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(54) **COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR DIAGNOSING AND TREATING DIABETES, INSULIN RESISTANCE AND DYSLIPIDEMIA**

ZUSAMMENSETZUNGEN UND VERFAHREN ZUR DIAGNOSE UND BEHANDLUNG VON DIABETES, INSULINRESISTENZ UND DYSLIPIDÄMIE

COMPOSITIONS ET METHODES CONCERNANT LE DIAGNOSTIC ET LE TRAITEMENT DU DIABETE, DE LA RESISTANCE A L'INSULINE ET DE LA DYSLIPIDEMIE

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Description

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 **[0001]** This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/341,451, filed December 17, 2001.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 **[0002]** This invention relates to methods of diagnosing and treating diabetes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 **[0003]** Diabetes mellitus can be divided into two clinical syndromes, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes mellitus. Type 1, or insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM), is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by the extensive loss of beta cells in the pancreatic Islets of Langerhans, which produce insulin. As these cells are progressively destroyed, the amount of secreted insulin decreases, eventually leading to hyperglycemia (abnormally high level of glucose in the blood) when the amount of secreted insulin drops below the level required for euglycemia (normal blood glucose level). Although the exact trigger for this immune response is not known, patients with IDDM have high levels of antibodies against pancreatic beta cells. However, not all patients with high levels of these antibodies develop IDDM.

20 **[0004]** Type 2 diabetes (also referred to as non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM)) develops when muscle, fat and liver cells fail to respond normally to insulin. This failure to respond (called insulin resistance) may be due to reduced numbers of insulin receptors on these cells, or a dysfunction of signaling pathways within the cells, or both. The beta cells initially compensate for this insulin resistance by increasing their insulin output. Over time, these cells become unable to produce enough insulin to maintain normal glucose levels, indicating progression to Type 2 diabetes.

25 **[0005]** Type 2 diabetes is brought on by a combination of poorly understood genetic and acquired risk factors - including a high-fat diet, lack of exercise, and aging. Worldwide, Type 2 diabetes has become an epidemic, driven by increases in obesity and a sedentary lifestyle, widespread adoption of western dietary habits, and the general aging of the populations in many countries. In 1985, an estimated 30 million people worldwide had diabetes -- by 2000, this figure had increased 5-fold, to an estimated 154 million people. The number of people with diabetes is expected to double between now and 2025, to about 300 million.

30 **[0006]** Type 2 diabetes is a complex disease characterized by defects in glucose and lipid metabolism. Typically there are perturbations in many metabolic parameters including increases in fasting plasma glucose levels, free fatty acid levels and triglyceride levels, as well as a decrease in the ratio of HDL/LDL. As discussed above, one of the principal underlying causes of diabetes is thought to be an increase in insulin resistance in peripheral tissues, principally muscle and fat. Therefore, an important therapeutic goal in the treatment of diabetes is therefore to decrease peripheral insulin resistance. The present invention addresses this and other problems.

35 **[0007]** WO 01/79223 discloses the AKR1B1 gene, which is structurally distinct from AKR1C1. AKR1B1 is reported to be associated with diabetes.

40 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] This invention provides methods for identifying an agent for treating a patient having diabetes or a predisposition for diabetes. In some embodiments, the methods comprise: (i) contacting a solution comprising an aldo-keto reductase 1C (AKR1C) polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51; and (ii) selecting an agent that modulates the expression or catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, thereby identifying an agent for treating a patient having diabetes or a predisposition for diabetes.

50 **[0009]** This invention provides methods for identifying an agent that modulates insulin sensitivity. In some embodiments, the methods comprise: (i) contacting a solution comprising an aldo-keto reductase 1C (AKR1C) polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51; and (ii) selecting an agent that modulates the expression or catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, thereby identifying an agent that modulates insulin

sensitivity.

[0010] This invention provides methods for identifying an agent that modulates PPAR activity. In some embodiments, the methods comprise: (i) contacting a solution comprising an aldo-keto reductase 1C (AKR1C) polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51; and (ii) selecting an agent that modulates the expression or catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, thereby identifying an agent that modulates PPAR activity.

[0011] In some embodiments, the predisposition for diabetes is manifested by reduced insulin sensitivity. In some embodiments, the methods further comprise selecting an agent that modulates insulin sensitivity. In some embodiments, the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide is determined by measuring a change in the level of a catalytic product or substrate. In some embodiments, the catalytic product or substrate is $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} . In some embodiments, the catalytic product or substrate is prostaglandin D2. In some embodiments, the contacting step is performed *in vitro*. In some embodiments, the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is expressed in a cell and the cell is contacted with the agent.

[0012] In some embodiments, the agent increases the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof. In some embodiments, the agent decreases the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof. In some embodiments, the agent increases the expression of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof. In some embodiments, the agent decreases the expression of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof.

[0013] In some embodiments, the methods further comprise the *in vitro* steps of contacting a cell expressing an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent and testing the cell for modulated insulin resistance. In some embodiments, the methods further comprise the *in vitro* steps of contacting a cell expressing an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent and testing the cell for modulated PPAR activity.

[0014] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:17. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:23. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:30. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:31. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:32. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:33. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:34. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:35. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:36.

[0015] The invention also provides *in vitro* methods of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient. In some embodiments, the methods comprise detecting in a sample from the patient the level of an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51, wherein an increased level of the polypeptide in the sample compared to a level of the polypeptide in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds to an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51.

[0016] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7. In some embodiments, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 17. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:23.

[0017] The invention also provides *in vitro* methods of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient, comprising detecting in a sample from the patient the level of a polynucleotide encoding an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51, wherein an increased level of the polynucleotide in the sample compared to a level of the polynucleotide in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes. In some

embodiments, the detecting step comprises quantifying mRNA encoding an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha, 11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having all amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51. In some embodiments, the mRNA is reverse transcribed and amplified in a polymerase chain reaction.

[0018] In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7. In some embodiments, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:17. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:23.

[0019] In some embodiments, the in vitro methods of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient comprise detecting in a sample from the patient the level of an AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product, wherein a modulated level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in the sample compared to a level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes. In some embodiments, the AKR1C enzymatic product or substrate is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandin D2 and $9\alpha, 11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} . In some embodiments, the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in the sample is increased compared to a level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient. In some embodiments, the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in the sample is decreased compared to a level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds to the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product. In some embodiments, the biological sample is treated to convert the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product into a derivative of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product and the level of the derivative is determined.

[0020] In some embodiments, in vitro methods of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient comprise, detecting the AKR1C enzymatic activity in a biological sample from the patient, wherein an increased enzymatic activity in the sample compared to the activity in a non-diabetic individual indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes.

[0021] In some embodiments, the in vitro methods comprise detecting in a biological sample a polynucleotide that either encodes an AKR1C polypeptide or is genetically linked in the human genome to the polynucleotide encoding an AKR1C polypeptide, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha, 11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36 and wherein the polynucleotide is associated with Type 2 diabetes. In some embodiments, the polynucleotide comprises a single nucleotide polymorphism. The scope of the present invention is defined by the claims. Any subject matter disclosed which falls outside the claims is provided for information only.

DEFINITIONS

[0022] An "AKR1C nucleic acid" or "AKR1C polynucleotide sequence" of the invention is a subsequence or full-length polynucleotide sequence of a gene that encodes an AKR1C polypeptide. Exemplary AKR1C nucleic acids of the invention include sequences substantially identical to *AKR1C1* (see, e.g., Hara, A., et al. *Biochem. J.* 313:373-376 (1996)), *AKR1C2* (see, e.g., Stolz, A., et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 268:10448-10457 (1993); Deyashiki, Y., et. al. *Biochem. J.* 299:545-552 (1994); Dufort, I., et al. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 228:474-479 (1996)), *AKR1C3* (see, e.g., Khanna, M., et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 270:20162-20168 (1995); Lin, H.-K., et al. *Mol. Endocrinol.* 11:1971-1984 (1997)), or *AKR1C4* (see, e.g., Deyashiki, Y., et al. *Biochem. J.* 299:545-552 (1994); Khanna, M., et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 270:20162-20168 (1995)). Exemplary AKR1C polynucleotides encode, e.g., SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, and SEQ ID NO:23, respectively. Other orthologs of AKR1C3 include, e.g., SEQ ID NOs: 30-36. Examples of AKR1C nucleic acids include nucleic acids substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, or SEQ ID NO:52. Similarly, "AKR1C polypeptide" or "AKR1C" refers to a polypeptide, or fragment thereof, that is substantially identical to a polypeptide encoded by *AKR1C1*, *AKR1C2*, *AKR1C3*, or *AKR1C4* (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30-36) or peptidomimetic compositions with substantially the same activity as SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37,39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51. In some embodiments, the

AKR1C polypeptides have aldo-keto reductase class 1C activity (also referred to as "AKR1C activity").

[0023] "AKR1C activity" refers to an enzymatic activity that converts prostaglandin D2 (also referred to as "PGD2") to $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ (also referred to as " 11β -PGF $_{2\alpha}$ "), the reverse reaction that converts $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ to prostaglandin D2, and other activity associated with aldo-keto reductase class C activity. See, e.g., reaction 3 in Figure 1. Since it is understood that AKR1C polypeptides can catalyze reversible reactions, the terms "substrate" and "product" are understood to be interchangeable depending on the direction of the reaction in question. Thus, while this document refers to PGD2 as a substrate and $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ as a product, under appropriate conditions AKR1C polypeptides can catalyze the synthesis of PGD2 using $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ as a substrate. Enzymatic activity can be measured according to any methods known to those of skill in the art. Common measurements include the rate of catalysis or the ability of a sample to convert PGD2 into $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$ or PGD2 into $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$.

[0024] An "agonist of AKR1C" refers to an agent that binds to AKR1C, stimulates, increases, activates, facilitates, enhances activation, sensitizes or up regulates the activity or expression of AKR1C.

[0025] An "antagonist of AKR1C" refers to an agent that binds to, partially or totally blocks stimulation, decreases, prevents, delays activation, inactivates, desensitizes, or down regulates the activity or expression of AKR1C.

[0026] "PPAR activity" refers to the ability of a PPAR family member (e.g., PPAR alpha, beta or gamma) to activate transcription in response to ligand binding. PPAR activity can be measured, e.g., in cell-based assays comprising a PPAR family member and a polynucleotide comprising a PPAR binding sequence and a heterologous reporter sequence. See, e.g., the examples and Reginato, et. al., J. Biol. Chem. 273:32679 (1998).

[0027] "Antibody" refers to a polypeptide substantially encoded by an immunoglobulin gene or immunoglobulin genes, or fragments thereof which specifically bind and recognize an analyte (antigen). The recognized immunoglobulin genes include the kappa, lambda, alpha, gamma, delta, epsilon and mu constant region genes, as well as the myriad immunoglobulin variable region genes. Light chains are classified as either kappa or lambda. Heavy chains are classified as gamma, mu, alpha, delta, or epsilon, which in turn define the immunoglobulin classes, IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE, respectively.

[0028] An exemplary immunoglobulin (antibody) structural unit comprises a tetramer. Each tetramer is composed of two identical pairs of polypeptide chains, each pair having one "light" (about 25 kD) and one "heavy" chain (about 50-70 kD). The N-terminus of each chain defines a variable region of about 100 to 110 or more amino acids primarily responsible for antigen recognition. The terms variable light chain (V_L) and variable heavy chain (V_H) refer to these light and heavy chains respectively.

[0029] Antibodies exist, e.g., as intact immunoglobulins or as a number of well characterized fragments produced by digestion with various peptidases. Thus, for example, pepsin digests an antibody below the disulfide linkages in the hinge region to produce $F(ab)'_2$, a dimer of Fab which itself is a light chain joined to V_H-C_H1 by a disulfide bond. The $F(ab)'_2$ may be reduced under mild conditions to break the disulfide linkage in the hinge region, thereby converting the $F(ab)'_2$ dimer into an Fab' monomer. The Fab' monomer is essentially an Fab with part of the hinge region (see, Paul (Ed.) Fundamental Immunology, Third Edition, Raven Press, NY (1993)). While various antibody fragments are defined in terms of the digestion of an intact antibody, one of skill will appreciate that such fragments may be synthesized *de novo* either chemically or by utilizing recombinant DNA methodology. Thus, the term antibody, as used herein, also includes antibody fragments either produced by the modification of whole antibodies or those synthesized *de novo* using recombinant DNA methodologies (e.g., single chain Fv).

[0030] The terms "peptidomimetic" and "mimetic" refer to a synthetic chemical compound that has substantially the same structural and functional characteristics of the AKR1C polypeptides, antagonists or agonists of the invention. Peptide analogs are commonly used in the pharmaceutical industry as non-peptide drugs with properties analogous to those of the template peptide. These types of non-peptide compound are termed "peptide mimetics" or "peptidomimetics" (Fauchere, J. Adv. Drug Res. 15:29 (1986); Veber and Freidinger TINS p. 392 (1985); and Evans et al. J. Med. Chem. 30:1229 (1987)). Peptide mimetics that are structurally similar to therapeutically useful peptides may be used to produce an equivalent or enhanced therapeutic or prophylactic effect. Generally, peptidomimetics are structurally similar to a paradigm polypeptide (i.e., a polypeptide that has a biological or pharmacological activity), such as an AKR1C polypeptide, but have one or more peptide linkages optionally replaced by a linkage selected from the group consisting of, e.g., -CH₂NH-, -CH₂S-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -CH=CH- (cis and trans), -COCH₂-, -CH(OH)CH₂-, and -CH₂S₀-. The mimetic can be either entirely composed of synthetic, non-natural analogues of amino acids, or, is a chimeric molecule of partly natural peptide amino acids and partly non-natural analogues of amino acids. The mimetic can also incorporate any amount of natural amino acid conservative substitutions as long as such substitutions also do not substantially alter the mimetic's structure and/or activity. For example, a mimetic composition is within the scope of the invention if it is capable of carrying out the binding or enzymatic activities of AKR1C or inhibiting or increasing the enzymatic activity of AKR1C.

[0031] The term "gene" means the segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it includes regions preceding and following the coding region (leader and trailer) as well as intervening sequences (introns) between individual coding segments (exons).

[0032] The term "isolated," when applied to a nucleic acid or protein, denotes that the nucleic acid or protein is

essentially free of other cellular components with which it is associated in the natural state. It is preferably in a homogeneous state although it can be in either a dry or aqueous solution. Purity and homogeneity are typically determined using analytical chemistry techniques such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or high performance liquid chromatography. A protein that is the predominant species present in a preparation is substantially purified. In particular, an isolated gene is separated from open reading frames that flank the gene and encode a protein other than the gene of interest. The term "purified" denotes that a nucleic acid or protein gives rise to essentially one band in an electrophoretic gel. Particularly, it means that the nucleic acid or protein is at least 85% pure, more preferably at least 95% pure, and most preferably at least 99% pure.

[0033] The term "nucleic acid" or "polynucleotide" refers to deoxyribonucleotides or ribonucleotides and polymers thereof in either single- or doublestranded form. Unless specifically limited, the term encompasses nucleic acids containing known analogues of natural nucleotides that have similar binding properties as the reference nucleic acid and are metabolized in a manner similar to naturally occurring nucleotides. Unless otherwise indicated, a particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses conservatively modified variants thereof (*e.g.*, degenerate codon substitutions) and complementary sequences as well as the sequence explicitly indicated. Specifically, degenerate codon substitutions may be achieved by generating sequences in which the third position of one or more selected (or all) codons is substituted with mixed-base and/or deoxyinosine residues (Batzer *et al.*, *Nucleic Acid Res.* 19:5081 (1991); Ohtsuka *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 260:2605-2608 (1985); and Cassol *et al.* (1992); Rossolini *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Probes* 8:91-98 (1994)). The term nucleic acid is used interchangeably with gene, cDNA, and mRNA encoded by a gene.

[0034] The terms "polypeptide," "peptide" and "protein" are used interchangeably herein to refer to a polymer of amino acid residues. The terms apply to amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residue is an artificial chemical mimetic of a corresponding naturally occurring amino acid, as well as to naturally occurring amino acid polymers and non-naturally occurring amino acid polymers. As used herein, the terms encompass amino acid chains of any length, including full-length proteins (*i.e.*, antigens), wherein the amino acid residues are linked by covalent peptide bonds.

[0035] The term "amino acid" refers to naturally occurring and synthetic amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally occurring amino acids. Naturally occurring amino acids are those encoded by the genetic code, as well as those amino acids that are later modified, *e.g.*, hydroxyproline, γ -carboxyglutamate, and O-phosphoserine. Amino acid analogs refers to compounds that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid, *i.e.*, an α carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, *e.g.*, homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl sulfonium. Such analogs have modified R groups (*e.g.*, norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid. "Amino acid mimetics" refers to chemical compounds that have a structure that is different from the general chemical structure of an amino acid, but which functions in a manner similar to a naturally occurring amino acid.

[0036] Amino acids may be referred to herein by either the commonly known three letter symbols or by the one-letter symbols recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission. Nucleotides, likewise, may be referred to by their commonly accepted single-letter codes.

[0037] "Conservatively modified variants" applies to both amino acid and nucleic acid sequences. With respect to particular nucleic acid sequences, "conservatively modified variants" refers to those nucleic acids which encode identical or essentially identical amino acid sequences, or where the nucleic acid does not encode an amino acid sequence, to essentially identical sequences. Because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of functionally identical nucleic acids encode any given protein. For instance, the codons GCA, GCC, GCG and GCU all encode the amino acid alanine. Thus, at every position where an alanine is specified by a codon, the codon can be altered to any of the corresponding codons described without altering the encoded polypeptide. Such nucleic acid variations are "silent variations," which are one species of conservatively modified variations. Every nucleic acid sequence herein that encodes a polypeptide also describes every possible silent variation of the nucleic acid. One of skill will recognize that each codon in a nucleic acid (except AUG, which is ordinarily the only codon for methionine, and TGG, which is ordinarily the only codon for tryptophan) can be modified to yield a functionally identical molecule. Accordingly, each silent variation of a nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide is implicit in each described sequence.

[0038] As to amino acid sequences, one of skill will recognize that individual substitutions, deletions or additions to a nucleic acid, peptide, polypeptide, or protein sequence which alters, adds or deletes a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids in the encoded sequence is a "conservatively modified variant" where the alteration results in the substitution of an amino acid with a chemically similar amino acid. Conservative substitution tables providing functionally similar amino acids are well known in the art. Such conservatively modified variants are in addition to and do not exclude polymorphic variants, interspecies homologs, and alleles of the invention.

[0039] The following eight groups each contain amino acids that are conservative substitutions for one another:

- 1) Alanine (A), Glycine (G);
- 2) Aspartic acid (D), Glutamic acid (E);

- 3) Asparagine (N), Glutamine (Q);
 4) Arginine (R), Lysine (K);
 5) Isoleucine (I), Leucine (L), Methionine (M), Valine (V);
 6) Phenylalanine (F), Tyrosine (Y), Tryptophan (W);
 7) Serine (S), Threonine (T); and
 8) Cysteine (C), Methionine (M)

(see, e.g., Creighton, Proteins (1984)).

[0040] "Percentage of sequence identity" is determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity.

[0041] The terms "identical" or percent "identity," in the context of two or more nucleic acids or polypeptide sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same or have a specified percentage of amino acid residues or nucleotides that are the same (i.e., 60% identity, optionally 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, or 95% identity over a specified region), when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence over a comparison window, or designated region as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by manual alignment and visual inspection. Such sequences are then said to be "substantially identical." This definition also refers to the complement of a test sequence. Optionally, the identity exists over a region that is at least about 50 nucleotides in length, or more preferably over a region that is 100 to 500 or 1000 or more nucleotides in length.

[0042] The term "similarity," or percent "similarity," in the context of two or more polypeptide sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that have a specified percentage of amino acid residues that are either the same or similar as defined in the 8 conservative amino acid substitutions defined above (i.e., 60%, optionally 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, or 95% similar over a specified region), when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence over a comparison window, or designated region as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by manual alignment and visual inspection. Such sequences are then said to be "substantially similar." Optionally, this identity exists over a region that is at least about 50 amino acids in length, or more preferably over a region that is at least about 100 to 500 or 1000 or more amino acids in length.

[0043] For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence, to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are entered into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated, if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. Default program parameters can be used, or alternative parameters can be designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identities for the test sequences relative to the reference sequence, based on the program parameters.

[0044] A "comparison window", as used herein, includes reference to a segment of any one of the number of contiguous positions selected from the group consisting of from 20 to 600, usually about 50 to about 200, more usually about 100 to about 150 in which a sequence may be compared to a reference sequence of the same number of contiguous positions after the two sequences are optimally aligned. Methods of alignment of sequences for comparison are well known in the art. Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith and Waterman (1970) Adv. Appl. Math. 2:482c, by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443, by the search for similarity method of Pearson and Lipman (1988) Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA 85:2444, by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by manual alignment and visual inspection (see, e.g., Ausubel et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (1995 supplement)).

[0045] One example of a useful algorithm is PILEUP. PILEUP creates a multiple sequence alignment from a group of related sequences using progressive, pairwise alignments to show relationship and percent sequence identity. It also plots a tree or dendrogram showing the clustering relationships used to create the alignment. PILEUP uses a simplification of the progressive alignment method of Feng and Doolittle (1987) *J. Mol. Evol.* 35:351-360. The method used is similar to the method described by Higgins and Sharp (1989) *CABIOS* 5:151-153. The program can align up to 300 sequences, each of a maximum length of 5,000 nucleotides or amino acids. The multiple alignment procedure begins with the pairwise alignment of the two most similar sequences, producing a cluster of two aligned sequences. This cluster is then aligned to the next most related sequence or cluster of aligned sequences. Two clusters of sequences are aligned by a simple extension of the pairwise alignment of two individual sequences. The final alignment is achieved by a series of progressive, pairwise alignments. The program is run by designating specific sequences and their amino acid or nucleotide coordinates for regions of sequence comparison and by designating the program parameters. Using PILEUP,

a reference sequence is compared to other test sequences to determine the percent sequence identity relationship using the following parameters: default gap weight (3.00), default gap length weight (0.10), and weighted end gaps. PILEUP can be obtained from the GCG sequence analysis software package, *e.g.*, version 7.0 (Devereaux et al. (1984) *Nuc. Acids Res.* 12:387-395).

5 **[0046]** Another example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity are the BLAST and BLAST 2.0 algorithms, which are described in Altschul et al. (1977) *Nuc. Acids Res.* 25: 3389-3402, and Altschul et al. (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410, respectively. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length *W* in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score *T* when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. *T* is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul *et al.*, *supra*). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters *M* (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and *N* (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity *X* from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters *W*, *T*, and *X* determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (*W*) of 11, an expectation (*E*) of 10, *M*=5, *N*=-4 and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength of 3, and expectation (*E*) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (*see* Henikoff and Henikoff (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915) alignments (*B*) of 50, expectation (*E*) of 10, *M*=5, *N*=-4, and a comparison of both strands.

20 **[0047]** The BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (*see, e.g.*, Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-5787). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (*P(N)*), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a nucleic acid is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid to the reference nucleic acid is less than about 0.2, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

30 **[0048]** An indication that two nucleic acid sequences or polypeptides are substantially identical is that the polypeptide encoded by the first nucleic acid is immunologically cross reactive with the antibodies raised against the polypeptide encoded by the second nucleic acid, as described below. Thus, a polypeptide is typically substantially identical to a second polypeptide, for example, where the two peptides differ only by conservative substitutions. Another indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is that the two molecules or their complements hybridize to each other under stringent conditions, as described below. Yet another indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is that the same primers can be used to amplify the sequence.

35 **[0049]** The phrase "selectively (or specifically) hybridizes to" refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent hybridization conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (*e.g.*, total cellular or library DNA or RNA).

40 **[0050]** The phrase "stringent hybridization conditions" refers to conditions under which a probe will hybridize to its target subsequence, typically in a complex mixture of nucleic acid, but to no other sequences. Stringent conditions are sequence-dependent and will be different in different circumstances. Longer sequences hybridize specifically at higher temperatures. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen, *Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology--Hybridization with Nucleic Probes, "Overview of principles of hybridization and the strategy of nucleic acid assays"* (1993). Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5-10° C lower than the thermal melting point (*T_m*) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength pH. The *T_m* is the temperature (under defined ionic strength, pH, and nucleic concentration) at which 50% of the probes complementary to the target hybridize to the target sequence at equilibrium (as the target sequences are present in excess, at *T_m*, 50% of the probes are occupied at equilibrium). Stringent conditions will be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.0 M sodium ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M sodium ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30°C for short probes (*e.g.*, 10 to 50 nucleotides) and at least about 60° C for long probes (*e.g.*, greater than 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. For selective or specific hybridization, a positive signal is at least two times background, optionally 10 times background hybridization. Exemplary stringent hybridization conditions can be as following: 50% formamide, 5X SSC, and 1% SDS, incubating at 42°C, or 5X SSC, 1% SDS, incubating at 65°C, with wash in 0.2X SSC, and 0.1% SDS at 65°C. Such washes can be performed for 5, 15, 30, 60, 120, or more minutes.

55 **[0051]** Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the polypeptides that they encode are substantially identical. This occurs, for example, when a copy of a nucleic acid is

created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code. In such cases, the nucleic acids typically hybridize under moderately stringent hybridization conditions. Exemplary "moderately stringent hybridization conditions" include a hybridization in a buffer of 40% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 1X SSC at 45°C. Such washes can be performed for 5, 15, 30, 60, 120, or more minutes. A positive hybridization is at least twice background. Those of ordinary skill will readily recognize that alternative hybridization and wash conditions can be utilized to provide conditions of similar stringency.

[0052] The phrase "a nucleic acid sequence encoding" refers to a nucleic acid which contains sequence information for a structural RNA such as rRNA, a tRNA, or the primary amino acid sequence of a specific protein or peptide, or a binding site for a transacting regulatory agent. This phrase specifically encompasses degenerate codons (i.e., different codons which encode a single amino acid) of the native sequence or sequences that may be introduced to conform with codon preference in a specific host cell.

[0053] The term "recombinant" when used with reference, e.g., to a cell, or nucleic acid, protein, or vector, indicates that the cell, nucleic acid, protein or vector, has been modified by the introduction of a heterologous nucleic acid or protein or the alteration of a native nucleic acid or protein, or that the cell is derived from a cell so modified. Thus, for example, recombinant cells express genes that are not found within the native (nonrecombinant) form of the cell or express native genes that are otherwise abnormally expressed, under-expressed or not expressed at all.

[0054] The term "heterologous" when used with reference to portions of a nucleic acid indicates that the nucleic acid comprises two or more subsequences that are not found in the same relationship to each other in nature. For instance, the nucleic acid is typically recombinantly produced, having two or more sequences from unrelated genes arranged to make a new functional nucleic acid, e.g., a promoter from one source and a coding region from another source. Similarly, a heterologous protein indicates that the protein comprises two or more subsequences that are not found in the same relationship to each other in nature (e.g., a fusion protein).

[0055] An "expression vector" is a nucleic acid construct, generated recombinantly or synthetically, with a series of specified nucleic acid elements that permit transcription of a particular nucleic acid in a host cell. The expression vector can be part of a plasmid, virus, or nucleic acid fragment. Typically, the expression vector includes a nucleic acid to be transcribed operably linked to a promoter.

[0056] The phrase "specifically (or selectively) binds to an antibody" or "specifically (or selectively) immunoreactive with", when referring to a protein or peptide, refers to a binding reaction which is determinative of the presence of the protein in the presence of a heterogeneous population of proteins and other biologics. Thus, under designated immunoassay conditions, the specified antibodies bind to a particular protein and do not bind in a significant amount to other proteins present in the sample. Specific binding to an antibody under such conditions may require an antibody that is selected for its specificity for a particular protein. For example, antibodies raised against a protein having an amino acid sequence encoded by any of the polynucleotides of the invention can be selected to obtain antibodies specifically immunoreactive with that protein and not with other proteins, except for polymorphic variants. A variety of immunoassay formats may be used to select antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a particular protein. For example, solid-phase ELISA immunoassays, Western blots, or immunohistochemistry are routinely used to select monoclonal antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a protein. See, Harlow and Lane Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Publications, NY (1988) for a description of immunoassay formats and conditions that can be used to determine specific immunoreactivity. Typically, a specific or selective reaction will be at least twice the background signal or noise and more typically more than 10 to 100 times background.

[0057] "Inhibitors," "activators," and "modulators" of AKR1C expression or of AKR1C activity are used to refer to inhibitory, activating, or modulating molecules, respectively, identified using *in vitro* assays for AKR1C expression or AKR1C activity, e.g., ligands, agonists, antagonists, and their homologs and mimetics. The term "modulator" includes inhibitors and activators. Inhibitors are agents that, e.g., inhibit expression of AKR1C or bind to, partially or totally block stimulation or enzymatic activity, decrease, prevent, delay activation, inactivate, desensitize, or down regulate the activity of AKR1C, e.g., antagonists. Activators are agents that, e.g., induce or activate the expression of a AKR1C or bind to, stimulate, increase, open, activate, facilitate, enhance activation or enzymatic activity, sensitize or up regulate the activity of AKR1C, e.g., agonists. Modulators include naturally occurring and synthetic ligands, antagonists, agonists, small chemical molecules and the like. Such assays for inhibitors and activators include, e.g., applying putative modulator compounds to peripheral cells such as fat or muscle cells, in the presence or absence of AKR1C modulators and then determining the functional effects on AKR1C activity, as described above. Samples or assays comprising AKR1C that are treated with a potential activator, inhibitor, or modulator are compared to control samples without the inhibitor, activator, or modulator to examine the extent of effect. Control samples (untreated with modulators) are assigned a relative AKR1C activity value of 100%. Inhibition of AKR1C is achieved when the AKR1C activity value relative to the control is about 80%, optionally 50% or 25-1%. Activation of AKR1C is achieved when the AKR1C activity value relative to the control is 110%, optionally 150%, optionally 200-500%, or 1000-3000% higher.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0058] Figure 1 illustrates the biosynthesis of prostaglandin D2 (PGD2), as well as subsequent reactions that use PGD2 as a substrate. Numbers in the figure indicate the enzyme that catalyzes the displayed reaction (1=Cyclooxygenase 1, 2=GSH-dependent prostaglandin H2 D-isomerase and 3=Aldo-keto reductase 1C1, 1C2, 1C3 and 1C4).

[0059] Figure 2 illustrates signal transduction pathways involving PGD2.

[0060] Figure 3 illustrates glucose transport in cells infected with a control adenovirus or an adenovirus encoding AKR1C and then treated with PGD2.

[0061] Figure 4 illustrates results from purification of AKR1C isoforms 1, 2, 3, and 4. The arrow indicates the purified human AKR1C isoforms.

[0062] Figure 5 illustrates the activity of purified AKR1C isoforms by measuring the oxidation of 1-acenaphthenol.

[0063] Figure 6 illustrates an alignment of human and mouse AKR1C sequences. "*" indicates amino acid positions that have a single fully conserved residue. ":" indicates that one of the following groups is fully conserved: STA, NEQK, NHQK, NDEQ, QHRK, MILV, MILF, HY, FYW. "." indicates that one of the following groups is fully conserved: CSA, ATV, SAG, STNK, STPA, SGND, SNDEQK, NDEQHK, NEQHRK, FVLIM, HFY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

I. INTRODUCTION

[0064] This invention is directed to methods of using AKR1C sequences to diagnose and treat diabetes and related diseases. The present method also provides methods of identifying modulators of AKR1C expression and activity. Such modulators are useful for treating Type 2 diabetes as well as syndrome X, polycystic ovarian syndrome, HIV-protease inhibitor-induced insulin resistance, lipodystrophies, hyperglycemia, obesity, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia, impaired glucose tolerance, atherosclerosis, vascular restenosis, irritable bowel syndrome, pancreatitis, adipose cell tumors and carcinomas, acute mountain sickness, Addison's disease, Alzheimer's disease, asthma, autoimmune disorders, burn injury, cold symptoms (e.g., nasal congestion, aches), inflammatory bowel diseases (e.g., Crohn's disease), ischemia-reperfusion injury, liver injury, neuropathies, ophthalmic inflammation, Parkinson's disease, septicemia, and skin disorders (e.g., acne, scleroderma) as well as the pathological aspects of such diseases. Other indications that can be treated with the modulators of the invention include, e.g., diseases involving epidermal or epithelial cell proliferation such as eczema; lupus associated skin lesions; psoriatic arthritis; rheumatoid arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis involving hyperproliferation and inflammation of epithelial-related cells lining the joint capsule; dermatitides such as seborrheic dermatitis and solar dermatitis; keratoses such as seborrheic keratosis, senile keratosis, actinic keratosis, photo-induced keratosis, and keratosis follicularis; acne vulgaris; keloids and prophylaxis against keloid formation; nevi; warts including verruca, condyloma or condyloma acuminatum, and human papilloma viral (HPV) infections such as venereal warts; leukoplakia; lichen planus; and keratitis. The modulators are also useful for treating processes mediated by PPAR-gamma including, e.g., cell differentiation to produce lipid-accumulating cells, the formation of macrophages which lead to the development of atherosclerotic plaques, and the like.

