frequency can be modulated by modulating the severity of the treatment, and essentially all possible base substitutions can be obtained. Because this procedure does not involve a  
15 genetic selection for mutant fragments both neutral substitutions, as well as those that alter function, are obtained. The distribution of point mutations is not biased toward conserved sequence elements.

#### Degenerate Oligonucleotides

20 A library of homologs can also be generated from a set of degenerate oligonucleotide sequences. Chemical synthesis of a degenerate sequences can be carried out in an automatic DNA synthesizer, and the synthetic genes then ligated into an appropriate expression vector. The synthesis of degenerate oligonucleotides is known in the art (see for example, Narang, SA (1983) *Tetrahedron* 39:3; Itakura et al. (1981) *Recombinant DNA, Proc 3rd Cleveland*  
25 *Sympos. Macromolecules*, ed. AG Walton, Amsterdam: Elsevier pp273-289; Itakura et al. (1984) *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 53:323; Itakura et al. (1984) *Science* 198:1056; Ike et al. (1983) *Nucleic Acid Res.* 11:477. Such techniques have been employed in the directed evolution of other proteins (see, for example, Scott et al. (1990) *Science* 249:386-390; Roberts et al. (1992) *PNAS* 89:2429-2433; Devlin et al. (1990) *Science* 249: 404-406; Cwirla et al. (1990)  
30 *PNAS* 87: 6378-6382; as well as U.S. Patents Nos. 5,223,409, 5,198,346, and 5,096,815).

#### Generation of Analogs: Production of Altered DNA and Peptide Sequences by Directed Mutagenesis

35 Non-random or directed, mutagenesis techniques can be used to provide specific sequences or mutations in specific regions. These techniques can be used to create variants which include, e.g., deletions, insertions, or substitutions, of residues of the known amino acid sequence of a protein. The sites for mutation can be modified individually or in series, e.g., by (1) substituting first with conserved amino acids and then with more radical choices depending upon results achieved, (2) deleting the target residue, or (3) inserting residues of  
40 the same or a different class adjacent to the located site, or combinations of options 1-3.

#### Alanine Scanning Mutagenesis

5 Alanine scanning mutagenesis is a useful method for identification of certain residues or regions of the desired protein that are preferred locations or domains for mutagenesis, Cunningham and Wells (*Science* 244:1081-1085, 1989). In alanine scanning, a residue or group of target residues are identified (e.g., charged residues such as Arg, Asp, His, Lys, and Glu) and replaced by a neutral or negatively charged amino acid (most preferably alanine or polyalanine). Replacement of an amino acid can affect the interaction of the amino acids with the surrounding aqueous environment in or outside the cell. Those domains demonstrating functional sensitivity to the substitutions are then refined by introducing further or other variants at or for the sites of substitution. Thus, while the site for introducing an amino acid sequence variation is predetermined, the nature of the mutation per se need not be predetermined. For example, to optimize the performance of a mutation at a given site, alanine scanning or random mutagenesis may be conducted at the target codon or region and the expressed desired protein subunit variants are screened for the optimal combination of desired activity.

#### 20 Oligonucleotide-Mediated Mutagenesis

Oligonucleotide-mediated mutagenesis is a useful method for preparing substitution, deletion, and insertion variants of DNA, see, e.g., Adelman et al., (*DNA* 2:183, 1983). Briefly, the desired DNA is altered by hybridizing an oligonucleotide encoding a mutation to a DNA template, where the template is the single-stranded form of a plasmid or bacteriophage containing the unaltered or native DNA sequence of the desired protein. After hybridization, a DNA polymerase is used to synthesize an entire second complementary strand of the template that will thus incorporate the oligonucleotide primer, and will code for the selected alteration in the desired protein DNA. Generally, oligonucleotides of at least 25 nucleotides in length are used. An optimal oligonucleotide will have 12 to 15 nucleotides that are completely complementary to the template on either side of the nucleotide(s) coding for the mutation. This ensures that the oligonucleotide will hybridize properly to the single-stranded DNA template molecule. The oligonucleotides are readily synthesized using techniques known in the art such as that described by Crea et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 75: 5765[1978]).

35

#### Cassette Mutagenesis

Another method for preparing variants, cassette mutagenesis, is based on the technique described by Wells et al. (*Gene*, 34:315[1985]). The starting material is a plasmid (or other vector) which includes the protein subunit DNA to be mutated. The codon(s) in the protein subunit DNA to be mutated are identified. There must be a unique restriction endonuclease site on each side of the identified mutation site(s). If no such restriction sites exist, they may be generated using the above-described oligonucleotide-mediated mutagenesis method to introduce them at appropriate locations in the desired protein subunit

40

5 DNA. After the restriction sites have been introduced into the plasmid, the plasmid is cut at these sites to linearize it. A double-stranded oligonucleotide encoding the sequence of the DNA between the restriction sites but containing the desired mutation(s) is synthesized using standard procedures. The two strands are synthesized separately and then hybridized together using standard techniques. This double-stranded oligonucleotide is referred to as the cassette.  
10 This cassette is designed to have 3' and 5' ends that are comparable with the ends of the linearized plasmid, such that it can be directly ligated to the plasmid. This plasmid now contains the mutated desired protein subunit DNA sequence.

#### Combinatorial Mutagenesis

15 Combinatorial mutagenesis can also be used to generate mutants. E.g., the amino acid sequences for a group of homologs or other related proteins are aligned, preferably to promote the highest homology possible. All of the amino acids which appear at a given position of the aligned sequences can be selected to create a degenerate set of combinatorial sequences. The variegated library of variants is generated by combinatorial mutagenesis at  
20 the nucleic acid level, and is encoded by a variegated gene library. For example, a mixture of synthetic oligonucleotides can be enzymatically ligated into gene sequences such that the degenerate set of potential sequences are expressible as individual peptides, or alternatively, as a set of larger fusion proteins containing the set of degenerate sequences.

#### 25 Primary High-Through-Put Methods for Screening Libraries of Peptide Fragments or Homologs

Various techniques are known in the art for screening generated mutant gene products. Techniques for screening large gene libraries often include cloning the gene library into replicable expression vectors, transforming appropriate cells with the resulting library of  
30 vectors, and expressing the genes under conditions in which detection of a desired activity, e.g., in this case, binding to other laminin subunits, assembly into a trimeric laminin molecules, binding to natural ligands or substrates, facilitates relatively easy isolation of the vector encoding the gene whose product was detected. Each of the techniques described below is amenable to high through-put analysis for screening large numbers of sequences  
35 created, e.g., by random mutagenesis techniques.

#### Two Hybrid Systems

Two hybrid assays such as the system described above (as with the other screening methods described herein), can be used to identify fragments or analogs. These may include  
40 agonists, superagonists, and antagonists. (The subject protein and a protein it interacts with are used as the bait protein and fish proteins.)

#### Display Libraries

5 In one approach to screening assays, the candidate peptides are displayed on the surface of a cell or viral particle, and the ability of particular cells or viral particles to bind an appropriate receptor protein via the displayed product is detected in a "panning assay". For example, the gene library can be cloned into the gene for a surface membrane protein of a bacterial cell, and the resulting fusion protein detected by panning (Ladner et al., WO 10 88/06630; Fuchs et al. (1991) *Bio/Technology* 9:1370-1371; and Goward et al. (1992) *TIBS* 18:136-140). In a similar fashion, a detectably labeled ligand can be used to score for potentially functional peptide homologs. Fluorescently labeled ligands, e.g., receptors, can be used to detect homolog which retain ligand-binding activity. The use of fluorescently labeled ligands, allows cells to be visually inspected and separated under a fluorescence microscope, 15 or, where the morphology of the cell permits, to be separated by a fluorescence-activated cell sorter.

A gene library can be expressed as a fusion protein on the surface of a viral particle. For instance, in the filamentous phage system, foreign peptide sequences can be expressed on the surface of infectious phage, thereby conferring two significant benefits. First, since these 20 phage can be applied to affinity matrices at concentrations well over  $10^{13}$  phage per milliliter, a large number of phage can be screened at one time. Second, since each infectious phage displays a gene product on its surface, if a particular phage is recovered from an affinity matrix in low yield, the phage can be amplified by another round of infection. The group of almost identical *E. coli* filamentous phages M13, fd., and f1 are most often used in phage 25 display libraries. Either of the phage gIII or gVIII coat proteins can be used to generate fusion proteins without disrupting the ultimate packaging of the viral particle. Foreign epitopes can be expressed at the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal end of pIII and phage bearing such epitopes recovered from a large excess of phage lacking this epitope (Ladner et al. PCT publication WO 90/02909; Garrard et al., PCT publication WO 92/09690; Marks et al. (1992) *J. Biol.* 30 *Chem.* 267:16007-16010; Griffiths et al. (1993) *EMBO J* 12:725-734; Clackson et al. (1991) *Nature* 352:624-628; and Barbas et al. (1992) *PNAS* 89:4457-4461).

A common approach uses the maltose receptor of *E. coli* (the outer membrane protein, LamB) as a peptide fusion partner (Charbit et al. (1986) *EMBO* 5, 3029-3037). Oligonucleotides have been inserted into plasmids encoding the LamB gene to produce 35 peptides fused into one of the extracellular loops of the protein. These peptides are available for binding to ligands, e.g., to antibodies, and can elicit an immune response when the cells are administered to animals. Other cell surface proteins, e.g., OmpA (Schorr et al. (1991) *Vaccines* 9, pp. 387-392), PhoE (Agterberg, et al. (1990) *Gene* 88, 37-45), and PAL (Fuchs et al. (1991) *Bio/Tech* 9, 1369-1372), as well as large bacterial surface structures have served 40 as vehicles for peptide display. Peptides can be fused to pilin, a protein which polymerizes to form the pilus-a conduit for interbacterial exchange of genetic information (Thiry et al. (1989) *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 55, 984-993). Because of its role in interacting with other cells, the pilus provides a useful support for the presentation of peptides to the extracellular

5 environment. Another large surface structure used for peptide display is the bacterial motive organ, the flagellum. Fusion of peptides to the subunit protein flagellin offers a dense array of may peptides copies on the host cells (Kuwajima et al. (1988) *Bio/Tech.* 6, 1080-1083). Surface proteins of other bacterial species have also served as peptide fusion partners. Examples include the *Staphylococcus* protein A and the outer membrane protease IgA of  
10 *Neisseria* (Hansson et al. (1992) *J. Bacteriol.* 174, 4239-4245 and Klauser et al. (1990) *EMBO J.* 9, 1991-1999).

In the filamentous phage systems and the LamB system described above, the physical link between the peptide and its encoding DNA occurs by the containment of the DNA within a particle (cell or phage) that carries the peptide on its surface. Capturing the peptide captures  
15 the particle and the DNA within. An alternative scheme uses the DNA-binding protein LacI to form a link between peptide and DNA (Cull et al. (1992) *PNAS USA* 89:1865-1869). This system uses a plasmid containing the LacI gene with an oligonucleotide cloning site at its 3'-end. Under the controlled induction by arabinose, a LacI-peptide fusion protein is produced. This fusion retains the natural ability of LacI to bind to a short DNA sequence known as  
20 LacO operator (LacO). By installing two copies of LacO on the expression plasmid, the LacI-peptide fusion binds tightly to the plasmid that encoded it. Because the plasmids in each cell contain only a single oligonucleotide sequence and each cell expresses only a single peptide sequence, the peptides become specifically and stably associated with the DNA sequence that directed its synthesis. The cells of the library are gently lysed and the peptide-  
25 DNA complexes are exposed to a matrix of immobilized receptor to recover the complexes containing active peptides. The associated plasmid DNA is then reintroduced into cells for amplification and DNA sequencing to determine the identity of the peptide ligands. As a demonstration of the practical utility of the method, a large random library of dodecapeptides was made and selected on a monoclonal antibody raised against the opioid peptide dynorphin  
30 B. A cohort of peptides was recovered, all related by a consensus sequence corresponding to a six-residue portion of dynorphin B. (Cull et al. (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89-1869)

This scheme, sometimes referred to as peptides-on-plasmids, differs in two important ways from the phage display methods. First, the peptides are attached to the C-terminus of  
35 the fusion protein, resulting in the display of the library members as peptides having free carboxy termini. Both of the filamentous phage coat proteins, pIII and pVIII, are anchored to the phage through their C-termini, and the guest peptides are placed into the outward-extending N-terminal domains. In some designs, the phage-displayed peptides are presented right at the amino terminus of the fusion protein. (Cwirla, et al. (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*  
40 *U.S.A.* 87, 6378-6382) A second difference is the set of biological biases affecting the population of peptides actually present in the libraries. The LacI fusion molecules are confined to the cytoplasm of the host cells. The phage coat fusions are exposed briefly to the cytoplasm during translation but are rapidly secreted through the inner membrane into the

5 periplasmic compartment, remaining anchored in the membrane by their C-terminal hydrophobic domains, with the N-termini, containing the peptides, protruding into the periplasm while awaiting assembly into phage particles. The peptides in the LacI and phage libraries may differ significantly as a result of their exposure to different proteolytic activities. The phage coat proteins require transport across the inner membrane and signal peptidase  
10 processing as a prelude to incorporation into phage. Certain peptides exert a deleterious effect on these processes and are underrepresented in the libraries (Gallop et al. (1994) *J. Med. Chem.* 37(9):1233-1251). These particular biases are not a factor in the LacI display system.

The number of small peptides available in recombinant random libraries is enormous.  
15 Libraries of  $10^7$ - $10^9$  independent clones are routinely prepared. Libraries as large as  $10^{11}$  recombinants have been created, but this size approaches the practical limit for clone libraries. This limitation in library size occurs at the step of transforming the DNA containing randomized segments into the host bacterial cells. To circumvent this limitation, an *in vitro* system based on the display of nascent peptides in polysome complexes has  
20 recently been developed. This display library method has the potential of producing libraries 3-6 orders of magnitude larger than the currently available phage/phagemid or plasmid libraries. Furthermore, the construction of the libraries, expression of the peptides, and screening, is done in an entirely cell-free format.

In one application of this method (Gallop et al. (1994) *J. Med. Chem.* 37(9):1233-  
25 1251), a molecular DNA library encoding  $10^{12}$  decapeptides was constructed and the library expressed in an *E. coli* S30 *in vitro* coupled transcription/translation system. Conditions were chosen to stall the ribosomes on the mRNA, causing the accumulation of a substantial proportion of the RNA in polysomes and yielding complexes containing nascent peptides still linked to their encoding RNA. The polysomes are sufficiently robust to be affinity purified  
30 on immobilized receptors in much the same way as the more conventional recombinant peptide display libraries are screened. RNA from the bound complexes is recovered, converted to cDNA, and amplified by PCR to produce a template for the next round of synthesis and screening. The polysome display method can be coupled to the phage display system. Following several rounds of screening, cDNA from the enriched pool of polysomes  
35 was cloned into a phagemid vector. This vector serves as both a peptide expression vector, displaying peptides fused to the coat proteins, and as a DNA sequencing vector for peptide identification. By expressing the polysome-derived peptides on phage, one can either continue the affinity selection procedure in this format or assay the peptides on individual clones for binding activity in a phage ELISA, or for binding specificity in a completion phage  
40 ELISA (Barret, et al. (1992) *Anal. Biochem.* 204,357-364). To identify the sequences of the active peptides one sequences the DNA produced by the phagemid host.