[0065] Members of the PPAR (peroxisome proliferation activated receptor) family of ligand-activated transcription factors (PPAR alpha, PPAR beta/delta, and PPAR gamma) have been shown to play important roles in glucose and lipid homeostasis. Synthetic ligands for PPAR-gamma, such as thiazolidinediones, increase peripheral insulin sensitivity and glucose disposal (Day, C. *Diabetic Medicine* 16:179-192 (1999)). Furthermore, patients with PPAR gamma mutations have decreased insulin sensitivity (Barroso, I., et al. *Nature* 402:880-883 (1999)). Therefore, drugs and other ligands that modulate the activity of PPAR gamma result in increased insulin sensitivity and can be used to treat individuals with insulin resistance. In the case of PPAR alpha, lipid-lowering drugs of the fibrate class such as clofibrate have been shown to mediate their effects on lipid metabolism through binding and activation of PPAR alpha; fibrates may also exert insulin sensitizing effects by this mechanism (Guerre-Millo, M. et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 275:16638-16642 (2000)). Without intending to limit the invention to a particular theory of operation, it is believed that modulation of AKR1C levels or activity also modulates PPAR alpha and/or gamma-mediated effects. Thus, such modulators are also useful for the treatment of dyslipidemias, including hypertriglyceridemias and hyperlipoproteinemias.

[0066] The present application demonstrates that, surprisingly, elevated levels of AKR1C1, AKR1C2 and AKR1C3 mRNA occur in people with NIDDM. In some embodiments, increased expression of these enzymes, which have prostaglandin D2 11-keto-reductase activity, increases levels of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} and decreases levels of a PPAR gamma ligand (15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ2), thereby increasing insulin resistance. Inhibition of the PGD2 11 keto-reductase activity, therefore reduces production of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} and increases production of 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ2, thereby decreasing insulin resistance. Alternatively, in embodiments where the net reaction catalyzed by AKR1C results in net synthesis of PGD2, increasing AKR1C activity or expression can decrease insulin resistance.

[0067] Without intending to limit the invention to a particular theory of action, $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} can be released from

muscle cells and act to stimulate the F prostanoid (FP) receptor on the cell surface. *See, e.g.*, Figure 2. Activation of this GPCR stimulates a MAP kinase-dependent phosphorylation of PPAR gamma on serine 112, causing a conformational change and a reduction in PPAR gamma ligand affinity. *See, e.g.*, Hu et al Science 274:2100-2103 (1996). Thus antagonism of the FP receptor also enhances insulin sensitivity and is a useful therapy for NIDDM.

5 [0068] In addition, as shown herein, increased insulin sensitivity occurs in cells treated with PGD2. Without intending to limit the invention to a particular theory or mechanism, it is believed that this result occurs by activation of the DP receptor. Therefore, a DP receptor agonist is an effective therapy for NIDDM. The DP receptor is described in, e.g., Boie, Y., et al. J. Biol. Chem. 270:18910-18916 (1995).

10 [0069] Without intending to limit the invention to a particular theory or mechanism, it is believed that modulation of AKR1C activity or levels results in the modulation of PPAR alpha levels. As modulating PPAR alpha levels is an effective treatment of dyslipidemia, the present invention provides methods of treating dyslipidemia by administering modulators of AKR1C to an individual.

15 II. GENERAL RECOMBINANT NUCLEIC ACID METHODS FOR USE WITH THE INVENTION

[0070] In numerous embodiments of the present invention, nucleic acids encoding a AKR1C of interest will be isolated and cloned using recombinant methods. Such embodiments are used, *e.g.*, to isolate AKR1C polynucleotides (e.g., SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, or SEQ ID NO:52) for protein expression or during the generation of variants, derivatives, expression cassettes, or other sequences derived from an AKR1C polypeptide (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NOs: 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 51), to monitor AKR1C gene expression, for the isolation or detection of AKR1C sequences in different species, for diagnostic purposes in a patient, *e.g.*, to detect mutations in AKR1C or to detect expression levels of AKR1C nucleic acids or AKR1C polypeptides. In some embodiments, the sequences encoding the AKR1C of the invention are operably linked to a heterologous promoter. In one embodiment, the nucleic acids of the invention are from any mammal, including, in particular, *e.g.*, a human, a mouse, a rat, etc. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids of the invention encode an AKR1C polypeptide with the conserved amino acid residues or groups indicated in Figure 6 by ":", ":", or ".", or any combination thereof (e.g., ":" and ":" and "." or ":" and ":" or ":" and ".", etc.)

20 A. General Recombinant Nucleic Acid Methods

35 [0071] This invention relies on routine techniques in the field of recombinant genetics. Basic texts disclosing the general methods of use in this invention include Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual* (3rd ed. 2001); Kriegler, *Gene Transfer and Expression: A Laboratory Manual* (1990); and *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Ausubel et al., eds., 1994).

40 [0072] For nucleic acids, sizes are given in either kilobases (kb) or base pairs (bp). These are estimates derived from agarose or acrylamide gel electrophoresis, from sequenced nucleic acids, or from published DNA sequences. For proteins, sizes are given in kilodaltons (kDa) or amino acid residue numbers. Proteins sizes are estimated from gel electrophoresis, from sequenced proteins, from derived amino acid sequences, or from published protein sequences.

45 [0073] Oligonucleotides that are not commercially available can be chemically synthesized according to the solid phase phosphoramidite triester method first described by Beaucage & Caruthers, *Tetrahedron Letts.* 22:1859-1862 (1981), using an automated synthesizer, as described in Van Devanter et. al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 12:6159-6168 (1984). Purification of oligonucleotides is by either native acrylamide gel electrophoresis or by anion-exchange HPLC as described in Pearson & Reanier, *J. Chrom.* 255:137-149 (1983).

50 [0074] The sequence of the cloned genes and synthetic oligonucleotides can be verified after cloning using, e.g., the chain termination method for sequencing doublestranded templates of Wallace et al., *Gene* 16:21-26 (1981).

B. Cloning Methods for the Isolation of Nucleotide Sequences Encoding Desired Proteins

55 [0075] In general, the nucleic acids encoding the subject proteins are cloned from DNA sequence libraries that are made to encode cDNA or genomic DNA. The particular sequences can be located by hybridizing with an oligonucleotide probe, the sequence of which can be derived from the sequences of *AKR1C1*, *AKR1C2*, *AKR1C3* or *AKR1C4* (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ

ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, or SEQ ID NO:52), which provides a reference for PCR primers and defines suitable regions for isolating AKR1C-specific probes. Alternatively, where the sequence is cloned into an expression library, the expressed recombinant protein can be detected immunologically with antisera or purified antibodies made against the AKR1C of interest.

[0076] Methods for making and screening genomic and cDNA libraries are well known to those of skill in the art (*see, e.g.*, Gubler and Hoffman *Gene* 25:263-269 (1983); Benton and Davis *Science*, 196:180-182 (1977); and Sambrook, *supra*). Peripheral cells such as fat or muscle cells are an example of suitable cells to isolate AKR1C RNA and cDNA.

[0077] Briefly, to make the cDNA library, one should choose a source that is rich in mRNA. The mRNA can then be made into cDNA, ligated into a recombinant vector, and transfected into a recombinant host for propagation, screening and cloning. For a genomic library, the DNA is extracted from a suitable tissue and either mechanically sheared or enzymatically digested to yield fragments of preferably about 5-100 kb. The fragments are then separated by gradient centrifugation from undesired sizes and are constructed in bacteriophage lambda vectors. These vectors and phage are packaged *in vitro*, and the recombinant phages are analyzed by plaque hybridization. Colony hybridization is carried out as generally described in Grunstein et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.*, 72:3961-3965 (1975).

[0078] An alternative method combines the use of synthetic oligonucleotide primers with polymerase extension on an mRNA or DNA template. Suitable primers can be designed from specific AKR1C sequences, *e.g.*, the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, or SEQ ID NO:52. This polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method amplifies the nucleic acids encoding the protein of interest directly from mRNA, cDNA, genomic libraries or cDNA libraries. Restriction endonuclease sites can be incorporated into the primers. Polymerase chain reaction or other *in vitro* amplification methods may also be useful, for example, to clone nucleic acids encoding specific proteins and express said proteins, to synthesize nucleic acids that will be used as probes for detecting the presence of mRNA encoding an AKR1C polypeptide of the invention in physiological samples, for nucleic acid sequencing, or for other purposes (*see*, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,683,202). Genes amplified by a PCR reaction can be purified from agarose gels and cloned into an appropriate vector.

[0079] Appropriate primers and probes for identifying the genes encoding an AKR1C polypeptide of the invention from mammalian tissues can be derived from the sequences provided herein, in particular SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, or SEQ ID NO:29. For a general overview of PCR, *see*, Innis et al. *PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications*, Academic Press, San Diego (1990).

[0080] Synthetic oligonucleotides can be used to construct genes. This is done using a series of overlapping oligonucleotides, usually 40-120 bp in length, representing both the sense and anti-sense strands of the gene. These DNA fragments are then annealed, ligated and cloned.

[0081] A gene encoding an AKR1C polypeptide of the invention can be cloned using intermediate vectors before transformation into mammalian cells for expression. These intermediate vectors are typically prokaryote vectors or shuttle vectors. The proteins can be expressed in either prokaryotes, using standard methods well known to those of skill in the art, or eukaryotes as described *infra*.

III. PURIFICATION OF PROTEINS OF THE INVENTION

[0082] Either naturally occurring or recombinant AKR1C can be purified for use in functional assays. Naturally occurring AKR1C can be purified, *e.g.*, from mouse or human tissue such as adipocytes or any other source of an AKR1C ortholog. Recombinant AKR1C can be purified from any suitable expression system.

[0083] The AKR1C may be purified to substantial purity by standard techniques, including selective precipitation with such substances as ammonium sulfate; column chromatography, immunopurification methods, and others (*see, e.g.*, Scopes, *Protein Purification: Principles and Practice* (1982); U.S. Patent No. 4,673,641; Ausubel *et al.*, *supra*; and Sambrook *et al.*, *supra*).

[0084] A number of procedures can be employed when recombinant AKR1C are being purified. For example, proteins having established molecular adhesion properties can be reversibly fused to AKR1C. With the appropriate ligand, AKR1C can be selectively adsorbed to a purification column and then freed from the column in a relatively pure form. The fused protein may be then removed by enzymatic activity. Finally AKR1C could be purified using immunoaffinity columns.

A. Purification of Proteins from Recombinant Bacteria

[0085] When recombinant proteins are expressed by the transformed bacteria in large amounts, typically after promoter induction, although expression can be constitutive, the proteins may form insoluble aggregates. There are several protocols that are suitable for purification of protein inclusion bodies. For example, purification of aggregate proteins (hereinafter referred to as inclusion bodies) typically involves the extraction, separation and/or purification of inclusion bodies by disruption of bacterial cells typically, but not limited to, by incubation in a buffer of about 100-150 μ g/ml lysozyme and 0.1% Nonidet P40, a non-ionic detergent. The cell suspension can be ground using a Polytron grinder (Brinkman Instruments, Westbury, NY). Alternatively, the cells can be sonicated on ice. Alternate methods of lysing bacteria are described in Ausubel *et al.* and Sambrook *et al.*, both *supra*, and will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

[0086] The cell suspension is generally centrifuged and the pellet containing the inclusion bodies resuspended in buffer which does not dissolve but washes the inclusion bodies, *e.g.*, 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.2), 1 mM EDTA, 150 mM NaCl and 2% Triton-X 100, a non-ionic detergent. It may be necessary to repeat the wash step to remove as much cellular debris as possible. The remaining pellet of inclusion bodies may be resuspended in an appropriate buffer (*e.g.*, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, 150 mM NaCl). Other appropriate buffers will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

[0087] Following the washing step, the inclusion bodies are solubilized by the addition of a solvent that is both a strong hydrogen acceptor and a strong hydrogen donor (or a combination of solvents each having one of these properties). The proteins that formed the inclusion bodies may then be renatured by dilution or dialysis with a compatible buffer. Suitable solvents include, but are not limited to, urea (from about 4 M to about 8 M), formamide (at least about 80%, volume/volume basis), and guanidine hydrochloride (from about 4 M to about 8 M). Some solvents that are capable of solubilizing aggregate-forming proteins, such as SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate) and 70% formic acid, are inappropriate for use in this procedure due to the possibility of irreversible denaturation of the proteins, accompanied by a lack of immunogenicity and/or activity. Although guanidine hydrochloride and similar agents are denaturants, this denaturation is not irreversible and renaturation may occur upon removal (by dialysis, for example) or dilution of the denaturant, allowing re-formation of the immunologically and/or biologically active protein of interest. After solubilization, the protein can be separated from other bacterial proteins by standard separation techniques.

[0088] Alternatively, it is possible to purify proteins from bacteria periplasm. Where the protein is exported into the periplasm of the bacteria, the periplasmic fraction of the bacteria can be isolated by cold osmotic shock in addition to other methods known to those of skill in the art (*see*, Ausubel *et al.*, *supra*). To isolate recombinant proteins from the periplasm, the bacterial cells are centrifuged to form a pellet. The pellet is resuspended in a buffer containing 20% sucrose. To lyse the cells, the bacteria are centrifuged and the pellet is resuspended in ice-cold 5 mM $MgSO_4$ and kept in an ice bath for approximately 10 minutes. The cell suspension is centrifuged and the supernatant decanted and saved. The recombinant proteins present in the supernatant can be separated from the host proteins by standard separation techniques well known to those of skill in the art.

B. Purification of Proteins from Insect Cells

[0089] Proteins can also be purified from eukaryotic gene expression systems as described in, *e.g.*, Fernandez and Hoeffler, *Gene Expression Systems* (1999). In some embodiments, baculovirus expression systems are used to isolate AKR1C proteins or other proteins of the invention. Recombinant baculoviruses are generally generated by replacing the polyhedrin coding sequence of a baculovirus with a gene to be expressed (*e.g.*, a AKR1C polynucleotide). Viruses lacking the polyhedrin gene have a unique plaque morphology making them easy to recognize. In some embodiments, a recombinant baculovirus is generated by first cloning a polynucleotide of interest into a transfer vector (*e.g.*, a pUC based vector) such that the polynucleotide is operably linked to a polyhedrin promoter. The transfer vector is transfected with wildtype DNA into an insect cell (*e.g.*, Sf9, Sf21 or BT1-TN-5B1-4 cells), resulting in homologous recombination and replacement of the polyhedrin gene in the wildtype viral DNA with the polynucleotide of interest. Virus can then be generated and plaque purified. Protein expression results upon viral infection of insect cells. Expressed proteins can be harvested from cell supernatant if secreted, or from cell lysates if intracellular. *See, e.g.*, Ausubel *et al.* and Fernandez and Hoeffler, *supra*.

C. Standard Protein Separation Techniques For Purifying Proteins

1. Solubility Fractionation

[0090] Often as an initial step, and if the protein mixture is complex, an initial salt fractionation can separate many of the unwanted host cell proteins (or proteins derived from the cell culture media) from the recombinant protein of interest. The preferred salt is ammonium sulfate. Ammonium sulfate precipitates proteins by effectively reducing the amount of water in the protein mixture. Proteins then precipitate on the basis of their solubility. The more hydrophobic a protein is,

the more likely it is to precipitate at lower ammonium sulfate concentrations. A typical protocol is to add saturated ammonium sulfate to a protein solution so that the resultant ammonium sulfate concentration is between 20-30%. This will precipitate the most hydrophobic proteins. The precipitate is discarded (unless the protein of interest is hydrophobic) and ammonium sulfate is added to the supernatant to a concentration known to precipitate the protein of interest. The precipitate is then solubilized in buffer and the excess salt removed if necessary, through either dialysis or diafiltration. Other methods that rely on solubility of proteins, such as cold ethanol precipitation, are well known to those of skill in the art and can be used to fractionate complex protein mixtures.

2. Size Differential Filtration

[0091] Based on a calculated molecular weight, a protein of greater and lesser size can be isolated using ultrafiltration through membranes of different pore sizes (for example, Amicon or Millipore membranes). As a first step, the protein mixture is ultrafiltered through a membrane with a pore size that has a lower molecular weight cut-off than the molecular weight of the protein of interest. The retentate of the ultrafiltration is then ultrafiltered against a membrane with a molecular cut off greater than the molecular weight of the protein of interest. The recombinant protein will pass through the membrane into the filtrate. The filtrate can then be chromatographed as described below.

3. Column Chromatography

[0092] The proteins of interest can also be separated from other proteins on the basis of their size, net surface charge, hydrophobicity and affinity for ligands. In addition, antibodies raised against proteins can be conjugated to column matrices and the proteins immunopurified. All of these methods are well known in the art.

[0093] Immunoaffinity chromatography using antibodies raised to a variety of affinity tags such as hemagglutinin (HA), FLAG, Xpress, Myc, hexahistidine (His), glutathione S transferase (GST) and the like can be used to purify polypeptides. The His tag will also act as a chelating agent for certain metals (e.g., Ni) and thus the metals can also be used to purify His-containing polypeptides. After purification, the tag is optionally removed by specific proteolytic cleavage.

[0094] It will be apparent to one of skill that chromatographic techniques can be performed at any scale and using equipment from many different manufacturers (e.g., Pharmacia Biotech).

IV. DETECTION OF POLYNUCLEOTIDES OF THE INVENTION

[0095] Those of skill in the art will recognize that detection of expression of AKR1C polynucleotides has many uses. For example, as discussed herein, detection of AKR1C levels in a patient is useful for diagnosing diabetes or a predisposition for at least some of the pathological effects of diabetes. Moreover, detection of gene expression is useful to identify modulators of AKR1C expression.

[0096] A variety of methods of specific DNA and RNA measurement that use nucleic acid hybridization techniques are known to those of skill in the art (see, Sambrook, *supra*). Some methods involve an electrophoretic separation (e.g., Southern blot for detecting DNA, and Northern blot for detecting RNA), but measurement of DNA and RNA can also be carried out in the absence of electrophoretic separation (e.g., by dot blot). Southern blot of genomic DNA (e.g., from a human) can be used for screening for restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) to detect the presence of a genetic disorder affecting an AKR1C polypeptide of the invention.

[0097] The selection of a nucleic acid hybridization format is not critical. A variety of nucleic acid hybridization formats are known to those skilled in the art. For example, common formats include sandwich assays and competition or displacement assays. Hybridization techniques are generally described in Hames and Higgins Nucleic Acid Hybridization, A Practical Approach, IRL Press (1985); Gall and Pardue, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 63:378-383 (1969); and John et al. Nature, 223:582-587 (1969).

[0098] Detection of a hybridization complex may require the binding of a signal-generating complex to a duplex of target and probe polynucleotides or nucleic acids. Typically, such binding occurs through ligand and anti-ligand interactions as between a ligand-conjugated probe and an anti-ligand conjugated with a signal. The binding of the signal generation complex is also readily amenable to accelerations by exposure to ultrasonic energy.

[0099] The label may also allow indirect detection of the hybridization complex. For example, where the label is a hapten or antigen, the sample can be detected by using antibodies. In these systems, a signal is generated by attaching fluorescent or enzyme molecules to the antibodies or in some cases, by attachment to a radioactive label (see, e.g., Tijssen, "Practice and Theory of Enzyme Immunoassays," Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Burdon and van Knippenberg Eds., Elsevier (1985), pp. 9-20).

[0100] The probes are typically labeled either directly, as with isotopes, chromophores, lumiphores, chromogens, or indirectly, such as with biotin, to which a streptavidin complex may later bind. Thus, the detectable labels used in the assays of the present invention can be primary labels (where the label comprises an element that is detected directly

or that produces a directly detectable element) or secondary labels (where the detected label binds to a primary label, *e.g.*, as is common in immunological labeling). Typically, labeled signal nucleic acids are used to detect hybridization. Complementary nucleic acids or signal nucleic acids may be labeled by any one of several methods typically used to detect the presence of hybridized polynucleotides. The most common method of detection is the use of autoradiography with ^3H , ^{125}I , ^{35}S , ^{14}C , or ^{32}P -labeled probes or the like.

[0101] Other labels include, *e.g.*, ligands that bind to labeled antibodies, fluorophores, chemiluminescent agents, enzymes, and antibodies that can serve as specific binding pair members for a labeled ligand. An introduction to labels, labeling procedures and detection of labels is found in Polak and Van Noorden Introduction to Immunocytochemistry, 2nd ed., Springer Verlag, NY (1997); and in Haugland Handbook of Fluorescent Probes and Research Chemicals, a combined handbook and catalogue Published by Molecular Probes, Inc. (1996).

[0102] In general, a detector that monitors a particular probe or probe combination is used to detect the detection reagent label. Typical detectors include spectrophotometers, phototubes and photodiodes, microscopes, scintillation counters, cameras, film and the like, as well as combinations thereof. Examples of suitable detectors are widely available from a variety of commercial sources known to persons of skill in the art. Commonly, an optical image of a substrate comprising bound labeling moieties is digitized for subsequent computer analysis.

[0103] Most typically, the amount of, for example, an AKR1C RNA is measured by quantitating the amount of label fixed to the solid support by binding of the detection reagent. Typically, the presence of a modulator during incubation will increase or decrease the amount of label fixed to the solid support relative to a control incubation that does not comprise the modulator, or as compared to a baseline established for a particular reaction type. Means of detecting and quantitating labels are well known to those of skill in the art.

[0104] In some embodiments, the target nucleic acid or the probe is immobilized on a solid support. Solid supports suitable for use in the assays of the invention are known to those of skill in the art. As used herein, a solid support is a matrix of material in a substantially fixed arrangement.

[0105] A variety of automated solid-phase assay techniques are also appropriate. For instance, very large scale immobilized polymer arrays (VLSIPS[™]), *i.e.* Gene Chips or microarrays, available from Affymetrix, Inc. in Santa Clara, CA can be used to detect changes in expression levels of a plurality of genes involved in the same regulatory pathways simultaneously. *See*, Tijssen, *supra.*, Fodor et al. (1991) Science, 251: 767-777; Sheldon et al. (1993) Clinical Chemistry 39(4): 718-719, and Kozal et al. (1996) Nature Medicine 2(7): 753-759. Similarly, spotted cDNA arrays (arrays of cDNA sequences bound to nylon, glass or another solid support) can also be used to monitor expression of a plurality of genes.

[0106] Typically, the array elements are organized in an ordered fashion so that each element is present at a specified location on the substrate. Because the array elements are at specified locations on the substrate, the hybridization patterns and intensities (which together create a unique expression profile) can be interpreted in terms of expression levels of particular genes and can be correlated with a particular disease or condition or treatment. *See, e.g.*, Schena et al., Science 270: 467-470 (1995) and (Lockhart et al., Nature Biotech. 14: 1675-1680 (1996)).

[0107] Hybridization specificity can be evaluated by comparing the hybridization of specificity-control polynucleotide sequences to specificity-control polynucleotide probes that are added to a sample in a known amount. The specificity-control target polynucleotides may have one or more sequence mismatches compared with the corresponding polynucleotide sequences. In this manner, whether only complementary target polynucleotides are hybridizing to the polynucleotide sequences or whether mismatched hybrid duplexes are forming is determined.

[0108] Hybridization reactions can be performed in absolute or differential hybridization formats. In the absolute hybridization format, polynucleotide probes from one sample are hybridized to the sequences in a microarray format and signals detected after hybridization complex formation correlate to polynucleotide probe levels in a sample. In the differential hybridization format, the differential expression of a set of genes in two biological samples is analyzed. For differential hybridization, polynucleotide probes from both biological samples are prepared and labeled with different labeling moieties. A mixture of the two labeled polynucleotide probes is added to a microarray. The microarray is then examined under conditions in which the emissions from the two different labels are individually detectable. Sequences in the microarray that are hybridized to substantially equal numbers of polynucleotide probes derived from both biological samples give a distinct combined fluorescence (Shalon et al. PCT publication WO95/35505). In some embodiments, the labels are fluorescent labels with distinguishable emission spectra, such as Cy3 and Cy5 fluorophores.

[0109] After hybridization, the microarray is washed to remove nonhybridized nucleic acids and complex formation between the hybridizable array elements and the polynucleotide probes is detected. Methods for detecting complex formation are well known to those skilled in the art. In some embodiments, the polynucleotide probes are labeled with a fluorescent label and measurement of levels and patterns of fluorescence indicative of complex formation is accomplished by fluorescence microscopy, such as confocal fluorescence microscopy.

[0110] In a differential hybridization experiment, polynucleotide probes from two or more different biological samples are labeled with two or more different fluorescent labels with different emission wavelengths. Fluorescent signals are detected separately with different photomultipliers set to detect specific wavelengths. The relative abundances/expression levels of the polynucleotide probes in two or more samples are obtained.

[0111] Typically, microarray fluorescence intensities can be normalized to take into account variations in hybridization intensities when more than one microarray is used under similar test conditions. In some embodiments, individual polynucleotide probe/target complex hybridization intensities are normalized using the intensities derived from internal normalization controls contained on each microarray.

5 [0112] Detection of nucleic acids can also be accomplished, for example, by using a labeled detection moiety that binds specifically to duplex nucleic acids (e.g., an antibody that is specific for RNA-DNA duplexes). One example uses an antibody that recognizes DNA-RNA heteroduplexes in which the antibody is linked to an enzyme (typically by recombinant or covalent chemical bonding). The antibody is detected when the enzyme reacts with its substrate, producing a detectable product. Coutlee et al. (1989) *Analytical Biochemistry* 181:153-162; Bogulavski (1986) et al. *J. Immunol. Methods* 89:123-130; Prooijen-Knegt (1982) *Exp. Cell Res.* 141:397-407; Rudkin (1976) *Nature* 265:472-473, Stollar (1970) *PNAS* 65:993-1000; Ballard (1982) *Mol. Immunol.* 19:793-799; Pisetsky and Caster (1982) *Mol. Immunol.* 19:645-650; Viscidi et al. (1988) *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 41:199-209; and Kiney et al. (1989) *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 27:6-12 describe antibodies to RNA duplexes, including homo and heteroduplexes. Kits comprising antibodies specific for DNA:RNA hybrids are available, e.g., from Digene Diagnostics, Inc. (Beltsville, MD).

15 [0113] In addition to available antibodies, one of skill in the art can easily make antibodies specific for nucleic acid duplexes using existing techniques, or modify those antibodies that are commercially or publicly available. In addition to the art referenced above, general methods for producing polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies are known to those of skill in the art (see, e.g., Paul (ed) *Fundamental Immunology*, Third Edition Raven Press, Ltd., NY (1993); Coligan *Current Protocols in Immunology* Wiley/Greene, NY (1991); Harlow and Lane *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* Cold Spring Harbor Press, NY (1989); Stites et al. (eds.) *Basic and Clinical Immunology* (4th ed.) Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, CA, and references cited therein; Goding *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice* (2d ed.) Academic Press, New York, NY, (1986); and Kohler and Milstein *Nature* 256: 495-497 (1975)). Other suitable techniques for antibody preparation include selection of libraries of recombinant antibodies in phage or similar vectors (see, Huse et al. *Science* 246:1275-1281 (1989); and Ward et al. *Nature* 341:544-546 (1989)). Specific monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies and antisera will usually bind with a K_D of at least about 0.1 μ M, preferably at least about 0.01 μ M or better, and most typically and preferably, 0.001 μ M or better.

20 [0114] The nucleic acids used in this invention can be either positive or negative probes. Positive probes bind to their targets and the presence of duplex formation is evidence of the presence of the target. Negative probes fail to bind to the suspect target and the absence of duplex formation is evidence of the presence of the target. For example, the use of a wild type specific nucleic acid probe or PCR primers may serve as a negative probe in an assay sample where only the nucleotide sequence of interest is present.

25 [0115] The sensitivity of the hybridization assays may be enhanced through use of a nucleic acid amplification system that multiplies the target nucleic acid being detected. Examples of such systems include the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) system and the ligase chain reaction (LCR) system. Other methods recently described in the art are the nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA, Cangene, Mississauga, Ontario) and Q Beta Replicase systems. These systems can be used to directly identify mutants where the PCR or LCR primers are designed to be extended or ligated only when a selected sequence is present. Alternatively, the selected sequences can be generally amplified using, for example, nonspecific PCR primers and the amplified target region later probed for a specific sequence indicative of a mutation. It is understood that various detection probes, including Taqman and molecular beacon probes can be used to monitor amplification reaction products, e.g., in real time.

30 [0116] An alternative means for determining the level of expression of the nucleic acids of the present invention is *in situ* hybridization. *In situ* hybridization assays are well known and are generally described in Angerer et al., *Methods Enzymol.* 152:649-660 (1987). In an *in situ* hybridization assay, cells, preferentially human cells from the cerebellum or the hippocampus, are fixed to a solid support, typically a glass slide. If DNA is to be probed, the cells are denatured with heat or alkali. The cells are then contacted with a hybridization solution at a moderate temperature to permit annealing of specific probes that are labeled. The probes are preferably labeled with radioisotopes or fluorescent reporters.

35 [0117] Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis is also useful for detecting differences between alleles of *AKR1C* genes. *AKR1C2*, *AKR1C3* and *AKR1C4* all reside within a region of human chromosome 10 annotated as base pair number 5600000-5900000 (as determined using a BLAT search of the human genome sequence at the University of California Santa Cruz site (also referred to as Golden Path)). Within this region, 159 known SNPs have been reported to date. *AKR1C*-linked SNPs are useful for diagnosis of *AKR1C*-linked diseases (e.g., diabetes, dyslipidemia, etc.) in a patient. For example, if an individual carries at least one allele of an *AKR1C*-linked SNP, the individual is likely predisposed for one or more of those diseases. If the individual is homozygous for a disease-linked *AKR1C* SNP, the individual is particularly predisposed for *AKR1C*-linked disease (e.g., diabetes). In some embodiments, the the SNP associated with the *AKR1C*-linked disease is located within 300,000; 200,000; 100,000; 75,000; 50,000; or 10,000 base pairs of a polynucleotide encoding *AKR1C*.

40 [0118] Various real-time PCR methods including, e.g., Taqman or molecular beacon-based assays (e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,210,015; 5,487,972; Tyagi et al., *Nature Biotechnology* 14:303 (1996); and PCT WO 95/13399 are useful to

monitor for the presence of absence of a SNP. Additional SNP detection methods include, e.g., DNA sequencing; sequencing by hybridisation, dot blotting, oligonucleotide array (DNA Chip) hybridization analysis, or are described in, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 6,177,249; Landegren et al., *Genome Research*, 8:769-776 (1998); Botstein et al., *Am J Human Genetics* 32:314-331 (1980); Meyers et al., *Methods in Enzymology* 155:501-527 (1987); Keen et al., *Trends in Genetics* 7:5 (1991); Myers et al., *Science* 230:1242-1246 (1985); and Kwok et al., *Genomics* 23:138-144 (1994).

V. IMMUNOLOGICAL DETECTION OF AKR1C, PGD2 OR 9 α ,11 β -PROSTAGLANDIN F_{2 α}

[0119] In addition to the detection of AKR1C genes and gene expression using nucleic acid hybridization technology, one can also use immunoassays to detect AKR1C polypeptides, substrates/products of AKR1C activity such as 9 α ,11 β -prostaglandin F_{2 α} , chemical derivatives thereof and prostaglandin D2 ("PGD2") or chemical derivatives thereof. Immunoassays can be used to qualitatively or quantitatively analyze AKR1C or 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} or PGD2. A general overview of the applicable technology can be found in Harlow & Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* (1988).

A. Antibodies to Target Proteins or other immunogens

[0120] Methods for producing polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies that react specifically with a protein of interest or other immunogen are known to those of skill in the art (*see, e.g.,* Coligan, *supra*; and Harlow and Lane, *supra*; Stites *et al., supra* and references cited therein; Goding, *supra*; and Kohler and Milstein *Nature*, 256:495-497 (1975)). Such techniques include antibody preparation by selection of antibodies from libraries of recombinant antibodies in phage or similar vectors (*see, Huse et al., supra*; and Ward *et al., supra*). For example, in order to produce antisera for use in an immunoassay, the protein of interest or an antigenic fragment thereof, is isolated as described herein. For example, a recombinant protein is produced in a transformed cell line. An inbred strain of mice or rabbits is immunized with the protein using a standard adjuvant, such as Freund's adjuvant, and a standard immunization protocol. Alternatively, a synthetic peptide derived from the AKR1C sequences disclosed herein, or a prostaglandin such as 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} or PGD2, is conjugated to a carrier protein and used as an immunogen.

[0121] One method for detecting PGD2 is to treat a sample with methoxylamine hydrochloride to produce a stable prostaglandin D2 derivative (11-methoxime-prostaglandin D2). Antibodies and ELISA kits useful for detection of 11-methoxime-prostaglandin D2 are available from Immuno-biological Laboratories (Hamburg, Germany). Similarly, chemical derivatives of 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} can be formed and the derivative quantified. Alternatively, commercial antibodies and ELISA kits useful for detection of 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} are available from, e.g., Cayman Chemical (Ann Arbor, MI).

[0122] Polyclonal sera are collected and titered against the immunogen in an immunoassay, for example, a solid phase immunoassay with the immunogen immobilized on a solid support. Polyclonal antisera with a titer of 10⁴ or greater are selected and tested for their crossreactivity against non-AKR1C proteins or even other homologous proteins from other organisms, using a competitive binding immunoassay. For antisera raised against 9 α ,11 β PGF_{2 α} , cross-reactivity is measured against non-9 α ,11 β PGF_{2 α} compounds. Specific monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies and antisera will usually bind with a K_D of at least about 0.1 mM, more usually at least about 1 μ M, preferably at least about 0.1 μ M or better, and most preferably, 0.01 μ M or better.

[0123] A number of proteins of the invention comprising immunogens may be used to produce antibodies specifically or selectively reactive with the proteins of interest. Recombinant protein is the preferred immunogen for the production of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies. Naturally occurring protein may also be used either in pure or impure form. Synthetic peptides made using the protein sequences described herein may also be used as an immunogen for the production of antibodies to the protein. Recombinant protein can be expressed in eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells and purified as generally described *supra*. The product is then injected into an animal capable of producing antibodies. Either monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies may be generated for subsequent use in immunoassays to measure the protein.

[0124] Methods of production of polyclonal antibodies are known to those of skill in the art. In brief, an immunogen, preferably a purified protein, is mixed with an adjuvant and animals are immunized. The animal's immune response to the immunogen preparation is monitored by taking test bleeds and determining the titer of reactivity to the AKR1C of interest or 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} or PGD2. When appropriately high titers of antibody to the immunogen are obtained, blood is collected from the animal and antisera are prepared. Further fractionation of the antisera to enrich for antibodies reactive to the protein can be done if desired (*see, Harlow and Lane, supra*).

[0125] Monoclonal antibodies may be obtained using various techniques familiar to those of skill in the art. Typically, spleen cells from an animal immunized with a desired antigen are immortalized, commonly by fusion with a myeloma cell (*see, Kohler and Milstein, Eur. J. Immunol.* 6:511-519 (1976)). Alternative methods of immortalization include, e.g., transformation with Epstein Barr Virus, oncogenes, or retroviruses, or other methods well known in the art. Colonies arising from single immortalized cells are screened for production of antibodies of the desired specificity and affinity for the antigen, and yield of the monoclonal antibodies produced by such cells may be enhanced by various techniques, including injection into the peritoneal cavity of a vertebrate host. Alternatively, one may isolate DNA sequences that

encode a monoclonal antibody or a binding fragment thereof by screening a DNA library from human B cells according to the general protocol outlined by Huse *et al.*, *supra*.

[0126] Once target immunogen-specific antibodies are available, the immunogen can be measured by a variety of immunoassay methods with qualitative and quantitative results available to the clinician. For a review of immunological and immunoassay procedures in general see, Stites, *supra*. Moreover, the immunoassays of the present invention can be performed in any of several configurations, which are reviewed extensively in Maggio Enzyme Immunoassay, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida (1980); Tijssen, *supra*; and Harlow and Lane, *supra*.

[0127] Immunoassays to measure target proteins in a human sample may use a polyclonal antiserum that was raised to the protein (e.g., AKR1C1, AKR1C2, AKR1C3 or AKR1C4) or a fragment thereof. This antiserum is selected to have low cross-reactivity against non-AKR1C proteins and any such cross-reactivity is removed by immunoabsorption prior to use in the immunoassay. Alternatively, antibodies that recognize more than one or even all AKR1C proteins in a sample can be used, for example to determine the overall level of AKR1C protein in a sample.

B. Immunological Binding Assays

[0128] In some embodiments, a protein of interest is detected and/or quantified using any of a number of well-known immunological binding assays (see, e.g., U.S. Patents 4,366,241; 4,376,110; 4,517,2S8; and 4,837,168). For a review of the general immunoassays, see also Asai Methods in Cell Biology Volume 37: Antibodies in Cell Biology, Academic Press, Inc. NY (1993); Stites, *supra*. Immunological binding assays (or immunoassays) typically utilize a "capture agent" to specifically bind to and often immobilize the analyte (in this case an AKR1C of the present invention, antigenic subsequences thereof, or other immunogens such as PGD2 or $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}). The capture agent is a moiety that specifically binds to the analyte. In a preferred embodiment, the capture agent is an antibody that specifically binds, for example, an AKR1C polypeptide of the invention or other immunogens such as PGD2 or $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} . The antibody (e.g., anti-AKR1C antibody) may be produced by any of a number of means well known to those of skill in the art and as described above.

[0129] Immunoassays also often utilize a labeling agent to bind specifically to and label the binding complex formed by the capture agent and the analyte. The labeling agent may itself be one of the moieties comprising the antibody/analyte complex. Alternatively, the labeling agent may be a third moiety, such as another antibody, that specifically binds to the antibody/protein complex.

[0130] In a preferred embodiment, the labeling agent is a second antibody bearing a label. Alternatively, the second antibody may lack a label, but it may, in turn, be bound by a labeled third antibody specific to antibodies of the species from which the second antibody is derived. The second antibody can be modified with a detectable moiety, such as biotin, to which a third labeled molecule can specifically bind, such as enzyme-labeled streptavidin.

[0131] Other proteins capable of specifically binding immunoglobulin constant regions, such as protein A or protein G, can also be used as the label agents. These proteins are normal constituents of the cell walls of streptococcal bacteria. They exhibit a strong non-immunogenic reactivity with immunoglobulin constant regions from a variety of species (see, generally, Kronval, et al. J. Immunol., 111:1401-1406 (1973); and Akerstrom, et al. J. Immunol., 135:2589-2542 (1985)).

[0132] Throughout the assays, incubation and/or washing steps may be required after each combination of reagents. Incubation steps can vary from about 5 seconds to several hours, preferably from about 5 minutes to about 24 hours. The incubation time will depend upon the assay format, analyte, volume of solution, concentrations, and the like. Usually, the assays will be carried out at ambient temperature, although they can be conducted over a range of temperatures, such as 10°C to 40°C.

1. Non-Competitive Assay Formats

[0133] Immunoassays for detecting proteins or analytes of interest from tissue samples may be either competitive or noncompetitive. Noncompetitive immunoassays are assays in which the amount of captured protein or analyte is directly measured. In one preferred "sandwich" assay, for example, the capture agent (e.g., $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} antibodies or AKR1C antibodies) can be bound directly to a solid substrate where it is immobilized. These immobilized antibodies then capture the $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} or AKR1C present in the test sample. The AKR1C or $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} thus immobilized is then bound by a labeling agent, such as a second anti-AKR1C antibody bearing a label. Alternatively, the second antibody may lack a label, but it may, in turn, be bound by a labeled third antibody specific to antibodies of the species from which the second antibody is derived. The second can be modified with a detectable moiety, such as biotin, to which a third labeled molecule can specifically bind, such as enzyme-labeled streptavidin.

2. Competitive Assay Formats

[0134] In competitive assays, the amount of protein or analyte present in the sample is measured indirectly by measuring

the amount of an added (exogenous) protein or analyte (e.g., $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} or the AKR1C of interest) displaced (or competed away) from a specific capture agent, e.g. antibodies raised to $9\alpha,11\beta$ PGF_{2 α} or to AKR1C) by the protein or analyte present in the sample. The amount of immunogen bound to the antibody is inversely proportional to the concentration of immunogen present in the sample. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the antibody is immobilized on a solid substrate. The amount of analyte may be detected by providing a labeled analyte molecule. It is understood that labels can include, e.g., radioactive labels as well as peptide or other tags that can be recognized by detection reagents such as antibodies.

[0135] Immunoassays in the competitive binding format can be used for cross-reactivity determinations. For example, the protein encoded by the sequences described herein can be immobilized on a solid support. Proteins are added to the assay and compete with the binding of the antisera to the immobilized antigen. The ability of the above proteins to compete with the binding of the antisera to the immobilized protein is compared to that of the protein encoded by any of the sequences described herein. The percent cross-reactivity for the above proteins is calculated, using standard calculations. Those antisera with less than 10% cross-reactivity with each of the proteins listed above are selected and pooled. The cross-reacting antibodies are optionally removed from the pooled antisera by immunoabsorption with the considered proteins, e.g., distantly related homologs.

[0136] The immunoabsorbed and pooled antisera are then used in a competitive binding immunoassay as described above to compare a second protein, thought to be perhaps a protein of the present invention, to the immunogen protein. In order to make this comparison, the two proteins are each assayed at a wide range of concentrations and the amount of each protein required to inhibit 50% of the binding of the antisera to the immobilized protein is determined. If the amount of the second protein required is less than 10 times the amount of the protein partially encoded by a sequence herein that is required, then the second protein is said to specifically bind to an antibody generated to an immunogen consisting of the target protein.

3. Other Assay Formats

[0137] In a particularly preferred embodiment, western blot (immunoblot) analysis is used to detect and quantify the presence of an AKR1C of the invention in the sample. The technique generally comprises separating sample proteins by gel electrophoresis on the basis of molecular weight, transferring the separated proteins to a suitable solid support (such as, e.g., a nitrocellulose filter, a nylon filter, or a derivatized nylon filter) and incubating the sample with the antibodies that specifically bind the protein of interest. For example, the anti-AKR1C antibodies specifically bind to the AKR1C on the solid support. These antibodies may be directly labeled or alternatively may be subsequently detected using labeled antibodies (e.g., labeled sheep anti-mouse antibodies) that specifically bind to the antibodies against the protein of interest.

[0138] Other assay formats include liposome immunoassays (LIA), which use liposomes designed to bind specific molecules (e.g., antibodies) and release encapsulated reagents or markers. The released chemicals are then detected according to standard techniques (see, Monroe et al. (1986) Amer. Clin. Prod. Rev. 5:34-41).

4. Labels

[0139] The particular label or detectable group used in the assay is not a critical aspect of the invention, as long as it does not significantly interfere with the specific binding of the antibody used in the assay. The detectable group can be any material having a detectable physical or chemical property. Such detectable labels have been well-developed in the field of immunoassays and, in general, most labels useful in such methods can be applied to the present invention. Thus, a label is any composition detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, electrical, optical or chemical means. Useful labels in the present invention include magnetic beads (e.g., Dynabeads™), fluorescent dyes (e.g., fluorescein isothiocyanate, Texas red, rhodamine, and the like), radiolabels (e.g., ³H, ¹²⁵I, ³⁵S ¹⁴C, or ³²P), enzymes (e.g., horse radish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase and others commonly used in an ELISA), and colorimetric labels such as colloidal gold or colored glass or plastic (e.g., polystyrene, polypropylene, latex, etc.) beads.

[0140] The label may be coupled directly or indirectly to the desired component of the assay according to methods well known in the art. As indicated above, a wide variety of labels may be used, with the choice of label depending on the sensitivity required, the ease of conjugation with the compound, stability requirements, available instrumentation, and disposal provisions.

[0141] Non-radioactive labels are often attached by indirect means. The molecules can also be conjugated directly to signal generating compounds, e.g., by conjugation with an enzyme or fluorescent compound. A variety of enzymes and fluorescent compounds can be used with the methods of the present invention and are well-known to those of skill in the art (for a review of various labeling or signal producing systems which may be used, see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,391,904).

[0142] Means of detecting labels are well known to those of skill in the art. Thus, for example, where the label is a

radioactive label, means for detection include a scintillation counter or photographic film as in autoradiography. Where the label is a fluorescent label, it may be detected by exciting the fluorochrome with the appropriate wavelength of light and detecting the resulting fluorescence. The fluorescence may be detected visually, by means of photographic film, by the use of electronic detectors such as charge coupled devices (CCDs) or photomultipliers and the like. Similarly, enzymatic labels may be detected by providing the appropriate substrates for the enzyme and detecting the resulting reaction product. Finally simple colorimetric labels may be detected directly by observing the color associated with the label. Thus, in various dipstick assays, conjugated gold often appears pink, while various conjugated beads appear the color of the bead.

[0143] Some assay formats do not require the use of labeled components. For instance, agglutination assays can be used to detect the presence of the target antibodies. In this case, antigen-coated particles are agglutinated by samples comprising the target antibodies. In this format, none of the components need to be labeled and the presence of the target antibody is detected by simple visual inspection.

VI. IDENTIFICATION OF MODULATORS OF AKR1C

[0144] Modulators of AKR1C, i.e. agonists or antagonists of AKR1C activity or AKR1C polypeptide or polynucleotide expression, are useful for treating a number of human diseases, including diabetes. Administration of AKR1C inhibitors can be used to treat diabetic patients or individuals with insulin resistance. Alternatively, activators of AKR1C can be used to treat diabetic patients or individuals with insulin resistance by stimulating synthesis of PG D2.

A. Agents that Modulate AKR1C

[0145] The agents tested as modulators of AKR1C can be any small chemical compound, or a biological entity, such as a protein, sugar, nucleic acid or lipid. Typically, test compounds will be small chemical molecules and peptides. Essentially any chemical compound can be used as a potential modulator or ligand in the assays of the invention, although most often compounds that can be dissolved in aqueous or organic (especially DMSO-based) solutions are used. The assays are designed to screen large chemical libraries by automating the assay steps and providing compounds from any convenient source to assays, which are typically run in parallel (e.g., in microtiter formats on microtiter plates in robotic assays). Modulators also include agents designed to reduce the level of AKR1C mRNA (e.g. antisense molecules, ribozymes, DNazymes, small inhibitory RNAs and the like) or the level of translation from an mRNA (e.g., translation blockers such as an antisense molecules that are complementary to translation start or other sequences on an mRNA molecule). It will be appreciated that there are many suppliers of chemical compounds, including Sigma (St. Louis, MO), Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), Fluka Chemika-Biochemica Analytika (Buchs, Switzerland) and the like.

[0146] In some embodiments, high throughput screening methods involve providing a combinatorial chemical or peptide library containing a large number of potential therapeutic compounds (potential modulator compounds). Such "combinatorial chemical libraries" or "ligand libraries" are then screened in one or more assays, as described herein, to identify those library members (particular chemical species or subclasses) that display a desired characteristic activity. The compounds thus identified can serve as conventional "lead compounds" or can themselves be used as potential or actual therapeutics.

[0147] A combinatorial chemical library is a collection of diverse chemical compounds generated by either chemical synthesis or biological synthesis, by combining a number of chemical "building blocks" such as reagents. For example, a linear combinatorial chemical library such as a polypeptide library is formed by combining a set of chemical building blocks (amino acids) in every possible way for a given compound length (i.e., the number of amino acids in a polypeptide compound). Millions of chemical compounds can be synthesized through such combinatorial mixing of chemical building blocks.

[0148] Preparation and screening of combinatorial chemical libraries is well known to those of skill in the art. Such combinatorial chemical libraries include, but are not limited to, peptide libraries (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 5,010,175, Furka, Int. J. Pept. Prot. Res. 37:487-493 (1991) and Houghton et al., Nature 354:84-88 (1991)). Other chemistries for generating chemical diversity libraries can also be used. Such chemistries include, but are not limited to: peptoids (e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 91/19735), encoded peptides (e.g., PCT Publication WO 93/20242), random bio-oligomers (e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 92/00091), benzodiazepines (e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,288,514), diversomers such as hydantoins, benzodiazepines and dipeptides (Hobbs et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 90:6909-6913 (1993)), vinylogous polypeptides (Hagihara et al., J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 114:6568 (1992)), nonpeptidal peptidomimetics with glucose scaffolding (Hirschmann et al., J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 114:9217-9218 (1992)), analogous organic syntheses of small compound libraries (Chen et al., J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 116:2661 (1994)), oligocarbamates (Cho et al., Science 261:1303 (1993)), and/or peptidyl phosphonates (Campbell et al., J. Org. Chem. 59:658 (1994)), nucleic acid libraries (see Ausubel, Berger and Sambrook, all *supra*), peptide nucleic acid libraries (see, e.g., U.S. Patent 5,539,083), antibody libraries (see, e.g.,

Vaughn et al., Nature Biotechnology, 14(3):309-314 (1996) and PCT/US96/10287), carbohydrate libraries (see, e.g., Liang et al., Science, 274:1520-1522 (1996) and U.S. Patent 5,593,853), small organic molecule libraries (see, e.g., benzodiazepines, Baum C&EN, Jan 18, page 33 (1993); isoprenoids, U.S. Patent 5,569,588; thiazolidinones and methathiazanones, U.S. Patent 5,549,974; pyrrolidines, U.S. Patents 5,525,735 and 5,519,134; morpholino compounds, U.S. Patent 5,506,337; benzodiazepines, 5,288,514, and the like).

[0149] Devices for the preparation of combinatorial libraries are commercially available (see, e.g., 357 MPS, 390 MPS, Advanced Chem Tech, Louisville KY, Symphony, Rainin, Woburn, MA, 433A Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, 9050 Plus, Millipore, Bedford, MA). In addition, numerous combinatorial libraries are themselves commercially available (see, e.g., ComGenex, Princeton, N.J., Tripos, Inc., St. Louis, MO, 3D Pharmaceuticals, Exton, PA, Martek Biosciences, Columbia, MD, etc.).

B. Methods of screening for Modulators of AKR1C

[0150] A number of different screening protocols can be utilized to identify agents that modulate the level of expression or activity of AKR1C in cells, particularly mammalian cells, and especially human cells. In general terms, the screening methods involve screening a plurality of agents to identify an agent that modulates the activity of AKR1C by, e.g., binding to an AKR1C polypeptide, preventing an inhibitor or activator from binding to AKR1C, increasing association of an inhibitor or activator with AKR1C, or activating or inhibiting expression of AKR1C. In some embodiments, an agent only modulates the activity or expression of one, two or three of AKR1C1, AKR1C2, AKR1C3, or AKR1C4. In some embodiments, all AKR1C polypeptides are modulated by the agent.

1. AKR1C Binding Assays

[0151] Preliminary screens can be conducted by screening for agents capable of binding to AKR1C, as at least some of the agents so identified are likely AKR1C modulators. Binding assays are also useful, e.g., for identifying endogenous proteins that interact with AKR1C. For example, antibodies, receptors or other molecules that bind AKR1C can be identified in binding assays.

[0152] Binding assays usually involve contacting an AKR1C protein with one or more test agents and allowing sufficient time for the protein and test agents to form a binding complex. Any binding complexes formed can be detected using any of a number of established analytical techniques. Protein binding assays include, but are not limited to, methods that measure co-precipitation or co-migration on non-denaturing SDS-polyacrylamide gels, and co-migration on Western blots (see, e.g., Bennet, J.P. and Yamamura, H.I. (1985) "Neurotransmitter, Hormone or Drug Receptor Binding Methods," in Neurotransmitter Receptor Binding (Yamamura, H. I., et al., eds.), pp. 61-89. Other binding assays involve the use of mass spectrometry or NMR techniques to identify molecules bound to AKR1C or displacement of labeled substrates. The AKR1C protein utilized in such assays can be naturally expressed, cloned or synthesized AKR1C.

[0153] In addition, mammalian or yeast two-hybrid approaches (see, e.g., Bartel, P.L. et. al. Methods Enzymol, 254: 241 (1995)) can be used to identify polypeptides or other molecules that interact or bind when expressed together in a cell.

2. Expression Assays

[0154] Screening for a compound that modulates the expression of AKR1C are also provided. Screening methods generally involve conducting cell-based assays in which test compounds are contacted with one or more cells expressing AKR1C, and then detecting an increase or decrease in AKR1C expression (either transcript, translation product, or catalytic product, (e.g., $9\alpha, 11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}) or substrate (e.g., prostaglandin D2 or NADPH). Assays can be performed with peripheral cells, or other cells, that express endogenous AKR1C.

[0155] AKR1C expression can be detected in a number of different ways. As described *infra*, the expression level of AKR1C in a cell can be determined by probing the mRNA expressed in a cell with a probe that specifically hybridizes with a transcript (or complementary nucleic acid derived therefrom) of AKR1C. Probing can be conducted by lysing the cells and conducting Northern blots or without lysing the cells using *in situ*-hybridization techniques. Alternatively, AKR1C protein can be detected using immunological methods in which a cell lysate is probed with antibodies that specifically bind to AKR1C.

[0156] Alternatively, the level of AKR1C enzymatic activity in a cell or other sample is determined and compared to a baseline value (e.g., a control value). Activity can be measured based on a crude extract or partially or essentially purified AKR1C from a sample. Measurement of AKR1C activity is described, for example, in Ohara et al. Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1215:59-65 (1994). In other embodiments, the quantity or level of AKR1C substrate (e.g., prostaglandin D2 or NADPH) or product (e.g., $9\alpha, 11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}) is determined and compared to a baseline (control) value.

[0157] Other cell-based assays involve reporter assays conducted with cells using standard reporter gene assays. These assays can be performed in either cells that do, or do not, express AKR1C. Some of these assays are conducted

with a heterologous nucleic acid construct that includes an AKR1C promoter that is operably linked to a reporter gene that encodes a detectable product. A number of different reporter genes can be utilized. Some reporters are inherently detectable. An example of such a reporter is green fluorescent protein that emits fluorescence that can be detected with a fluorescence detector. Other reporters generate a detectable product. Often such reporters are enzymes. Exemplary enzyme reporters include, but are not limited to, β -glucuronidase, CAT (chloramphenicol acetyl transferase; Alton and Vapnek (1979) Nature 282:864-869), luciferase, β -galactosidase and alkaline phosphatase (Toh, et al. (1980) Eur. J. Biochem. 182:231-238; and Hall et al. (1983) J. Mol. Appl. Gen. 2:101).

[0158] In these assays, cells harboring the reporter construct are contacted with a test compound. Modulated promoter expression is monitored by detecting the level of a detectable reporter. A number of different kinds of AKR1C modulators can be identified in this assay. For example, a test compound that inhibits the promoter by binding to it, inhibits the promoter by binding to transcription factors or other regulatory factors, binds to their promoter or triggers a cascade that produces a molecule that inhibits the promoter can be identified. Similarly a test compound that, e.g., activates the promoter by binding to it, activates the promoter by binding to transcription factors or other regulatory factors, binds to their promoter or triggers a cascade that produces a molecule that activates the promoter can also be identified.

[0159] The level of expression or activity can be compared to a baseline value. The baseline value can be a value for a control sample or a statistical value that is representative of AKR1C expression levels for a control population (e.g., healthy individuals not having or at risk for Type 2 diabetes) or cells (e.g., tissue culture cells not exposed to an AKR1C modulator). Expression levels can also be determined for cells that do not express AKR1C as a negative control. Such cells generally are otherwise substantially genetically the same as the test cells.

[0160] A variety of different types of cells can be utilized in the reporter assays. Cells that express an endogenous AKR1C include, e.g., cells from peripheral tissues such as fat and muscle cells. Cells that do not endogenously express AKR1C can be prokaryotic, but are preferably eukaryotic. The eukaryotic cells can be any of the cells typically utilized in generating cells that harbor recombinant nucleic acid constructs. Exemplary eukaryotic cells include, but are not limited to, yeast, and various higher eukaryotic cells such as the HepG2, COS, CHO and HeLa cell lines.

[0161] Various controls can be conducted to ensure that an observed activity is authentic including running parallel reactions with cells that lack the reporter construct or by not contacting a cell harboring the reporter construct with test compound. Compounds can also be further validated as described below.

3. Catalytic activity

[0162] Catalytic activity of AKR1C polypeptides can be determined by measuring the production of products (e.g., 9α , 11β -PGF_{2 α}) or by measuring the consumption of substrates (e.g., prostaglandin D2 or NADPH). Activity refers to either the rate of catalysis or the ability to the polypeptide to bind (K_m) the substrate or release the catalytic product (k_d).

[0163] Analysis of AKR1C polypeptide enzymatic activity is performed according to general biochemical procedures. Such assays include cell-based assays as well as *in vitro* assays involving purified or partially purified AKR1C polypeptides or crude cell lysates. The assays generally involve providing a known quantity of substrate (e.g., prostaglandin D2 and NADPH) and quantifying product (e.g., 9α , 11β -PGF_{2 α}) as a function of time. An ELISA kit for detecting 9α , 11β -PGF_{2 α} levels in samples is available from Cayman Chemical (Ann Arbor, MI). The catalytic activity of purified AKR1C can also be measured by monitoring the decrease in NADPH absorbance at 340 nm. See, H. Ohara et al., *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 1215:59-65 (1994). The activity of AKR1C can also be monitored by measuring the decrease in PGD2 levels. Biochemical analyses of AKR1C polypeptides and their activity have been described previously. See, e.g., Penning et al., *Biochem. J.* 351:67-77 (2000).

4. Validation

[0164] Agents that are initially identified by any of the foregoing screening methods can be further tested to validate the apparent activity. Preferably such studies are conducted with suitable animal models. The basic format of such methods involves administering a lead compound identified during an initial screen to an animal that serves as a model for humans and then determining if AKR1C is in fact modulated. The animal models utilized in validation studies generally are mammals of any kind. Specific examples of suitable animals include, but are not limited to, primates, mice and rats. For example, monogenic models of diabetes (e.g., ob/ob and db/db mice, Zucker rats and Zucker Diabetic Fatty rats etc) or polygenic models of diabetes (e.g., a high fat fed mouse model) can be useful for validating AKR1C modulation in a diabetic animal.

C. Solid Phase and Soluble High Throughput Assays

[0165] In the high throughput assays of the invention, it is possible to screen up to several thousand different modulators or ligands in a single day. In particular, each well of a microtiter plate can be used to run a separate assay against a

selected potential modulator, or, if concentration or incubation time effects are to be observed, every 5-10 wells can test a single modulator. Thus, a single standard microtiter plate can assay about 100 (e.g., 96) modulators. If 1536 well plates are used, then a single plate can easily assay from about 100 to about 1500 different compounds. It is possible to assay several different plates per day; assay screens for up to about 6,000-20,000 or more different compounds are possible using the integrated systems of the invention. In addition, microfluidic approaches to reagent manipulation can be used.

[0166] The molecule of interest (e.g., AKR1C) can be bound to the solid state component, directly or indirectly, via covalent or non covalent linkage, e.g., via a tag. The tag can be any of a variety of components. In general, a molecule that binds the tag (a tag binder) is fixed to a solid support, and the tagged molecule of interest (e.g., AKR1C) is attached to the solid support by interaction of the tag and the tag binder.

[0167] A number of tags and tag binders can be used, based upon known molecular interactions well described in the literature. For example, where a tag has a natural binder, for example, biotin, protein A, or protein G, it can be used in conjunction with appropriate tag binders (avidin, streptavidin, neutravidin, the Fc region of an immunoglobulin, poly-His, etc.) Antibodies to molecules with natural binders such as biotin are also widely available and appropriate tag binders (see, SIGMA Immunochemicals 1998 catalogue SIGMA, St. Louis MO).

[0168] Similarly, any haptenic or antigenic compound can be used in combination with an appropriate antibody to form a tag/tag binder pair. Thousands of specific antibodies are commercially available and many additional antibodies are described in the literature. For example, in one common configuration, the tag is a first antibody and the tag binder is a second antibody that recognizes the first antibody. In addition to antibody-antigen interactions, receptor-ligand interactions are also appropriate as tag and tag-binder pairs, such as agonists and antagonists of cell membrane receptors (e.g., cell receptor-ligand interactions such as transferrin, c-kit, viral receptor ligands, cytokine receptors, chemokine receptors, interleukin receptors, immunoglobulin receptors and antibodies, the cadherin family, the integrin family, the selectin family, and the like; see, e.g., Pigott & Power, The Adhesion Molecule Facts Book I (1993)). Similarly, toxins and venoms, viral epitopes, hormones (e.g., opiates, steroids, etc.), intracellular receptors (e.g., which mediate the effects of various small ligands, including steroids, thyroid hormone, retinoids and vitamin D; peptides), drugs, lectins, sugars, nucleic acids (both linear and cyclic polymer configurations), oligosaccharides, proteins, phospholipids and antibodies can all interact with various cell receptors.

[0169] Synthetic polymers, such as polyurethanes, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyureas, polyamides, polyethylene-imines, polyarylene sulfides, polysiloxanes, polyimides, and polyacetates can also form an appropriate tag or tag binder. Many other tag/tag binder pairs are also useful in assay systems described herein, as would be apparent to one of skill upon review of this disclosure.

[0170] Common linkers such as peptides, polyethers, and the like can also serve as tags, and include polypeptide sequences, such as poly-gly sequences of between about 5 and 200 amino acids. Such flexible linkers are known to those of skill in the art. For example, poly(ethylene glycol) linkers are available from Shearwater Polymers, Inc., Huntsville, Alabama. These linkers optionally have amide linkages, sulfhydryl linkages, or heterofunctional linkages.

[0171] Tag binders are fixed to solid substrates using any of a variety of methods currently available. Solid substrates are commonly derivatized or functionalized by exposing all or a portion of the substrate to a chemical reagent that fixes a chemical group to the surface that is reactive with a portion of the tag binder. For example, groups that are suitable for attachment to a longer chain portion would include amines, hydroxyl, thiol, and carboxyl groups. Aminoalkylsilanes and hydroxyalkylsilanes can be used to functionalize a variety of surfaces, such as glass surfaces. The construction of such solid phase biopolymer arrays is well described in the literature (see, e.g., Merrifield, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 85: 2149-2154 (1963) (describing solid phase synthesis of, e.g., peptides); Geysen et al., J. Immun. Meth. 102:259-274 (1987) (describing synthesis of solid phase components on pins); Frank and Doring, Tetrahedron 44:60316040 (1988) (describing synthesis of various peptide sequences on cellulose disks); Fodor et al., Science, 251:767-777 (1991); Sheldon et al., Clinical Chemistry 39(4):718-719 (1993); and Kozal et al., Nature Medicine 2(7):753759 (1996) (all describing arrays of biopolymers fixed to solid substrates). Non-chemical approaches for fixing tag binders to substrates include other common methods, such as heat, cross-linking by UV radiation, and the like.

[0172] The invention provides *in vitro* assays for identifying, in a high throughput format, compounds that can modulate the expression or activity of AKR1C. Control reactions that measure AKR1C activity of the cell in a reaction that does not include a potential modulator are optional, as the assays are highly uniform. Such optional control reactions are appropriate and increase the reliability of the assay. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment, the methods of the invention include such a control reaction. For each of the assay formats described, "no modulator" control reactions that do not include a modulator provide a background level of binding activity.