#### Secondary Screens



5           The high through-put assays described above can be followed by secondary screens in order to identify further biological activities which will, e.g., allow one skilled in the art to differentiate agonists from antagonists. The type of a secondary screen used will depend on the desired activity that needs to be tested. For example, an assay can be developed in which the ability to inhibit an interaction between a protein of interest and its respective ligand can  
10 be used to identify antagonists from a group of peptide fragments isolated through one of the primary screens described above.

          Therefore, methods for generating fragments and analogs and testing them for activity are known in the art. Once the core sequence of interest is identified, it is routine to perform for one skilled in the art to obtain analogs and fragments.

15

### Peptide Mimetics

          The invention also provides for reduction of the protein binding domains of the subject  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptides to generate mimetics, e.g. peptide or non-peptide agents. See, for example, "Peptide inhibitors of human papillomavirus protein binding to retinoblastoma  
20 gene protein" European patent applications EP-412,762A and EP-B31,080A.

          Non-hydrolyzable peptide analogs of critical residues can be generated using benzodiazepine (e.g., see Freidinger et al. in *Peptides: Chemistry and Biology*, G.R. Marshall ed., ESCOM Publisher: Leiden, Netherlands, 1988), azepine (e.g., see Huffman et al. in  
25 *Peptides: Chemistry and Biology*, G.R. Marshall ed., ESCOM Publisher: Leiden, Netherlands, 1988), substituted gamma lactam rings (Garvey et al. in *Peptides: Chemistry and Biology*, G.R. Marshall ed., ESCOM Publisher: Leiden, Netherlands, 1988), keto-methylene pseudopeptides (Ewenson et al. (1986) *J Med Chem* 29:295; and Ewenson et al. in *Peptides: Structure and Function* (Proceedings of the 9th American Peptide Symposium) Pierce  
30 Chemical Co. Rockland, IL, 1985),  $\beta$ -turn dipeptide cores (Nagai et al. (1985) *Tetrahedron Lett* 26:647; and Sato et al. (1986) *J Chem Soc Perkin Trans* 1:1231), and  $\beta$ -aminoalcohols (Gordon et al. (1985) *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 126:419; and Dann et al. (1986) *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 134:71).

### 35 Antibodies

          The invention also includes antibodies specifically reactive with a subject  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  polypeptides. Anti-protein/anti-peptide antisera or monoclonal antibodies can be made by standard protocols (See, for example, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* ed. by Harlow and Lane (Cold Spring Harbor Press: 1988)).

40           Antibodies which specifically bind  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  epitopes can also be used in immunohistochemical staining of tissue samples in order to evaluate the abundance and pattern of expression of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$ . Anti  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  antibodies can be used diagnostically in

5 immuno-precipitation and immuno-blotting to detect and evaluate  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  levels in tissue or bodily fluid as part of a clinical testing procedure.

Another application of antibodies of the present invention is in the immunological screening of cDNA libraries constructed in expression vectors such as  $\lambda$ gt11,  $\lambda$ gt18-23,  $\lambda$ ZAP, and  $\lambda$ ORF8. Messenger libraries of this type, having coding sequences inserted in the  
10 correct reading frame and orientation, can produce fusion proteins. For instance,  $\lambda$ gt11 will produce fusion proteins whose amino termini consist of  $\beta$ -galactosidase amino acid sequences and whose carboxy termini consist of a foreign polypeptide. Antigenic epitopes of a subject polypeptide can then be detected with antibodies, as, for example, reacting nitrocellulose filters lifted from infected plates with antibodies of the invention. Phage, scored by this  
15 assay, can then be isolated from the infected plate. Thus, the presence of homologs can be detected and cloned from other animals, and alternate isoforms (including splicing variants) can be detected and cloned from human sources.

20

#### *Other Embodiments*

Included in the invention are: allelic variations; natural mutants; induced mutants; proteins encoded by DNA that hybridizes under high or low stringency conditions to a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3 (for definitions  
25 of high and low stringency see Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1989, 6.3.1 - 6.3.6, hereby incorporated by reference); and, polypeptides specifically bound by antisera to  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$ .

Nucleic acids and polypeptides of the invention includes those that differ from the sequences disclosed herein by virtue of sequencing errors in the disclosed sequences.

30 The invention also includes fragments, preferably biologically active fragments, or analogs of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$ . A biologically active fragment or analog is one having any in vivo or in vitro activity which is characteristic of  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$  shown in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:1, respectively, or of other naturally occurring  $\gamma 3$  or  $\beta 4$ , e.g., one or more of the biological activities described above. Especially preferred are fragments which exist in vivo,  
35 e.g., fragments which arise from post transcriptional processing or which arise from translation of alternatively spliced RNA's. Fragments include those expressed in native or endogenous cells, e.g., as a result of post-translational processing, e.g., as the result of the removal of an amino-terminal signal sequence, as well as those made in expression systems, e.g., in CHO cells. Particularly preferred fragments are fragments, e.g., active fragments,  
40 which are generated by proteolytic cleavage or alternative splicing events.

5

Other embodiments are within the following claims.  
What is claimed is:

**EDITORIAL NOTE-NO.10765/99**

**This specification contains a sequence listing following the description and is numbered as follows:**

**Sequence listing pages 1 to 61**

**Claim pages 41 to 46**

## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Burgeson, Robert  
 Champlaud, Marie-France  
 Olson, Pamela  
 Koch, Manuel  
 Brunken, William

<120> LAMININS AND USES THEREOF

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<150> US 09/168,948

<151> 1998-10-09

<150> US 60/061,609

<151> 1997-10-10

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<211> 1761

<212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

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			20					25					30		
Gly	Asp	Leu	Leu	Val	Gly	Arg	Asn	Thr	Gln	Leu	Met	Ala	Ser	Ser	Thr
		35					40					45			
Cys	Gly	Leu	Ser	Arg	Ala	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Cys	Ile	Leu	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Glu
	50					55					60				
Gly	Glu	Gln	Lys	Cys	Ser	Ile	Cys	Asp	Ser	Arg	Phe	Pro	Tyr	Asp	Pro
	65				70					75					80
Tyr	Asp	Gln	Pro	Asn	Ser	His	Thr	Ile	Glu	Asn	Val	Thr	Val	Ser	Phe
				85					90					95	
Glu	Pro	Asp	Arg	Glu	Lys	Lys	Trp	Trp	Gln	Ser	Glu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Asp
			100					105					110		
His	Val	Ser	Ile	Arg	Leu	Asp	Leu	Glu	Ala	Leu	Phe	Arg	Phe	Ser	His
		115					120					125			
Leu	Ile	Leu	Thr	Phe	Lys	Thr	Phe	Arg	Pro	Ala	Ala	Met	Leu	Val	Glu
	130					135					140				
Arg	Ser	Thr	Asp	Tyr	Gly	His	Asn	Trp	Lys	Val	Phe	Lys	Tyr	Phe	Ala
	145				150					155					160
Lys	Asp	Cys	Ala	Thr	Ser	Phe	Pro	Asn	Ile	Thr	Ser	Gly	Gln	Ala	Gln
				165					170					175	
Gly	Val	Gly	Asp	Ile	Val	Cys	Asp	Ser	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Asp	Ile	Glu	Pro
			180					185					190		
Ser	Thr	Gly	Gly	Glu	Val	Val	Leu	Lys	Val	Leu	Asp	Pro	Ser	Phe	Glu
		195					200					205			
Ile	Glu	Asn	Pro	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Tyr	Ile	Gln	Asp	Leu	Val	Thr	Leu	Thr
	210					215					220				
Asn	Leu	Arg	Ile	Asn	Phe	Thr	Lys	Leu	His	Thr	Leu	Gly	Asp	Ala	Leu
	225				230					235					240
Leu	Gly	Arg	Arg	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ser	Leu	Asp	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Tyr	Ala	Leu
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1761

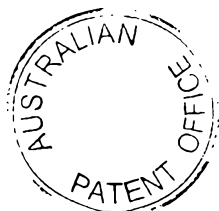
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BRITISH



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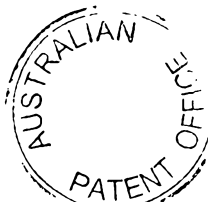
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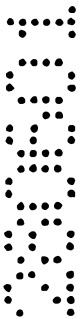
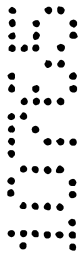
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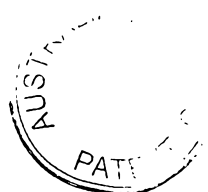
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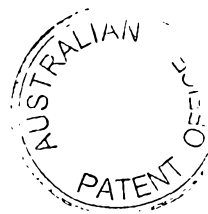
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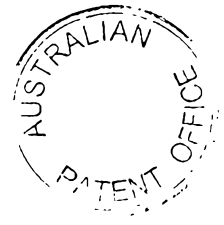
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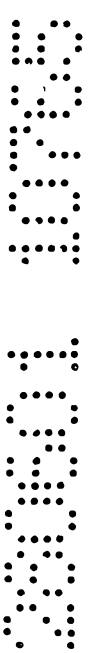
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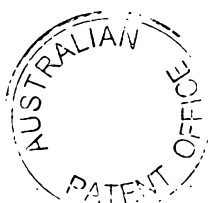
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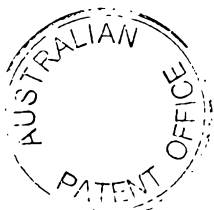
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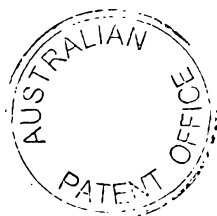


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Cys Gln Lys Thr Tyr Gly Arg Pro Glu Gly Gln Tyr Leu Arg Pro Gly	
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Glu Asp Glu Arg Val Ala Phe Cys Thr Ser Glu Phe Ser Asp Ile Ser	
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Pro Leu Ser Gly Gly Asn Val Ala Phe Ser Thr Leu Glu Gly Arg Pro	
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Ser Ala Tyr Asn Phe Glu Glu Ser Pro Gly Leu Gln Glu Trp Val Thr	
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Ser Thr Glu Leu Leu Ile Ser Leu Asp Arg Leu Asn Thr Phe Gly Asp	
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Asp Ile Phe Lys Asp Pro Lys Val Leu Gln Ser Tyr Tyr Tyr Ala Val	
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Ser Asp Phe Ser Val Gly Gly Arg Cys Lys Cys Asn Gly His Ala Ser	
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Glu Cys Gly Pro Asp Val Ala Gly Gln Leu Ala Cys Arg Cys Gln His	
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Arg Pro Trp Ala Arg Gly Thr Ala Glu Ala Ala His Glu Cys Leu Pro	
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Phe Arg Ser Thr Gly His Gly Gly Arg Cys His His Cys Arg Asp His	
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Thr Ala Gly Pro His Cys Glu Arg Cys Gln Glu Asn Phe Tyr His Trp	
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Asp Pro Arg Met Pro Cys Gln Pro Cys Asp Cys Gln Ser Ala Gly Ser	
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Asp	Thr	Cys	Asp	Pro	Arg	Ser	Gly	Arg	Cys	Pro	Cys	Lys	Glu	Asn	Val	
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Pro	His	Asn	Pro	Ala	Gly	Cys	Ser	Ser	Cys	Phe	Cys	Tyr	Gly	His	Ser	
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Lys	Val	Cys	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ala	Gln	Phe	Gln	Val	His	His	Ile	Leu	Ser	
			490					495					500			
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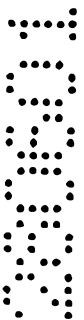
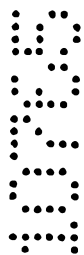
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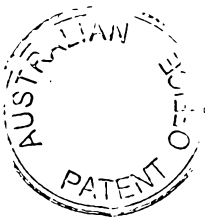




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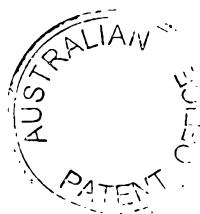
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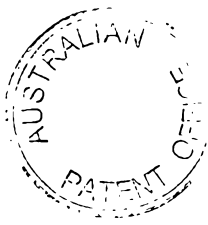
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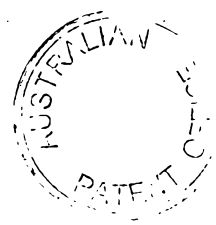
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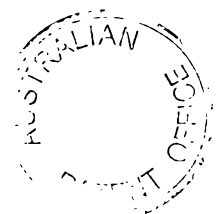
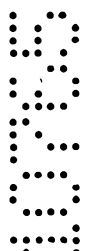
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 Phe Pro Tyr Asp Pro Tyr Asp Gln Pro Asn Ser His Thr Ile Glu Asn  
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Sequence logo visualization showing nucleotide conservation across the sequence. The vertical axis represents the sequence position, and the horizontal axis represents the four nucleotides (A, C, G, T). The height of the dots indicates the relative frequency or conservation of each nucleotide at that position.