[0173] In some assays it will be desirable to have positive controls. At least two types of positive controls are appropriate. First, a known activator of AKR1C of the invention can be incubated with one sample of the assay, and the resulting increase in signal resulting from an increased expression level or activity of AKR1C are determined according to the methods herein. Second, a known inhibitor of AKR1C can be added, and the resulting decrease in signal for the expression or activity of AKR1C can be similarly detected. It will be appreciated that modulators can also be combined with activators

or inhibitors to find modulators that inhibit the increase or decrease that is otherwise caused by the presence of the known modulator of AKR1C.

D. Computer-Based Assays

5 [0174] Yet another assay for compounds that modulate the activity of AKR1C involves computer-assisted drug design, in which a computer system is used to generate a three-dimensional structure of AKR1C based on the structural information encoded by its amino acid sequence. The input amino acid sequence interacts directly and actively with a pre-established algorithm in a computer program to yield secondary, tertiary, and quaternary structural models of the protein. 10 The crystal structure of the rat AKR1C9 and human AKR1C2 polypeptide, as well as the rat polypeptide interacting with NADPH or NADPH and testosterone has been described. See, e.g., Hoog et al Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:2517 (1994); Bennett et al Biochemistry 35:10702 (1996); Bennett et al Structure 5:799 (1997); Jin et al. Biochemistry 40:10161 (2001). The models of the protein structure are then examined to identify regions (e.g., the active site) of the structure that have the ability to bind substrates, for example, prostaglandin D2. Similar analyses can be performed on potential 15 receptors or binding partners of AKR1C and can be used to identify regions of interaction with AKR1C. These regions are then used to identify polypeptides that bind to AKR1C.

[0175] Once the tertiary structure of a protein of interest has been generated, potential modulators can be identified by the computer system. Three-dimensional structures for potential modulators are generated by entering chemical formulas of compounds. The three-dimensional structure of the potential modulator is then compared to that of AKR1C 20 to identify binding sites of AKR1C. Binding affinity between the protein and modulators is determined using energy terms to determine which ligands have an enhanced probability of binding to the protein.

VII. COMPOSITIONS, KITS AND INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

25 [0176] The invention provides compositions, kits and integrated systems for practicing the assays described herein using nucleic acids encoding the AKR1C polypeptides of the invention, or AKR1C proteins, anti-AKR1C antibodies, etc.

[0177] The invention provides assay compositions for use in solid phase assays; such compositions can include, for example, one or more nucleic acids encoding an AKR1C immobilized on a solid support, and a labeling reagent. In each case, the assay compositions can also include additional reagents that are desirable for hybridization. Modulators of 30 expression or activity of an AKR1C of the invention can also be included in the assay compositions.

[0178] The invention also provides kits for carrying out the assays of the invention. The kits typically include a probe that comprises an antibody that specifically binds to AKR1C or a polynucleotide sequence encoding an AKR1C polypeptide, and a label for detecting the presence of the probe. The kits may include several polynucleotide sequences encoding AKR1C polypeptides of the invention. Kits can include any of the compositions noted above, and optionally further include 35 additional components such as instructions to practice a high-throughput method of assaying for an effect on expression of the genes encoding the AKR1C polypeptides of the invention, or on activity of the AKR1C polypeptides of the invention, one or more containers or compartments (e.g., to hold the probe, labels, or the like), a control modulator of the expression or activity of AKR1C polypeptides, a robotic armature for mixing kit components or the like.

[0179] The invention also provides integrated systems for high-throughput screening of potential modulators for an effect on the expression or activity of the AKR1C polypeptides of the invention. The systems typically include a robotic 40 armature which transfers fluid from a source to a destination, a controller which controls the robotic armature, a label detector, a data storage unit which records label detection, and an assay component such as a microtiter dish comprising a well having a reaction mixture or a substrate comprising a fixed nucleic acid or immobilization moiety.

[0180] A number of robotic fluid transfer systems are available, or can easily be made from existing components. For 45 example, a Zymate XP (Zymark Corporation; Hopkinton, MA) automated robot using a Microlab 2200 (Hamilton; Reno, NV) pipetting station can be used to transfer parallel samples to 96 well microtiter plates to set up several parallel simultaneous binding assays.

[0181] Optical images viewed (and, optionally, recorded) by a camera or other recording device (e.g., a photodiode and data storage device) are optionally further processed in any of the embodiments herein, e.g., by digitizing the image 50 and storing and analyzing the image on a computer. A variety of commercially available peripheral equipment and software is available for digitizing, storing and analyzing a digitized video or digitized optical image, e.g., using PC (Intel x86 or Pentium chip-compatible DOS®, OS2® WINDOWS®, WINDOWS NT®, WINDOWS95®, WINDOWS98®, or WINDOWS2000® based computers), MACINTOSH®, or UNIX® based (e.g., SUN® work station) computers.

[0182] One conventional system carries light from the specimen field to a cooled charge-coupled device (CCD) camera, 55 in common use in the art. A CCD camera includes an array of picture elements (pixels). The light from the specimen is imaged on the CCD. Particular pixels corresponding to regions of the specimen (e.g., individual hybridization sites on an array of biological polymers) are sampled to obtain light intensity readings for each position. Multiple pixels are processed in parallel to increase speed. The apparatus and methods of the invention are easily used for viewing any

sample, e.g., by fluorescent or dark field microscopic techniques.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

5 **[0183]** Modulators of AKR1C (e.g., antagonists or agonists) can be administered directly to the mammalian subject for modulation of AKR1C activity *in vivo*. Administration is by any of the routes normally used for introducing a modulator compound into ultimate contact with the tissue to be treated and is well known to those of skill in the art. Although more than one route can be used to administer a particular composition, a particular route can often provide a more immediate and more effective reaction than another route.

10 **[0184]** The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are determined in part by the particular composition being administered, as well as by the particular method used to administer the composition. Accordingly, there is a wide variety of suitable formulations of pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention (see, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 17th ed. 1985)).

15 **[0185]** The modulators (e.g., agonists or antagonists) of the expression or activity of the AKR1C, alone or in combination with other suitable components, can be prepared for injection or for use in a pump device. Pump devices (also known as "insulin pumps") are commonly used to administer insulin to patients and therefore can be easily adapted to include compositions of the present invention. Manufacturers of insulin pumps include Animas, Disetronic and MiniMed.

20 **[0186]** The modulators (e.g., agonists or antagonists) of the expression or activity of the AKR1C, alone or in combination with other suitable components, can be made into aerosol formulations (i.e., they can be "nebulized") to be administered via inhalation. Aerosol formulations can be placed into pressurized acceptable propellants, such as dichlorodifluoromethane, propane, nitrogen, and the like.

25 **[0187]** Formulations suitable for administration include aqueous and non-aqueous solutions, isotonic sterile solutions, which can contain antioxidants, buffers, bacteriostats, and solutes that render the formulation isotonic, and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that can include suspending agents, solubilizers, thickening agents, stabilizers, and preservatives. In the practice of this invention, compositions can be administered, for example, orally, nasally, topically, intravenously, intraperitoneally, or intrathecally. The formulations of compounds can be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose sealed containers, such as ampoules and vials. Solutions and suspensions can be prepared from sterile powders, granules, and tablets of the kind previously described. The modulators can also be administered as part of a prepared food or drug.

30 **[0188]** The dose administered to a patient, in the context of the present invention should be sufficient to induce a beneficial response in the subject over time. The optimal dose level for any patient will depend on a variety of factors including the efficacy of the specific modulator employed, the age, body weight, physical activity, and diet of the patient, on a possible combination with other drugs, and on the severity of the case of diabetes. It is recommended that the daily dosage of the modulator be determined for each individual patient by those skilled in the art in a similar way as for known insulin compositions. The size of the dose also will be determined by the existence, nature, and extent of any adverse side-effects that accompany the administration of a particular compound or vector in a particular subject.

35 **[0189]** In determining the effective amount of the modulator to be administered a physician may evaluate circulating plasma levels of the modulator, modulator toxicity, and the production of anti-modulator antibodies. In general, the dose equivalent of a modulator is from about 1 ng/kg to 10 mg/kg for a typical subject.

40 **[0190]** For administration, AKR1C modulators of the present invention can be administered at a rate determined by the LD-50 of the modulator, and the side-effects of the modulator at various concentrations, as applied to the mass and overall health of the subject. Administration can be accomplished via single or divided doses.

45 **[0191]** The compounds of the present invention can also be used effectively in combination with one or more additional active agents depending on the desired target therapy (see, e.g., Turner, N. et al. Prog. Drug Res. (1998),51: 33-94; Haffner, S. Diabetes Care (1998) 21: 160-178; and DeFronzo, R. et al. (eds.), Diabetes Reviews (1997) Vol. 5 No. 4). A number of studies have investigated the benefits of combination therapies with oral agents (see, e.g., Mahler, R., J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. (1999) 84: 1165-71; United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study Group: UKPDS 28, Diabetes Care (1998) 21: 87-92; Bardin, C. W.,(ed.), Current Therapy In Endocrinology And Metabolism, 6th Edition (Mosby - Year Book, Inc., St. Louis, MO 1997); Chiasson, J. et al., Ann. Intern. Med. (1994) 121: 928-935; Coniff, R. et al., Clin. Ther. (1997) 19: 16-26; Coniff, R. et al., Am. J. Med. (1995) 98: 443-451; and Iwamoto, Y. et al., Diabet. Med. (1996) 13 365-370; Kwiterovich, P. Am. J. Cardiol (1998) 82(12A): 3U-17U). These studies indicate that modulation of diabetes and hyperlipidemia, among other diseases, can be further improved by the addition of a second agent to the therapeutic regimen. Combination therapy includes administration of a single pharmaceutical dosage formulation that contains an AKR1C modulator of the invention and one or more additional active agents, as well as administration of an AKR1C modulator and each active agent in its own separate pharmaceutical dosage formulation. For example, an AKR1C modulator and a thiazolidinedione can be administered to the human subject together in a single oral dosage composition, such as a tablet or capsule, or each agent can be administered in separate oral dosage formulations. Where separate

dosage formulations are used, an AKR1C modulator and one or more additional active agents can be administered at essentially the same time (i.e., concurrently), or at separately staggered times (i.e., sequentially). Combination therapy is understood to include all these regimens.

[0192] An example of combination therapy that modulates (prevents the onset of the symptoms or complications associated) atherosclerosis, includes combination of a modulator of AKR1C with one or more of the following active agents: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent, such as a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, e.g., an hydroxymethylglutaryl (HMG) CoA reductase inhibitor (also referred to as statins, such as lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, and atorvastatin), an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, a squalene epoxidase inhibitor, or a squalene synthetase inhibitor (also known as squalene synthase inhibitor); an acyl-coenzyme A cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) inhibitor, such as melinamide; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof and niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor, such as β -sitosterol; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin, such as cholestyramine, colestipol or dialkylaminoalkyl derivatives of a cross-linked dextran; an LDL (low density lipoprotein) receptor inducer; vitamin B6 (also known as pyridoxine) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, such as the HCl salt; vitamin B 12 (also known as cyanocobalamin); vitamin B3 (also known as nicotinic acid and niacinamide, supra); anti-oxidant vitamins, such as vitamin C and E and beta carotene; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; and a platelet aggregation inhibitor, such as fibrinogen receptor antagonists (i.e., glycoprotein IIb/IIIa fibrinogen receptor antagonists) and aspirin. As noted above, the modulators of the invention can be administered in combination with more than one additional active agent, for example, a combination of an AKR1C modulator with an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (e.g., lovastatin, simvastatin and pravastatin) and aspirin.

[0193] Another example of combination therapy can be seen in treating obesity or obesity-related disorders, wherein the AKR1C modulators can be effectively used in combination with, for example, phenylpropanolamine, phentermine, diethylpropion, mazindol; fenfluramine, dexfenfluramine, phentiramine, β 3 adrenoceptor agonist agents; sibutramine, gastrointestinal lipase inhibitors (such as orlistat), and leptins. Other agents used in treating obesity or obesity-related disorders wherein the AKR1C modulators can be effectively used in combination with, for example, neuropeptide Y, enterostatin, cholecystokinin, bombesin, amylin, histamine H3 receptors, dopamine D2 receptors, melanocyte stimulating hormone, corticotrophin releasing factor, galanin and gamma amino butyric acid (GABA).

[0194] Still another example of combination therapy can be seen in modulating diabetes (or treating diabetes and its related symptoms, complications, and disorders), wherein the AKR1C modulators can be effectively used in combination with, for example, sulfonylureas (such as chlorpropamide, tolbutamide, acetohexamide, tolazamide, glyburide, gliclazide, glynase, glimepiride, and glipizide); biguanides (such as metformin); a PPAR beta delta agonist; a ligand or agonist of PPAR gamma such as thiazolidinediones (such as ciglitazone, pioglitazone (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,218,409), troglitazone, and rosiglitazone (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,859,037)); PPAR alpha agonists such as clofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, ciprofibrate, and bezafibrate; dehydroepiandrosterone (also referred to as DHEA or its conjugated sulphate ester, DHEA-SO₄); antigluco-corticoids; TNF α inhibitors; α -glucosidase inhibitors (such as acarbose, miglitol, and voglibose); amylin and amylin derivatives (such as pramlintide, (*see, also*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,902,726; 5,124,314; 5,175,145 and 6,143,718.)); insulin secretagogues (such as repaglinide, gliquidone, and nateglinide (*see, also*, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,251,856; 6,251,865; 6,221,633; 6,174,856)), insulin; as well as the active agents discussed above for treating atherosclerosis.

[0195] A further example of combination therapy can be seen in modulating hyperlipidemia (treating hyperlipidemia and its related complications), wherein the AKR1C modulators of the invention can be effectively used in combination with, for example, statins (such as fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin or simvastatin), bile acid-binding resins (such as colestipol or cholestyramine), nicotinic acid, probucol, betacarotene, vitamin E, or vitamin C.

IX. DIAGNOSIS OF DIABETES

[0196] The present invention also provides methods of diagnosing diabetes or a predisposition of at least some of the pathologies of diabetes or another AKR1C-related disease. Diagnosis can involve determination of a genotype of an individual (e.g., with SNPs) and comparison of the genotype with alleles known to have an association with the occurrence of diabetes or other AKR1C-related disease. Alternatively, diagnosis also involves determining the level of AKR1C in a patient and then comparing the level to a baseline or range. Typically, the baseline value is representative of AKR1C in a healthy (i.e., non-diabetic and typically non-obese) person. As discussed above, variation of levels (e.g., high levels) of AKR1C from the baseline range indicates that the patient is either diabetic or at risk of developing at least some of the pathologies of diabetes. In some embodiments, the level of AKR1C are measured by taking a blood, urine or tissue sample from a patient and measuring the amount of AKR1C in the sample using any number of detection methods, such as those discussed herein. For instance, fasting and fed blood or urine levels can be tested.

[0197] In some embodiments, the level of the enzymatic product of AKR1C (e.g., $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , PGD₂, or derivatives of a product) is measured and compared to a baseline value of a healthy (i.e., non-diabetic and typically non-obese) person or persons. Modulated (e.g., high) levels of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} compared to the baseline indicates that the patient

is either diabetic or at risk of developing at least some of the pathologies of diabetes. Patient samples can be blood, urine or tissue samples.

[0198] In some embodiments, the level of AKR1C activity or expression in a sample is determined and compared to a baseline value of a healthy person or persons. Alternatively, the level of AKR1C activity or expression is determined for the same individual at more than one time points, e.g., a day, a week and month, a year or longer apart. Modulation of AKR1C activity or expression between samples indicates the development of diabetes or a predisposition to develop diabetes. In some embodiments, the baseline level and the level in a sample from an individual, or at least two samples from an individual differ by at least about 5%, 10%, 20%, 50%, 75%, 100%, 200%, 500%, 1000% or more. In some embodiments, the sample from the individual is greater by at least one of the above-listed percentages relative to the baseline level. In some embodiments, the sample from the individual is lower by at least one of the above-listed percentages relative to the baseline level. Similarly, the level in a sample taken from an individual some time period after a first sample was taken can be higher or lower than the level in the first sample.

[0199] In some embodiments, the level of AKR1C activity or expression is used to monitor the effectiveness of anti-diabetic therapies such as thiazolidinediones, metformin, sulfonylureas and other standard therapies. In some embodiments the activity or expression of AKR1C will be measured prior to and after treatment of diabetic or insulin resistant patients with antidiabetic therapies as a surrogate marker of clinical effectiveness. For example, the greater the reduction in AKR1C expression or activity indicates greater effectiveness.

[0200] Activity can be measured based on a crude extract or partially or essentially purified AKR1C from a sample. Measurement of AKR1C activity is described, for example, in Ohara et al. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 1215:59-65 (1994).

[0201] Glucose/insulin tolerance tests can also be used to detect the effect of glucose levels on AKR1C, $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , or PGD2 levels. In glucose tolerance tests, the patient's ability to tolerate a standard oral glucose load is evaluated by assessing serum and urine specimens for glucose levels. Blood samples are taken before the glucose is ingested, glucose is given by mouth, and blood or urine glucose levels are tested at set intervals after glucose ingestion. Similarly, meal tolerance tests can also be used to detect the effect of insulin or food, respectively, on AKR1C, $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , or PGD2 level.

[0202] Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

EXAMPLES

[0203] The following examples are offered to illustrate, but not to limit the claimed invention.

Background

[0204] Gene expression profiling was conducted using both standard and muscle-specific micro-arrays (gene chips); the latter were designed using human muscle expressed sequence tags. Gene expression profiles in muscle samples isolated from lean, obese and diabetic individuals under basal (pre-clamp) conditions and clamp conditions were compared. Clamp refers to an infusion of insulin at high concentrations into the patient (hyperinsulinemia) co-incident with an infusion of glucose to maintain normal glucose levels (euglycemia). This procedure was performed for 5 hours following the removal of the pre-clamp sample. Two studies were done which are referred to as the Study A and the Study B. For the purposes of this disclosure these studies are essentially identical in nature except that they contain largely non-overlapping sets of patients.

Example 1:

[0205] This example shows that AKR1C gene expression is increased in diabetic tissue compared to healthy tissue

[0206] Muscle samples from four lean individuals and three diabetics were analyzed using the micro-arrays. The level of AKR1C mRNA was 2.4-fold higher in diabetics versus lean individuals.

[0207] Muscle samples from eight lean non-diabetic, eight obese non-diabetic and ten diabetic patient enrolled in Study A were analyzed using a human muscle-specific chip set. With this group of patients, AKR1C mRNA levels were 2.5-fold higher in diabetics as compared to lean individuals when one AKR1C probe set was used to assess mRNA levels. The corresponding values for three different AKR1C probe sets were 2.6, 3.7 and 2.8-fold, respectively. During the hyperinsulinemic clamp, up-regulation of AKR1C mRNA was not observed in any patient group. Therefore, up-regulation of AKR1C mRNA is not due to the hyperinsulinemia commonly found in diabetics

[0208] Analysis of data generated by combining patient data from the Study A and Study B provided further evidence

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of up regulation of AKR1C in diabetic muscle compared to lean muscle. The fold changes were: probe 1, 2.26 fold, $p=0.00006$; probe 2, 2.43 fold, $p=0.001$; probe 3, 2.57 fold, $p=0.0018$; probe 4, 2.49 fold, $p=0.0012$. There was some indication of up-regulation of AKR1C in obese individuals (probe 1, 1.33 fold, $p=0.042$; probe 2, 1.22 fold, $p=0.258$; probe 3, 1.32 fold, $p=0.0018$ and probe 4, 1.44 fold, $p=0.0012$). These data confirmed the up-regulation of AKR1C mRNA in human diabetic muscle compared to lean muscle.

Example 2:

[0209] This example shows that AKR1C mRNA is upregulated in diabetic tissue using a technology different than gene chips.

[0210] PCR primers and Taqman MGB (minor groove binding) Probes were designed using Perkin Elmer's Primer Express software (Version 1.5). Briefly, primers are chosen to produce an amplicon of 80-120 nucleotides in length. Specificity is obtained by using primers and probes that hybridize efficiently with only one of several highly homologous cDNAs. With the correct PCR conditions, one nucleotide difference is sufficient to disrupt MGB probe hybridization. We used the following primer/probe combinations to specifically measure human AKR1C1, AKR1C2 AKR1C3 and AKR1C4 mRNA levels in a complex mixture.

AKR1C1 MGB probe: 6-fam-CTGGCTTCCGCCATAT
AKR1C1 forward PCR primer: AGCTTTAGAGGCCACCAAATTG
AKR1C1 reverse PCR primer: AACCTGCTCCTCATTATTGTATAAATGA

AKR1C2 MGB probe: 6fam-AGAAGCCGGGTTCCA
AKR1C2 forward PCR primer:CTAGAGGCCGTCAAATTGGC
AKR1C2 reverse PCR primer: ACCTGCTCCTCATTATTGTAAACATGT

AKR1C3 MGB probe: 6fam-CTTTCACCAACAGATGAA
AKR1C3 forward PCR primer CTTATTCATTCTCCAATGTCTCTAAAGC
AKR1C3 reverse PCR primer TCCACTATGTCAAATATTACTTTTCCATTT

AKR1C4 MGB probe: ATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTCGACA
AKR1C4 forward PCR primer: CAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCA
AKR1C4 reverse PCR primer: ACCTCCCATGTGGCACAGA

[0211] Using these primer/probe sets, the levels of AKR1C1 mRNA, AKR1C2 mRNA and AKR1C3 mRNA were analyzed in samples from Study A. We found AKR1C1, AKR1C2 and AKR1C3 to be up-regulated 3.7 fold, 4.26 fold and 4.42 fold respectively in muscles from diabetic individuals when compared to muscles from lean individuals. As in the previously discussed chip data, there was no up-regulation of AKR1C1, AKR1C2 or AKR1C3 by insulin. This finding (i) indicated that AKR1C, AKR1C2 and AKR1C3 were all expressed in human muscle and (ii) that AKR1C1 mRNA, AKR1C2 mRNA and AKR1C3 mRNA were all elevated in diabetic muscle compared to lean muscle.

Example 3:

[0212] This example shows that $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is inactive as a PPAR activator.

[0213] Prostaglandin D2 and $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} were assayed in cell-based assays (*ex vivo*) designed to detect PPAR ligand activity. The assay uses a recombinant protein consisting of a PPAR ligand-binding domain coupled to a heterologous DNA binding domain. See, e.g., Reginato, et. al., J. Biol. Chem. 273:32679 (1998). Binding of a ligand to the PPAR binding domain drives expression of a reporter gene. Significant activation of PPAR alpha and PPAR gamma by PGD2, but not by $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , was observed. This observation shows that increasing PGD2 levels in cells will activate PPAR alpha and PPAR gamma, while increasing the levels of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is without effect. These observations demonstrate that increased levels of AKR1C reduce cellular levels of a PPAR activator (PGD2) and increase levels of a molecule that is not a PPAR activator ($9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}).

Example 4:

[0214] This example shows that prostaglandin D2, but not $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , activates a natural PPAR-responsive promoter

[0215] Prostaglandin D2 and $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} were assayed in cell-based assays (*ex vivo*) designed to detect activation of a natural PPAR responsive promoter. The assay uses the promoter region of the mouse aP2 gene, which contains

binding sites for PPARs (both PPAR alpha and gamma) coupled to a reporter gene. Binding of a ligand to endogenous PPAR results in activation of the aP2 reporter gene. Significant activation of the aP2 reporter gene by PGD2, but not by $9\alpha,11\beta$ PGF_{2 α} , was observed. This observation shows that increasing PGD2 levels in cells will activate endogenous PPARs, while increasing the levels of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is without effect. These observations support the hypothesis that increased levels of AKR1C would reduce cellular levels of a PPAR activator (PGD2) and increase levels of an inactive molecule ($9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}).

Example 5:

[0216] This example shows that $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is inactive with respect to regulating endogenous genes regulated by PPAR ligands.

[0217] Using a standard mouse micro-array, we found that mouse 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with three different thiazolidinedione-based PPAR gamma ligands (pioglitazone, rosiglitazone and troglitazone) show changes in expression of RGS2 mRNA (regulator of G protein signaling 2, U67187) and pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 4 mRNA (J001418). For RGS2 we observed down-regulation as follows; pioglitazone 0.29 fold $p < 0.00009$, rosiglitazone 0.25 fold $p < 0.00003$, troglitazone, 0.27 fold $p < 0.00085$. For PDHK4 we observed up regulation as follows; pioglitazone 3.13 fold $p < 2 \times 10^{-6}$, rosiglitazone 3.16 fold $p < 0.00005$, troglitazone 3.2 fold $p < 0.0006$. Therefore we have found that RGS2 and PDHK4 are down-regulated and up-regulated by PPAR gamma ligands respectively. As such these regulations are reflective of endogenous PPAR activation of endogenous genes.

[0218] Primers were designed against murine RGS2 and murine PDHK4 and the gene expression changes observed with the standard mouse chips were verified using Taqman PCR with SYBR green detection. Treatment of cells with pioglitazone, rosiglitazone or troglitazone caused a down regulation of RGS2 by 0.47 fold, 0.41 fold and 0.55 fold, respectively. We observed up regulation of PDHK4 by 4.9 fold, 5.45 fold and 5.5 fold for pioglitazone, rosiglitazone and troglitazone respectively. These observations demonstrate the activity of PPAR gamma ligands can be measured in intact cells using Taqman PCR to quantify levels of endogenous genes.

[0219] Taqman primers were used to analyze the expression of RGS2 and PDHK4 in mouse 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with rosiglitazone, PGD2 and $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} . Down regulation of RGS2 was observed with both rosiglitazone and PGD2 treatment (0.20 fold change and 0.29 fold change respectively). In contrast, the fold change with $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} was 0.75. Up regulation of PDHK4 was also observed with both rosiglitazone and PGD2 (3.73 fold change and 2.39 fold change respectively). In contrast, the fold change with $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} was 0.77. This data suggests that increasing cellular levels of PGD2 affects endogenous gene expression patterns in the same way as a known PPAR ligand. In contrast $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is inactive with respect to regulating endogenous genes regulated by PPAR ligands.

Example 6:

[0220] This example shows that PGD2, but not $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} , enhances glucose transport.

[0221] Treatment of mouse 3T3-L1 adipocytes for 40 hours with PGD2 enhances glucose transport to similar levels as those observed with the PPAR ligand rosiglitazone. Treatment with $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} had no effect on glucose transport. This shows that increasing cellular levels of PGD2 results in increased PPAR activity and hence increased insulin sensitivity and that $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is inactive.

Example 7:

[0222] This example shows that overexpression of AKR1C1, AKR1C2, AKR1C3 or AKR1C4 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes substantially inhibits the effect of PGD2 to enhance insulin-stimulated glucose transport.

[0223] 3T3-L1 adipocytes were infected with either control adenovirus or recombinant adenovirus encoding the four human AKR1C isoforms and incubated 20 hours to allow for protein expression. Cells were then treated 20 hours with 4 μ M PGD2 and glucose transport in the absence and presence of insulin was measured. The amount of 3H-2-deoxy-glucose (cpm) incorporated into the cells is shown in Figure 3.

[0224] In cells infected with the control virus, PGD2 enhances insulin-stimulated glucose transport. Overexpression of AKR1C1, AKR1C2, AKR1C3 or AKR1C4 substantially reduces the effectiveness of PGD2.

[0225] Overall these data demonstrate that PGD2 acts as a positive regulator of PPAR activity and that the product of AKR1C action on PGD2, namely $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} is inactive with regard to PPAR activity. Thus, overexpression of AKR1C induces a state of insulin resistance.

Example 8:

[0226] This example demonstrates that all AKR1C isoforms have PGD2 11 keto-reductase activity.

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[0227] 3T3-L1 adipocytes were infected with the indicated recombinant adenovirus and incubated twenty hours to allow the cells to express the AKR1C isoform indicated. Cells were then incubated in the presence of 4 μ M PGD2 for an additional 20 hours. A media sample was obtained and the amount of 9 α ,11 β PGF2 α was determined by an enzyme-linked immunoabsorbant assay. The concentration of 9 α ,11 β -PGF2 α present in the media is shown in the following table.

Adenovirus	9 α ,11 β -PGF2 α Concentration
Control	2 nM
AKR1C1	55 nM
AKR1C2	56 nM
AKR1C3	49 nM
AKR1C4	128 nM

Example 9:

[0228] This example demonstrates purification of each of the AKR1C isoforms from bacteria.

[0229] *E. coli* were transformed with plasmid constructs encoding the human AKR1C isoforms and protein expression from the plasmid was induced by incubating with 1 mM IPTG for 2.5 hours. Bacteria were pelleted, lysed, and the AKR1C isoforms purified from the lysates by eluting from an anion exchange column and a Cibacron Blue affinity column. See, e.g., Bez, et. al., J. Biol. Chem. 271:30190 (1996). Purified proteins were resolved on a reduced polyacrylamide gel and the proteins stained with Coomassie Blue. See, Figure 4. The arrow indicates the purified human AKR1C isoforms.

Example 10:

[0230] This example demonstrates that the purified human AKR1C isoforms retain enzyme activity following purification and thus can be used in a high-throughput screen to identify compounds that modulate AKR1C enzyme activity.

[0231] The oxidation of 1-acenaphthenol by AKR1C isoforms was determined in 200 μ l containing 100 mM potassium phosphate (pH 7.0), 2.3 mM NADP, 1 mM 1-acenaphthenol, 4% methanol and 25 μ l of the purified enzyme preparation. Control incubations were done in the absence of substrate (1-acenaphthenol). The rate of product formation was measured by monitoring the increase in fluorescence that occurs with NADPH production (Excitation 360 nm, Emission 450 nm). See, Figure 5.

[0232] It is understood that the examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

[0233]

SEQ ID NO: 1

AKR1C1

```
1  mdskyqcvkl ndghfmpvlg fgtyapaevp kskaleatkl aieagfrhid sahlynneeq
61  vglairskia dgsvkredif ytsklwcnsh rpelvrpale rslknlqldy vdlylihfpv
121 svkpgeevip kdengkilfd tvdlcatwea vekckdagla ksigvsnfmr rqlmilnkp
181 glkykpvcnq vechpyfnqr klldfckskd ivlvaysalg shreepwvdp nspvlledpv
241 lcalakkkkr tpalialryq lqrgvvvlak syneqrirqn vqvfefqlts eemkaidgln
301 rnvryltldi fagppnypps dey
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SEQ ID NO:2

> 5722 gn|UG|Hs#S5722 Homo sapiens mRNA for dihydrodiol dehydrogenase isoform DD1, partial cds /cds=(0,922) /gb=D26124 /gi=556515 /ug=Hs.306098 /len=1146

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5 CTGTCCTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCTAAAAGTAAAGCTTTAGAGG
CCACCAAATTGGCAATTGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATA
ATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAG
AAGACATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCAATTCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGAC
CAGCCTTGGAAAGGTCAC TGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGATTATGTTGACCTCTACCTTATTC
ATTTTCCAGTGTCTGTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAAGTGATCCCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAA
TACTATTTGACACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACGTGGGAGGCCGTGGAGAAGTGTAAAGATG
CAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCC
10 TCAACAAGCCAGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTCATCCTTACT
TCAACCAGAGAAAACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATGTTCTGGTTGCCTATA
GTGCTCTGGGATCCCACCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGTCTTTGG
AGGACCCAGTCTTTGTGCTTGGCAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCC
TGCCTACCACTACAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCA
15 TCAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAG
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ATCCATTTTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGTCTGCCAGAAGGCCCT
GCGTGTGGATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACATCGCCTCTGG
TTAAATCTCTCTGCTTGGTGTATTTCAGCAAGCTACAGCAAAGCCATTGGCCAGAAAGG
20 AAAGACAATAATTTGTTTTTTTCATTTTGA AAAAATTAATGCTCTCTCCTAAAGATTCT
TCACCT

SEQ ID NO:3

> 3612 gn|UG|Hs#S3612 Human dihydrodiol dehydrogenase mRNA, complete cds /cds=(6,977) /gb=M86609
/gi=691766 /ug=Hs.306098 /len=1207

25 CCAGAAATGGATTTCGAAATATCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCTGTC
CTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCTAAAAGTAAAGCTTTAGAGGCCACC
AAATTGGCAATTGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATAATGAG
30 GAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGAC
ATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCAATTCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCC
TTGGAAAGGTCACTGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGATTATGTTGACCTCTACCTTATTCATTTT
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35 TTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAAC
AAGCCAGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTCATCCTTACTTCAAC
CAGAGAAAACCTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATGTTCTGGTTGCCTATAGTGCT
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CCAGTCTTTGTGCTTGGCAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGC
40 TACCAGCTACAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGA
CAGAACGTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGC
CTAAACAGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTGTCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCA
TTTTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGTCTGCCAGAAGGCCCTGCGTG
TGGATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACATCGCCTCTGGTTAA
45 TCTCTCCTGCTTGGTGAATTTTCAGCAAGCTACAGCAAAGCCATTGGCCAGAAAGGAAAGA

50 CAATAATTTTGTTTTTTTCATTTTGA AAAAATTAATGCTCTCTCCTAAAGATTCTTACC
TAAAAAA

SEQ ID NO:4

> 318 gn|UG|Hs#S318 Homo sapiens dihydrodiol dehydrogenase mRNA, complete cds /cds=(3,974) /gb=U05684
/gi=452483 /ug=Hs.306098 /len=1195

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CAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATA
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GTCTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTAC
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AACGTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTA
AACAGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCATTT
TCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGTCTGCCAGAAGGCCCTGCGTGTGG
ATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACATCGCCTCTGGTTAAATCT
CTCCTGCTTGGTGATTTTCAAGCAAGCTACAGCAAAGCCCATTGGCCAGAAAGGAAAGACAA
TAATTTTGTTTTTTTCATTTTGA AAAAATTAATGCTCTCTCCTTCTCTAAAAAA
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SEQ ID NO:5

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> 1730203 gn|UG|Hs#S1730203 Homo sapiens aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C1 (dihydrodiol dehydrogenase 1; 20-alpha (3-alpha)-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase) (AKR1C1), mRNA /cds=(6,977) /gb=NM_001353 /gi=5453542 /ug=Hs.306098 /len=1207

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GAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGAC
ATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCAATTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCC
TTGAAAAGGTCAC TGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGATTATGTTGACCTCTACCTTATTCATTTT
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CCAGTCTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGC
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CTAAACAGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCA
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TGGATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACATCGCCTCTGGTTAAA
TCTCTCCTGCTTGGTGATTTTCAAGCAAGCTACAGCAAAGCCCATTGGCCAGAAAGGAAAGA
CAATAATTTTGTTTTTTTCATTTTGA AAAAATTAATGCTCTCTCCTAAAGATTCTTACC
TAAAAAA
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SEQ ID NO:6

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> 554092 gn|UG|Hs#S554092 chlordecone reductase homolog {clone HAKRc} [human, liver, mRNA, 1158 nt] /cds=(0,962) /gb=S68290 /gi=544763 /ug=Hs.306098 /len=1158

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AAATATCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCTGTCCTGGGATTTGGCACC
TATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCTAAAAGTAAAGCTTTAGAGGCCACCAAATTTGGCAAATTGAA
GCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTCATTATACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTG
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GCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTACACTTCA
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 GGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCGCAGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGGGCTACAA
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 GAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACCTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTCTTTGTGCC
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 AGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGTCATGAGGTCTGCCAGAAG
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 CTCTGGTTAAATCACCAA

SEQ ID NO:7
AKR1C2

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1 mdskyqcvkl ndghfmpvlg fgtyapaevp kskaleavkl aieagfhhid sahvynneeq
 61 vglairskia dgsvkredif ytsklwnsh rpelvrpale rslknlqldy vdlylihfpv
 121 svkpgvevip kdengkilfd tvdlcatwea mekckdagla ksigvsfnh rllemilnkp
 181 glkykpvcnq vechpyfnqr klldfckskd ivlvaysalg shreepwvdp nspvllledpv
 241 lcalakkhkr tpalialryq lqrgvvvlak syneqrirqn vqvfefqlts eemkaidgln
 301 rnvryltldi fagppnyfys dey

SEQ ID NO:8

> 3603578 gn|UG|Hs#S3603578 Homo sapiens, aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C2 (dihydrodiol dehydro-
 genase 2; bile acid binding protein; 3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type 2l), clone MGC:12374 IMAGE:
 3681970, mRNA, complete cds /cds=(22,993) /gb=BC007024 /gi=13937843 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=1290

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 TGTTTTACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAG
 TGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGAGCAATCCCATCGACCAGA
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 CCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTTGCCAAAGAGCTACAA
 TGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGAT
 GAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAAACAGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTGTCTGG
 CCCCCAATATCCATTTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGTCTGC
 CAGAAGGCCCTGCGTGTGGATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTGACTGGACAC
 ATCGCCTCTGGTTAAATCTCTCCTGCTTGGCGACTTCAGTAAGCTACAGCTAAGCCCATC
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 AAAT
 AA

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SEQ ID NO:9

> 1971649 gnl|UG|Hs#S1971649 Homo sapiens mRNA for 20 alpha-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB031083 /gi=7328943 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=972

5 ATGGATTTCGAAATATCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCTGTCTGGGA
TTTGGCACCTATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCTTAAAAGTAAAAGCTTTAGAGGCCACCAAATTG
GCAATTGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATAATGAGGAGCAG
GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
10 TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGAATTCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGGAA
AGGTCACCTGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGATTATGTTGACCTCTACCTTATTCATTTTCCAGTG
TCTGTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAAGTATCCCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAATACTATTTGAC
ACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACGTGGGAGGCCGTGGAGAAGTGTAAAGATGCAGGATTGGCC
AAGTCCACTCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCCGAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
15 GGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTATCCTTACTTCAACCAGAGA
AAAATGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCATAGTGTCTCTGGGA
TCCCACCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGTCTTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
CTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
CTACAGCGTGGGGTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAAC
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20 AGAAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCATTTTCT
GATGAATATTAA

SEQ ID NO:10

> 643 gnl|UG|Hs#S643 Human dihydrodiol dehydrogenase mRNA, complete cds /cds=(23,994) /gb=U05598 /gi=531159 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=1219

25 TGCTAACCAGGCCAGTGACAGAAAATGGATTTCGAAATACCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATG
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30 ATGTTTACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCA
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35 AGTGTAAAGATGCAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCACAGGCTGC
TGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAAT
GTCATCCTTACTTCAACCAGAGAAAATGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTT
TGGTTGCCATAGTGTCTGGGATCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCC
CGGTGTCTTTGGAGGACCCAGTCTTTGTGCCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAG
40 CCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTGTGGTCTTGGCCAAGAGCTACA
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GCCCCCTAATTATCCATTTTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTCATGAGGCTGTG
45 CCAGAAGGCCCTGCGTGTGGATGGTGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTGTGACTGGACA
CATCGCTCTGGTTAAATCTCTCTGCTTGGCGACTTCAGTAAGCTACAGCTAAGCCCAT
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CCTAAAGATTCTTACCTA

SEQ ID NO:11

> 1367741 gnl|UG|Hs#S1367741 Homo sapiens mRNA for DD2/bile acid-binding protein/AKR1C2/3alpha-hydroxys-
teroid dehydrogenase type 3, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB021654 /gi=4062862 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=972

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5 GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
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10 AAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCACAGGCTGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
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15 TCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
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20 AGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCTTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCATTTTCT
GATGAATATTAA

SEQ ID NO:12

> 269458 gn1|UG|Hs#S269458 Human dihydrodiol dehydrogenase/bile acid binding protein gene, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=L32592 /gi=1723157 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=1064

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30 GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
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ACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACATGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAGATGCAGGATTGGCC
35 AAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCACAGGCTGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACGAGCCA
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AAACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCTATAGTGCTCTGGGA
40 TCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
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45 GATGAATATTAAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGTCTGCCAGAAGGCCCTGCGTGTGGATG
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50 SEQ ID NO:13

> 1971650 gn1|UG|Hs#S1971650 Homo sapiens mRNA for bile acid-binding protein, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB031084 /gi=7328945 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=972

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TCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACCTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
CTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
CTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAAC
GTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAAAC
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GATGAATATTAA

SEQ ID NO:14

20 > 1971652 gn|UG|Hs#S1971652 Homo sapiens 20-alpha HSD gene for 20 alph-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB032150 /gi=7328949 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=972

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TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGAATTTCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGAA

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AAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCAGGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
GGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTCATCCTTACTTCAACCAGAGA
AAACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCTATAGTGCTCTGGGA
TCCCACCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACCTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
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CTACAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAAC
GTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAAAC
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GATGAATATTAA

SEQ ID NO:15

45 > 554093 gn|UG|Hs#S554093 chlordecone reductase homolog {clone HAKRd} [human, liver, mRNA, 1194 nt] /cds=(6,977) /gb=S68330 /gi=544764 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=1194

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ACAGAAATGGATTTCGAAATACCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCTGTC
 CTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCCATAAAAGTAAAGCTCTAGAGGCCGTC
 AAATTTGGCAATAGAAGCCGGGTTCCACCATAATTGATTCTGCACATGTTTACAATAATGAG
 5 GAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGAC
 ATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGAGCAATCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCC
 TTGAAAAGGTCACACTGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTCATTTT
 CCAGTGTCTGTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAAGTGATCCCAAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAATACTA
 TTTGACACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACATGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAGATGCAGGA
 10 TTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCACAGGCTGCTGGAGATGATCCCTCAAC
 GAGCCAGGGCTCAAGTACGAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTCATCCTTACTTCAAC
 CAGAGAAAACCTGCTGGATTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCCTATAGTGCT
 CTGGGATCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACCTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGAC
 CCAGTCCCTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGC
 TACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCCCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGA
 15 CAGAACGTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGC
 CTAACAGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCCTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCG
 ATTTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGAGGGCATTGCATGAGGCTGCCAGAAGGCCCTGCGTG
 TGGATGGTGACACAGAGGATGGCTCTATGCTGGTGACTGGACACATGGCCTCTGGTTAAA
 TCTCTCCTGCTTGGCGACTTGAGTAAGCTACAGCTAAGCCCATCGGCCGAAAAGAAAGA
 20 CAATAATGGGGTTGGGGATGGGGAAAAAATGAAATGCTGGGTCCAAAAA

SEQ ID NO:16

> 1726630 gnl|UG|Hs#S1726630 Homo sapiens aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C2 (dihydrodiol dehydrogenase 2; bile acid binding protein; 3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type 2I) (AKR1C2), mRNA /cds=(0,971)
 25 /gb=NM_001354 /gi=4503284 /ug=Hs.201967 /len=972

ATGGATTTCGAAATACCAGTGTGTGAAGCTGAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCTGTCTGGGA
 TTTGGCACCTATGCGCCTGCAGAGGTTCCATAAAAGTAAAGCTCTAGAGGCCGTCAAATTG
 30 GCAATAGAAGCCGGGTTCCACCATAATTGATTCTGCACATGTTTACAATAATGAGGAGCAG
 GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
 TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGAGCAATCCCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGAA
 AGGTCACACTGAAAAATCTTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTCATTTTCCAGTG
 TCTGTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAAGTGATCCCAAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAATACTATTTGAC
 35 ACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACATGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAGATGCAGGATTGGCC
 AAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCCAACCTCAACCACAGGCTGCTGGAGATGATCCCTCAACAAGCCA
 GGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTGGAATGTCATCCTTACTTCAACCAGAGA
 AAACCTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCCTATAGTGCTCTGGGA
 TCCCATCGAGAAGAACCATGGGTGGACCCGAACCTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTC
 CTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
 40 CTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCCCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAAC
 GTGCAGGTGTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACTTCAGAGGAGATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCATAAC
 AGAAATGTGCGATATTTGACCCCTGATATTTTTGCTGGCCCCCTAATTATCCATTTTCT
 GATGAATATTAA

SEQ ID NO:17

AKR1C3

1 mdsqkqcvkl ndghfmpvlg fgtyappevp rskalevskl aieagfrhid sahlynneeq
 50 61 vglairskia dgsvkredif ytsklwstsh rpelvrpale nslkkaql dy vdlylihs pm
 121 slkpgeelsp tdengkvidf ivdlcttwea mekckdagla ksigvsfnr rqlmilnkp
 181 glkykpvcnq vechpyfnrs klldfckskd ivlvaysalg sqrdkrwvdp nspvlldepv
 241 lcalakkhkr tpalialryq lqrgvvvlar syneqrirqn vqvfefqlta edmkaidgld
 301 rnlhyfnlds fashpnypys dey

SEQ ID NO:18

> 1969252 gnl|UG|Hs#S1969252 Homo sapiens mRNA for hluPGFS, complete cds /cds=(47,1018) /gb=AB018580
 /gi=6624210 /ug=Hs.78183 /len=1223

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5 AATTCGGGCAGCAGCAAACATTTGCTAGTCAGACAAGTGACAGGGAATGGATTCCAAC
AGCAGTGTGTAAGCTAAATGATGGCCACTTCATGCCTGTATTGGGATTTGGCACCTATG
CACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGAAGTAAAGCTTTGGAGGTCACAAAATTAGCAATAGAAGCTG
GGTTCGGCCATATAGATTCTGCTCATTATATAACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCA
10 TCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTACACTTCAAAGC
TTTGGTCCACTTTTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGGAAAACCTCACTGAAAA
AAGCTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTTCATTCTCCAATGTCTCTAAAGCCAG
GTGAGGAACTTTCACCAACAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTTGACATAGTGGATCTCT
15 GTACCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATTGGGG
TGTCAAACTTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGGACTCAAGTACA
AGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTTCATCCGTATTTCAACCGGAGTAAATGTCTAGATT
TCTGCAAGTCGAAAGATATTGTTCTGGTTGCCCTATAGTGCTCTGGGATCTCAACGAGACA
AACGATGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGCCTTTGGAGGACCCAGTCCCTTTGTGCCTTGG
20 CAAAAAAGCACAAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGG
TTGTGGTCCCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTTTTTG
AGTTCAGTTGACTGCAGAGGACATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAGACAGAAATCTCCACT
ATTTTAAACAGTATAGTTTGTAGCCACCCTAATTATCCATATTCAGATGAATATTAAC
ATGGAGGGCTTTGCCCTGATGTCTACCAGAAGCCCTGTGTGTGGATGGTGACGCAGAGGAC
GTCTCTATGCCGTTGACTGGACATATCACCTCTACTTAAATCCGTCCCTGTTTAGCGACTT
25 CAGTCAACTACAGCTGAGTCCATAGGCCAGAAAGACAATAAATTTTTATCATTTTGAAT
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACCGAATT

SEQ ID NO:19

> 612 gnl|UG|Hs#S612 Human mRNA for KIAA0119 gene, complete cds /cds=(51,1022) /gb=D17793 /gi=457407 /ug=Hs.78183 /len=1204

30 CTCTGAGGAGAAGCAGCAGCAAACATTTGCTAGTCAGACAAGTGACAGGGAATGGATTCC
AAACAGCAGTGTGTAAGCTAAATGATGGCCACTTCATGCCTGTATTGGGATTTGGCACCC
TATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGAAGTAAAGCTTTGGAGGTCACAAAATTAGCAATAGAA
GCTGGGTTCCGCCATATAGATTCTGCTCATTATATAACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTG
GCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTACACTTCA
AAGCTTTGGTCCACTTTTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGGAAAACCTCACTG
35 AAAAAAGCTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTTCATTCTCCAATGTCTCTAAAG
CCAGGTGAGGAACTTTCACCAACAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTTGACATAGTGGAT
CTCTGTACCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATT
GGGGTGTCAAACCTTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGGACTCAAG
TACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTTCATCCGTATTTCAACCGGAGTAAATTGCTA
GATTTCTGCAAGTCGAAAGATATTGTTCTGGTTGCCCTATAGTGCTCTGGGATCTCAACGA
40 GACAAACGATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGCCTTTGGAGGACCCAGTCCCTTTGTGCC
TTGGCAAAAAGCACAAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCGT
GGGGTTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTT
TTTGAGTTCCAGTTGACTGCAGAGGACATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAGACAGAAATCTC
CACTATTTTAAACAGTATAGTTTGTAGCCACCCTAATTATCCATATTCAGATGAATAT
TAACATGGAGAGCTTTGCCTGATGTCTACCAGAAGCCCTGTGTGTGGATGGTGACGCAGAG
45 GGACGTCTCTATGCCGGTACTGGACATATCACCTCTACTTAAATCCGTCCCTGTTTAGCG
ACTTCAGTCAACTACAGCTGAGTCCATAGGCCAGAAAGACAATAAATTTTTATCATTTTGA
AAAT

SEQ ID NO:20

> 1730446 gnl|UG|Hs#S1730446 Homo sapiens aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C3 (3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type 2) (AKR1C3), mRNA /cds=(0,971) /gb=NM_003739 /gi=10801342 /ug=Hs.78183 /len=972

EP 1 465 911 B1

ATGGATTCCAAACAGCAGTGTGTAAAGCTAAATGATGGCCACTTCATGCCTGTATTGGGA
TTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGAAGTAAAGCTTTGGAGGTCTCAAATTA
GCAATAGAAGCTGGGTTCCGCCATATAGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATAATGAGGAGCAG
5 GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTCCACTTCTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACCAGCCTTGAA
AACTCACTGAAAAAAGCTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTCAATCTCCAATG
TCTCTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAACTTTCACCAACAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTTGAC
10 ATAGTGGATCTCTGTACCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCC
AAGTCCATTGGGGTGTCAAACCTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
GGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCGTATTTCAACCGGAGT
AAATGTCTAGATTTCTGCAAGTCGAAAGATATTGTTCTGGTTGCCATATAGTGCCTCTGGGA
TCTCAACGAGACAAACGATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCGGTGCTCTTGGAGGACCCAGTCT
15 CTTTGTGCCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
CTGCAGCTGGGGTTGTGGTCTCTGGCCAGGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCATCAGACAGAAC
GTGCAGTTTTTTGAGTTCCAGTTGACTGCAGAGGACATGAAAGCCATAGATGGCCTAGAC
AGAAATCTCCACTATTTTAAACAGTGATAGTTTTGCTAGCCACCCTAATTATCCATATTCT
GATGAATATTTAA

SEQ ID NO:21

20 > 554091 gn|UG|Hs#S554091 chlordecone reductase homolog {clone HAKRb} [human, liver, mRNA, 1175 nt] /cds=
(10,981) /gb=S68288 /gi=544762 /ug=Hs.78183 /len=1175

GTGACAGGGAATGGATTCCAAACAGCAGTGTGTAAAGCTAAATGATGGCCACTTCATGCC
TGTATTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGAAGTAAAGCTTTGGAGGT
25 CACAAAATTAGCAATAGAAGCTGGGTTCCGCCATATAGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATA
TGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAGAGAGA
AGACATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTCCACTTTTTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGACC
AGCCTTGGAAAACCTCACTGAAGAAAGCTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTCA
TTCTCCAATGTCTCTAAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAACTTTCACCAACAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGT
30 AATATTTGACATAGTGGATCTCTGTACCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGC
AGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATTGGGGTATCAAACCTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATCATCCT
CAACAAGCCAGGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCGTATTT
CAACCGGAGTAAATTGCTAGATTTCTGCAAGTCGAAAGATATTGTTCTGGTTGCCATAG
TGCTCTGGGATCTCAACGAGACAAACGATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCGGTCTCTTGGGA
35 GGACCCAGTCTTTGTGCCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCT
GCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCTGGGGTTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCAT
CAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTTTTTTGAGTTCCAGTTGACTGCAGAGGACATGAAAGCCATAGA
TGGCCTAGACAGAAATCTCCACTATTTTAAACAGTGATAGTTTTTGCTAGCCACCCTAATTA
TCCATATTAGATGAATATTAACATGGAGACTTTGCCTGATGTCTACCAGAAGGCCCTGT
40 GTGTGTGTGGATGGTGACGCAGAGGACGTCTCTATGCCGGTGACTCCACATATCACCTCT
ACTTAAATCCGTCTGTTTAGCGACTTCAGTCAACTTCAGCTCACTCCATAGGCCAGAAA
TACAATAAATTTTTATCATTTTAAATAAAAAAAA

SEQ ID NO:22

45 > 2332324 gn1|UG|Hs#S2332324 Homo sapiens 3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 2b mRNA, complete
cds=(11,982) /gb=AF149416 /gi=10765096 /ug=Hs.78183 /len=989

GGCTTCAGGGAATGGATTCCAAACAGCAGTGTGTAAAGCTAAATGATGGCCACTTCATGC
CTGTATTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGAAGTAAAGCTTTGGAGG
50 TCTCAAATTAGCAATAGAAGCTGGGTTCCGCCATATAGATTCTGCTCATTTATACAATA
ATGAGGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAG
AAGACATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTCCACTTCTCATCGACCAGAGTTGGTCCGAC
CAGCCTTGGAAAACCTCACTGAAAAAAGCTCAATTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTATTTC
ATTTCTCCAATGTCTCTAAAGCCAGGTGAGGAACTTTCACCAACAGATGAAAATGGAAAAG
55 TAATATTTGACATAGTGGATCTCTGTACCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATG
CAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATTGGGGTGTCAAACCTCAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCC
TCAACAAGCCAGGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCGTATT

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TCAACCGGAGTAAATTGCTAGATTTCTGCAAGTCGAAAGATATTGTTCTGGTTGCCTATA
GTGCTCTGGGATCTCAACGAGACAAACGATGGGTGGACCCGAACTCCCCGGTGCCTTTGG
5 AGGACCCAGTCCTTTGTGCCTTGGCAAAAAAGCACAAGCGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCC
TGCGCTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCCCTGGCCAGGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGCA
TCAGACAGAACGTGCAGGTTTTTGAGTTCCAGTTGACTGCAGAGGACATGAAAAGCCATAG
ATGGCCTAGACAGAAATCTCCACTATTTTAAACAGTGATAGTTTTGCTAGCCACCCTAAT
ATCCATATTCTGATGAATATTAACATGGA

10 SEQ ID NO:23
AKR1C4

1 mdpkyqrvel ndghfmpvlg fgtyappevp rnravevtkl aieagfrhid saylynnee
15 61 vglairskia dgsvkredif ytsklwctff qpqmvqpale sslkklqldy vdlyllhfp
121 alkpgetplp kdengkvidf tvdlsatwev mekckdagla ksigvsfnfnc rqllemi
181 glkykpcnq vechpylnqs klldfckskd ivlvahsalg tqrhklwvdp nspvll