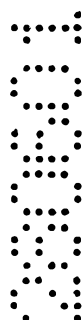
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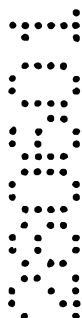


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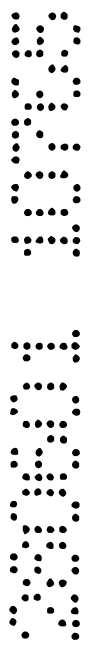
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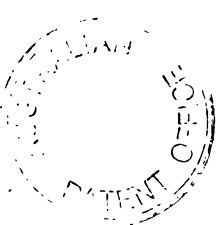
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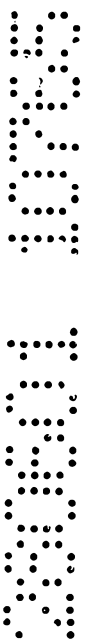


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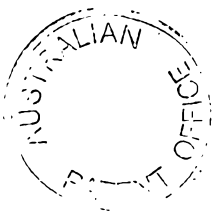


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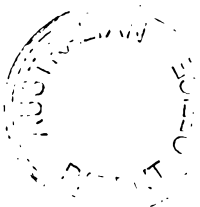
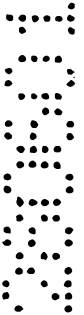
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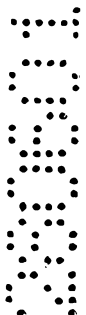


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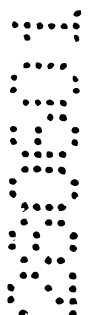




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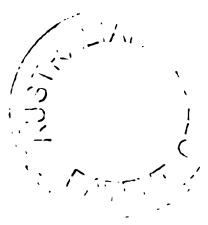


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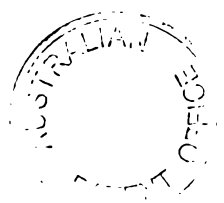




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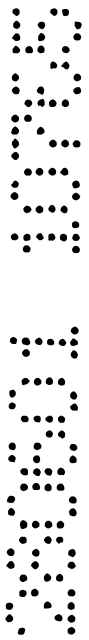
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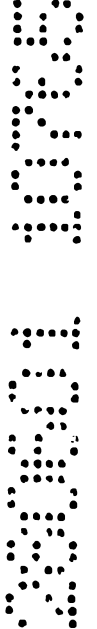
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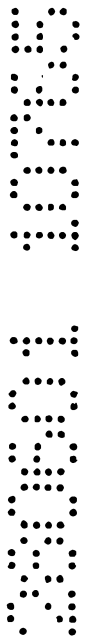


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ggc att gag acg cca cag tgt gac cag tcc acg ggc cag tgt gtc tgc Gly Ile Glu Thr Pro Gln Cys Asp Gln Ser Thr Gly Gln Cys Val Cys 1140 1145 1150	3576
gtt gag ggt gtt gag ggt cca cgc tgt gac aag tgc acg cga ggg tac Val Glu Gly Val Glu Gly Pro Arg Cys Asp Lys Cys Thr Arg Gly Tyr 1155 1160 1165	3624
tcg ggg gtc ttc cct gac tgc aca ccc tgc cac cag tgc ttt gct ctc Ser Gly Val Phe Pro Asp Cys Thr Pro Cys His Gln Cys Phe Ala Leu 1170 1175 1180 1185	3672
tgg gat gtg atc att gcc gag ctg acc aac agg aca cac aga ttc ctg Trp Asp Val Ile Ile Ala Glu Leu Thr Asn Arg Thr His Arg Phe Leu 1190 1195 1200	3720

gag aaa gcc aag gcc ttg aag atc agt ggt gtg atc ggg cct tac cgt	3768
Glu Lys Ala Lys Ala Leu Lys Ile Ser Gly Val Ile Gly Pro Tyr Arg	
1205 1210 1215	
gag act gtg gac tcg gtg gag agg aaa gtc agc gag ata aaa gac atc	3816
Glu Thr Val Asp Ser Val Glu Arg Lys Val Ser Glu Ile Lys Asp Ile	
1220 1225 1230	
ctg gcg cag agc ccc gca gca gag cca ctg aaa aac att ggg aat ctc	3864
Leu Ala Gln Ser Pro Ala Ala Glu Pro Leu Lys Asn Ile Gly Asn Leu	
1235 1240 1245	
ttt gag gaa gca gag aaa ctg att aaa gat gtt aca gaa atg atg gct	3912
Phe Glu Glu Ala Glu Lys Leu Ile Lys Asp Val Thr Glu Met Met Ala	
1250 1255 1260 1265	
caa gta gaa gtg aaa tta tct gac aca act tcc caa agc aac agc aca	3960
Gln Val Glu Val Lys Leu Ser Asp Thr Thr Ser Gln Ser Asn Ser Thr	
1270 1275 1280	
gcc aaa gaa ctg gat tct cta cag aca gaa gcc gaa agc cta gac aac	4008
Ala Lys Glu Leu Asp Ser Leu Gln Thr Glu Ala Glu Ser Leu Asp Asn	
1285 1290 1295	
act gtg aaa gaa ctt gct gaa caa ctg gaa ttt atc aaa aac tca gat	4056
Thr Val Lys Glu Leu Ala Glu Gln Leu Glu Phe Ile Lys Asn Ser Asp	
1300 1305 1310	
att cgg ggt gcc ttg gat agc att acc aag tat ttc cag atg tct ctt	4104
Ile Arg Gly Ala Leu Asp Ser Ile Thr Lys Tyr Phe Gln Met Ser Leu	
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1330 1335 1340 1345	
gtg gag cag tca gcc ctc atg aga gac aga gta gaa gac gtg atg atg	4200
Val Glu Gln Ser Ala Leu Met Arg Asp Arg Val Glu Asp Val Met Met	
1350 1355 1360	
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1365 1370 1375	
ctt gat gaa ctg gca ggc aag cta caa agc cta gac ctt tca gcc gct	4296
Leu Asp Glu Leu Ala Gly Lys Leu Gln Ser Leu Asp Leu Ser Ala Ala	
1380 1385 1390	
gcc gaa atg acc tgt gga aca ccc cca ggg gcc tcc tgt tcc gag act	4344
Ala Glu Met Thr Cys Gly Thr Pro Pro Gly Ala Ser Cys Ser Glu Thr	
1395 1400 1405	
gaa tgt ggc ggg cca aac tgc aga act gac gaa gga gag agg aag tgt	4392
Glu Cys Gly Gly Pro Asn Cys Arg Thr Asp Glu Gly Glu Arg Lys Cys	
1410 1415 1420 1425	
ggg ggg cct ggc tgt ggt ggt ctg gtt act gtt gca cac aac gcc tgg	4440
Gly Gly Pro Gly Cys Gly Gly Leu Val Thr Val Ala His Asn Ala Trp	
1430 1435 1440	



cag aaa gcc atg gac ttg gac caa gat gtc ctg agt gcc ctg gct gaa Gln Lys Ala Met Asp Leu Asp Gln Asp Val Leu Ser Ala Leu Ala Glu 1445 1450 1455	4488
gtg gaa cag ctc tcc aag atg gtc tct gaa gca aaa ctg agg gca gat Val Glu Gln Leu Ser Lys Met Val Ser Glu Ala Lys Leu Arg Ala Asp 1460 1465 1470	4536
gag gca aaa caa agt gct gaa gac att ctg ttg aag aca aat gct acc Glu Ala Lys Gln Ser Ala Glu Asp Ile Leu Leu Lys Thr Asn Ala Thr 1475 1480 1485	4584
aaa gaa aaa atg gac aag agc aat gag gag ctg aga aat cta atc aag Lys Glu Lys Met Asp Lys Ser Asn Glu Glu Leu Arg Asn Leu Ile Lys 1490 1495 1500 1505	4632
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gaa gca gtt gct aat gaa gta ttg aaa atg gag atg cct agc acc cca Glu Ala Val Ala Asn Glu Val Leu Lys Met Glu Met Pro Ser Thr Pro 1525 1530 1535	4728
cag cag tta cag aac ttg aca gaa gat ata cgt gaa cga gtt gaa agc Gln Gln Leu Gln Asn Leu Thr Glu Asp Ile Arg Glu Arg Val Glu Ser 1540 1545 1550	4776
ctt tct caa gta gag gtt att ctt cag cat agt gct gct gac att gcc Leu Ser Gln Val Glu Val Ile Leu Gln His Ser Ala Ala Asp Ile Ala 1555 1560 1565	4824
aga gct gag atg ttg tta gaa gaa gct aaa aga gca agc aaa agt gca Arg Ala Glu Met Leu Leu Glu Glu Ala Lys Arg Ala Ser Lys Ser Ala 1570 1575 1580 1585	4872
aca gat gtt aaa gtc act gca gat atg gta aag gaa gct ctg gaa gaa Thr Asp Val Lys Val Thr Ala Asp Met Val Lys Glu Ala Leu Glu Glu 1590 1595 1600	4920
gca gaa aag gcc cag gtc gca gca gag aag gca att aaa caa gca gat Ala Glu Lys Ala Gln Val Ala Ala Glu Lys Ala Ile Lys Gln Ala Asp 1605 1610 1615	4968
gaa gac att caa gga acc cag aac ctg tta act tcg att gag tct gaa Glu Asp Ile Gln Gly Thr Gln Asn Leu Leu Thr Ser Ile Glu Ser Glu 1620 1625 1630	5016
aca gca gct tct gag gaa acc ttg ttc aac gcg tcc cag cgc atc agc Thr Ala Ala Ser Glu Glu Thr Leu Phe Asn Ala Ser Gln Arg Ile Ser 1635 1640 1645	5064
gag tta gag agg aat gtg gaa gaa ctt aag cgg aaa gct gcc caa aac Glu Leu Glu Arg Asn Val Glu Glu Leu Lys Arg Lys Ala Ala Gln Asn 1650 1655 1660 1665	5112
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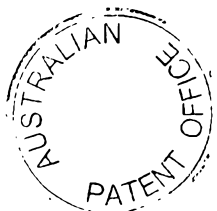
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Ser Ala Glu Asp Val Lys Lys Thr Leu Asp Gly Glu Leu Asp Glu Lys	
1685 1690 1695	
tat aaa aaa gta gaa aat tta att gcc aaa aaa act gaa gag tca gct	5256
Tyr Lys Lys Val Glu Asn Leu Ile Ala Lys Lys Thr Glu Glu Ser Ala	
1700 1705 1710	
gat gcc aga agg aaa gcc gaa atg cta caa aat gaa gca aaa act ctt	5304
Asp Ala Arg Arg Lys Ala Glu Met Leu Gln Asn Glu Ala Lys Thr Leu	
1715 1720 1725	
tta gct caa gca aat agc aag ctg caa ctg ctc aaa gat tta gaa aga	5352
Leu Ala Gln Ala Asn Ser Lys Leu Gln Leu Leu Lys Asp Leu Glu Arg	
1730 1735 1740 1745	
aaa tat gaa gac aat caa aga tac tta gaa gat aaa gct caa gaa tta	5400
Lys Tyr Glu Asp Asn Gln Arg Tyr Leu Glu Asp Lys Ala Gln Glu Leu	
1750 1755 1760	
gca aga ctg gaa gga gaa gtc cgt tca ctc cta aag gat ata agc cag	5448
Ala Arg Leu Glu Gly Glu Val Arg Ser Leu Leu Lys Asp Ile Ser Gln	
1765 1770 1775	
aaa gtt gct gtg tat agc aca tgc ttg taacagagga gaataaaaa	5495
Lys Val Ala Val Tyr Ser Thr Cys Leu	
1780 1785	
tggctgaggt gaacaaggta aaacaactac attttaaaaa ctgacttaat gctcttcaaa	5555
ataaaacatc acctatttaa tgtttttaat cacattttgt atgagttaa taaagccc	5613

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The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. An isolated laminin 12  $\gamma$ 3 subunit.
- 5 2. The isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit of claim 1, having at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- 10 3. The isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit of claim 1 or claim 2, having at least 90% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- 15 4. The isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit of any one of claims 1 to 3, having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- 20 5. The isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit of any one of claims 1 to 4, encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 25 6. An isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- 30 7. An isolated  $\gamma$ 3 subunit obtainable by reducing laminin 12 in 10% 2-mercaptoethanol, SDS-PAGE sample buffer, resolving three bands by 5% SDS-PAGE, obtaining the 170 kDa band, digesting the band with trypsin, and resolving the band by HPLC.
- 35 8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule having at least 85% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or the nucleic acid sequence of ATCC Accession No:209357.
9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, having at least 90% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of



SED ID NO:4 or the nucleic acid sequence of ATCC Accession No:209357.

10. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 or claim 9, having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or the nucleic acid sequence of ATCC Accession No:209357.

11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4 or the nucleic acid sequence of ATCC Accession No:209357.

12. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 8 to 11.

13. A cell comprising the purified nucleic acid of any one of claims 8 to 11.

14. An isolated laminin 12 molecule comprising an  $\alpha 2$  subunit, a  $\beta 1$  subunit and a  $\gamma 3$  subunit.

15. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\gamma 3$  subunit is a  $\gamma 3$  subunit of any of claims 1 to 7.

16. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\alpha 2$  subunit has at least 80% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

17. The laminin 12 of claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the  $\alpha 2$  subunit has at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

18. The laminin 12 of any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the  $\alpha 2$  subunit has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.



19. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\alpha 2$  subunit comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

20. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\alpha 2$  subunit is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:8.

21. The laminin 12 of claim 14 or claim 20, wherein the  $\beta 1$  subunit has at least 80% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

22. The laminin 12 of claim 14 or claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the  $\beta 1$  subunit has at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

23. The laminin 12 of any one of claims 14 or 20 to 22, wherein the  $\beta 1$  subunit has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

24. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\beta 1$  subunit comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

25. The laminin 12 of claim 14, wherein the  $\beta 1$  subunit is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:10.

26. An isolated laminin 12  $\beta 4$  subunit.

27. The isolated  $\beta 4$  subunit of claim 26, having at least 80% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. The isolated  $\beta 4$  subunit of claim 26 or claim 27 having at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid



sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. The isolated  $\beta$ 4 subunit of any one of claims 26 to 28, having at least 90% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. The isolated  $\beta$ 4 subunit of any one of claims 26 to 29, having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. The isolated  $\beta$ 4 subunit of claim 26, encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

32. An isolated  $\beta$ 4 subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

33. An isolated nucleic acid molecule having at least 80% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. The nucleic acid sequence of claim 33, having at least 85% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

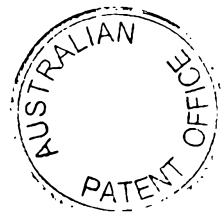
35. The nucleic acid sequence of claim 33 or claim 34, having at least 90% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. The nucleic acid sequence of any one of claims 33 to 35, having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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38. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 33 to 37.

39. A cell containing the purified nucleic acid of  
5 any one of claims 33 to 37.

40. An isolated laminin 12  $\gamma$ 3 subunit according to claim 1, substantially as herein described with reference to the examples and drawings.

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41. An isolated laminin 12  $\beta$ 4 subunit according to claim 26, substantially as herein described with reference to the examples and drawings.

15 42. An isolated laminin 12 molecule according to claim 14, substantially as herein described with reference to the examples and drawings.

20 43. Use of a laminin 12 subunit, according to any one of claims 1, 14 or 26, for the preparation of a medicament for the inhibition of connective tissue adhesion; the promotion of wound healing; adhesion of dormant dermal and epidermal cells, nerve growth or regeneration; treatment of a disorder associated with the misexpression of a  
25 laminin; a disorder of the central or peripheral nervous system; a disorder associated with a genetic lesion at chromosome 9, region q31-34; Fukuyama-type muscular dystrophy; muscle-eye-brain disease; Walker-Warburg Syndrome (hydrocephalus, ageria, and retinal displasia);  
30 a retinal disorder, a disorder associated with abnormal levels, of adhesion between tissues; a disorder associated with the basement membrane; a skin disorder; a disorder associated with the testis, spleen, placenta, thymus, ovary, small intestine, lung, or liver.

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44. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 8, 10, 33 and 37, substantially as



herein described with reference to the examples and drawings.

Dated this 28th day of June 2001

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THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION

By their Patent Attorneys

GRIFFITH HACK

Fellows Institute of Patent and

10 Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia

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10001



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cDNA sequence encoding laminin  $\alpha$ 2 subunit

1 cagcgactcc tctggctccc gagaagtgga tccggtcgcg gccactacga tgccgggagc  
 61 cgccggggc ctcctcctc tgetgctctc cggaggcctc gggggcgctac aggcgcagcg  
 121 gccgcagcag cagcggcagt cacaggcaca tcagcaaaga ggttattcc ctgctgctct  
 181 gaatctgct tcaatgctc ttatcacgac caatgcaaca tgtggagaaa aaggacctga  
 241 aatgtactgc aaattggtag aacatgtccc tgggcagcct gtgaggaacc cgagtgctg  
 301 aatctgcaat caaacagca gcaatccaaa ccagagacac ccgattacaa atgctattga  
 361 tggaaagaac acttggtggc agagtccag tattaagaat ggaatcgaat accattatg  
 421 gacaattaca ctggattac agcaggtgtt ccagatcgcg tatgtattg tgaaggcagc  
 481 taactcccc cgccctggaa actggattt ggaacgctct cttgatgatg tgaatacaa  
 541 gccctggcag tatcatgctg tgacagacac ggagtgccta acgctttaca atattatcc  
 601 ccgactggg ccaccgtcat atgccaaga tgatgaggc atctgcactt cattttact  
 661 caagatacac ccctagaaa atggagagat tcacatctt ttaatcaatg ggagaccaag  
 721 tgccgatgat cctctccag aactgctaga atttacctc gctcgtata ttcgctgag  
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 1381 caaaactggt ttggaggtg tgagctgtga tgggtgtgccc aggggctaca ctggctacc  
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 1561 ctcaatttg caagaggata attggaagg ctgcatgag tgtttctgt caggggttc  
 1621 aaacagatg cagagttct actggaccta tggcaaaata caagatatga gtgctggtg  
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 1981 cccatctgaa gaacatacta atgtattgtt acttaaagaa gaatcattt ccatatg  
 2041 cacacattt ccagtcgta gaaaggaatt tatgacagt cttgcgaatt tgaagagagt  
 2101 cctctacaa atcacatata gctttggat ggatgccatc ttcaggttga gctctgtaa  
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FIG. 1A

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



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 3721 gagagaagat ctcatttgg aacctttta ttggaaactt cgaacaat tgaaggaaa  
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 5221 gattaagaa ctgaggagga aaaaactaga gacacaaaag gaaattgctg aagatgagt  
 5281 ggtagctgca gaagcccttc tgaaaaaagt gaagaagctg tttggagagt cccgggggga  
 5341 aatgaagaa atggagaagg atctccggga aaaactggct gactacaaaa acaaagtga  
 5401 tgaacttgg gacctttga gagaagccac agataaaatc agagaagcta atcgcctatt  
 5461 tgcagtaaat cagaaaaaca tgactgcatt ggagaaaaag aaggaggctg ttgagagcgg  
 5521 caaacgacaa atgagaaca ctttaaaaga aggcaatgac atactcgtg aagccaaccg  
 5581 tctgcagat gaaatcaact ccatcataga ctatgtgaa gacatccaaa ctaaattgcc

FIG. 1B

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5641 acctatgtct gaggagctta atgataaaa atagatgacctc tcccaagaaa taaaggacag  
5701 gaagcttgct gagaaggtgt cccaggctga gagccacgca gctcagtga atgactcatc  
5761 tgctgtcctt gatggaatcc ttgatgaggc taaaaacatc tccctcaatg ccactgcagc  
5821 ctcaaaagct tacagcaata ttaaggacta tattgatgaa gctgagaaag ttgccaaga  
5881 agccaaagat ctgacatg aagctacaaa actggcaaca ggtcctcggg gtttataaa  
5941 ggaagatgcc aaaggctgct tcagaaaag ctccaggatt ctaacgaag ccaagaagt  
6001 agcaaatgat gtaaaagaaa atgaagacca tctaaatggc ttaaaaacca ggatagaaa  
6061 tgctgatgct agaaatgggg atctctgag aactttgaat gacacttgg gaaagtatc  
6121 agctattcca aatgatacag ctgctaaact gcaagctgtt aaggacaaag ccagacaagc  
6181 caacgacaca gctaaagatg tactggcaca gattacagag ctccaccaga acctcgatgg  
6241 cctgaagaag aattacaata aactagcaga cagcgtcgc aaaacgaatg ctgtggttaa  
6301 agatcctcc aagaacaaaa tcaatgccga tgcagatgcc actgtcaaaa attagaaca  
6361 ggaagctgac cggctaatag ataaactcaa accatcaag gaactggagg ataacctaaa  
6421 gaaaaacatc tctgagataa aggaattgat aaaccaagct cggaaacaag ccaattctat  
6481 caaagtatct gtgtctcag gaggtgactg cattcgaaca tacaaccag aatcaagaa  
6541 aggaagtac aataatattg ttgtcaactg aaagacagct gttgctgata acctcctt  
6601 ttatcttga agtgccaaat ttattgactt tctggctata gaaatgcgta aaggcaaagt  
6661 cagctctc tgggatgtg gatctggagt tggacgtga gactaccag attgactat  
6721 tgatgactca tattgttacc gtatctagc atcaagaact gggagaaatg gaactattc  
6781 tgtgagagcc ctggatggac ccaaagccag cattgtgcc agcacacacc attcgacgtc  
6841 tctccaggg tacacgattc tagatgtgga tgc aaatgca atgctgtttg ttggtggcct  
6901 gactgggaaa taaagaagg ctgatgctgt acgtgtgatt acattactg gctgcatggg  
6961 agaaacatac ttgacaaca aacctatagg ttgtggaat tccgagaaa aagaaggtga  
7021 ctgcaaagga tgcactgtca gtcctcaggt ggaagatagt gaggggacta tcaattga  
7081 tggagaaggt tatgattgg tcagccgtcc cattcgtgg taccacaaca tctcactgt  
7141 catgtcaag ttcagaacat ttcttcgag tctctctg atgtatcttg ccacagaga  
7201 cctgagagat tcatgagtg tggagctcac tgatgggac ataaaagtca gttacatct  
7261 gggctcagga atggctccg ttgacgcaa tcaaacat aatgatggga aatggaatc  
7321 attcactctg tcaagaattc aaaaacaagc caatatatca attgtagata tagatactaa  
7381 tcaggaggag aatatagcaa ctctctctc tggaaacaac ttgtgtctg actgaaagc  
7441 agatgacaaa atattttg gtggctgcc aacgtgaga aacttgatg tgaagcaag  
7501 gccagaagta aatctgaaga aatattccgg ctgcctcaaa gatattgaaa ttcaagaac  
7561 tccgtacaat atactcagta gtcccgatta tttggtgtt accaaaggat gttccctgga  
7621 gaatgttac acagttagt ttctaagcc tggttttg gagctctcc ctgtccaat  
7681 tgatgttaga acagaaatca acctgtcatt cagcaccag aatgagtcg gcatcattt  
7741 ttgggaagt ggaggacac cagcaccacc taggagaaaa cgaaggcaga ctggacaggg  
7801 ctattatgta atactctca acaggggccc tctggaagt catctctca caggggcagc  
7861 acaaatgagg aaaattgca tcagaccaga gccgaatctg ttcatgatg gaagagaaca  
7921 tccgttcat gtagagcga ctagagcatt cttacagtt caagtggatg aaacagaag  
7981 atacatgcaa aacctgacag tgaacagcc tctgaagt aaaaagctt tctgtggggg  
8041 tgctccact gaattcaac ctccccact cagaaatatt cctcctttg aaggctgcat  
8101 atggaatctt gttataact ctgtcccat ggactttgca aggcctgtgt cttcaaaaa  
8161 tgctgacatt ggtcgtgtg cccatcaga actccgtgaa gatgaagatg gacagctcc  
8221 agctgaaata gttatccagc ctgagccagt tcccaccca gccttctca cggccaccc  
8281 agttctgaca catggtcctt gtgctgaga atcagaacca gctctttga tagggagcaa  
8341 gcagttcggg cttcaagaa acagtacat tgcattgca ttgatgaca ccaagttaa  
8401 aaacctctc acaattgagt tggagtaag aaccgaagct gaatccggt tcttttta  
8461 catggtcgtg atcaatcatg ctgatttgc aacagttcag ctgagaaatg gattgccta

FIG. 1C

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8521 cttcagctat gacttgggga gtggggacac ccacaccatg atccccacca aaatcaatga  
8581 tggccagtgg cacaagatta agataatgag aagtaagcaa gaaggaattc ttatgtaga  
8641 tggggcttcc aacagaacca tcagtcccaa aaaagccgac atcctggatg tcgtgggaat  
8701 gctgtatgtt ggtgggttac ccatcaacta cactaccoga agaattggtc cagtgaacta  
8761 tagcattgat ggctgctga ggaatctcca catggcagag gccctgccc atctggaaca  
8821 acccacctcc agcttccatg tgggacatg ttttgcaat gctcagaggg gaacatatt  
8881 tgacggaacc ggttttcca aagcagttgg tggattcaaa gtgggattgg accttctgt  
8941 agaattgaa ttcgagaca ctacaacgac tggagtctt ctggggatca gtagtcaaaa  
9001 aatggatgga atgggtattg aatgattga tgaaaagtg atgttcatg tggacaatgg  
9061 tgcgggcaga ttcactgctg tctatgatgc tggggttcca gggcattgt gtgatggaca  
9121 atggcataaa gtcactgcca acaagatcaa acaccgatt gagctcacag tcgatggaa  
9181 ccaggtggaa gcccaaagc caaaccagc atctacatca gctgacaca atgaccctgt  
9241 gttgttga ggcttccag atgacctca gcagtttggc caacaacca gtattccgt  
9301 ccgaggtgc atcagatccc tgaagtcac caaaggcaca gcaagccact ggaggttaat  
9361 ttgccaagg ccctggaact gagggcggt caacctgtat catgcccagc caactaataa  
9421 aaataagtgt aacccagga agagtctgc aaaacaagta tatcaagtaa aacaacaaa  
9481 tatatttac ctatatatgt taattaaact aattgtgca tgtacataga attc

**FIG. 1D**

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**amino acid sequence of laminin  $\alpha$ 2 subunit**

MPGAAGVLLLLLLSGGLGGVQAQRPQQQRQSQAHQQRGLFPAVL  
NLASNALITTNATCGEKGPEMYCKLVEHVPGQPVRNPQCRICNQNSSNPQRHPITNA  
IDGKNTWWQSPSIKNGIEYHYVTITLDLQQVFQIAYVIVKAANSRPGNWILERSLDD  
VEYKPWQYHAVTDTECLTYNIYPRTGPPSYAKDDEVICTSFYSKIHPLENGEIHISL  
INGRPSADDPSELLEFTSARYIRLRFQIRITLNADLMMFAHKDPREIDPIVTRRYYY  
SVKDISVGGMCICYGHARACPLDPATNKSRCECEHNTCGDSCDQCCPGFHQKPWRAGT  
FLTKTECEACNCHGKAEECYDENVARRNLSLNIRGKYIGGGVCINCTQNTAGINCET  
CTDGGFRPKGVSPNYPRPCQPCHCDPIGSLNEVCVKDEKHARRGLAPGSCHCKTGFGG  
VSCDRCARGYTGYPDCKACNCSGLGSKNEDPCFGPCICKENVEGGDCSRCKSGFFNLQ  
EDNWKGCDECFCSGVSNRCQSSYWTYGKIQDMSGWYLTDLPGRIRVAPQQDDLDSPOQ  
ISISNAEARQALPHSYYSAPAPYLGNKLPAVGGQLTFTISYDLEEEEEEDTERVLQLM  
IILEGNDLSISTAQDEVYLHPSEEHTNVLLLKEESFTIHGTHFPVRRKEFMTVLANK  
RVLLQITYSFGMDAIFRLSSVNLESAVSYPTDGSIAAAVEVCQCPPGYTGSSCESCW  
RHRRVNGTIFGGICEPCQCFGHAESCDDVTGECLNCKDHTGGPYCDKCLPGFYGEPTK  
GTSEDCQPCACPLNIPSNFSPCHLDRSLGLICDGPVGYTGPRCERCAEGYFGQPS  
VPGGSCQPCQCNLDNDFSIPGSCDSLGSCLICKPGTTGRYCELCADGYFGDAVDAKN  
CQPCRCNAGGSFSEVCHSQTGQCECRANVQGQRCDKCKAGTFGLQSARGCVPCNCNSF  
GSKSFDCEESGQCWCQPGVTGKKCDRCAHGYNFQEGGCTACECSHLGNCDPKTGRC  
ICPPNTIGEKCSKCAPNTWGHSITTGCKACNCSTVGS�DFQCNVNTGQCNCHPKFSGA  
KCTECSRGHWNYPNLCDCFLPGTDATTCDSETKKCSCSDQTGQCTCKVNVEGIHCD  
RCRPGKFGLDAKNPLGCSSCYCFGTTTQCSEAKGLIRTWTLKAEQTILPLVDEALQH  
TTTKGIVFQHPEIVAHMDLMREDLHLEPFYWKLPQEFEGKLMAYGGKLYAIYFEAR  
EETGFSTYNPQVIIRGGTPTHARIIVRHMAAPLIGQLTRHEIEMTEKEWKYYGDDPRV

**FIG. 2A**

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HRTVTREDFLDILYDIHYILIKATYGNFMRQSRSEISMEVAEQGRGTTMTPPADLIE  
KCDCPLGYSGLSCEACLPGFYRLRSQPGGRTPGPTLGTCVPCQCNGHSSLCDPETSIC  
QNCQHHTAGDFCERCALGYYGIVKGLPNDCQQCACPLISSNNFSPSCVAEGLDDYRC  
TACPRGYEGQYCERCAPGYTGSPGNPGGSCQECECDPYGSLPVPCDPVTGFCTCRPGA  
TGRKCDGCKHWHAREGWECVFCGDECTGLLLGDLARLEQMVM SINLTGPLPAPYKMLY  
GLENMTQELKHLSPQRAPERLIQLAEGNLNTLVTEMNELLTRATKVTADGEQTGQDA  
ERTNTRAKSLGEFIKELARDAEAVNEKAIKLNELTGRDEAFERNLEGLQKEIDQMIK  
ELRRKNLETQKEIAEDELVAEALLKKVKKLFGESRGENEEMEKLREKLADYKNKVD  
DAWDLLEATDKIREANRLF AVNQKNMTALEKKKEAVESGKRQIENTLKEGNDILDEA  
NRLADEINSIIDYVEDIQTKLPPMSEELNDKIDDL SQEIKDRKLAEKV SQAESHA AQL  
NDSSAVLDGILDEAKNISFNATAAFKAYSNIKDYIDEAEKVAKEAKDLAHEATKLATG  
PRGLLKEDAKGCLQKSFRLNEAKKLANDVKENEDHLNGLKTR IENADARNGDLLRTL  
NDTLGKLSAIPNDTAAKLQAVKDKARQANDTAKDVLAQITELHQNL DGLKKNYNK LAD  
SVAKTNAVVKDPSKNKIADADATVKNLEQEADRLIDKLP IKELEDNLKKNISEIKE  
LINQARKQANSIKVSVSSGGDCIRTYKPEIKKGSYNNIVVN VKTAVADNLLFYLGSAK  
FIDFLAIEMRKGKVSFLWDVGSVGRVEY PDLTIDDSYWYRIVASRTGRNGTISVRAL  
DGPKASIVPSTHHSTSPPGYTILDVDANAMLFVGGLTGK LKKADAVR VITFTGCMGET  
YFDNKPIGLWNFREKEGDCKGCTVSPQVEDSEG TIQFDGEGYALVSRPIRWYPNISTV  
MFKFRTFSSALLMYLATRDLRDFMSVELTDGHIKVS YDLGSGMASVVS NQNHN D GKW  
KSFTLSRIQKQANISIVDIDTNQEENIATSSSGNNFGLDLKADDKIYFGGLPTLRNLS  
MKARPEVNLKKYSGCLKDIEISRTPYNILSSPDYVGVTKGCSLENVYTVSFPKPGFVE  
LSPVPIDVGTEINLSFSTKNESGIILLGSGGTPAPRRKRRQTGQAYYVILLNRGRLE  
VHLSTGARTMRKIVIRPEPNLFHDGREHSVHVTRGIFTVQVDENRRYMQNLTVEQP  
IEVKKL FVGGAPPEFQPSPLRNIPP FEGCIWNLVINSVPMDFARPV SFKNADIGRCAH