241 lcalakkhkr tpaliaalryq lqrgvvvlak syneqriren iqvfefqlts edmkvldg
301 rnyryvmdf lmdhpdypfs dey

20 SEQ ID NO:24
> 554090 gn|UG|Hs#S554090 chlordecone reductase {clone HAKRa} [human, liver, mRNA, 1167 nt] /cds=(7,978)
/gb=S68287 /gi=544761 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=1167

25 GCAAGCAATGGATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCATTTTCATGCCCCGT
ATTGGGATTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGGAACAGAGCTGTAGAGGTCAC
CAAATTAGCAATAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGÇCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATACAATAATGA
GGAGCAGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGAAGAGAGAAGA
30 CATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGC
CTTGGAAAGCTCACTGAAAAAATTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCATTT
CCCAATGGCTCTCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCAAAAAGATGAAAAATGGAAAAGTAAT
ATTCGACACAGTGGATCTCTCTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGAAGGATGCAGG
ATTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCAAACCTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAA
35 CAAGCCAGGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCTTACCTCAA
CCAGAGCAAACCTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGC
TCTGGGAACCCAACGACATAAACATATGGGTGGACCCAACTCCCAGTTCTTTTGGAGGA
CCCAGTTCTTTGTGCCTTAGCAAAGAAACACAAACGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCG
CTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCCCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAG
40 AGAGAACATCCAGGTTTTTGAATTCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAGTTCTAGATGG
TCTAAACAGAAATATCGATATGTTGTCATGGATTTTCTTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCC
ATTTTCAGATGAATATTAGCATAGAGGGTGTTCACGACATCTAGCAGAAGGCCCTGTGG
TGTGGATGGTGCAGAGGATGTCCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACACGGCCTCTGGTTA
AATCCCTCCCCTCTGCTTGGCAACTTCAGCTAGCTAGATATATCCATGGTCCAGAAAGC
45 AAACATAATAAATTTTATCTTGAAGT

50 SEQ ID NO:25
> 3219589 gn1|UG|Hs#S3219589 Homo sapiens aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C4 (chlordecone reductase;
3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type I; dihydrodiol dehydrogenase 4) (AKR1C4), mRNA /cds=(7,978)
/gb=NM_001818 /gi=11386204 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=1167

EP 1 465 911 B1

GCAAGCAATGGATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCATTTTCATGCCCGT
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CAAATTAGCAATAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATACAATAATGA
5 GGAGCAGGTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGA
CATATTCTACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGC
CTTGAAAAGCTCACTGAAAAAATTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCATTT
CCCAATGGCTCTCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAAT
ATTCGACACAGTGGATCTCTCTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGG
10 ATTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCAAACCTTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAA
CAAGCCAGGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCTTACCTCAA
CCAGAGCAAACCTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGC
TCTGGGAACCAACGACATAAACTATGGGTGGACCCAACTCCCCAGTTCCTTTGGAGGA
CCCAGTTCCTTGTGCCTTAGCAAAGAAACACAAACGAACCCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCG

CTACCAGCTGCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAG
AGAGAACATCCAGGTTTTTGAATTCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAGTTCTAGATGG
20 TCTAAACAGAAATTATCGATATGTTGTCATGGATTTTCTTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCC
ATTTTCAGATGAATATTAGCATAGAGGGTGTGTCACGACATCTAGCAGAAGGCCCTGTGG
TGTGGATGGTGTATGCAGAGGATGTCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACACGGCCTCTGGTTA
AATCCCTCCCCTCCTGCTTGGCAACTTCAGCTAGCTAGATATATCCATGGTCCAGAAAGC
AAACATAATAAATTTTTATCTTGAAGT

SEQ ID NO:26

> 882 gn|UG|HS#S882 Human chlordecone reductase mRNA, complete cds /cds=(43,969) /gb=M33375 /gi=179986 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=1157

CGATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCATTTTCATGCCCGTATTGGGATT
TGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGGAACAGAGCTGTAGAGGTCACCAAATTAGC
AATAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGT
TGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTA
35 CACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGCCTTGAAAG
CTCACTGAAAAAATTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCATTTCCCAATGGC
TCTCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTGACAC
AGTGGATCTCTCTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCCAA
GTCCATCGGGGTGTCAAACCTTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGG
ACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCTTACCTCAACCAGAGCAA
40 ACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGTCTGGGAAC
CCAACGACATAAACTATGGGTGGACCCAACTCCCCAGTTCCTTTGGAGGACCCAGTTCT
TTGTGCCCTTAGCAAAGAAAACAAACGAACCCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGCT
GCAGCGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAGAGAGAACAT
CCAGGTTTTTGAATTCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAGTTCTAGATGGTCTAAACAG
45 AAATATCGATATGTTGTCATGGATTTTCTTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCCATTTTCAGA
TGAATATTAGCATAGAGGGTGTGTCACGACATCTAGCAGAAGGCCCTGTGTGTGGATGGT
GATGCAGAGGATGTCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACACGGCCTCTGGTTAAATCCCTCCC
CTCCTGCTTGGCAACTTCAGCTAGCTAGATATATCCATGGTCCAGAAAGCAAACATAATA
AATTTTTATCTTGAAGT

SEQ ID NO:27

> 5723 gn|UG|HS#S5723 Human mRNA for dihydrodiol dehydrogenase isozyme DD4 /cds=(0,967) /gb=D26125 /gi=556517 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=1155

EP 1 465 911 B1

ATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCCGTATTGGGATTTG
GCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGGAACAGAGCTGTAGAGGTCACCAAATAGCAA
TAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATAACAATAATGAGGAGCAGGTTG
5 GACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTCTACA
CTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGCCTTGGAAAGCT
CACTGAAAAAACTTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCATTTCCCAATGGCTC
TCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTCCGACACAG
TGGATCTCTCTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCCAAGT
10 CCATCGGGGTGTCAAACCTTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCAGGAC
TCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTATCCTTACCTCAACCAGAGCAAAC
TGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGCTCTGGGAACCC
AACGACATAAACTATGGGTGGACCCAAACTCCCCAGTTCTTTTGGAGGACCCAGTTCTTT
GTGCCCTTAGCAAAGAAACACAAACGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAGTGC
AGCGTGGGGTGTGGTCTGCGCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAGAGAGAACATCC
15 AGGTTTTTTGAATTCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAGTTCTAGATGGTCTAAACAGAA
ATTATCGATATGTTGTATGGATTTTCTTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCCATTTTCAGATG
AATATTAGCATAGAGGGTGTTCACGACATCTAGCAGAAGGCCCTGTGTGTGGATGGTGA
TGCAGAGGATGTCTCTATGCTGGTACTGGACACACGGCCTCTGGTTAAATCCCTCCCT
20 CCTGCTTGGCAACTTCAGCTAGCTAGATATATCCATGGTCCAGAAAGCAAACATAATAAA
TTTTTATCTTGAAGT

SEQ ID NO:28

> 2329667 gn|UG|Hs#S2329667 Homo sapiens mRNA for 3alpha-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase variant, complete
25 cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB045829 /gi=9186907 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=991

ATGGATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCCGTATTGGGA
30 TTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGGAACAGAGCTGTAGAGGTCACCAAATTA
GCAATAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATAACAATAATGAGGAGCAG
GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGCCTTGGAA
35 AGCTCACTGAAAAAACTTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCATTTCCCAATG
GCTCTCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACCAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTCCGAC
ACAGTGGATCTCTGTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCC
AAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCAAACCTTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
GGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTATCCTTACCTCAACCAGAGC
AAACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGCTCTGGGA
40 ACCCAACGACATAAACTATGGGTGGACCCAAACTCCCCAGTTCTTTTGGAGGACCCAGTT
CTTGTGCCTTAGCAAAGAAACACAAACGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
CTGCAGCGTGGGGTGTGGTCTGCGCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAGAGAGAAC
ATCCAGGTTTTTGAATTCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAGTTCTAGATGGTCTAAAC
45 AGAAATTATCGATATGTTGTATGGATTTTGTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCCATTTTCA
GATGAATATTAGCATAGAGGGTGTTCACGA

SEQ ID NO:29

> 1971651 gn|UG|Hs#S1971651 Homo sapiens mRNA for dihydrodiol
50 dehydrogenase 4, complete cds /cds=(0,971) /gb=AB031085 /gi=7328947 /ug=Hs.177687 /len=972

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EP 1 465 911 B1

ATGGATCCCAAATATCAGCGTGTAGAGCTAAATGATGGTCACTTCATGCCCGTATTGGGA
TTTGGCACCTATGCACCTCCAGAGGTTCCGAGGAACAGAGCTGTAGAGGTCACCAAATTA
GCAATAGAAGCTGGCTTCCGCCATATTGATTCTGCTTATTTATACAATAATGAGGAGCAG
5 GTTGGACTGGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATTGCAGATGGCAGTGTGAAGAGAGAAGACATATTC
TACACTTCAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTTTCTTTCAACCACAGATGGTCCAACCAGCCTGGAA
AGCTCACTGAAAAAATTCAACTGGACTATGTTGACCTCTATCTTCTTCAATTTCCCAATG
GCTCTCAAGCCAGGTGAGACGCCACTACAAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAAGTAATATTCGAC
10 ACAGTGGATCTCTCTGCCACATGGGAGGTCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCC
AAGTCCATCGGGTGTCAAACCTCAACTGCAGGCAGCTGGAGATGATCCTCAACAAGCCA
GGACTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCTTACCTCAACCAGAGC
AAACTGCTGGATTTCTGCAAGTCAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCACAGTGTCTGGGA
ACCCAACGACATAAACTATGGGTGGACCCAACTCCCCAGTCTTTTGGAGGACCCAGTT
CTTTGTGCCTTAGCAAAGAAACACAAACGAACCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTGCGCTACCAG
15 CTGCAGCGTGGGGTGTGGTCTGGCCAAGAGCTACAATGAGCAGCGGATCAGAGAGAAC
ATCCAGGTTTTTGAATTCCAGTTGACATCAGAGGATATGAAAAGTCTAGATGGTCTAAAC
AGAAATTATCGATATGTTGTATGGATTTTCTTATGGACCATCCTGATTATCCATTTTCA
GATGAATATTAG

20 SEQ ID NO:30

>gi|1352733|sp|P80508|PE2R_RABIT PROSTAGLANDIN-E2 9-REDUCTASE (20-ALPHA-HYDROXYSTEROID
DEHYDROGENASE) (20-ALPHA-HSD)

25 MDPKFQRVALSDBGHFIPVLGFGTYAPEEVPKSKAMEATKIAIDAGFRHIDSAYFYKNEKEVGLAIRSKIADGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLWCTFHRPELVRPSLEDSLKLNQLDYVDLYIIHFPTALKPGVEIIPTEDEHGKAI FDTVDICATWEAMEKCK
DAGLA
30 KSIGVSNFNRRQLEMILNKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHPYLNQGLLEFCKSKGIVLVAYSALGSHREPEWVDQSAPVL
LEDPL
IGALAKKHQQTALIALRYQLQRGIVVLAKSFTEKRIKENIQVFEBQLPSEDMKVIDSLNRNFRYVTADFAIGHP
NYPFS
DEY

35 SEQ ID NO:31

>gi|1706337|sp|P52898|DDBX_BOVIN DIHYDRODIOL DEHYDROGENASE 3 (PROSTAGLANDIN
F SYNTHASE)

40 MDPKGQRVKLNDBGHFIPVLGFGTFAPREVPKSEALEVTKFAIEAGFRHIDSAHLYQNEEQVGQAIRSKIADGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLWSTSLRPELVRPALEKSLNNLQLDYVDLYIIHFVVALKPGETLFPTEDENGKPIFDSVDLCRTWEALEKCK
DAGLT

45 KSIGVSNFNHKQLEKILNKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHPYFNQSKLLDFCKSHDIVLVAYGALGSQRLKEWVNPPLPFL
LEDPV
LSAIAKKHRQTPALVALRYQIQRGVVVLAKSYNKKRIKENIQVDFELTPEDMKAIDGLNSNMRYNELLGVGHP
EYPFV
50 EEY

55 SEQ ID NO:32

>gi|6014958|sp|P70694|DHBX_MOUSE ESTRADIOL 17 BETA-DEHYDROGENASE, A-SPECIFIC (17-BETA-
HSD)

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MDSKQQTVRLSDGHFIPILGFGTYAPQEVPKSKATEATKIAIDAGFRHIDSASMYQNEKEVGLAIRSKIADGTVK
REDIF
YTSKVWCTFHRPELVRCLEQSLKQLQLDYVDLYLIHFPMAMKPGENYLPKDENGKLIYDAVDICTWEAMEKCK
5 DAGLA
KSIGVSNFNRRQLEKILKKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHPYLNQGLLDFCRSKDIVLVAYSALGSHREKQWVDQSSPVL
LDNPV
LGSMAKKYNRTPALIALRYQLQRGVVVLAKSFSEKRIKENMQVFQFQLTSEDMKVLDDLKNKIRYISGSSFKDHP
DFPFW
10 DEY

SEQ ID NO:33

>gj|129896|sp|P05980|PGFS_BOVIN PROSTAGLANDIN-F SYNTHASE 1 (PGF SYNTHASE 1) (PGF 1) (PROS-
15 TAGLANDIN-D2 11 REDUCTASE 1) (PGFSI)

MDPKSQRVKLNDGHFIPVLGFGTYAPEEVPKSEALEATKFAIEVGFVRHVDSAHLYQNEEQVGQAIRSKIADGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLVWCNSLQPELVPALEKSLQNLQLDYVDLYIIHSPVSLKPGNKFPVKDESGKLIFDSVDLCHTWEALEKCK
20 DAGLT
KSIGVSNFNHKQLEKILNKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHPYLNQSKLLEFCKSHDIVLVAYAALGAQLLSEWVNSNPNVL
LEDPV
LCAIAKHKHQTPALVALRYQVQRGVVVLAKSFNKKRIKENMQVDFDFELTPEDMKAIDGLNRNIRYYDFQKGIGHP
EYPFS
25 EEY

SEQ ID NO:34

>gj|1730509|sp|P52897|PGF2_BOVIN PROSTAGLANDIN-F SYNTHASE 2 (PGF SYNTHASE 2) (PGF 2) (PROS-
30 TAGLANDIN-D2 11 REDUCTASE 2) (PGFSII)

MDPKSQRVKFNNDGHFIPVLGFGTYAPEEVPKSEALEATKFAIEVGFVRHVDSAHLYQNEEQVGQAIRSKIADGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLVWCNSLQPELVPALEKSLQNLQLDYVDLYIIHSPVSLKPGNKFPVKDESGKLIFDSVDLCHTWEALEKCK
35 DAGLT
KSIGVSNFNHKQLEKILNKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHPYLNQSKLLEFCKSHDIVLVAYAALGAQLLSEWVNSNPNVL
LEDPV
LCAIAKHKHQTPALVALRYQVQRGVVVLAKSFNKKRIKENMQVDFDFELTPEDMKAIDGLNRNTRYDFQQGIGHP
EYPFS
40 EEY

SEQ ID NO:35

>gj|1709623|sp|P51652|PE2R_RAT 20-ALPHA-HYDROXYSTEROID DEHYDROGENASE (20-ALPHA-HSD)
45 (HSD1)

MNSKIQKMEIENDGHSIPVLGFGTYATEENLRKKSMESTKIAIDVGFVRHIDCSHLYQNEEEIGQAIVSKIEDGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLVWSTSHRPELVPSLENSLRKLNLDYVDLYLIHFVSLKPGDELLPQDEHGNLILDTVDLCHTWEAMEKCK
50 DAGLA
KSIGVSNFNRRQLEKILNKPGLKHPVCNQVECHLYLNQSKLLAYCKMNDIVLVAYGALGTQRYKYCINEDTPVL
LDDPI
LCTMAKKYKRTPALIALRYQLERGIIVTLVKSFNBERIRENLQVDFDFQLASDDMEILDNLDRNLRYPANMFKAHP
NFPFS
55 DEY

SEQ ID NO:36

>gj|118634|sp|P23457|DIDH_RAT 3-ALPHA-HYDROXYSTEROID DEHYDROGENASE (3-ALPHA-HSD) (HY-

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DROXYPROSTAGLANDIN DEHYDROGENASE)

5 MDSISLRVALNDGNFIPVLGFGTTVPEKVAKDEVIKATKIAIDNGFRHFDSAYLYEVEEEVGOAIRSKIEDGTVK
REDIF
YTSKLWSTFHRPELVRTCLEKTLKSTQLDYVDLYIIHFPMALQPGDIFFPREDEHGKLLFETVDICTWEAMEKCK
DAGLA
10 KSIGVSNFNCRQLERILNKPGLKYKPVCNQVECHLYLNQSKMLDYCKSKDIILVSYCTLGSSRDKTWVDQKSPVL
LDDPV
LCAIAKKYKQTPALVALRYQLQRGVVPLIRSFNAKRIKELTQVFEFQLASEDMKALDGLNRNFRYNNAKYFDDHP
NHPFT
DE

15 SEQ ID NO:37
>AB059565

20 MNSKIQKIELNDGHSIPVLGFGTYATEEHLKKKSMESTKIAIDVGFCHIDCSHLYQNEEE
IGQAILSIEDGTVKREDIFYTSKLWSTSHRPELVRPSENLRLKLNLDYVDLYLIHFVP
SLKPGNELLPKDEHGNLIFDITVDLCTWEAMEKCKDAGLAKSIGVSNFNRRQLEMILNKP
GLKYKPVCNQVECHLYLNQSKLLAYCKMNDIVLVAYGALGTQRYKVCINEDTPVLLDDPV
LCAMAKKYK RTPALIALRYQLDRGIVALAKSFNEERIRENMQVFDFQLASDDMKILDGLD
RNLRYFPADMFKAHPNFPFFDEY

25 SEQ ID NO:38
>AB059565 mouse mRNA 1193bp Mus musculus 20alpha-HSD mRNA for 20alpha-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase,
complete cds.

30 AGAGAATCTTCTAGGTCAGAGCAGTGGCTGAGAATGAATTCAAAATTCAGAAGATAGAA
TTAAATGATGGTCACTCCATTCCTGTCTGGGCTTTGGCACCTATGCAACTGAAGAGCAT
CTCAAGAAAAGTCTATGGAGTCCACCAAAATAGCTATAGATGTTGGGTTCTGCCATATT
GATTGTTCTCACTTGTACCAGAATGAAGAAGAGATAGGCCAGGCCATTCTAAGCAAGATT
35 GAAGATGGCACTGTGAAAAGGGAAGATATATTCTATACTTCGAAGCTTTGGTCAACTTCC
CATCGTCCAGAGTTGGTCAGACCCAGCTTGGAAAATTCCTGAGGAACTTAATTTGGAC
TATGTAGACCTCTATCTCATTCAATTTCCAGTGTCTCTGAAGCCAGGGAATGAGCTTTTG
CCTAAAGATGAGCATGGAACTTAATATTTGACACAGTGGATCTCTGTGACACATGGGAG
GCCATGGAGAAGTGTAAAGGATGCAGGGCTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTCTAACTTTAAC
CGTAGACAACCTGGAGATGATCCTGAACAAGCCAGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTGTGCAAC
40 CAGGTAGAATGCCATCTTTATCTCAACCAGAGCAAGCTGCTGGCCTACTGCAAGATGAAT
GACATTGTTCTGGTTGCCTATGGTGCCTGGGAACTCAAAGATACAAATACTGTATAAAT
GAGGATACCCAGTTCTCTTGGATGATCCAGTTCTTTGTGCCATGGCAAAGAAGTACAAG
CGGACTCCAGCCCTGATTGCCCTTCGCTACCAGCTGGACCGTGGGATTGTGGCCCTAGCC
AAGAGTTTCAATGAGGAGAGAATCAGAGAGAACATGCAGGTCTTTGATTTCCAATTGGCT
TCAGATGACATGAAAATTTTAGATGGCCTGGACAGAAATCTTCGGTACTTTCTGCTGAT
45 ATGTTTAAGGCTCACCTAACTTTCCATTCTTCGATGAATATTAAGATGGAGGCCCTTGC
CACGAGTTCATTAGAAGATCTTTGTGTGATGCTGGACTCTCAGATGCCAATAACTCGA
CACACCGCCTCCAATCACTGCTTAGCAACTCACCCCCAGTTAATTAATAAATTTTGCTT
CTTTCTATAAATAAATAAAAATATTTTGCTTTAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

50 SEQ ID NO:39
>BC013482

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MNSVSPRVVLNDGHFI PALGFGTTVPDKVPKDEL IKATKIAIDTGFRRHFD SAYLYQIEEE
VGQAIRSKIEDGTVKREDIF YTSKLWSTFHRPELVRS CLEKTLKNAQLDYVDLYI IHFPM
ALQPGDKLFP RDEHGKLLAEAVDLCDTWEAMEKCKDAGLAKS IGVSNFNFRQLETILNKP
GLKYKPCVNQVECHLYLNQSQMLDYCKSKDI ILVSYCTLGSSRDKI WVDQKSPVLLDDPV
LCAMANKYKQTPALIAIRYQLORGI VVLRFSFKEKRI KEFMKVFEFQLASEDMKVL DGLH
RNLRYNTASYFDDHPNHPFTDEY

SEQ ID NO:40

>BC013482 mouse mRNA 2459bp Mus musculus, clone MGC:18906 IMAGE:4240772, mRNA, complete cds.

CAGAACTCTCAAGACCTGCGTGGTTGCATGAGTAACAAGCTATGAATCTGTATCCCCAC
GTGTGGTACTAAACGATGGTCACTTCATCCCTGCACTGGGGTTTTGGAACCACTGTGCCCG
ATAAGGTTCCCTAAGGATGAACCTTATCAAGGCTACTAAAATAGCTATAGATACTGGATTCC
GCCATTTTGACTCCGCTTATTTGTACCAAATAGAAGAGGAAGTAGGCCAGGCCATTAGAA
GCAAGATTGAAGATGGCACTGTGAAGAGAGAAGATATATTCTATACTTCAAAGCTTTGGA

GCACTTTCCATCGACCAGAATTGGTCCGATCTTGCTTGAAAAGACACTGAAGAATGCAC
AACTGGACTATGTTGATCTTTACATTATTCATTTCCCAATGGCTTTGCAGCCTGGAGATA
AACTATTTCCACGAGACGAACATGGAAAACCTGTTGGCTGAAGCAGTGGATCTCTGTGACA
CATGGGAGGCCATGGAAAAGTGTAAAGATGCCGGACTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGAGTGTGCA
ACTTTAACTTCAGGCAGCTGGAGACGATTCTGAACAAGCCGGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTG
TGTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGCCATCTTTATTTAAACCAGAGCCAAATGCTGGACTATTGTA
AGTCAAAAAGACATCATTCTGGTTTCTACTGCACATTGGGAAGTTCACGAGACAAAATCT
GGGTGGACCAGAAAAGTCCAGTTCTCTTAGATGATCCAGTTCTTTGTGCCATGGCAAATA
AGTACAAGCAAACACCAGCACTGATTGCCATTCGTTACCAATTACAGCGTGGAAATGTGG
TCCTGACCAGGAGTTTCAAGGAGAAGCGGATCAAAGAGTTCATGAAGTTTTTGAATTC
AGTTGGCTTCAGAGGACATGAAAGTCTGGATGGCTTGCACAGAAATTTAAGATACAATA
CTGCGAGTATTTTGATGACCATCCCAATCATCCATTTACTGATGAATATTAACATGGTG
GCCTTTGCCAGCATTTCTATCAGAAGATCTGCTGATGCATCATGATATGAGAGATATCTT
GGATACTGGTGACTGAACACATCCCTTCTCATCAGATCACTGTATCTATTAATTCACAGT
CAGATGGAGCAAAGTCCAAAGAGCTATGAGGGAAGCCATATTTTTGTACACGCTGAAAT
GGAACACCATGTTGCTTTTCCATTTCTTGTGTTTTTAAAGATTCATTTATTTTATTTTAC
ATATGTAAGTGTACATGTATGTATATCTCATGAATGTCTGTGTCTATGAAGGGAAGAAGA
GAGTTATAGGTCACCTTGGAACTGGAGCTACGGATGATTGTGAATCACCATGTGGGCACTG
GGAGCCAAACCTAAGTCTTCTGTTAGAGCAGCAAGTGCCATTAATGCCGAGCCATCTCA
TTAGGTCCCCTCTAAAGATTTCTGCTGCTACTATTTCTAGAACCTCAATGTTTTGTTT
TCTTCTGATTTCTGACACCAACCTGTTTTGCTAGAAGTTTTGGGCATGAAGCATTGTTG
AAGACAATCATTGCAAAGGCATCTCTGGGTGGGAATTTGAAGGATTTTTCAACATTAAGG
GAATTAATTTAGTGGTTATTGATAAGTAAATATTCCTCATGTGCTTTGAGGAAGAAGA
AAATACTCCATAGCTCTTCGCTTTTTCTTATTTTGGAGGTAAGGCACATGTGAGGAGTGA
CCAAGAGACTCAGGGTCTCTCCAGCAACCCAAAGAACCCAGAGCTCCAAGAGCCTGGGGAG
TATGTTCTCCTTGTGGGAAATTTGGGAGGTTGGTAAGAAGAGAACTAATCTAAAAGCATC
ATCATGGCTCAGATGTAGGGAAGTTGAGAAGAAAGCTGAATATGTCTCTGCTTGGGAAGT
ATCTTTTTTGGTAATTACATGTGACAGTAAAAGGAAAATCTACAGATTTCAATCAAGACA
GACTGCTAGACTGGATGTTTATATTTTCAAGGGATTCAGAAGTTGCATTACTGAGCTATG
TTAGAAGAAACCAATTCACATGAGTATAAACTCCATATTCAGTTTTCTCTGATTTAAAA
ATCGGTTTTCTGAAACATGATCTCATATGTTTATAGGTAACGAGTCAGACTTACAAAAG
ATCTCAAAGTTACTAAATTTGTATAGTCAATTAAGATTAAGAATATATTTGATGAGAC
AAGTTATTTAAATTTTCAAAAATATATGAAATACTGTATTTGAATCAGCAGTGTTTAAG
GAAGTTGTTAACAATTTAGTCATCTTTTTTGCACAAAAGAGTATCTTCAGAGAAATCAGAGA
GAAAAGATAGTATGTTTATAGAAGATTGAGAATAATGTGGAGGTAATATGTTTAGAAT
ATAGTTGGATTTATATATTTTCATTAATAAATGCCTCAAATAAGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

SEQ ID NO:41

>D45850

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MDSKQQTVRLSDGHFIPILGFGTYAPQEVPKSKATEATKIAIDAGFRHIDSASMYQNEKE
VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKVVWCTFHRPELVVRCLEQSLKQLQLDYVDLYLIHFPM
AMKPGENYLPKDENGKLIYDAVDICDTWEAMEKCKDAGLAKSIGVSNFNRRQLEKILKPK
5 GLKYKPVNCQVECHPYLNQGLLDFCRSKDIVLVAYSALGSHREKQWVDQSSPVLDDNPV
LGSMAKKYNRTPALIALRYQLQRGVVVLAKSFSEKRIKENMQVFEFQLTSEDMKVLDDLN
KNIRYISGSSFKDHPDFPFWDEY

SEQ ID NO:42

10 >D45850 mouse mRNA 1178bp Mouse mRNA for estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase (A-specific), complete cds.

15 ATGGATTCTAAGCAGCAGACAGTGCCTCTAAGTGATGGTCACTTCATCCCTATACTGGGG
TTTGGTACCTATGCACCTCAAGAGGTACCTAAGAGTAAGGCTACAGAAGCTACTAAAATA
GCCATAGATGCTGGTTTCCGCCATATGATTCTGCTTCTATGTATCAAAATGAAAAGGAA
GTAGGACTAGCCATCCGAAGCAAGATAGCAGATGGCACTGTGAAGAGGGAAGATATATTT
TACACATCAAAGGTTTGGTGTACTTTTCATCGTCCAGAACTCGTACGGGTCTGCTTGGAA
CAGTCATTGAAGCAACTCCAGTTGGACTATGTGGACCTGTACCTCATTCAATTTCCCAATG
GCCATGAAGCCGGGAGAAAATTATCTCCAAAAGATGAAAATGGAAAATTAATATATGAT
20 GCTGTGGATATCTGTGACACCTGGGAAGCCATGGAGAAATGCAAGGATGCAGGATTGGCC
AAGTCCATTGGGGTGTCCAACCTTAACCGCAGGCAGCTGGAGAAGATCCTGAAAAGCCG
GGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTGTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCTTATCTCAATCAGGGA
AACTTCTGGATTTCTGCAGGTCAAAAAGACATTGTTCTGGTTGCTTACAGTGCTCTGGGA

25 AGCCATCGTGAAAAACAATGGGTTGATCAGAGCTCTCCTGTTCTTTGGATAATCCAGTT
CTTGGCTCAATGGCAAAAAAGTACAATCGAAGTCTCCTGCGCTGATTGCCCTTCGCTACCAG
CTACAACGTGGGGTTGTGGTCTCGCCAAGACTTCTCTGAGAAGAGGATAAAAAGAGAAT
30 ATGCAGTTTTTTGAATTTAGTTGACTTCAGAGGACATGAAAGTCTCCTCGATGACCTGAAT
AAAAATATCCGATACATAAGTGGTTCTAGCTTTAAGGACCATCCTGATTTCCATTTTGG
GATGAATACTAACTGGAGGTCCATTTTGTGCCTTGTGCCAGATGCTACTGCATTTGGAAGA
GTGTATAGGAAGAGTATTCTCAAATGTGATGATTACATATCACCCTAATCCAAGCTTCT
GAGCAATTTCTGGCTCTGCTGAATCTACCCATTTTAACCAAGAAAAGCCAAAACCTATGTATA
35 TTTCTCCTTTCTAAGAAATAAAGAATCGTTATTCTTT

SEQ ID NO:43

>BC021607

40 MNSKQQTVLLNDGHFIPILGFGTSAPQEVPRSKATEATKIAIDAGFRHIDCAAVYQNEKE
VGLAIRSKIVDGTVKREDIFCTSKVWQTFHRPELVQVCLEQSLKQLQLDYVDLYLIHFPI
AMKPGENYFPKDENGKFIYDAVDICDTWEAMEKCKDAGLAKSIGVCNFNRRQLEKILSKP
45 GLKYKPVNCQVECHPYLNQRKLLDFCRSKDIVLVHLSALGNSNRDKEWVDKSFVLLDDPV
LGSMAKKYNRTPALIALRYQVQRGVVVLAKSFIEKRIKENMQVFEFQLTSDMKVLDGLN
KNIRYIGSSISEDHPDFPFLEDEY

SEQ ID NO:44

50 >BC021607 mouse mRNA 1212bp Mus musculus, Similar to hydroxysteroid (17-beta) dehydrogenase 5, clone
MGC:37825 IMAGE:5098938, mRNA, complete cds.

EP 1 465 911 B1

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GAGGACTGAGAAGCCATGAATTCCAAGCAGCAGACAGTTCTTCTAAATGATGGTCACTTC
ATCCCTATACTCGGGTTTGGTACCTCTGCACCTCAAGAGGTACCTAGGAGTAAGGCTACA
GAAGCCACCAAAATAGCTATAGATGCTGGTTTTCCGCCATATTGATTGTGCTGCTGTGTAT
CAAATGAAAAGGAGGTAGGATTAGCCATCAGAAGCAAGATTGTAGATGGCACTGTGAAG
AGGGAAGATATATTTTTGCACATCAAAGGTTTGGCAAACATTTTCATCGTCCAGAAGTGGTG
CAGGTATGCTTGGAAACAATCATTTGAAGCAACTCCAGTTAGATTATGTGGACCTGTACCTC
ATTCATTTCCCAATAGCCATGAAGCCAGGAGAGAATTTATTTCCCAAAGATGAGAATGGA
AAATTCATATATGATGCAGTGGATATCTGTGACACCTGGGAAGCCATGGAGAAATGCAAG
GATGCAGGATTGGCCAAGTCCATCGGGGTGTGCAACTTTAACCAGCAGGAGCTGGAGAAG
10  ATCTGAGTAAGCCGGGGCTCAAGTACAAGCCTGTGTGCAACCAGGTAGAATGTCATCCT
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TTGGATGATCCAGTTCTTGGCTCAATGGCAAAAAGTACAATCGAACGCCTGCGTGATT
GCCCTTCGCTACCAGGTGCAACGTGGGGTTGTGGTCCTAGCCAAGAGTTTCATTGAGAAG
15  AGGATAAAAGAGAATATGCAGGTTTTTGAATTTAGTTGACTTCGGTGGACATGAAAGTT
CTTGATGGCCTGAATAAAAATATCCGATACATAGGTAGTTCTATTTCTGAGGACCATCCT
GATTTTCCATTTTTGGATGAATACTAACATGGAGGTCCCTGTATGCCTTGTGCCAGAAG
TCACTACATGGGAAGACTGTATAGAAAGGATACTCTCAAATGTGATGATTGCATATCAC
CCTCATCTAACTTCTGAGCAATCTGGCTCTGCTGAGTCTATAATCTTAAGCAAGAAAG
20  CAAAACTATATATATTTCCCCCTTCTAAGAAATAAAAGAATCATTTTTCTTTAGCAA
AAAAAAAAAAAA
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SEQ ID NO:45
>BC013531

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MNSKCHCVILNDGNFIPVLGFGTALPVECPKSKAKELTKIAIDAGFHHFDSASVYNTEDR
VGEAIRSKIADGTVRREDIFYTSKVWCTSLRPELVRASLVRSLQKLQFDYVDLYLIHYPM
ALKPGEENFPVDEHGKLI FDRVDLCATWEAMEKCKDAGLTKS IGVSNFNSRQLEMILNKP
GLKYKPVNCQVECHPYLNQMKL LDFCKSKDIVLVAYGVLGTQRYGGWVDQNSPVLLDEPV
LGSMAKKYNRTPALIALRYQLQ RGI VVLNNTSLKEERIKENMQVFQFQLSSEDMKVLDGLN
RNMRYIPAAIFKGHPNWPF LDEY
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SEQ ID NO:46
>BC013531 mouse mRNA 1194bp Mus musculus, Similar to RIKEN cDNA 9430025F20 gene, clone MGC:19211
IMAGE:4238756, mRNA, complete cds.
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GTGAAGGCAAACATCAAGCTGAGCCAGCTTATTTTGAAGAGGGACACATAATGAACTCCA
AATGTCATTGTGT CATATTGAATGATGGTAACTTCATTCCAGTGCCTGGGTTTTGGTACTG
CTCTTCCTGTAGAGTGTCCCAAGAGTAAAGCTAAGGAGCTCACCAAAATAGCTATAGATG
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CTGGTTTCCATCACTTTGATTCTGCTTCTGTCTATAATACCGAAGATCGTGTAGGAGAGG
CCATCAGAAGCAAGATTGCTGATGGCACTGTAAGGAGAGAAGATATATTTTACACCTCAA
AGGTTTGGTGTACTAGCCTTCGCCCAGAACTTGTGAGAGCTTCCTTGGTACGGTCACTGC
AAAACTTCAGTTCGATTATGTGGACCTGTATCTCATTACCCAATGGCCCTGAAAC
CAGGAGAAGAAAATTTTCCAGTAGATGAACATGGAAAATTAATATTTGACAGAGTGGACC
TCTGTGCCACCTGGGAGGCCATGGAGAAGTGAAGGATGCAGGACTAACCAAGTCCATTG
GGTGTCTAACTTTAACTCTAGACAGTTGGAGATGATTCTGAATAAGCCTGGGCTCAAGT
ACAAGCCGGTATGCAACCAGGTAGAATGCCATCCTTATCTCAACCAAATGAAACTTCTGG
ATTTCTGCAAATCAAAGATATTGTATTGGTTGCCTATGGTGTCTAGGAACACAACGAT
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TGGCAAAAAAATATAATCGAACTCCAGCCTTGATTGCCCTTCGCTACCAGTTACAGCGTG
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GATACATACCTGCTGCCATTTTCAAGGGCCACCCTAATTGGCCATTTTGGATGAATACT
AGTATGTGAGGATGTCTCCTGAAAAGCCTATGAGTGGGACACTGCTCAGCTGCTGCCATC
TACAGACTTGCCACTTCTCTGTAGCAATTGAGAAGTCTTGAAGATAACAAAAAGATATC
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SEQ ID NO:47
>AB027125

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MSSKQHCVKLNDGHLI PALGFGTYKPKKEVPKSKSLEAACLALDVGYLHVDTAYAYQVEEE
IGQAIQSKI KAGVVKREDLFI TTKLWCTCFRPELVKPALEKSLKKLQLDYVDLYIMHYPV
PMKSGDNDP VNEQKSLLDTVDFCDTWERLEECKDAGLVKSI GVSNFNHRQLERILNKP
GLKYKPCVNQVECHLYLNQRKLLDYCESKDIVLVAYGALGTQRYKKWVDQNSPVLNDPV
LCDVAKKNKRS PALIALRYLIQRGIVPLAQSFKENEMRENLQVFGFQLSPEDMKTLDGLN
KNFRYLPAEFLVDHPEYPFVEEY
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SEQ ID NO:48
>AB027125 mouse mRNA 1201bp Mus musculus AKR1C13 mRNA for aldo-keto reductase AKR1C13, complete cds.

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GAGACAATGAGCTCCAAACAGCAGCTGTGTCAAACCTAAATGATGGCCACTTAATTCCTGCC
CTGGGCTTTGGCACCTATAAACCCAAAGGAGTTCCCAAGAGTAAGTCACTGGAGGCTGCA
TGCCTAGCGCTAGATGTTGGGTACCTCCATGTTGATACTGCTTATGCATACCAAGTAGAA
GAGGAGATAGGACAGGCCATTCAAAGCAAGATTAAGCTGGGGTTGTAAAGAGAGAAGAC
CTGTTTCATCACTACAAAGCTTTGGTGCACCTGCTTTTCGACCAGAGCTGGTCAAGCCTGCC
TTGGAAGTCACTGAAAAGCTTTCAGCTGGATTATGTTGATCTTTACATTATGCATTAC
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TTGGACACTGTGGATTTCTGTGACACATGGGAGAGGTTGGAGGAGTGAAGGATGCAGGA
TTGGTCAAGTCCATTGGGGTGTCCAACCTTAAACCAAGGCAGCTGGAGCGAATCCTCAAT
AAGCCAGGACTGAAGTACAAACCTGTCTGCAACCAGGTTGAATGTCATCTCTATTTGAAC
CAGCGTAAGCTACTGGATTACTGCGAATCAAAGACATTGTTCTCGTTGCTTACGGTGCT
CTGGGGACCCAGCGATATAAAAAATGGGTGGACCAAAAACCTCCCAGTTCCTTGAATGAT
CCAGTTCCTTGTGATGTGGCCAAAAAACAAGCGAAGTCCCTGCCTTGATTGCACTTCGA
TACCTGATTCAACGTGGGATTGTGCCCTGGCCAGAGTTCAAAGAGAATGAGATGAGA
GAGAAATTTGCAGGTTTTTGGATTTTCAGTTGTCCCCTGAGGACATGAAAACACTAGATGGC
CTGAACAAAAACTTTTCGATACCTTCCAGCAGAGTTCCTTGTGACCACCCAGAGTATCCA
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30 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
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35

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45

50

55

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 Lys Leu Trp Val Asp Pro Asn Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Val
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 10 Leu Cys Ala Leu Ala Lys Lys His Lys Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
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20     tgtggatggg gatgcagagg atgtctctat gctggtgact ggacacacgg cctctggtta 1080
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25 <210> 28
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25 <210> 30
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 <212> PRT
 <213> *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

<400> 30

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45

50

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5 Pro Val Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Tyr Ala Pro Glu Glu Val Pro Lys Ser
20 25 30

Lys Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Ala Gly Phe Arg His
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10 Ile Asp Ser Ala Tyr Phe Tyr Lys Asn Glu Lys Glu Val Gly Leu Ala
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Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
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15 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Cys Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
85 90 95

Pro Ser Leu Glu Asp Ser Leu Lys Asn Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
100 105 110

20 Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Phe Pro Thr Ala Leu Lys Pro Gly Val Glu Ile
115 120 125

Ile Pro Thr Asp Glu His Gly Lys Ala Ile Phe Asp Thr Val Asp Ile
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25 Cys Ala Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
145 150 155 160

Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Arg Arg Gln Leu Glu Met Ile
165 170 175

30 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
180 185 190

Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Gly Lys Leu Leu Glu Phe Cys Lys Ser
195 200 205

35 Lys Gly Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Ser Ala Leu Gly Ser His Arg Glu
210 215 220

40 Pro Glu Trp Val Asp Gln Ser Ala Pro Val Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Leu
225 230 235 240

Ile Gly Ala Leu Ala Lys Lys His Gln Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
245 250 255

45

50

55

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Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Ile Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
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 5 Thr Glu Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Ile Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
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 Pro Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Val Ile Asp Ser Leu Asn Arg Asn Phe Arg
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 Asp Glu Tyr
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 30 35 40 45
 Ile Asp Ser Ala His Leu Tyr Gln Asn Glu Glu Gln Val Gly Gln Ala
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 35 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
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 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Ser Thr Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95
 40 Pro Ala Leu Glu Lys Ser Leu Asn Asn Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
 100 105 110
 Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Phe Pro Val Ala Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Thr Leu
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 45 Phe Pro Thr Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Pro Ile Phe Asp Ser Val Asp Leu
 130 135 140
 Cys Arg Thr Trp Glu Ala Leu Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Thr
 145 150 155 160
 50 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn His Lys Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
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 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
 180 185 190
 55 Cys His Pro Tyr Phe Asn Gln Ser Lys Leu Leu Asp Phe Cys Lys Ser
 195 200 205

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His Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Gly Ala Leu Gly Ser Gln Arg Leu
 210 215 220
 5 Lys Glu Trp Val Asn Pro Asn Leu Pro Phe Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Val
 225 230 235 240
 Leu Ser Ala Ile Ala Lys Lys His Arg Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Val Ala
 245 250 255
 10 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Ile Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Tyr
 260 265 270
 Asn Lys Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Ile Gln Val Phe Asp Phe Glu Leu
 275 280 285
 15 Thr Pro Glu Asp Met Lys Ala Ile Asp Gly Leu Asn Ser Asn Met Arg
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 20 Glu Glu Tyr
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 25 <212> PRT
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 40 Ile Asp Ser Ala Ser Met Tyr Gln Asn Glu Lys Glu Val Gly Leu Ala
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 65 70 75 80
 45 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Val Trp Cys Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95
 Val Cys Leu Glu Gln Ser Leu Lys Gln Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
 100 105 110
 50 Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Phe Pro Met Ala Met Lys Pro Gly Glu Asn Tyr
 115 120 125
 Leu Pro Lys Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Leu Ile Tyr Asp Ala Val Asp Ile
 130 135 140
 55 Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
 145 150 155 160

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Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Arg Arg Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
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 5 Leu Lys Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
 180 185 190
 Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Gly Lys Leu Leu Asp Phe Cys Arg Ser
 195 200 205
 10 Lys Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Ser Ala Leu Gly Ser His Arg Glu
 210 215 220
 Lys Gln Trp Val Asp Gln Ser Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asn Pro Val
 225 230 235 240
 15 Leu Gly Ser Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Asn Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
 245 250 255
 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
 260 265 270
 20 Ser Glu Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
 275 280 285
 Thr Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Val Leu Asp Asp Leu Asn Lys Asn Ile Arg
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 305 310 315 320
 Asp Glu Tyr

30
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 Val Asp Ser Ala His Leu Tyr Gln Asn Glu Glu Gln Val Gly Gln Ala
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 50 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80
 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Cys Asn Ser Leu Gln Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95
 55 Pro Ala Leu Glu Lys Ser Leu Gln Asn Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
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Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Ser Pro Val Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asn Lys Phe
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 5 Val Pro Lys Asp Glu Ser Gly Lys Leu Ile Phe Asp Ser Val Asp Leu
 130 135 140
 Cys His Thr Trp Glu Ala Leu Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Thr
 145 150 155 160
 10 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn His Lys Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
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 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
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 His Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Ala Ala Leu Gly Ala Gln Leu Leu
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 20 Ser Glu Trp Val Asn Ser Asn Asn Pro Val Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Val
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 Leu Cys Ala Ile Ala Lys Lys His Lys Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Val Ala
 245 250 255
 25 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Val Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
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 Asn Lys Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Asp Phe Glu Leu
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 Glu Glu Tyr

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45 <400> 34

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 55 Val Asp Ser Ala His Leu Tyr Gln Asn Glu Glu Gln Val Gly Gln Ala
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Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
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5 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Cys Asn Ser Leu Gln Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
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Pro Ala Leu Glu Lys Ser Leu Gln Asn Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
100 105 110

10 Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Ser Pro Val Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asn Lys Phe
115 120 125

Val Pro Lys Asp Glu Ser Gly Lys Leu Ile Phe Asp Ser Val Asp Leu
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15 Cys His Thr Trp Glu Ala Leu Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Thr
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Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn His Lys Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
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Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
180 185 190

25 Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Ser Lys Leu Leu Glu Phe Cys Lys Ser
195 200 205

His Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Ala Ala Leu Gly Ala Gln Leu Leu
210 215 220

30 Ser Glu Trp Val Asn Ser Asn Asn Pro Val Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Val
225 230 235 240

Leu Cys Ala Ile Ala Lys Lys His Lys Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Val Ala
245 250 255

35 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Val Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
260 265 270

Asn Lys Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Asp Phe Glu Leu
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40 Thr Pro Glu Asp Met Lys Ala Ile Asp Gly Leu Asn Arg Asn Thr Arg
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45 Glu Glu Tyr

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50 <212> PRT

<213> Rattus norvegicus

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 5 Lys Ser Met Glu Ser Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Val Gly Phe Arg His
 35 40 45
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 50 55 60
 10 Ile Val Ser Lys Ile Glu Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80
 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Ser Thr Ser His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95
 15 Pro Ser Leu Glu Asn Ser Leu Arg Lys Leu Asn Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
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 Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Phe Pro Val Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asp Glu Leu
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 20 Leu Pro Gln Asp Glu His Gly Asn Leu Ile Leu Asp Thr Val Asp Leu
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 Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
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 40 Leu Cys Thr Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Lys Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
 245 250 255
 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Glu Arg Gly Ile Val Thr Leu Val Lys Ser Phe
 260 265 270
 45 Asn Glu Glu Arg Ile Arg Glu Asn Leu Gln Val Phe Asp Phe Gln Leu
 275 280 285
 Ala Ser Asp Asp Met Glu Ile Leu Asp Asn Leu Asp Arg Asn Leu Arg
 290 295 300
 50 Tyr Phe Pro Ala Asn Met Phe Lys Ala His Pro Asn Phe Pro Phe Ser
 305 310 315 320
 Asp Glu Tyr

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<210> 36
 <211> 322
 <212> PRT

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<213> Rattus norvegicus

<400> 36

5 Met Asp Ser Ile Ser Leu Arg Val Ala Leu Asn Asp Gly Asn Phe Ile
1 5 10

Pro Val Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Thr Val Pro Glu Lys Val Ala Lys Asp
20 25 30

10 Glu Val Ile Lys Ala Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Asn Gly Phe Arg His
35 40 45

Phe Asp Ser Ala Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Val Glu Glu Glu Val Gly Gln Ala
50 55 60

15 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Glu Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
65 70 75 80

20 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Ser Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
85 90 95

Thr Cys Leu Glu Lys Thr Leu Lys Ser Thr Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
100 105 110

25 Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Phe Pro Met Ala Leu Gln Pro Gly Asp Ile Phe
115 120 125

Phe Pro Arg Asp Glu His Gly Lys Leu Leu Phe Glu Thr Val Asp Ile
130 135 140

30 Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
145 150 155 160

Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Cys Arg Gln Leu Glu Arg Ile
165 170 175

35 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
180 185 190

Cys His Leu Tyr Leu Asn Gln Ser Lys Met Leu Asp Tyr Cys Lys Ser
195 200 205

40 Lys Asp Ile Ile Leu Val Ser Tyr Cys Thr Leu Gly Ser Ser Arg Asp
210 215 220

Lys Thr Trp Val Asp Gln Lys Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asp Pro Val
225 230 235 240

45 Leu Cys Ala Ile Ala Lys Lys Tyr Lys Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Val Ala
245 250 255

Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Val Val Pro Leu Ile Arg Ser Phe
260 265 270

50 Asn Ala Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Leu Thr Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
275 280 285

55

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Ala Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Ala Leu Asp Gly Leu Asn Arg Asn Phe Arg
 290 295 300

5 Tyr Asn Asn Ala Lys Tyr Phe Asp Asp His Pro Asn His Pro Phe Thr
 305 310 315 320

Asp Glu

10 <210> 37
 <211> 323
 <212> PRT
 <213> Mus musculus

15 <400> 37

20 Met Asn Ser Lys Ile Gln Lys Ile Glu Leu Asn Asp Gly His Ser Ile
 1 5 10 15

Pro Val Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Tyr Ala Thr Glu Glu His Leu Lys Lys
 20 25 30

25 Lys Ser Met Glu Ser Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Val Gly Phe Cys His
 35 40 45

Ile Asp Cys Ser His Leu Tyr Gln Asn Glu Glu Glu Ile Gly Gln Ala
 50 55 60

30 Ile Leu Ser Lys Ile Glu Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80

Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Ser Thr Ser His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95

35 Pro Ser Leu Glu Asn Ser Leu Arg Lys Leu Asn Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
 100 105 110

Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Phe Pro Val Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asn Glu Leu
 115 120 125

40 Leu Pro Lys Asp Glu His Gly Asn Leu Ile Phe Asp Thr Val Asp Leu
 130 135 140

Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
 145 150 155 160

45 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Arg Arg Gln Leu Glu Met Ile
 165 170 175

Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
 180 185 190

50 Cys His Leu Tyr Leu Asn Gln Ser Lys Leu Leu Ala Tyr Cys Lys Met
 195 200 205

Asn Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Gly Ala Leu Gly Thr Gln Arg Tyr
 210 215 220

55 Lys Tyr Cys Ile Asn Glu Asp Thr Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asp Pro Val
 225 230 235 240

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Leu Cys Ala Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Lys Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
 245 250 255

5 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Asp Arg Gly Ile Val Ala Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
 260 265 270

Asn Glu Glu Arg Ile Arg Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Asp Phe Gln Leu
 275 280 285

10 Ala Ser Asp Asp Met Lys Ile Leu Asp Gly Leu Asp Arg Asn Leu Arg
 290 295 300

Tyr Phe Pro Ala Asp Met Phe Lys Ala His Pro Asn Phe Pro Phe Phe
 305 310 315 320

15 Asp Glu Tyr

20 <210> 38
 <211> 1193
 <212> DNA
 <213> Mus musculus

25 <400> 38

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 ctcaagaaaa agtctatgga gtccacccaaa atagctatag atgttgggtt ctgccatatt 180
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45 <210> 39
 <211> 323
 <212> PRT
 <213> Mus musculus

50 <400> 39

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Met Asn Ser Val Ser Pro Arg Val Val Leu Asn Asp Gly His Phe Ile
1 5 10 15

5 Pro Ala Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Thr Val Pro Asp Lys Val Pro Lys Asp
20 25 30

Glu Leu Ile Lys Ala Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Thr Gly Phe Arg His
35 40 45

10

15

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25

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Phe Asp Ser Ala Tyr Leu Tyr Gln Ile Glu Glu Glu Val Gly Gln Ala
 50 55 60
 5 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Glu Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80
 Tyr Thr Ser Lys Leu Trp Ser Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
 85 90 95
 10 Ser Cys Leu Glu Lys Thr Leu Lys Asn Ala Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
 100 105 110
 Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Phe Pro Met Ala Leu Gln Pro Gly Asp Lys Leu
 115 120 125
 15 Phe Pro Arg Asp Glu His Gly Lys Leu Leu Ala Glu Ala Val Asp Leu
 130 135 140
 Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
 145 150 155 160
 20 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Phe Arg Gln Leu Glu Thr Ile
 165 170 175
 Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
 180 185 190
 25 Cys His Leu Tyr Leu Asn Gln Ser Gln Met Leu Asp Tyr Cys Lys Ser
 195 200 205
 Lys Asp Ile Ile Leu Val Ser Tyr Cys Thr Leu Gly Ser Ser Arg Asp
 210 215 220
 30 Lys Ile Trp Val Asp Gln Lys Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asp Pro Val
 225 230 235 240
 Leu Cys Ala Met Ala Asn Lys Tyr Lys Gln Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
 245 250 255
 35 Ile Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Ile Val Val Leu Thr Arg Ser Phe
 260 265 270
 40 Lys Glu Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Phe Met Lys Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
 275 280 285
 Ala Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Val Leu Asp Gly Leu His Arg Asn Leu Arg
 290 295 300
 45 Tyr Asn Thr Ala Ser Tyr Phe Asp Asp His Pro Asn His Pro Phe Thr
 305 310 315 320
 Asp Glu Tyr

50 <210> 40
 <211> 2459
 <212> DNA
 <213> Mus musculus
 55 <400> 40

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 gcactttcca tcgaccagaa ttgggtccgat cttgcttggg aaagacactg aagaatgcac 360
 10 aactggacta tgttgatctt tacattattc atttcccaat ggctttgcag cctggagata 420
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 15 ggggtggacca gaaaagtcca gttctcttag atgatccagt tctttgtgcc atggcaata 780
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 30 aaactactca tagctcttct ctttttctta ttttggaggt aaggcacatg tgaggagtga 1740
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 35 ttagaagaaa ccaattcaca tgagtataaa ctccatattc aagthttctc tgattthaaa 2100
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 40 atagthttgat ttatatattt cattaataaa tgcctcaaat aagaaaaaaa aaaaaaaa 2459

<210> 41

<211> 323

45 <212> PRT

<213> Mus musculus

<400> 41

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Met Asp Ser Lys Gln Gln Thr Val Arg Leu Ser Asp Gly His Phe Ile
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5 Pro Ile Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Tyr Ala Pro Gln Glu Val Pro Lys Ser
20 25 30

Lys Ala Thr Glu Ala Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Ala Gly Phe Arg His
35 40 45

10 Ile Asp Ser Ala Ser Met Tyr Gln Asn Glu Lys Glu Val Gly Leu Ala
50 55 60

15 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
65 70 75 80

Tyr Thr Ser Lys Val Trp Cys Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
85 90 95

20 Val Cys Leu Glu Gln Ser Leu Lys Gln Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
100 105 110

Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Phe Pro Met Ala Met Lys Pro Gly Glu Asn Tyr
115 120 125

25 Leu Pro Lys Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Leu Ile Tyr Asp Ala Val Asp Ile
130 135 140

Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
145 150 155 160

30 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Arg Arg Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
165 170 175

Leu Lys Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
180 185 190

35 Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Gly Lys Leu Leu Asp Phe Cys Arg Ser
195 200 205

Lys Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Ser Ala Leu Gly Ser His Arg Glu
210 215 220

40 Lys Gln Trp Val Asp Gln Ser Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asn Pro Val
225 230 235 240

Leu Gly Ser Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Asn Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
245 250 255

45 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
260 265 270

50 Ser Glu Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
275 280 285

Thr Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Val Leu Asp Asp Leu Asn Lys Asn Ile Arg
290 295 300

55 Tyr Ile Ser Gly Ser Ser Phe Lys Asp His Pro Asp Phe Pro Phe Trp
305 310 315 320

Asp Glu Tyr

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<210> 42
<211> 1178
<212> DNA
<213> Mus musculus

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<400> 42

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gtaggactag ccatccgaag caagatagca gatggcactg tgaagagga agatatattt 240

15

20 tacacatcaa aggtttgggtg tacttttcat cgtccagaac tcgtacgggt ctgcttggaa 300
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gctgtggata tctgtgacac ctgggaagcc atggagaaat gcaaggatgc aggattggcc 480
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30 tttctccttt ctaagaaata aaagaatcgt tatttcttt 1178

35

<210> 43
<211> 323
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 43

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EP 1 465 911 B1

Met Asn Ser Lys Gln Gln Thr Val Leu Leu Asn Asp Gly His Phe Ile
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5 Pro Ile Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Ser Ala Pro Gln Glu Val Pro Arg Ser
 20 25 30

Lys Ala Thr Glu Ala Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Ala Gly Phe Arg His
 35 40 45

10 Ile Asp Cys Ala Ala Val Tyr Gln Asn Glu Lys Glu Val Gly Leu Ala
 50 55 60

Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Val Asp Gly Thr Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
 65 70 75 80

15 Cys Thr Ser Lys Val Trp Gln Thr Phe His Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Gln
 85 90 95

Val Cys Leu Glu Gln Ser Leu Lys Gln Leu Gln Leu Asp Tyr Val Asp
 100 105 110

20 Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Phe Pro Ile Ala Met Lys Pro Gly Glu Asn Tyr
 115 120 125

Phe Pro Lys Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Phe Ile Tyr Asp Ala Val Asp Ile
 130 135 140

25 Cys Asp Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Ala
 145 150 155 160

Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Cys Asn Phe Asn Arg Arg Gln Leu Glu Lys Ile
 165 170 175

30 Leu Ser Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
 180 185 190

35

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Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Arg Lys Leu Leu Asp Phe Cys Arg Ser
 195 200 205
 5 Lys Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala His Ser Ala Leu Gly Ser Asn Arg Asp
 210 215 220
 Lys Glu Trp Val Asp Lys Ser Phe Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Asp Pro Val
 225 230 235 240
 10 Leu Gly Ser Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Asn Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
 245 250 255
 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Val Gln Arg Gly Val Val Val Leu Ala Lys Ser Phe
 15 260 265 270
 Ile Glu Lys Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
 275 280 285
 Thr Ser Val Asp Met Lys Val Leu Asp Gly Leu Asn Lys Asn Ile Arg
 20 290 295 300
 Tyr Ile Gly Ser Ser Ile Ser Glu Asp His Pro Asp Phe Pro Phe Leu
 305 310 315 320
 25 Asp Glu Tyr

<210> 44
 <211> 1212
 <212> DNA
 30 <213> Mus musculus

<400> 44

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 caggtatgct tggacaacatc attgaagcaa ctccagttag attatgtgga cctgtacctc 360
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55 <210> 45
 <211> 323
 <212> PRT
 <213> Mus musculus

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<400> 45

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Pro Val Leu Gly Phe Gly Thr Ala Leu Pro Val Glu Cys Pro Lys Ser
20 25 30

10 Lys Ala Lys Glu Leu Thr Lys Ile Ala Ile Asp Ala Gly Phe His His
35 40 45

Phe Asp Ser Ala Ser Val Tyr Asn Thr Glu Asp Arg Val Gly Glu Ala
50 55 60

15 Ile Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Asp Gly Thr Val Arg Arg Glu Asp Ile Phe
65 70 75 80

Tyr Thr Ser Lys Val Trp Cys Thr Ser Leu Arg Pro Glu Leu Val Arg
85 90 95

20 Ala Ser Leu Val Arg Ser Leu Gln Lys Leu Gln Phe Asp Tyr Val Asp
100 105 110

Leu Tyr Leu Ile His Tyr Pro Met Ala Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Glu Asn
115 120 125

25 Phe Pro Val Asp Glu His Gly Lys Leu Ile Phe Asp Arg Val Asp Leu
130 135 140

Cys Ala Thr Trp Glu Ala Met Glu Lys Cys Lys Asp Ala Gly Leu Thr
145 150 155 160

30 Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Asn Ser Arg Gln Leu Glu Met Ile
165 170 175

Leu Asn Lys Pro Gly Leu Lys Tyr Lys Pro Val Cys Asn Gln Val Glu
180 185 190

35 Cys His Pro Tyr Leu Asn Gln Met Lys Leu Leu Asp Phe Cys Lys Ser
195 200 205

Lys Asp Ile Val Leu Val Ala Tyr Gly Val Leu Gly Thr Gln Arg Tyr
210 215 220

40 Gly Gly Trp Val Asp Gln Asn Ser Pro Val Leu Leu Asp Glu Pro Val
225 230 235 240

Leu Gly Ser Met Ala Lys Lys Tyr Asn Arg Thr Pro Ala Leu Ile Ala
245 250 255

45 Leu Arg Tyr Gln Leu Gln Arg Gly Ile Val Val Leu Asn Thr Ser Leu
260 265 270

Lys Glu Glu Arg Ile Lys Glu Asn Met Gln Val Phe Glu Phe Gln Leu
275 280 285

50 Ser Ser Glu Asp Met Lys Val Leu Asp Gly Leu Asn Arg Asn Met Arg
290 295 300

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Tyr Ile Pro Ala Ala Ile Phe Lys Gly His Pro Asn Trp Pro Phe Leu
 305 310 315 320

5 Asp Glu Tyr

<210> 46

<211> 1194

10 <212> DNA

<213> Mus musculus

<400> 46

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 25 acaagccggt atgcaaccag gtagaatgcc atccttatct caaccaaag aaacttctgg 660
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:AKR1C4 reverse PCR primer

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Claims

1. A method for identifying an agent for treating a patient having diabetes or a predisposition for diabetes, the method comprising the steps of :

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(i) contacting in vitro a solution comprising an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO.30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO.33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36; and

30

(ii) selecting an agent that modulates the expression or catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, thereby identifying an agent for treating a patient having diabetes or a predisposition for diabetes.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predisposition for diabetes is manifested as reduced insulin sensitivity.

3. The method of claim 1, the method further comprising selecting an agent that modulates insulin sensitivity.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide is determined by measuring a change in the level of a catalytic product or substrate.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the catalytic product or substrate is $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α}

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6. The method of claim 4, wherein the catalytic product or substrate is prostaglandin D2.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is expressed in a cell and the cell is contacted with the agent.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent increases the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent decreases the catalytic activity of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent increases the expression of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent decreases the expression of the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of contacting in vitro a cell expressing an AKR1C polypeptide

or fragment thereof with the agent and testing the cell for modulated PPAR activity.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of contacting in vitro a cell expressing an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof with the agent and testing the cell for modulated insulin sensitivity.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:17.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:23.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:30.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO=31.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:32.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:33.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:34.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:35.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:36.

25. An in vitro method of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient, the method comprising,

detecting in a sample from the patient the level of an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof or the level of a polynucleotide encoding an AKR1C polypeptide, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36,

wherein an increased level of the polypeptide or polynucleotide in the sample compared to a level of the polypeptide or polynucleotide in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds to an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:17.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises-SEQ ID NO:23.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises quantifying mRNA encoding an AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein the AKR1C polypeptide or the fragment thereof catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide or fragment thereof is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence

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selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36.

- 5
32. The method of claim 31, wherein the mRNA is reverse transcribed and amplified in a polymerase chain reaction.
33. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.
34. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:7.
- 10
35. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 17.
36. The method of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:23.
- 15
37. A method of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient, the method comprising, detecting in a biological sample from the patient the level of an AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product, wherein a modulated level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in the sample compared to a level of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes.
- 20
38. The method of claim 37, wherein the substrate or product is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandin D2 and $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$.
39. The method of claim 37, wherein the detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds to the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product.
- 25
40. The method of claim 37, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a tissue sample, blood sample, saliva sample, and urine sample.
41. The method of claim 37, wherein the biological sample is treated to convert the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product into a derivative of the AKR1C enzymatic substrate or product and the level of the derivative is determined.
- 30
42. A method of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient, the method comprising, detecting AKR1C enzymatic activity in a biological sample from the patient, wherein an increased enzymatic activity in the sample compared to the activity in either a non-diabetic individual or a previous sample from the patient indicates that the patient is diabetic or is predisposed for at least some pathological aspects of diabetes.
- 35
43. A method of diagnosing Type 2 diabetes or a predisposition for Type 2 diabetes in a patient, the method comprising, detecting in a biological sample from a patient a polynucleotide that either:
- 40
- encodes an AKR1C polypeptide or;
is genetically linked in the human genome to the polynucleotide encoding an AKR1C polypeptide;
- wherein the AKR1C polypeptide catalyzes the interconversion of $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$ from prostaglandin D2, and the AKR1C polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35; and SEQ ID NO:36 and wherein the polynucleotide is associated with Type 2 diabetes.
- 45
44. The method of claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a single nucleotide polymorphism.
- 50

Patentansprüche

- 55
1. Verfahren zum Identifizieren eines Mittels zum Behandeln eines Patienten mit Diabetes oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes, wobei das Verfahren die folgenden Schritte umfasst:
- (i) In-Kontakt-Bringen einer Lösung *in vitro*, umfassend ein AKR1C-Polypeptid oder ein Fragment davon, mit dem Mittel, wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder das Fragment davon die gegenseitige Umwandlung von $9\alpha,$

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- 11 β -PGF_{2 α} von Prostaglandin D2 katalysiert, und das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon durch eine Nukleinsäure kodiert ist, die unter stringenten Bedingungen an eine Nukleinsäure hybridisiert, die ein Polypeptid mit einer Aminosäuresequenz kodiert, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus SEQ ID Nr. 1, SEQ ID Nr. 7, SEQ ID Nr. 17, SEQ ID NR. 23, SEQ ID NR. 30, SEQ ID NR. 31, SEQ ID NR. 32, SEQ ID Nr. 33, SEQ ID NR. 34, SEQ ID Nr. 35 und SEQ ID Nr. 36; und
- (ii) Auswählen eines Mittels, das die Expression oder die katalytische Aktivität des AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon moduliert, wodurch ein Mittel zum Behandeln eines Patienten mit Diabetes oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes identifiziert wird.
2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Prädisposition für Diabetes als verringerte Insulinempfindlichkeit manifest wird.
 3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Verfahren ferner das Auswählen eines Mittels umfasst, das die Insulinempfindlichkeit moduliert.
 4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die katalytische Aktivität des AKR1 C-Polypeptids durch Messen einer Änderung des Spiegels eines katalytischen Produkts oder Substrats bestimmt wird.
 5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, wobei das katalytische Produkt oder Substrat 9 α ,11 β -PGF_{2 α} ist.
 6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, wobei das katalytische Produkt oder Substrat Prostaglandin D2 ist.
 7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon in einer Zelle exprimiert wird und die Zelle mit dem Mittel in Kontakt gebracht wird.
 8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Mittel die katalytische Aktivität des AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon erhöht.
 9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Mittel die katalytische Aktivität des AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon verringert.
 10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Mittel die Expression des AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon erhöht.
 11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Mittel die Expression des AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon verringert.
 12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner die folgenden Schritte umfasst, In-Kontakt-Bringen einer Zelle *in vitro*, die ein AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon exprimiert, mit dem Mittel und Prüfen der Zelle auf modulierte PPAR-Aktivität.
 13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das ferner die folgenden Schritte umfasst: In-Kontakt-Bringen einer Zelle *in vitro*, die ein AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon exprimiert, mit dem Mittel und Prüfen der Zelle auf modulierte Insulinempfindlichkeit.
 14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 1 umfasst.
 15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 7 umfasst.
 16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 17 umfasst.
 17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 23 umfasst.
 18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 30 umfasst.
 19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 31 umfasst.
 20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 32 umfasst.

21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 33 umfasst.
22. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 34 umfasst.
- 5 23. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 35 umfasst.
24. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 36 umfasst.
- 10 25. *In vitro*-Verfahren zum Diagnostizieren von Diabetes Typ 2 oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes Typ 2 bei einem Patienten, wobei das Verfahren umfasst,
 Detektieren des Spiegels eines AKR1C-Polypeptids oder Fragments davon oder des Spiegels eines Polynukleotids, das ein AKR1C-Polypeptid kodiert, in einer Probe des Patienten, wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder das Fragment davon die gegenseitige Umwandlung von $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} von Prostaglandin D2 katalysiert, und das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon durch eine Nukleinsäure kodiert ist, die unter stringenten Bedingungen an eine Nukleinsäure hybridisiert, die ein Polypeptid mit einer Aminosäuresequenz kodiert, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe,
 15 bestehend aus SEQ ID Nr. 1, SEQ ID Nr. 7, SEQ ID Nr. 17, SEQ ID NR. 23, SEQ ID NR. 30, SEQ ID NR. 31, SEQ ID NR. 32, SEQ ID Nr. 33, SEQ ID NR. 34, SEQ ID Nr. 35 und SEQ ID Nr. 36,
 wobei ein erhöhter Spiegel des Polypeptids oder Polynukleotids in der Probe, verglichen mit einem Spiegel des Polypeptids oder Polynukleotids entweder in einer Person ohne Diabetes oder in einer vorherigen Probe des Patienten, anzeigt, dass der Patient Diabetes hat oder eine Prädisposition für mindestens einige pathologische Aspekte von Diabetes hat.
- 20 26. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei der Detektionsschritt das In-Kontakt-Bringen der Probe mit einem Antikörper umfasst, der spezifisch an ein AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon bindet, wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon durch eine Nukleinsäure kodiert ist, die unter stringenten Bedingungen an eine Nukleinsäure hybridisiert, die ein Polypeptid mit einer Aminosäuresequenz kodiert, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus SEQ ID Nr. 1, SEQ ID Nr. 7, SEQ ID Nr. 17, SEQ ID NR. 23, SEQ ID NR. 30, SEQ ID NR. 31, SEQ ID NR. 32, SEQ ID NR. 33, SEQ ID NR. 34, SEQ ID NR. 35 und SEQ ID Nr. 36.
- 25 27. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 1 umfasst.
28. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 7 umfasst.
29. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 17 umfasst.
- 30 30. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 23 umfasst.
31. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei der Detektionsschritt das Quantifizieren von mRNA umfasst, die ein AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon kodiert, wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon die gegenseitige Umwandlung von $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} von Prostaglandin D2 katalysiert, und das AKR1C-Polypeptid oder Fragment davon durch eine Nukleinsäure kodiert ist, die unter stringenten Bedingungen an eine Nukleinsäure hybridisiert, die ein Polypeptid mit einer Aminosäuresequenz kodiert, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus SEQ ID Nr. 1, SEQ ID Nr. 7, SEQ ID Nr. 17, SEQ ID NR. 23, SEQ ID NR. 30, SEQ ID NR. 31, SEQ ID NR. 32, SEQ ID NR. 33, SEQ ID NR. 34, SEQ ID NR. 35 und SEQ ID Nr. 36.
- 35 40 45 32. Verfahren nach Anspruch 31, wobei die mRNA in einer Polymerase-Kettenreaktion revers transkribiert und amplifiziert wird.
33. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 1 umfasst.
- 50 34. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 7 umfasst.
35. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 17 umfasst.
- 55 36. Verfahren nach Anspruch 25, wobei die Aminosäuresequenz SEQ ID Nr. 23 umfasst.
37. Verfahren zum Diagnostizieren von Diabetes Typ 2 oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes Typ 2 bei einem Patienten, wobei das Verfahren umfasst,

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5 Detektieren des Spiegels eines AKR1C-Enzymsubstrats oder -produkts in einer biologischen Probe des Patienten, wobei ein modulierter Spiegel des AKR1C-Enzymsubstrats oder -produkts in der Probe, verglichen mit einem Spiegel des AKR1C-Enzymsubstrats oder -produkts entweder in einer Person ohne Diabetes oder einer vorherigen Probe des Patienten, anzeigt, dass der Patient Diabetes hat oder eine Prädisposition für mindestens einige pathologische Aspekte von Diabetes hat.

38. Verfahren nach Anspruch 37, wobei das Substrat oder Produkt ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus Prostaglandin D2 und $9\alpha,11\beta$ -Prostaglandin- $F_{2\alpha}$.

10 39. Verfahren nach Anspruch 37, wobei der Detektionsschritt das In-Kontakt-Bringen der Probe mit einem Antikörper umfasst, der spezifisch an das AKR1C-Enzymsubstrat oder -produkt bindet.

40. Verfahren nach Anspruch 37, wobei die Probe ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus einer Gewebeprobe, Blutprobe, Speichelprobe und Urinprobe.

15 41. Verfahren nach Anspruch 37, wobei die biologische Probe behandelt wird, um das AKR1C-Enzymsubstrat oder -produkt in ein Derivat des AKR1C-Enzymsubstrats oder -produkts umzuwandeln, und der Spiegel des Derivats bestimmt wird.

20 42. Verfahren zum Diagnostizieren von Diabetes Typ 2 oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes Typ 2 bei einem Patienten, wobei das Verfahren umfasst, Detektieren der AKR1C-Enzymaktivität in einer biologischen Probe des Patienten, wobei eine erhöhte Enzymaktivität in der Probe, verglichen mit der Aktivität entweder in einer Person ohne Diabetes oder einer vorherigen Probe des Patienten, anzeigt, dass der Patient Diabetes hat oder eine Prädisposition für mindestens einige pathologische Aspekte von Diabetes hat.

25 43. Verfahren zum Diagnostizieren von Diabetes Typ 2 oder einer Prädisposition für Diabetes Typ 2 bei einem Patienten, wobei das Verfahren umfasst, Detektieren eines Polynukleotids in einer biologischen Probe eines Patienten, das entweder:

30 ein AKR1C-Polypeptid kodiert oder in dem menschlichen Genom mit dem Polynukleotid genetisch verbunden ist, das ein AKR1C-Polypeptid kodiert;

35 wobei das AKR1C-Polypeptid die gegenseitige Umwandlung von $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$ von Prostaglandin D2 katalysiert, und das AKR1C-Polypeptid durch eine Nukleinsäure kodiert ist, die unter stringenten Bedingungen an eine Nukleinsäure hybridisiert, die ein Polypeptid mit einer Aminosäuresequenz kodiert, die ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus SEQ ID Nr. 1, SEQ ID Nr. 7, SEQ ID Nr. 17, SEQ ID NR. 23, SEQ ID NR. 30, SEQ ID NR. 31, SEQ ID NR. 32, SEQ ID Nr. 33, SEQ ID NR. 34, SEQ ID Nr. 35 und SEQ ID Nr. 36, und wobei das Polynukleotid mit Diabetes Typ 2 in Zusammenhang steht.

40 44. Verfahren nach Anspruch 43, wobei das Polynukleotid einen einzelnen Nukleotidpolymorphismus umfasst.

Revendications

45 1. Procédé d'identification d'un agent pour le traitement d'un patient souffrant de diabète ou d'une prédisposition au diabète, ce procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à :

50 (i) mettre en contact *in vitro* une solution comprenant un polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci avec l'agent, dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C ou le fragment de celui-ci catalyse l'interconversion de la prostaglandine D2 en $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$, et le polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci est codé par un acide nucléique qui s'hybride, dans des conditions stringentes, sur un acide nucléique codant un polypeptide ayant une séquence d'acides aminés choisie dans le groupe constitué par SEQ ID N° 1, SEQ ID N° 7, SEQ ID N° 17, SEQ ID N° 23, SEQ ID N° 30, SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32, SEQ ID N° 33, SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36 ; et

55 (ii) sélectionner un agent qui module l'expression ou l'activité catalytique du polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci, identifiant ainsi un agent pour le traitement d'un patient souffrant de diabète ou d'une prédisposition au diabète.

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2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la prédisposition au diabète se manifeste par une diminution de la sensibilité à l'insuline.
- 5 3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, ce procédé comprenant en outre la sélection d'un agent qui module la sensibilité à l'insuline.
4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'activité catalytique du polypeptide AKR1C est déterminée en mesurant un changement de la concentration d'un substrat ou d'un produit catalytique.
- 10 5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel le substrat ou le produit catalytique est $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2 α} .
6. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel le substrat ou le produit catalytique est la prostaglandine D2.
- 15 7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci est exprimé dans une cellule et cette cellule est mise en contact avec l'agent.
8. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent augmente l'activité catalytique du polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci.
- 20 9. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent réduit l'activité catalytique du polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci.
10. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent augmente l'expression du polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci.
- 25 11. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'agent réduit l'expression du polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci.
- 30 12. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre les étapes consistant à mettre en contact *in vitro* une cellule exprimant un polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci avec l'agent et à évaluer la cellule en ce qui concerne l'activité des PPAR modulée.
- 35 13. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre les étapes consistant à mettre en contact *in vitro* une cellule exprimant un polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci avec l'agent et à évaluer la cellule en ce qui concerne la sensibilité à l'insuline.
14. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 1.
- 40 15. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 7.
16. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 17.
17. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 23.
- 45 18. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 30.
19. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 31.
- 50 20. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 32.
21. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 33.
22. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 34.
- 55 23. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 35.
24. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 36.

25. Procédé de diagnostic d'un diabète de type 2 ou d'une prédisposition au diabète de type 2 chez un patient, ce procédé comprenant :

la détection dans un échantillon prélevé sur le patient de la concentration d'un polypeptide AKR1C ou d'un fragment de celui-ci ou la concentration d'un polynucléotide codant un polypeptide AKR1C, dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C ou le fragment de celui-ci catalyse l'interconversion de $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGE_{2α} à partir de la prostaglandine D2, et le polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci est codé par un acide nucléique qui s'hybride, dans des conditions stringentes, sur un acide nucléique codant un polypeptide ayant une séquence d'acides aminés choisie dans le groupe constitué par SEQ ID N° 1, SEQ ID N° 7, SEQ ID N° 17, SEQ ID N° 23, SEQ ID N° 30, SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32, SEQ ID N° 33, SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36,

dans lequel une augmentation de la concentration du polypeptide ou du polynucléotide dans l'échantillon par rapport à une concentration du polypeptide ou du polynucléotide chez un individu non diabétique ou dans un échantillon prélevé précédemment sur le patient indique que le patient est diabétique ou présente une prédisposition pour au moins certains aspects pathologiques du diabète.

26. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel l'étape de détection comprend la mise en contact de l'échantillon avec un anticorps qui se lie spécifiquement à un polypeptide AKR1C ou à un fragment de celui-ci, dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci est codé par un acide nucléique qui s'hybride, dans des conditions stringentes, sur un acide nucléique codant un polypeptide ayant une séquence d'acides aminés choisie dans le groupe constitué par SEQ ID N°1, SEQ ID N° 7, SEQ ID N° 17, SEQ ID N° 23, SEQ ID N° 30, SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32, SEQ ID N° 33, SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36.

27. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 1.

28. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 7.

29. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 17.

30. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 23.

31. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel l'étape de détection comprend la quantification d'un ARNm codant un polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci, dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C ou le fragment de celui-ci catalyse l'interconversion de la prostaglandine D2 en $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF_{2α}, et le polypeptide AKR1C ou un fragment de celui-ci est codé par un acide nucléique qui s'hybride, dans des conditions stringentes, sur un acide nucléique codant un polypeptide ayant une séquence d'acides aminés choisie dans le groupe constitué par SEQ ID N° 1, SEQ ID N° 7, SEQ ID N° 17, SEQ ID N° 23, SEQ ID N° 30, SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32, SEQ ID N° 33, SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36.

32. Procédé selon la revendication 31, dans lequel l'ARNm est soumis à une transcription inverse et amplifié par une amplification en chaîne par polymérase.

33. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 1.

34. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 7.

35. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 17.

36. Procédé selon la revendication 25, dans lequel la séquence d'acides aminés comprend SEQ ID N° 23.

37. Procédé de diagnostic d'un diabète de type 2 ou d'une prédisposition au diabète de type 2 chez un patient, ce procédé comprenant la détection dans un échantillon biologique prélevé sur le patient de la concentration d'un produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C, dans lequel une concentration modulée du produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C dans l'échantillon par rapport à une concentration du produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C chez un individu non diabétique ou dans un échantillon précédemment prélevé sur le patient indique que le patient est diabétique ou présente une prédisposition pour au moins certains aspects pathologiques du diabète.

38. Procédé selon la revendication 37, dans lequel le substrat ou le produit est choisi dans le groupe constitué par la

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prostaglandine D2 et la $9\alpha,11\beta$ -prostaglandine $F_{2\alpha}$.

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39. Procédé selon la revendication 37, dans lequel l'étape de détection comprend la mise en contact de l'échantillon avec un anticorps qui se lie spécifiquement au produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C.

10
40. Procédé selon la revendication 37, dans lequel l'échantillon est choisi dans le groupe constitué par un échantillon de tissu, un échantillon de sang, un échantillon de salive et un échantillon d'urine.

15
41. Procédé selon la revendication 37, dans lequel l'échantillon biologique est traité de manière à convertir le produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C en un dérivé du produit ou substrat enzymatique d'AKR1C et la concentration du dérivé est déterminée.

20
42. Procédé de diagnostic d'un diabète de type 2 ou d'une prédisposition au diabète de type 2 chez un patient, ce procédé comprenant la détection d'une activité enzymatique d'AKR1C dans un échantillon biologique prélevé sur le patient, dans lequel une augmentation de l'activité enzymatique dans l'échantillon par rapport à l'activité chez un individu non diabétique ou dans un échantillon précédemment prélevé sur le patient indique que le patient est diabétique ou qu'il présente une prédisposition pour au moins certains aspects pathologiques du diabète.

25
43. Procédé de diagnostic d'un diabète de type 2 ou d'une prédisposition au diabète de type 2 chez un patient, ce procédé comprenant la détection dans un échantillon biologique prélevé sur un patient d'un polynucléotide qui :

- code un polypeptide AKR1C; ou
- est génétiquement lié dans le génome humain au polynucléotide codant un polypeptide AKR1C ;

30
dans lequel le polypeptide AKR1C catalyse l'interconversion de la prostaglandine D2 en $9\alpha,11\beta$ -PGF $_{2\alpha}$ et le polypeptide AKR1C est codé par un acide nucléique qui s'hybride, dans des conditions stringentes, sur un acide nucléique codant un polypeptide ayant une séquence d'acides aminés choisie dans le groupe constitué par SEQIDN°1, SEQIDN° 7, SEQIDN° 17, SEQ ID N° 23, SEQ ID N° 30, SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32, SEQ ID N° 33, SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36, et dans lequel le polynucléotide est associé au diabète de type 2.

35
44. Procédé selon la revendication 43, dans lequel le polynucléotide comprend un seul polymorphisme nucléotidique.

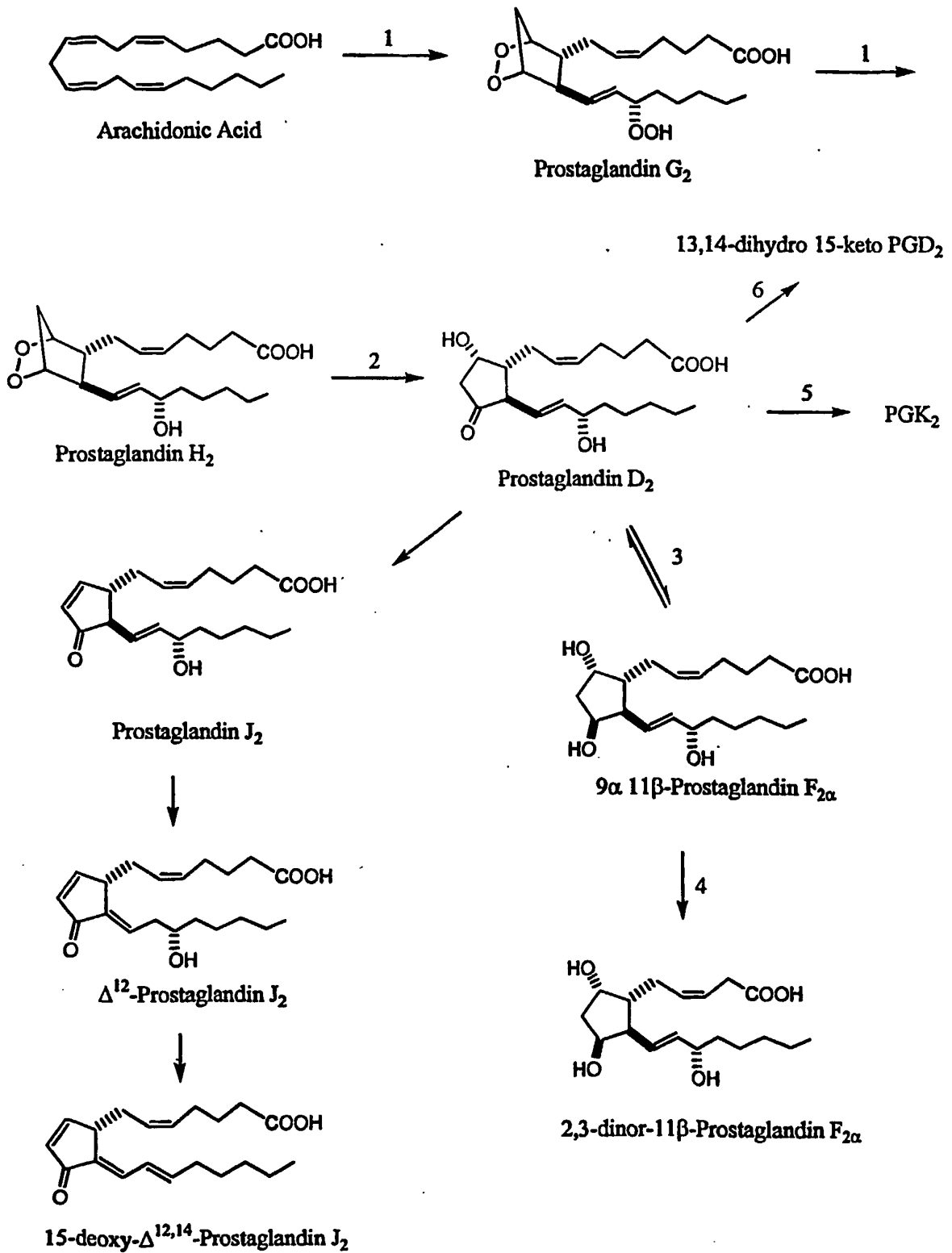


FIG. 1

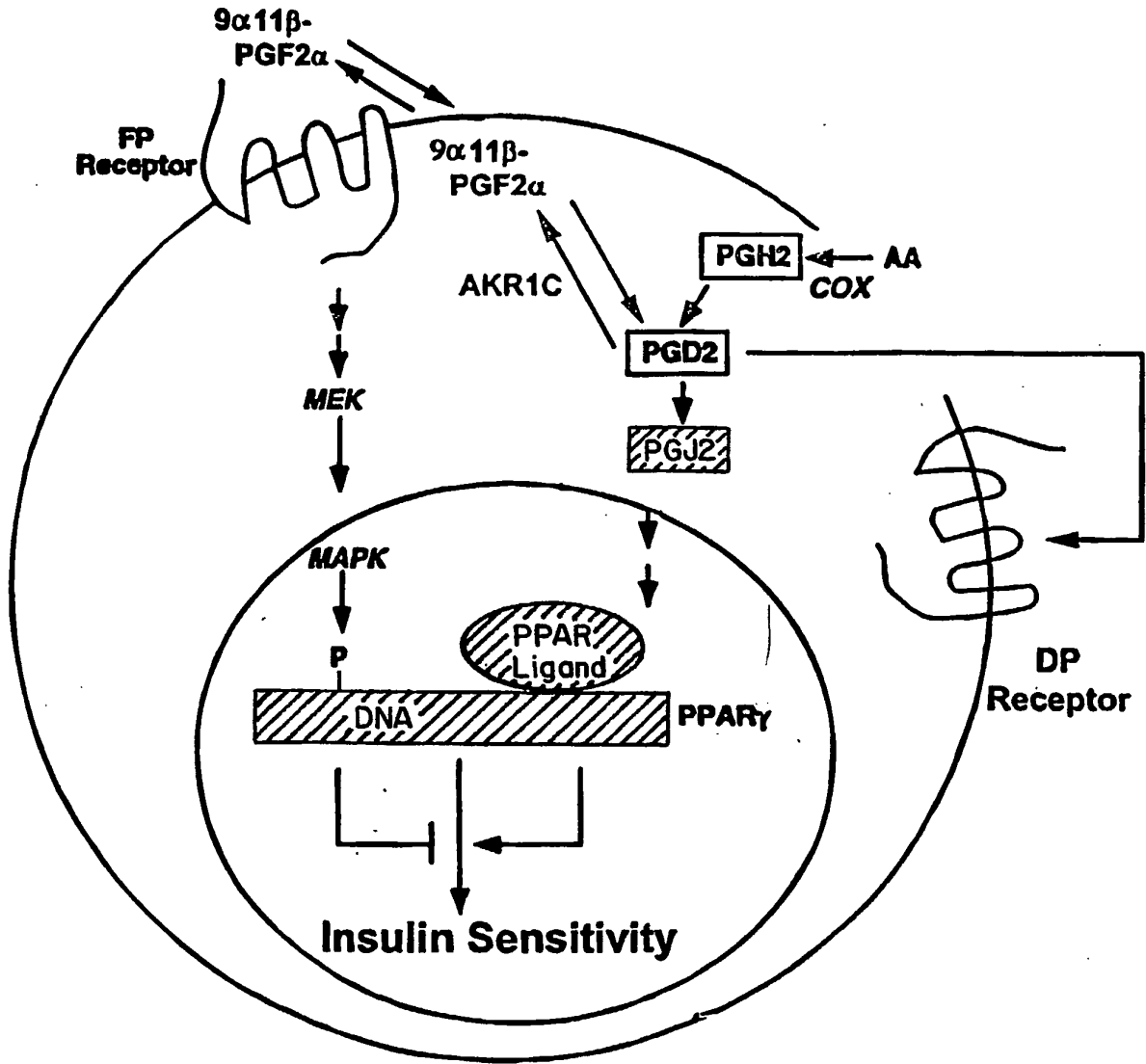


FIG. 2

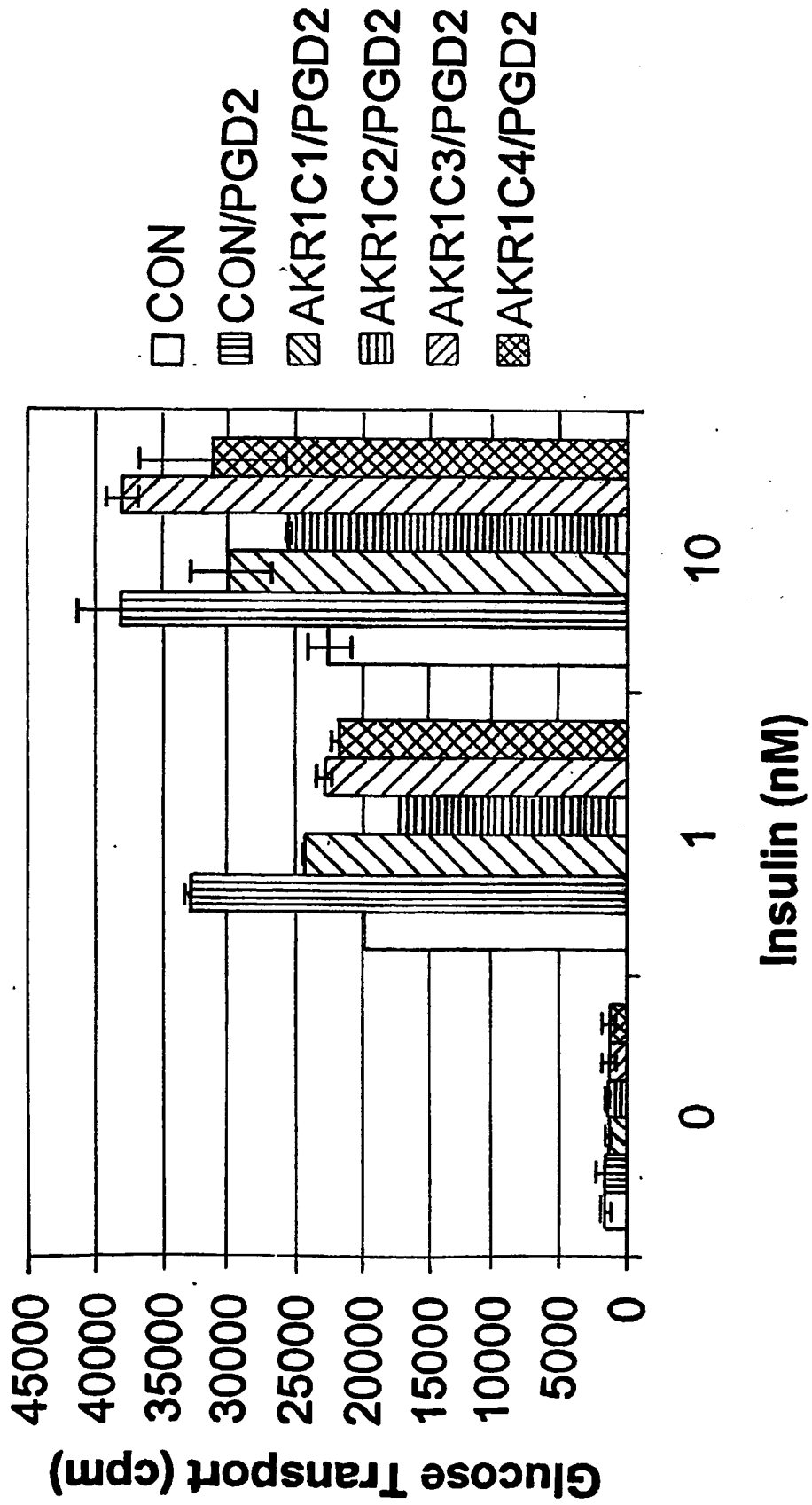


FIG. 3

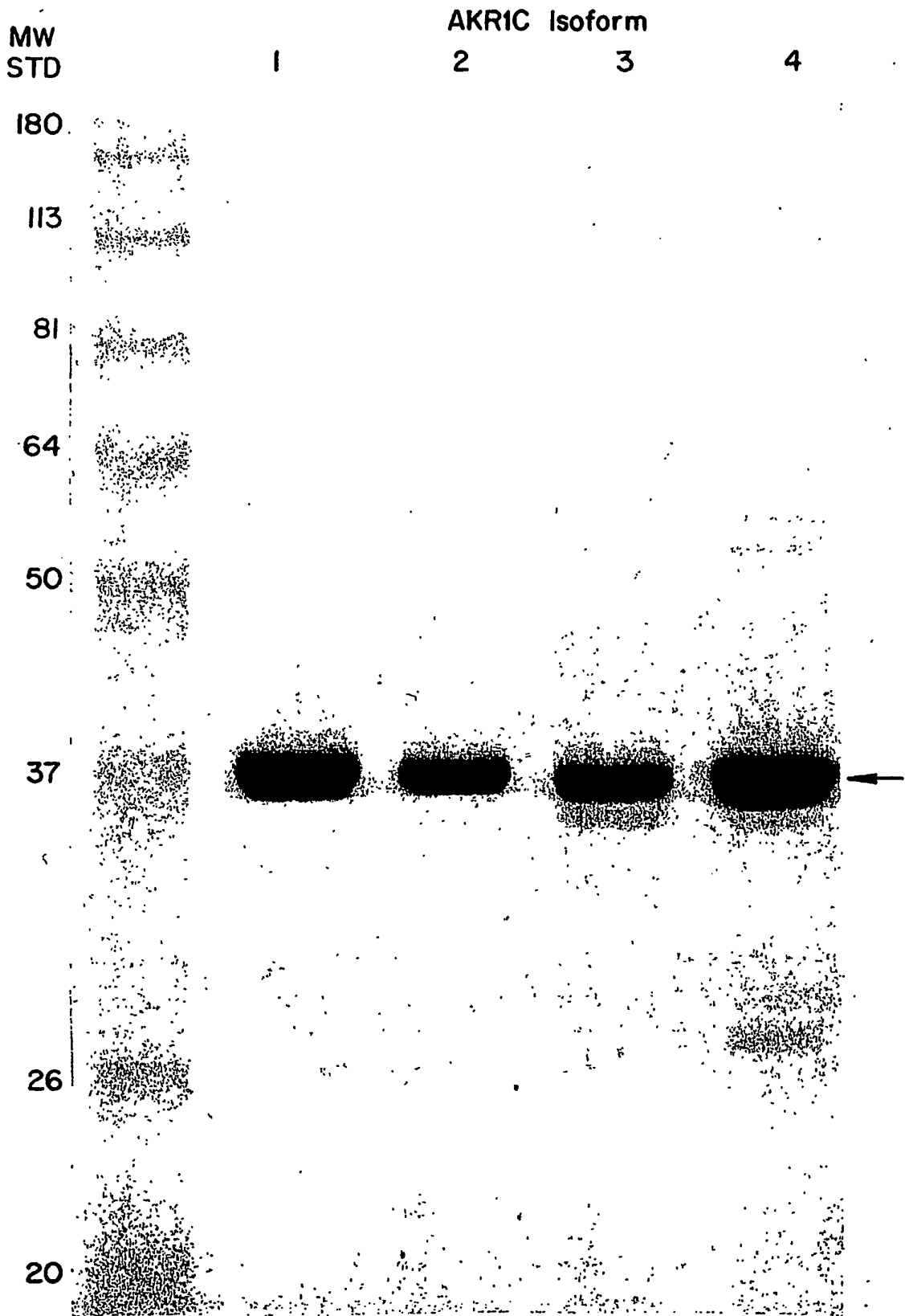


FIG. 4

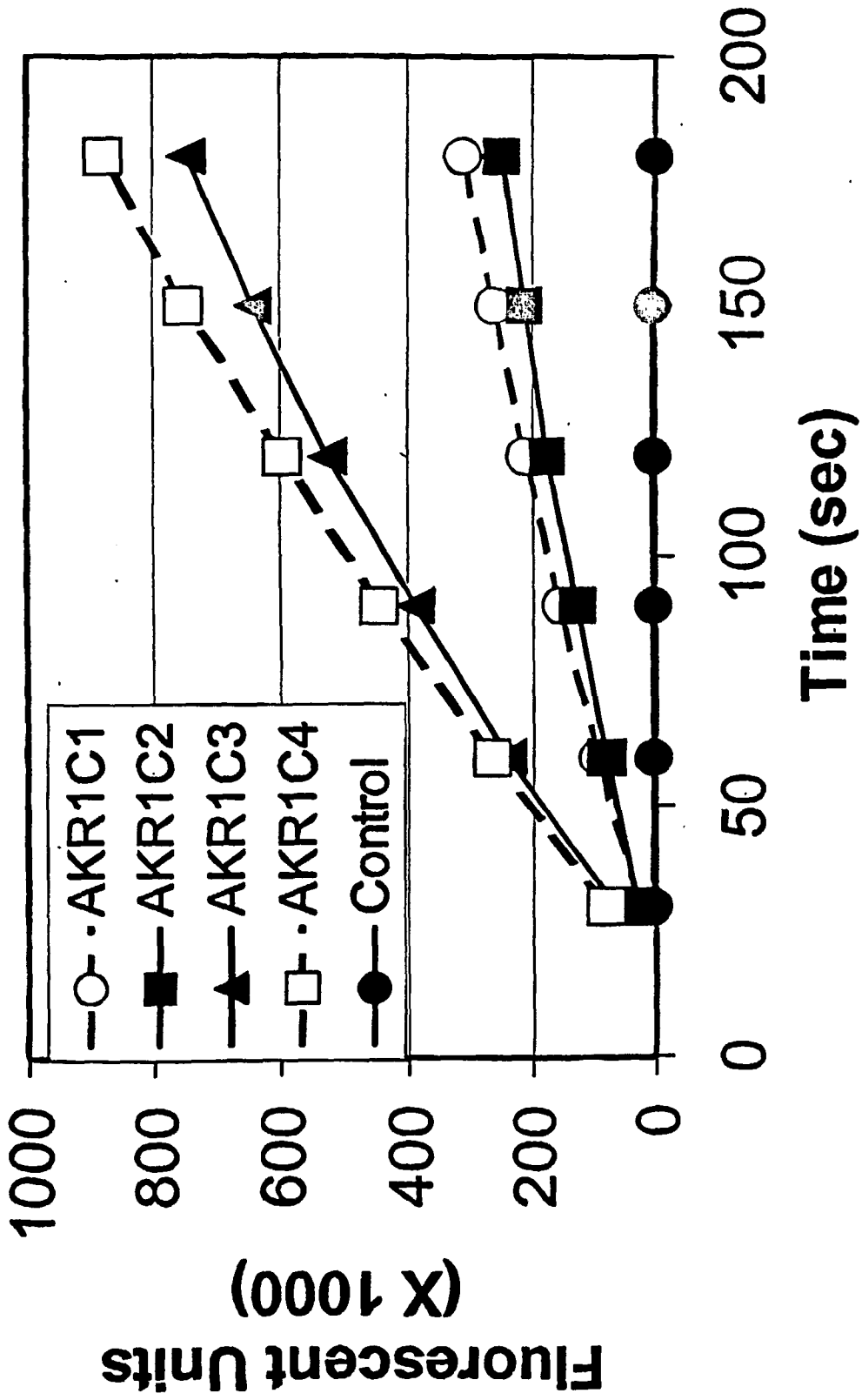


FIG. 5

CLUSTAL W (1.8) multiple sequence alignment
 Alignment of mouse orthologs with human AKR1C sequences.

AB059565	MNSKIQKIELNDGHSIPVLGFGTYATEEHLKKSMESTKIAIDVGFCHIDCSHLYQNEEE
BC013482	MNSVSPRVVLDNGHFIPALGFGTVPDPKVPKDELKATKIAIDTGRHFDSAYLYQIEEE
D45850	MDSKQQTVRLSDGHFIPILGFGTYAPQEVKPKSKATEATKIAIDAGFRHIDSASMYQNEKE
BC021607	MNSKQQTVLLNDGHFIPILGFGTSAPQEVPRSKATEATKIAIDAGFRHIDCAAVYQNEKE
BC013531	MNSKCHCVILNDGNFIPVLGFGTALPVECPKSKAKELTKIAIDAGFHFHDSASVYNTEDR
AKR1C1	MDSKYQCCKLNDGHFMPVLGFGTYAPAEVPKSKALEATKLAIEAGFRHIDS AHLYNNEEQ
AKR1C2	MDSKYQCCKLNDGHFMPVLGFGTYAPAEVPKSKALEAVKLAIEAGFHHIDS AHVYNNEEQ
AKR1C3	MDSKQCCVCLNDGHFMPVLGFGTYAPPEVPRSKALEVSKLAIEAGFRHIDS AHLYNNEEQ
AKR1C4	MDPKYQORVELNDGHFMPVLGFGTYAPPEVPRNRRAVEVTKLAIEAGFRHIDSAYLYNNEEQ
AB027125	MSSKQHCVKLNDGHLIPALGFGTYKPKKEVPSKSLAAACLAALDVGYRHVDYAYAYQVEEE
AB027237	MSSKQHYVKLNDGHLIPALGFGTYKPKKEVPSKSLAAACLAALDVGYRHVDYAYAYQVEEE
U68535	MEN-----IPTVGLGTWKAS---PGEVTDVAVKLA INLGYRHFDCAALYHNESE
	* . : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : *
AB059565	IGQAILSKIEDGTVKREDIFYTSKLMWSTSHRPELVRPSPLENSLRKLNLDYVDLYLIHFPPV
BC013482	VGOAIRSKIEDGTVKREDIFYTSKLMWSTFHRPELVRSCLEKTLKNAQLDYVDLYLIHFPM
D45850	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTFHRPELVRVCLEQSLKQLQLDYVDLYLIHFPM
BC021607	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTFHRPELVRVCLEQSLKQLQLDYVDLYLIHFPI
BC013531	VGEAIRSKIADGTVRREDIFYTSKLVWCTSLRPELVRASLVRSLQKQLQDYVDLYLIHYPM
AKR1C1	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTSHRPELVRPALERSLKNLQDYVDLYLIHFPPV
AKR1C2	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTSHRPELVRPALERSLKNLQDYVDLYLIHFPPV
AKR1C3	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTSHRPELVRPALERSLKNLQDYVDLYLIHFPPV
AKR1C4	VGLAIRSKIADGTVKREDIFYTSKLVWCTFFQPMVQPALES LKQLQDYVDLYLIHFPM
AB027125	IGQAIQSKIKAGVVKREDLFIITTKLVWCTCFRPELVKPALEKSLKQLQDYVDLYIMHYPV
AB027237	IGQAIQSKIKAGVVKREDLFTVTKLVWCTCFRPELVKPALEKSLKQLQDYVDLYLIHYPPV
U68535	VGMGISEKIKAGVVKREDLFFVSKLVWCTCHKKS LVKTACTNTLEALNLDYLDLYLIHWPI
	: * . * . * . * * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : *

FIG. 6

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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专利名称(译)	用于诊断和治疗糖尿病，胰岛素抗性和血脂异常的组合物和方法		
公开(公告)号	EP1465911B1	公开(公告)日	2008-03-26
申请号	EP2002795910	申请日	2002-12-16
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	麦它波莱克斯股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	METABOLEX INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	METABOLEX INC.		
[标]发明人	WATERS STEVE MOODIE SHONNA LAVAN BRIAN GUSTAFSON THOMAS A		
发明人	WATERS, STEVE MOODIE, SHONNA LAVAN, BRIAN GUSTAFSON, THOMAS, A.		
IPC分类号	C07H21/04 C12Q1/68 A61K39/42 A61K39/395 G01N33/50 A61K45/00 A61P3/10 C12N15/09 C12Q1/02 C12Q1/26 G01N33/15 G01N33/53 G01N33/566 G01N33/68 G01N33/88		
CPC分类号	C12Q1/26 G01N33/6893 G01N33/88 G01N2500/00 G01N2500/02 G01N2800/042		
优先权	60/341451 2001-12-17 US		
其他公开文献	EP1465911A2 EP1465911A4		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

本发明提供了用于诊断和治疗糖尿病，胰岛素抵抗和血脂异常的组合物和方法。特别地，本发明提供了鉴定AKR1C调节剂的方法以及通过测量患者中AKR1C或 9α ， 11β -PGF $>2\alpha$ <水平来诊断糖尿病的方法。

1 mdskyqcvkl ndghfmpvlg fgyyapaevp kskaleatkl aieagfrhid sahlynnecq
61 vqlairskia dgsvkredif ytsklwnsh rpelvrpale rslknlqldy vdllylhfpv
121 svkpgcevlp kdengkilfd tvdlcatwea vekokdagla ksigvsnfnr rqlmlnkp
181 glkykpvncq vechpyfnqr kildfckskd ivlvaysalg shreepwvp nspviledpv
241 lcalakkkkr tpalialryq lqrgvvlak syneqrirqn vqvfeqlts eemkaidgln
301 rnvryltldi faqppnypts dey