**FIG. 2B**

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QKLREDEDGAAPAEIVIQPEPVPTPAFPTTPVLTHGPCAAESEPELLIGSKQFGLSR  
NSHIAIAFDDTKVKNRLTIELEVRTEAESGLLFYMAAINHADDFATVQLRNGLPYFSYD  
LGSGDTHMIPTKINDGQWHKIKIMRSKQEGILYVDGASNRTISP KKADILDVVGMLY  
VGGLPINYTTRRIGPVTYSIDGCVRNLHMAEAPADLEQPTSSFHVGTCFANAQRGTYP  
DGTGFAKAVGGFKVGLDLLVEFEFATTTTTGVLLGISSQKMDGMGIEMIDEKLMFHVD  
NGAGRFTAVIDAGVPGHLCDGQWHKVTANKIKHRIELTVDGNQVEAQSPNPASTSADT  
NDPVFVGGFPDDLKQFGLTTSIPFRGCIRSLKLT KGTASHWRLILPRPWN

**FIG. 2C**

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cDNA sequence encoding laminin  $\beta$ 1 subunit

1 cccggagcag ggcgagagct cgcgtcgccg gaaaggaaga cggaagaaa gggcaggcgg  
 61 ctggcggggc gtcttctcca ctctctgcc gcgtcccctg ggctgcaggg agccggcatg  
 121 gggcttctcc agttgctagc tttcagttc ttagccctgt gcagagcccg agtgcgcgt  
 181 caggaacccg agttcagcta cggctgcgca gaaggcagct gctatcccgc cacgggagac  
 241 ctctcatcg gccgagcaca gaagcttctg gtgacctga cgtcgggct gcacaagccc  
 301 gaacctact gtatcgtcag ccacttgcag gaggacaaaa aatgcttcat atgcaattcc  
 361 caagatcctt atcatgagac cctgaatcct gacagccatc tcattgaaaa tgggtcact  
 421 acattgctc caaacccct taagattgg tggcaatctg aaaatggtgt ggaaaaatga  
 481 actatccaac tggatttga agcagaatc cattttactc atctcataat gacttcaag  
 541 acattccgtc cagctgctat gctgatagaa cgatcgtccg actttgggaa aacctggggt  
 601 gtgtatagat acttcgecta tgactgtgag gcctcgttc caggcattc aactggcccc  
 661 atgaaaaaag tcgatgacat aatttggat tctgatatt ctgacattga accctcaact  
 721 gaaggagagg tgatattcg tcttttagat cctgcttca aatagaaga tcttatagc  
 781 ccaaggatac agaatttatt aaaaattacc aacttgagaa tcaagttgt gaaactgcat  
 841 actttgggag ataaccttct ggattccagg atggaaatca gagaaaagta ttattatgca  
 901 gttatgata tgggtggtcg aggaaattgc ttctgctatg gtcattccag cgaatgicc  
 961 cctgtggatg gattcaatga agaagtggaa ggaatggtc acggacactg catgtgcagg  
 1021 cataacacca agggcttaaa ctgtgaactc tgcattgatt tctaccatga ttaccttgg  
 1081 agacctgctg aaggccgaaa cagcaacgcc tgtaaaaaat gtaactgcaa tgaacattcc  
 1141 atctctgtc actttgacat ggctgtttac ctggccacgg ggaacgtcag cggaggcgtg  
 1201 tigtatgact gtcagacaa caccatgggg cgcaactgtg agcagtgcaa gccgtttac  
 1261 taccagcacc cagagagga catccgagat cctaatttct gtgaacgatg tacgtgtgac  
 1321 ccagctggct ctcaaatga ggaatttgt gacagctata ctgattttc tactggtctc  
 1381 attgctggcc agtgtcgggtg taaattaaat gtggaaggag aacatttga tgtttgcaa  
 1441 gaaggcttct atgatttaag cagtgaagat ccatttgggt gtaaatcttg tcttgcatt  
 1501 cctctgggaa caattcctgg agggaatcct tgtgattccg agacaggta ctgctactgc  
 1561 aagcgtctgg tgacaggaca gcattgtgac cagtgcctgc cagagcactg gggcttaagc  
 1621 aatgatttgg atggatgtcg accatgtgac tigtaccttg ggggagcctt aaacaacagt  
 1681 tcttttcgg agtcaggcca gtgctcatgc cggcctcaca tgattggacg tcagtgcaac  
 1741 gaagtggaa ctggttacta ctttccacc ctggatcaact acctctatga agcggaggaa  
 1801 gccacttgg ggcctggggt tagcatagtg gagcggcaat atatccagga ccgattccc  
 1861 tcttgactg gagccggctt cgtccgagtg cctgaagggg cttatttga gttttcatt  
 1921 gacaacatac catattccat ggagtacgac atcctaatic gctacgagcc acagctacc  
 1981 gaccactggg aaaaagctgt catcacagtg cagcagctg gaaggattcc aaccagcagc  
 2041 cgatgtggta ataccatccc cgatgatgac aaccagggtg tctcattatc accaggctca  
 2101 agatattgctg tcttctctcg gccggtgtgc ttgagaagg gaacaaacta cacggtgagg  
 2161 ttggagctgc ctcatgac ctctctgat agcagctgg agagccccta cacgctgatc  
 2221 gattctctg ttctcatgcc atactgtaa tcaactggaca tcttaccctg gggaggtca  
 2281 ggagatgggg tggcaccaca cagtgcctgg gaaaccttc agagataccg atgtctagag  
 2341 aacagcagaa gcgttgtgaa aacaccgatg acagatgtt gcagaaacat catcttagc  
 2401 atttctgccc ttttacaca gacaggcctg gcttgtgat gcgacctca gggctcgtta  
 2461 agttccgtgt gtgatccaa cggaggccag tgccagtgcc ggcccaactg ggttgaaga  
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 2581 gagtgccatc tgcaaggatc tctcaatgcc ttctgcaatc ccgtcactgg ccagtgccac  
 2641 ttttccagg gattgtatgc tcggcagtg gatcgggtct tacctgggca ctggggctt  
 2701 ccaagtggcc agccctgcca gtgcaatggc cacgccgatg actgcgacc agtgactggg

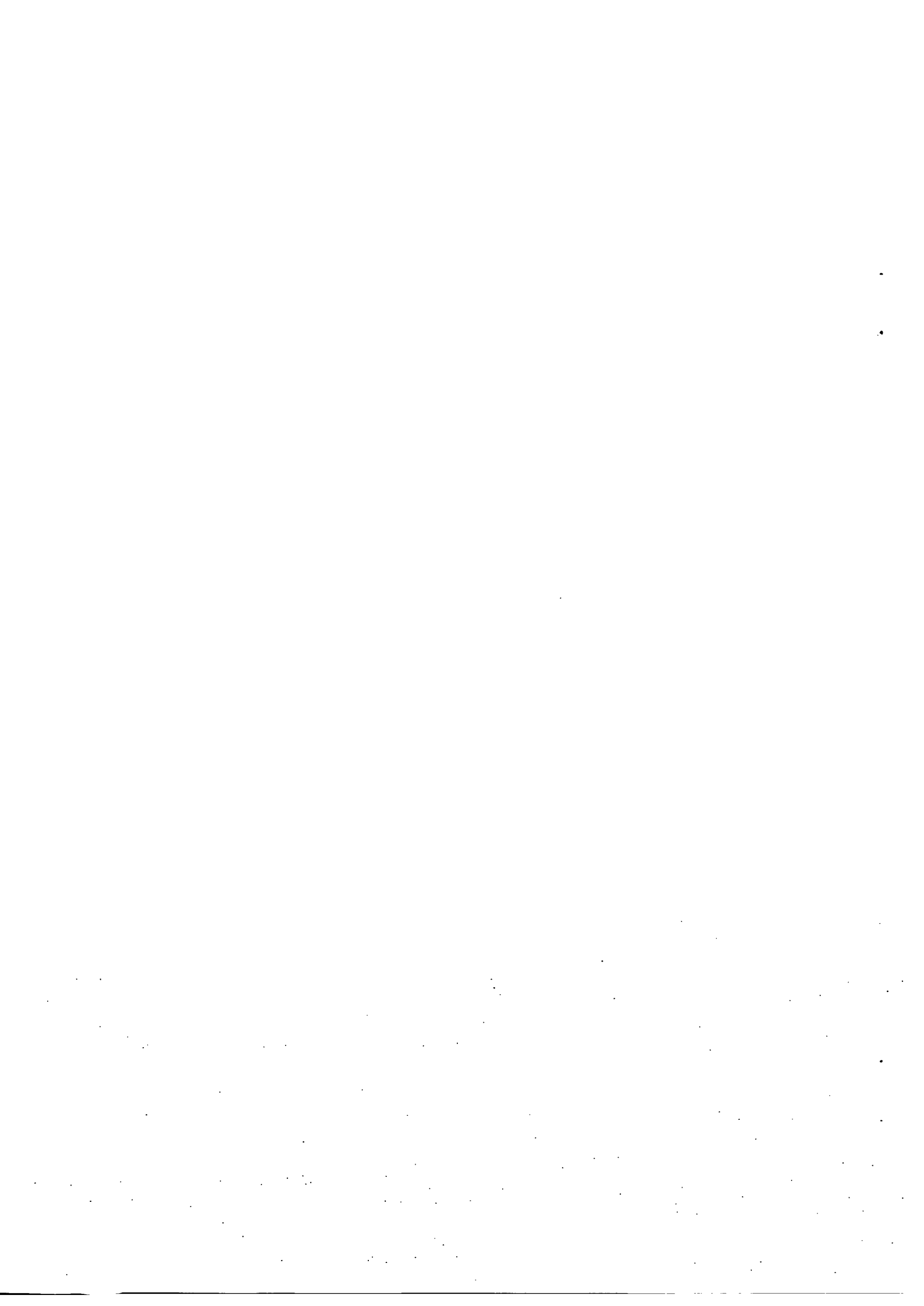
FIG. 3A

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2761 gagtgcctga actgccagga ctacaccatg ggtcataact gtgaaaggig cttggctggt  
 2821 tactatggcg accccatcat tgggtcaggt gatcactgcc gcccttgccc tgcccagat  
 2881 ggtcccagca gtggacgcca gttgccagg agctgctacc aagatcctgt tactttacag  
 2941 ctgacctgtg ttigtatcc tggatacatt ggtccagat gtgacgactg tgcctcagga  
 3001 tactttggca atccatcaga agttgggggg tctgtcagc cttgccagtg tcacaacaac  
 3061 attgacacga cagaccaga agcctgtgac aaggagactg ggaggtgtct caagtgcctg  
 3121 taccacacgg aaggggaaca ctgtcagttc tggcggttg gatactatgg tgatgccctc  
 3181 cggcaggact gtcgaaagt gtctgtaat tacctgggca cctgcaaga gcaactgtaac  
 3241 ggctctgact gccagtgcga caaagccact ggtcagtgt tgtgtcttcc taatgtgatc  
 3301 gggcagaact gtgaccgtg tgcgcccaat acctggcagc tggccagtgg cactggctgt  
 3361 gacctatgca actgcaatgc tgcctatcc ttcgggccat ctgcaatga gttcacgggg  
 3421 cagtgccagt gcatgcctgg gttggaggc cgcacctgca gcgagtcca ggaactcttc  
 3481 tggggagacc cgcagtgga gtgccgagcc tgtgactgtg accccagggg cattgagacg  
 3541 ccacagtgtg accagtccac gggccagtgt gctgctgtg aggggtgtga gggccacgc  
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 3661 tgctttgctc tctgggatgt gatcattgcc gagctgacca acaggacaca cagattcctg  
 3721 gaaaaagcca aggcctttaa gatcagtgt gtgatcgggc ctaccctga gactgtggac  
 3781 tgggtggaga ggaaagtcag cgagataaaa gacatcctgg cgcagagccc cgcagcagag  
 3841 ccaactgaaa acattgggaa tctctttgag gaagcagaga aactgattaa agatgttaca  
 3901 gaaatgatgg ctcaagtaga agtgaatta tctgacacaa ctcccaaag caacgcaca  
 3961 gccaaagaac tggattctct acagacagaa gccgaaagcc tagacaacac tgtgaagaa  
 4021 ctgtctgaac aactggaatt tatcaaaaac tcagatattc ggggtgcctt ggatagcatt  
 4081 accaagtatt tccagatgct tcttgaggca gaggagagg tgaatgcctc caccacagaa  
 4141 cccaacagca ctgtggagca gtcagccctc atgagagaca gagtagaaga cgtgatgatg  
 4201 gagcgagaat cccagtcaa gaaaaaaca gaggagcagg ctgcctctct tgaatgaactg  
 4261 gcaggcaagc tacaagcct agaccttca gccgctgccg aatgacctg tgaacaccc  
 4321 ccaggggctc cctgttcca gactgaatgt ggcgggcca actgcagaac tgacgaagga  
 4381 gagaggaagt gtggggggcc tggctgtgtt ggtctgttta ctgttcaca caacgcctgg  
 4441 cagaaagcca tggacttga ccaagatgtc ctgagtgcc tggctgaagt ggaacagctc  
 4501 tccaagatgg tctctgaagc aaaactgagg gcagatgagg caaaacaaag tctgaagac  
 4561 attctgttga agacaaatgc taccaagaa aaaatggaca agagcaatga ggagctgaga  
 4621 aatctaatca agcaaatcag aaacttttg acccaggata gtgctgatt ggacagcatt  
 4681 gaagcagttg ctaatgaagt attgaaatg gagatgccta gcaccacaca gcagttacag  
 4741 aacttgacag aagatatacg tgaacgagtt gaaagcctt ctcaagtaga ggtattctt  
 4801 cagcatagtg ctgctgacat tgccagagct gagatgtgt tagaagaagc taaaagagca  
 4861 agcaaaagt gcacagatgt taaagtcact gcagatatg taaaggaagc tctggaagaa  
 4921 gcagaaaagg cccaggtcgc agcagagaag gcaattaaac aagcagatga agacattcaa  
 4981 ggaaccaga acctgttaac ttcgattgag tctgaacag cagcttctga ggaaccttg  
 5041 ttcaacgcgt cccagcgcac cagcgagta gagaggaatg tgaagaact taagcggaaa  
 5101 gctgcccaaa actccgggga ggcagaatat attgaaaaag tagtatatac tgaagcaa  
 5161 agtgcagaag atgttaagaa gactttagat ggtgaacttg atgaaaagta taaaaagta  
 5221 gaaaatttaa ttgcaaaaa aactgaagag tcagctgatg ccagaaggaa agccgaaatg  
 5281 ctacaaaatg aagcaaaaac tcttttagct caagcaata gcaagctgca actgctcaaa  
 5341 gatttagaaa gaaaatatga agacaatcaa agatacttag aagataaagc tcaagaatta  
 5401 gcaagactgg aaggagaagt ccgttctc ctaaaggata taagccagaa agttgctgtg  
 5461 tatagccat gcttgaaca gaggagaata aaaaatggct gaggtgaaca aggtaaaaca  
 5521 actacattt aaaaactgac ttaatgctct tcaaaaataa acatcaccta ttaatgctt  
 5581 ttaatccat ttgtatgag ttaataaag ccc

FIG. 3B





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amino acid sequence of laminin  $\beta$ 1 subunit

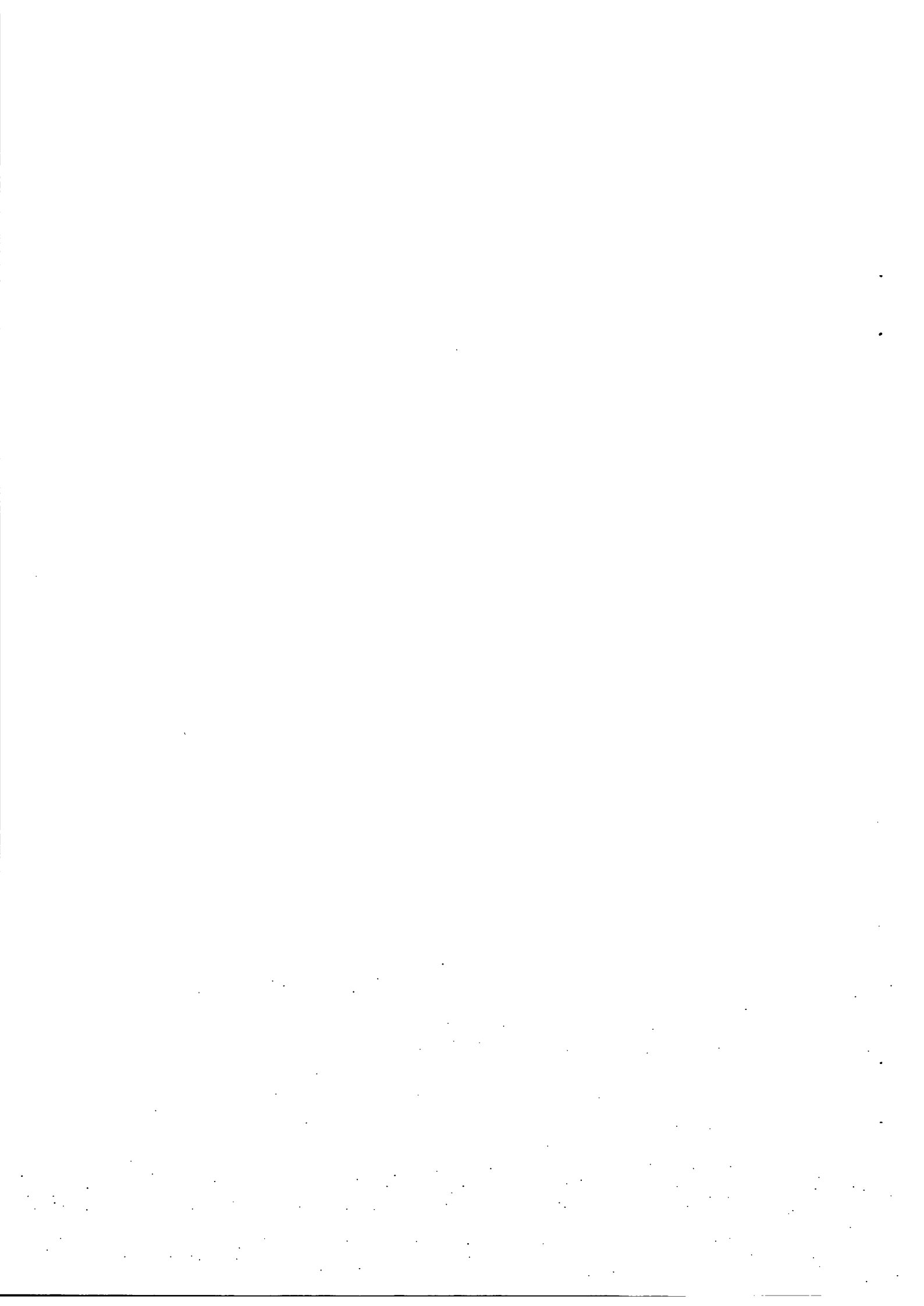
MGLLQLLAFSFLALCRARVRAQEPEFSYGCAEGSCYPATGDLLI  
GRAQKLSVTSTCGLHKPEPYCIVSHLQEDKKCFICNSQDPYHETLNPDSHLIENVVTT  
FAPNRLKIWWQSENGVENVTIQLDLEAEFHFTHLIMTFKTRPAAMLIERSSSDFGKTW  
GVYRYFAYDCEASFPGISTGPMKKVDDIICDSRYSDIEPSTEGEVIFRALDPAFKIED  
PYSPRIQNLLKITNLRKIFVKLHTLGDNLLDSRMEIREKYYYAVYDMVVRGNCFYGH  
ASECAPVDGFNEEVEGMVHGHCMCRHNTKGLNCELMDFYHDL PWRPAEGRNSNACKK  
CNCNEHSISCHFDMAVYLATGNVSGGVCDDCQHNTMGRNCEQCKPFYYQHPERDIRDP  
NFCERCTCDPAGSQNEGICDSYTFSTGLIAGQCRCKLNVEGEHCDVCKEGFYDLSSE  
DPFGCKSCACNPLGTIPGGNPCDSETGHICYCKRLVTGQHCDQCLPEHWGLSNDLDGCR  
PCDCDLGGALNNSCFAESGQCSCRPHMIGRQCNEVEPGYYFATLDHYLYEAEEANLGP  
GVSIVERQYIQDRIPSWTGAGFVRVPEGAYLEFFIDNIPYSMEYDILIRYEPQLPDHW  
EKA VITVQRPGRIPTSSRCGNTIPDDD NQVVSLSPGSRYVVLPRPVCFEKGTNYTVRL  
ELPQYTSSSDSDVESPYTLIDSLVLMPYCKSLDIFTVGGSGDGVVTNSAWETFQRYRCL  
ENSRSVVKTPMTDVCRNIIFSISALLHQTGLACECDPQGSLSVCDPNGGQCQCRPNV  
VGRTCNRCAPGTFGFGPSGCKPCECHLQGSVNAFCNPVTGQCHCFQGVYARQCDRCLP  
GHWGFPSQCPCQCNHADD CDPVTGECLNCQDYTMGHNCERCLAGYYGDPIIGSGDHC  
RPCPCPDGPD SGRQFARSCYQDPVTLQLACVCDPGYIGSRCDDCASGYFGNPSEVGGSS  
CQPCQCHNNIDTTDPEACDKETGRCLKCLYHTEGEHCQFCRFGYYGDALRQDCRKCVC  
NYLGTVQEHCNGSDCQCDKATGQCLCLPNVIGQNCDRCAPNTWQLASGTGCDPCNCNA  
AHSFGPSCNEFTGQCQCM PGFGGRT CSECQELFWGDPDVECRACDCDPRGIETPQCDQ  
STGQCVCVEGVEGPRCDKCTRGYSGVFPDCTPCHQCFALWDVIAELTNRTHRFL EKA  
KALKISGVIGPYRETVD SVERKVSEIKDILAQSPA AEPLKNIGNLFEEAEKLIKDVTE  
MMAQVEVKLSDTTSQSNSTAKELDSLQTEAESLDNTVKELAEQLEFIKNSDIRGALDS

**FIG. 4A**

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ITKYFQMSLEAEERVNASTTEPNSTVEQSALMRDRVEDVMMERESQFKEKQEEQARLL  
DELAGKLQSLDLSAAAEMTCGTPPGASCSETECGGPNCRTDEGERKCGGPGCGGLVTV  
AHNAWQKAMDLDQDVLSALAEVEQLSKMVSEAKLRADEAKQSAEDILLKTNATKEKMD  
KSNEELRNLIKQIRNFLTQDSADLDSIEAVANEVLKMEMPSTPQQLQNLTEDIRERVE  
SLSQVEVILQHSAAADIARAEMLLEEAKRASKSATDVKVTADMVKEALEEAEKAQVAAE  
KAIKQADEDIQGTQNLTSIESETAASEETLFNASQRISELERNVEELKRKAAQNSGE  
AEYIEKVVYTVKQSAEDVKKTLDGELDEKYKKVENLIAKKTEESADARRKAEMLQNEA  
KTLAQANSKLQLLKDLERKYEDNQRYLEDKAQELARLEGEVRSLLKDISQKVAVYST

**FIG. 4B**



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shortb4 MQFQLTLF LHLGWLSYSK AQDDCNRGAC  
 b4pep MQFQLTLF LHLGWLSYSK AQDDCNRGAC  
 b3pep .....MRPFF LLCFALPGL. ...LHAQQ... ...ACSRGAC  
 b2pep MELTSTERGR GOPLPWELRL PLLLSVLAAT LAQAPAPDVP ...GCSRGS  
 b1pep .....MGLLQ LLAFSFLALC RARVRAQEPE FSYGCAEGSC  
 beta .....m.l.. lLm..q1.lf l.lgwa.ysk ....C.rGaC

51 100  
 shortb4 HPTTGDLLVG RNTQLMASST CGLSRAQKYC ILSYLEG.EQ KCSICDSRFP  
 b4pep HPTTGDLLVG RNTQLMASST CGLSRAQKYC ILSYLEG.EQ KCSICDSRFP  
 b3pep YPPVGDLLVG RTRFLRASST CGLTKPETYC ..TQYGEWQM KCKCDSRQP  
 b2pep YPATADLLVG RADRLTASST CGLNGRQPYC IVSHLQD.EK KCFLCDSRRP  
 b1pep YPATGDLIG RAQKLSVTST CGLHKPEPYC IVSHLQE.DK KCFICNSQDP  
 beta yP.tgDLLvG R.tqLmasST CGLs..q.YC i.s.l...e. KC.icdSrff

101 150  
 shortb4 YDPYDQPNSh TIENVTVSFE PDREKKWWQS ENGLDHVSIR LDLEALFRFS  
 b4pep YDPYDQPNSh TIENVTVSFE PDREKKWWQS ENGLDHVSIR LDLEALFRFS  
 b3pep H...NYYSH RVENVASSSG PMR...WWQS QNDVNPVSLQ LDLDRRFQLQ  
 b2pep FSARDNPHTH RIQNVVTSFA PQRRAAWQS QNGIPAVTIQ LDLEAEFHFT  
 b1pep YHETLNPDSH LIENVVTFA PNRLKIWWQS ENGVENVTIQ LDLEAEFHFT  
 beta ydpYdnPnsh .ieNV..sf. PdRekkWWQS eNg.dhVsiq LDLea.F.f.

151 200  
 shortb4 HLILTFKTFR PAAMLVERST DYGHNWKVFK YFAKDCATSF PNITSGQAQG  
 b4pep HLILTFKTFR PAAMLVERST DYGHNWKVFK YFAKDCATSF PNITSGQAQG  
 b3pep EVMMEFRGPM PAGMLIERSS DFGKTWRVYQ YLAADCTSTF PRVRQGRPQS VI  
 b2pep HLIMTFKTFR PAAMLVERSA DFGRTWHVYR YFSYHCGADF PGVPLAPPRH  
 b1pep HLIMTFKTFR PAAMLIERSS DFGKTWGVYR YFAYDCEASF PGISTGPMKK  
 beta hlimtFktfr PAaMLvERS. DfG.tWkVy. Yfa.dCa.sF P.itsg..qg

FIG. 5A

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201 250  
 shortb4 VGDIVCDS.K YSDIEPSTGG EVVLKVLDPD FEIENPYSY IQDLVTLTNL  
 b4pep VGDIVCDS.K YSDIEPSTGG EVVLKVLDPD FEIENPYSY IQDLVTLTNL  
 b3pep WQDVRCQSLP QRPNARLNGG KVQLNMLDLV SGIPATQSQK IQEVGEITNL  
 b2pep WDDVVCES.R YSEIEPSTEG EVIYRVLDPD IPIPDYSSR IQNLLKITNL  
 b1pep VDDIICDS.R YSDIEPSTEG EVIFRALDPA FKIEDPYSPR IQNLLKITNL  
 beta v.DivCdS.. ysdiepstgG eV.l.vlDp. feIe.pySp. IQ.l..iTNL

251 300  
 shortb4 RINFTKLHTL GDALLGRRQN DSLDKYYAL YEMIVRGSCF CNGHASECRP  
 b4pep RINFTKLHTL GDALLGRRQN DSLDKYYAL YEMIVRGSCF CNGHASECRP  
 b3pep RVNFTRLAPV PQRGYHPPS. ....AYYAV SQLRLQGSCF CHGHADRCAP  
 b2pep RVNLTRLHTL GDNLLDPRR. EIREKYYAL YELVVRGNCF CYGHASECAP  
 b1pep RIKFVKLHTL GDNLLDSRM. EIREKYYAV YDMVVRGNCF CYGHASECAP  
 beta RinfTkLhtl gd.ll..rq. ....kyYYAl yem.vrGsCF C.GHaseCaP

301 350  
 shortb4 MQKMRGDVFS PPGMVHGQCV CQHNTDGPNC ERCKDFFQDA PWRPAADLQD  
 b4pep MQKMRGDVFS PPGMVHGQCV CQHNTDGPNC ERCKDFFQDA PWRPAADLQD  
 b3pep KPGASAGSTA V..QVHDVCV CQHNTAGPNC ERCAFFYNNR PWRPAEGQDA  
 b2pep APGAPAHA.. .EGMVHGACI CKHNTRGLNC EQCQDFYRDL PWRPAEDGHS  
 b1pep VDFGFNEEV.. .EGMVHGHCN CRHNTRKGLNC ELCMDFYHDL PWRPAEGRNS  
 beta m.g.r.dv... .gmVHgqCv CqHNTdGpNC ErCkdFyqd. PWRPAedlq.

351 400  
 shortb4 NACRSCSCNS HSSRCHFDMT TYLASGGLSG GVCEDCQHNT EGQHCDCRCP  
 b4pep NACRSCSCNS HSSRCHFDMT TYLASGGLSG GVCEDCQHNT EGQHCDCRCP  
 b3pep HECQRDCNG HSETCHFDPA VFAASQAYG GVCDCRCDHT EGKNCERCQL  
 b2pep HACRKCRRHG HTHSCHFDMA VYLGSGNVSG GVCDCQHNT AWRHCELCRCP  
 b1pep NACKKCNENE HSI SCHFDMA VYLATGNVSG GVCDDCQHNT MGRNCEQCKP  
 beta naCr.C.cn. Hss.CHFDma vylasgg.sG GVCddCqhnt eg.hCerCrp

FIG. 5B

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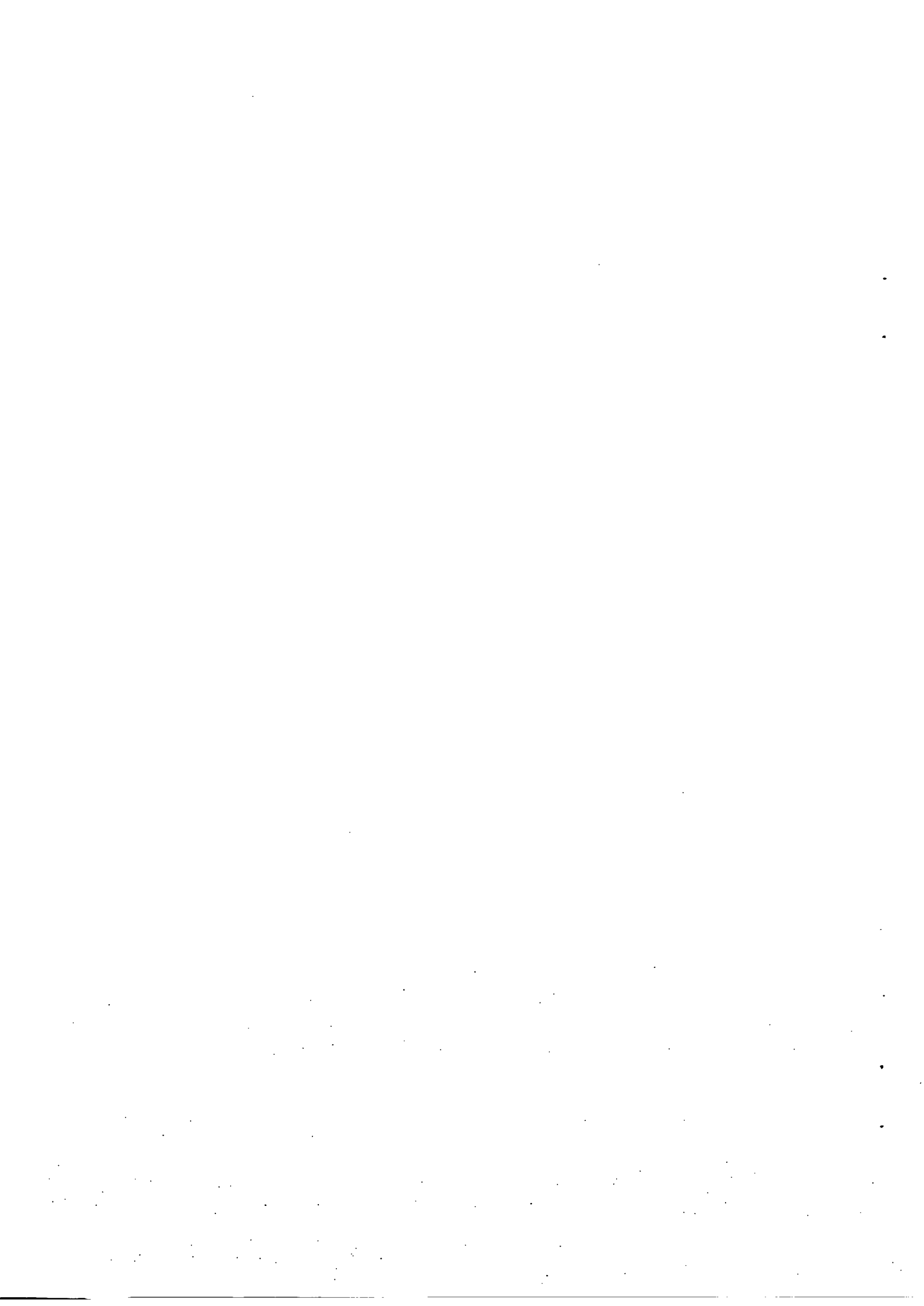
401 450  
shortb4 LFYRDPLKTI SDPYACIPCE CDPDGTISGG ICVSHSDPAL GSVAGQCLCK  
b4pep LFYRDPLKTI SDPYACIPCE CDPDGTISGG ICVSHSDPAL GSVAGQCLCK  
b3pep HYFRNRRPGA SIQETCISCE CDPDGAVAGA PCDP..... ..VTGQCVCK  
b2pep FFYRDPTKDL RDPAVCRSCD CDPMGSQDGG RCDSHDDPAL GLVSGQCRCK  
b1pep FYYQHPERDI RDPNFCERCT CDPAGSQNEG ICDSYTFST GLIAGQCRCK  
beta .fyrdplk.i sdpyaCi.Ce CDPdG..sgg iCdshsdpal g.vaGQC.CK

451 500  
shortb4 ENVEGAKCDQ CKPNHYGLSA TDPLGCQPCD CNPLGSLPFL T.CDVDTGQC  
b4pep ENVEGAKCDQ CKPNHYGLSA TDPLGCQPCD CNPLGSLPFL T.CDVDTGQC  
b3pep EHVQGERCDL CKPGFTGLTY ANPRRCHRCN CNIL.....  
b2pep EHVVGTRCQQ CRDGFGLSI SDPSGCRRQC CNARGTVPGS TPCDPNSGSC  
b1pep LNVEGEHCDV CKEGFYDLSS EDPFGCKSCA CNPLGTIPGG NPCDSETGHC  
beta enVeG..Cdq CkpgfygLsa tdPlgCq.Cd CNplg.lp.l t.cdvdttgqc

501 550  
shortb4 LCLSYVTGAH CEECTVGYWG LGNHLHGCSPP CDCDIGGAYS NVCSPKNGQC  
b4pep LCLSYVTGAH CEECTVGYWG LGNHLHGCSPP CDCDIGGAYS NVCSPKNGQC  
b3pep .....  
b2pep YCKRLVTGRG CDRCLPGHWG LSLDLLGCRP CDCDVGGALD PQCDEGTGQC  
b1pep YCKRLVTGQH CDQCLPEHWG LSNLDLDCRP CDCDLGGALN NSCFAESGQC  
beta .c...vtgah c.ec..g.wg l.n.lhgc.p cdcdigga.s nvcspkngqc

551 600  
shortb4 ECRPHVTGRS CSEPAPGYFF APLNFYLYEA EEATTLQGLA PLGSETFGQS  
b4pep ECRPHVTGRS CSEPAPGYFF APLNFYLYEA EEATTLQGLA PLGSETFGQS  
b3pep .....  
b2pep HCRQHVMGRR CEQVQPGYFR PFLDHLIWEA ENTR.....G  
b1pep SCRPHMIGRQ CNEVEPGYFF ATLDHYLYEA EEANL.....G  
beta ecrph.tgrs cse.apgyff apl..ylyea eeat.....

FIG. 5C





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601 650  
shortb4 PAVHVVLGEP VPGNPVTWTG PGFARVLPGA GLRFAVNNIP FPVDFTIAIH  
b4pep PAVHVVLGEP VPGNPVTWTG PGFARVLPGA GLRFAVNNIP FPVDFTIAIH IV  
b3pep .....  
b2pep QVLDVVERLV TPGETPSWTG SGFVRLQEGQ TLEFLVASVP NAMDYDLLLR  
b1pep PGVSIVERQY IQDRIPSWTG AGFVRVPEGA YLEFFIDNIP YSMEYDILIR  
beta pavhvv..ep vpgnp..wtg pgf.rvl.ga gl.favnnip fp.d..i.i.

651 700  
shortb4 YETQSAADWT VQIV.VNPPG G...SEHCIP KTLQSKPQSF ALPAATRIML  
b4pep YETQSAADWT VQIV.VNPPG G...SEHCIP KTLQSKPQSF ALPAATRIML  
b3pep .....GSR.....E  
b2pep LEPQVPEQWA ELELIVQRPV PVPASHLCGH LVPRDDRIQG TLQPHARYLI  
b1pep YEPQLPDHWE KAVITVQRPG RIPTSSRCGN TIPDDDNQVV SLSPGSRVYV  
beta ye.qs.adwt vqiv.v..pg g...s.hc.p kt.q.:pqsf alp.atr.ml

701 750  
shortb4 LPTPICLEPD VQYSIDVYFS QPLQGESHAH S.....HVLV DSLGLIPQIN  
b4pep LPTPICLEPD VQYSIDVYFS QPLQGESHAH S.....HVLV DSLGLIPQIN  
b3pep MP.....  
b2pep FPNPVCLEPG ISYKLHLKLV R.TGGSQAQPE TPYSGPGLLI DSLVLLPRVL  
b1pep LPRPVCFEKG TNYTVRLELP QYTSSSDSVE SPYT....LI DSLVLMFYCK  
beta lPtp.clep. vqysid.y.s q..qgesha. s.....l. dsl.lipqin

751 800  
shortb4 SLENF.....CSKQDL DEYQLHNCVE IASAMGPQVL PGACERLIIS  
b4pep SLENF.....CSKQDL DEYQLHNCVE IASAMGPQVL PGACERLIIS  
b3pep .....  
b2pep VLEMF....S GGDAALERQ ATFFERYQCHE EGLVPSKTSP SEACAPLLIS  
b1pep SLDIFTVGGG GDGVVNTNSAW ETFQRYRCLE NSRSVVKTPM TDVCRNIIFS  
beta slenf.....cskqdl d..q..ncve iasamg..vl pgacerliis

FIG. 5D

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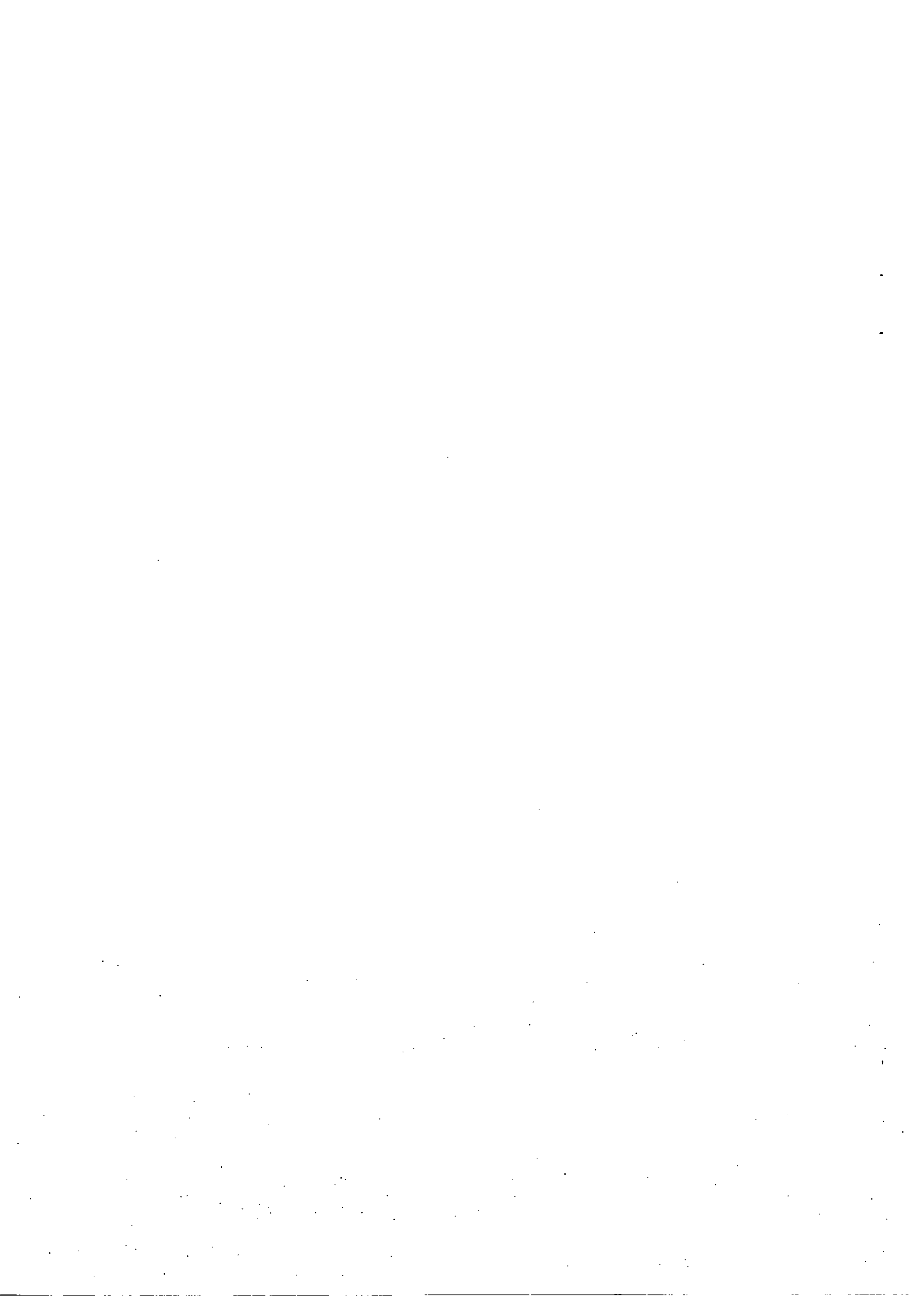
801 850  
shortb4 MSAKLHDGAV ACKCHPQGSV GSSCSRLGGQ CQCKPLVVGR CCDRCSTGSY  
b4pep MSAKLHDGAV ACKCHPQGSV GSSCSRLGGQ CQCKPLVVGR CCDRCSTGSY  
b3pep .....  
b2pep LSTLIYNGAL PCQCNPQGS L SSECNPHGGQ CLCKPGVVGR RCDTCAPGY  
b1pep ISALLHQTGL ACECDPQGS L SSVCDPNGGQ CQCRPNVVGR TCNRCAPGTF  
beta msa.lhdga. ackchpqs. .sscs.lggq cqckplvvgr ccdrc..gsy

851 900  
shortb4 DLGHHGCHPC HCHPQGSKDT VCDQVTGQCP CHGEVSGRRC DRCLAGYFGF  
b4pep DLGHHGCHPC HCHPQGSKDT VCDQVTGQCP CHGEVSGRRC DRCLAGYFGF  
b3pep .....  
b2pep GFGPTGCQAC QCSPRGALSS LCERTSGQCL CRTGAFGLRC DACQRGQWGF  
b1pep GFGPSGCKPC ECHLQGSVNA FCNPVTGQCH CFQGVYARQC DRCLPGHWGF  
beta ..g.hgchpc hchpqs kdt vcdqvtgqcp chg.vsgrrc drclagy.gf

901 950  
shortb4 PSCHPCPCNR FAELCDPETG SCFNCGGFTT GRNCERCIDG YGNP..SSG  
b4pep PSCHPCPCNR FAELCDPETG SCFNCGGFTT GRNCERCIDG YGNP..SSG  
b3pep .....  
b2pep PSCRPCVCNG HADECNTHTG ACLGCRDLTG GEHCERCIAG FHGDPRLPYG  
b1pep PSCQPCQCNG HADDCDPVTG ECLNCQDYTM GHNCERCLAG YGDPIIGSG  
beta pschpcpcn. .a.lcdpetg sc.ncg.ftt grncerci.g yyg.p..ssg

951 1000  
shortb4 QPCRPLCPD DPSSNQYFAH SCYQNLWSSD VICNCLQGYT GTQCGECSTG  
b4pep QPCRPLCPD DPSSNQYFAH SCYQNLWSSD VICNCLQGYT GTQCGECSTG  
b3pep .....  
b2pep AQCRPCPCPE GPGSQRHFAT SCHQDEYSQQ IVCHCRAGYT GLRCEACAPG  
b1pep DHCRCPCPD GPDSGRQFAR SCYQDPVTLQ LACVCDPGYI GSRCDDCASG

FIG. 5E



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beta qpcrpc.cpd .pssn.yfah scyq.lwss. vicnclqgyt gt.cgec.tg

1001 1050  
shortb4 FYGNPRISGA PCQPCACNNN IDVTDPESCS RVTGECLRCL HNTQGANCQL

b4pep FYGNPRISGA PCQPCACNNN IDVTDPESCS RVTGECLRCL HNTQGANCQL

b3pep .....

b2pep QFGDPSRPGG RCQLCECSGN IDPMDPDACD PHPGQCLRCL HHTEGPHCAH

b1pep YFGNPSEVGG SCQPCQCHNN IDTTDPEACD KETGRCLKCL YHTEGEHCQF

beta f.gnp.isg. pcqpcacnnn idvtdpe.c. rvtgeclrcl h.t.ga.cql

1051 1100  
shortb4 CKPGHYGSAL NQTCRRCSCH ASGVSPMECP PGGGACLCDP VTGACPCLPN

b4pep CKPGHYGSAL NQTCRRCSCH ASGVSPMECP PGGGACLCDP VTGACPCLPN

b3pep .....CDE ESGRCLCLPN

b2pep SKPGFHGQAA RQCHRCTCN LLGTNPQQCP SPD.QCHCDP SSGQCPCLPN

b1pep CRFGYYGDAL RQDCRKCVCN YLGTVQEHCN GSD..CQCDK ATGQCLCLPN

beta ckpghygsal .qtcrrcsc. a.g.spmecp pg...clCDp vtG.CpCLPN

1101 1150  
shortb4 VTGLACDRCA DGYWNLVPGR GCQSCDCDPR TSQSSHCDQA RYFKAY

b4pep VTGLACDRCA DGYWNLVPGR GCQSCDCDPR TSQSSHCDQL TGQCPCKLGY

b3pep VVGPKCDQCA PYHWKLAGSQ GCEPCACDPH NSLSPQCNOF TGQCPCREGF

b2pep VQALAVDRCA PNFWNLTSGH GCQPCACLPS PEEGPTCNEF TGQCHCLCGF

b1pep VIGQNCDRCA PNTWQLASGT GCDPCNCNAA HSFGPSNEF TGQCQCMPGF

beta VtglacDrCA p.yWnL.sGr GCqpC.Cdpr tsqsphCnqf tgqpcp..Gf

1151 1200  
b4pep GGKRCs.... .ECQENYYGD PPGRCIPDC NRAGTQKPIC DPDTGMCRCR

b3pep GGLMCSAAAI RQCPDRTYGD VATGCRACDC DFRGTEGPGC DKASGRCLCR

b2pep GGRTCS.... .ECQELHWGD PGLQCHACDC DSRGIDTPQC HRFTGHCTCR

b1pep GGRTCS.... .ECQELFWGD PDVECRACDC DPRGIETPQC DQSTGQCVCV

beta GGrtCS.... .eCqel..GD p...CraCDC d.rG.etPqC d..tG.C.Cr

FIG. 5F

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1201 1250  
 b4pep EGVSGQRCDR CARGHSQEFP TCLQCHLCFD QWDHTISSLS KAVQGLMRLA  
 b3pep PGLTGPRCDQ CQRGYCNRYF VCVACHPCFQ TYDADLREQA LRFGRLPNAT  
 b2pep PGVSGVRCDD CARGFSGIFP ACHPCHACFG DWDRVVQDLA ARTQRLEQRA  
 b1pep EGVEGPRCDK CTRGYSGVFP DCTPCHQCFA LWDVIAELT NRTHRFLEKA  
 beta .GvsGpRCDq CaRGysg.fP .C.pCH.CF. .wD..i.ela .rtqrl...a

1251 1300  
 b4pep ANMEDKRETL PVCEADFKDL RGNVSEIERI L.....KHP VFPSGK.FLK  
 b3pep ASLWSGPGLE D.RGL.ASRI LDAKSIEQI RAVLSSPAVT EQEVAQVASA  
 b2pep QELQQTGVLG AFESS.FWHM QEKLGIQVQGI VGARNTSAAS TAQLVEATEE  
 b1pep KALKISGVIG PYRET.VDSV ERKVSEIKDI L.AQSPAAP LKNIGNLFEE  
 beta a.l...gvlg p.re...f... ..kvseie.I l.a.s...a.p ....g..fee

1301 1350  
 b4pep VKDYHDSVRR QIMQLNEQLK .AVYEFQDLK DTIERAKNEA DLLLEDLQEE  
 b3pep ILSLRRTLQG L..QLDLPLE EET...LSLP RDLES�DRSF NGLLTMYQRK  
 b2pep LRREIGEATE HLTQLEADLT DVQDENFNAN HALSGLERDR LALNLTLRQL  
 b1pep AEKLIKDVTE MMAQVEVKLS DTTSQSNSTA KELDSLQTEA ESLDNTVKEL  
 beta ...li..vte ...Qle..L. d.t.e..sl. ..lesl.rea ..Ll.tlqel

1351 1400  
 b4pep IDLQSSVLNA SIADSSENIK KYVHISSAE KKIN....ET SSTINTSANT  
 b3pep REQFEKISSA DPSGAFRMLS TAYEQSAQAA QQVS..... DSSRL  
 b2pep DQHLDLLKHS NFLGAYDSIR HAHSQSAEAE RRANTSALAV PSPVNSASA  
 b1pep AEQLEFIKNS DIRGALDSIT KYFQMSLEAE ERVNASTTEP NSTVEQSALM  
 beta .eqle.ikn. di.ga.dsi. k.y.qSaeAe .rvn.....e. .stv..Sa..

1401 1450  
 b4pep RNDLLTIL.. .....DTLT SKGNLSLERL KQIKIPDIQI LNEKV.....  
 b3pep LDQLRDSRRE AERLVRQAGG GGGTGSPKLV A..LRLEMSS LPDLTPTFNK

FIG. 5G

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b2pep RHRTEALMDA QKEDFNSKHM ANQRALGKLS AHTHTLSLTD INELV.....

b1pep RDRVEDVMME RESQFKEKQE EQARLLDELA GKLQSLDLSA AAEMT.....

beta rdrled.m.e .e..f..k.. ..grl...l. a....ldls. lnel.....

1451 1500  
b4pep .CGDPGNVPC VPLPCGGALC TGRKGHRKCR GPGCHGSLTL STNALQKAQE

b3pep LCGNSRQMAC TPISCPGELC PQDNG.TAC. ASRCRGVLPR AGGAFLMAGQ

b2pep .CGAQLLHHD RTSPCGGAGC RDEDGQPRCG GLSCNGAAAT ADLALGRARH

b1pep .CGTPPGASC SETECGGPNC RTDEGERKCG GPGCGGLVTV AHNAWQKAMD

beta .CG.pg...c .p.pCgGalC r.d.G.rkCg gpgC.G.lt. a.nAlqkA..

1501 1550  
b4pep AKSIIRNLDK QVRGLKNQIE SISEQAEVSK NNALQLREKL GNIRNQSDSE

b3pep VAEQLRGFNA QLQRTQRMIR AAEEASQIQ SSAQRLETQV SASRSQMEED

b2pep TQAEQLRALA EGGSIILSRVA ETRRQASEAQ QRAQAALDKA NASRGQVEQA

b1pep LDQDVLSALA EVEQLSKMVS EAKLRADAK QSAEDILLKT NATKEKMDKS

beta ....lr.ala .v..l..m.. ea.eqAsea. qsAq.ll.k. nasr.qm...

1551 1600  
b4pep EENINLFIKK VKNFLLEENV PPEDIEKVAN GVLDIHLPIP SQNLTDDELVK

b3pep VRRTRLLIQQ VRDFLTDPDT DAATIQEVSE AVLALWLPTD SATVLQKMNE

b2pep NQELQELIQS VKDFLNQEGA DPDSIEMVAT RVLELSIPAS AEQIQHLAGA

b1pep NEELRNLIKQ IRNFLTQDSA DLDSIEAVAN EVLKMEMPST PQQLQNLTED

beta neelrllI.q v..Fltqe.a dpdsIe.Van .VL.l.lP.. sqqlq.l...

1601 1650  
b4pep IQKHMQLCED YRTDENRSNE EADGAQKLLV KAKAAEKAA. NILLNLDKTL

b3pep IQAIAARLPN VDLVLSQTKQ DIARARRLQA EAEEARSRAH AVEGQVEDVV

b2pep IAERVRSRAD VDAILARTVG DVRRAEQLLQ DARRARSWAE DEKQKAETVQ

b1pep IRERVESLSQ VEVILQHSAA DIARAEMLE EAKRASKSAT DVKVTADMVK

beta Iqerv.sl.d vd.il.r... diarAe.Ll. eAkrAr..A. dvk..a..v.

**FIG. 5H**

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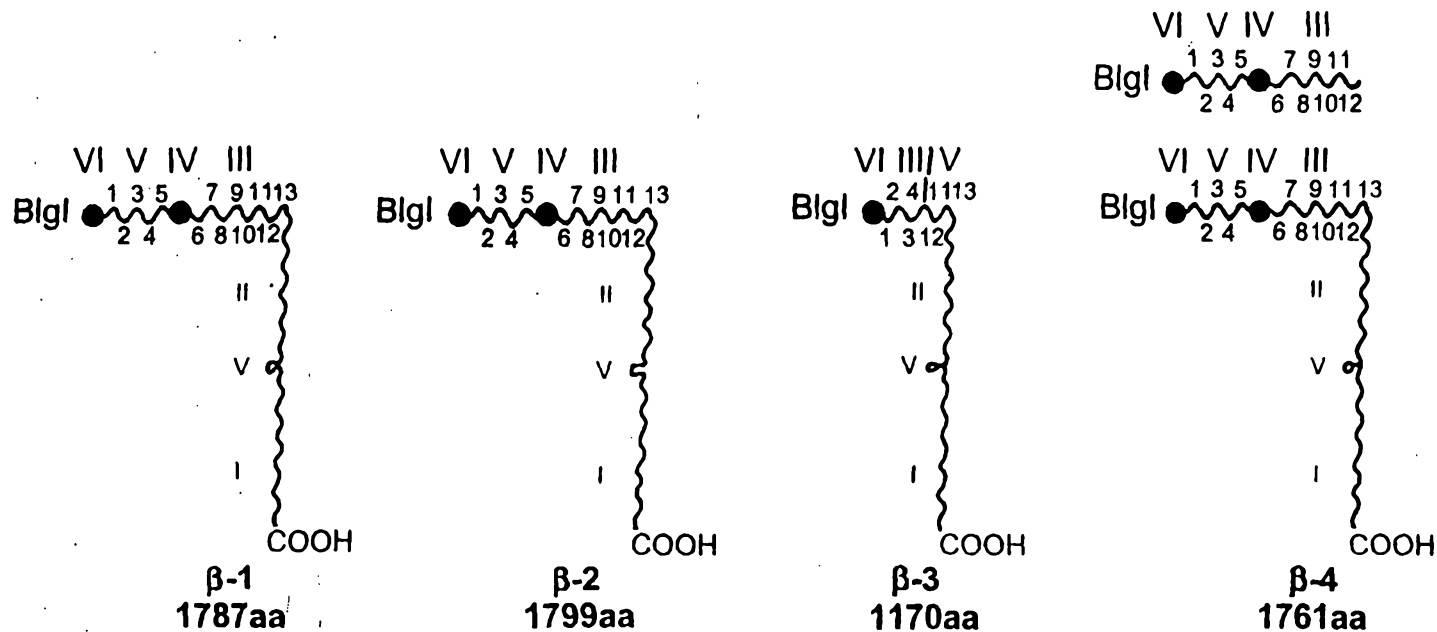
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 b4pep NQLQQAQITQ GRANSTITQL TANITKIKKN VLQAENQTRE MKSELELAKQ  
 b3pep GNLRQGTVAL QEAQDTMQGT SRSLRLIQDR VAEVQQVLRP AEKLVTSMTK  
 b2pep AALEEAQRAQ GIAQGAIRGA VADTRDTEQT LYQVQERMAG AERALSSAGE  
 b1pep EALEEEAKAQ VAAEKAIKQA DEDIQGTQNL LTSIESETAA SEETLFNASQ  
 beta .aLe.aq.aq g.Aq..i..a .adir..q.. .qv...t.. ae..l.sa.q

1701 1750  
 b4pep R.SGLEDGLS LLQTKLQRHQ DHAVNAKVQA ESAQHQAQSL EKEF.VELKK  
 b3pep QLGDFWTRME ELRHQARQQG AEAQVQAQQLA EGASEQALSA QEGFE.RIKQ  
 b2pep RARQLDALLE ALKLRAGNS LAASTAEETA GSAQGRAQEA EQLLRGPLGD  
 b1pep RISELERNVE ELKRKAAQNS GEAEYIEKVV YTVKQSAEDV KKTLDGELDE  
 beta r.s.le..le eLk.kaaqns .eAv.ae..a esaq.qA.sa ek...gelk.

1751 1800  
 b4pep QYAILQRK.T STTGLTKETL GKVQQLKDAE EKLQDTEAK IRRITDLERK  
 b3pep KYAELKDRLG QSSMLGEQGA R.IQSVKTEA EELFGETMEM MDRMKDMELE  
 b2pep QYQTVKALAE RKAQGVLAQ ARAEQLPDEA RDLLQAAQDK LQRLQEELEGT  
 b1pep KYKKVENLIA KKTEESADAR RKAEMLQNEA KTLAQANSK LQLKDLERK  
 beta .Ya..k.l... .kt.l...a. rkaeqlkdeA e.Llg....k lqrlkdlErk

1801 1841  
 b4pep IQDLNLSRQA KADQLRILED QVVAIKNEIV EQEKKYARCY S  
 b3pep LLRGSQAIML RSADLTGLEK RVEQIRDHIN GRVLYYATCK  
 b2pep YEENERALES KAAQLDGLA RMRSVLQAIN LQVQIYNTCQ  
 b1pep YEDNQRYLED KAQELARLEG EVRSLLKDIS QKVAVYSTCL  
 beta yedn.rale. kaaqL.gLE. rvrsil..In .qv..YatC. S

FIG. 5I



$\beta$ -4	I	$\alpha$	II	III	IV	V	VI
$\beta$ -1	24.6 34.0	48.5 48.5	23.0 37.7	53.3 59.2	35.0 44.9	55.8 61.7	59.4 68.6
$\beta$ -2	31.9 22.8	41.2 44.1	19.3 31.3	49.9 55.5	29.3 43.9	55.0 59.5	56.9 67.8
$\beta$ -3	21.7 30.6	36.0 40.0	16.3 28.6	39.7 44.9	-----	48.4 54.0	45.4 56.0

Comparison of the similarity of laminin beta-4 chain domains to the domains of other laminin beta chains.

The percentage amino acid identity and percentage amino acid similarity are given for each domain compared.

**FIG. 6**